



FORMATION SESSION 4:

'Preferential Option for the Poor' refer: btewk.com.au

MAM Value of Compassion

There are many different approaches to formation as well as stages or phases that participants experience while engaged in formation. The overall goal is to assist leaders to be confident and competent in guiding and directing their ministries. A critical element in effective leadership formation for MAM is to realize that it is beyond theory and focused on the lived experience of mission and ministry. It involves information and understanding of content, yet goes beyond this to elicit commitment to lived values... Extract from MAM Leadership Framework.

The relationship between the Foundational Christian story of Jesus, the Mary Aikenhead tradition and the evolving spirit of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, should be consistent in the delivery of all mission formation programs in accordance with our commitment to the preferential option for the poor.

The principles, which guide mission development, are forward-looking and engage in the three levels of story: the Enduring story of God through Jesus, the Expressive story of Mary Aikenhead and the Evolving story of the Spirit alive in the hearts of those engaged in the service through Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Mission formation is an important and ongoing priority in the context of Mary Aikenhead Education Australia; it is central to who we are and what we do. ... Extract from the MAEA Formation Policy

	Program and Focus	Guide Notes
Welcome	Leader:	
Setting the Scene/ Prayer	The formation session is intended as invitational, providing participants with the space to be forward-looking and to reflect on the story you/ we are part of. <i>Provide copy of MAM VM&V Pgs. 10-11 to participants. Click here</i>	Copy pages 10&11 from VM&V
10 min	Purpose of this formation session is to consider: the value 'Compassion' in our Christian context and Vatican 2 call to Preferential Option for the Poor. What does this mean for us today? Prayer and Scripture - Resource 1. Film clip on Preferential Option for the Poor. See link in reference list.	
<i>By this Everyone Will Know...</i> refer btewk.com.au	Leader - 'Preferential Option for the Poor': <i>'Today our colleges understand this imperative as a call to awareness of and practical and active responsiveness to, the vulnerability in all humanity and the world. It places us in relationship with those who lack or are barred from access to what is fundamental to the development of full potential and the recognition of individual dignity. In honouring service of the disadvantaged our colleges seek at all times to exercise a preferential option for the poor; we walk with and befriend those who find themselves denied and vulnerable, offering practical and tangible relief and support.'</i> btewk.com.au	
5 minutes		

20 minutes	<p>For Reading and Discussion: Service of the Poor Reflection Paper - Janette Gray RSM from Sisters of Charity Education Service Conference 2007. Click here</p> <p>After reading this paper and looking at the MAM Vision, Mission and Values:</p> <p>How do I/we <u>understand</u> 'Preferential Option for the Poor'?</p> <p>How to we, in our shared work, <u>plan for</u> 'Preferential Option for the Poor'?</p> <p>Do we <u>educate our students</u> for a 'preferential option for the poor'?</p> <p>What are our <u>indicators of this priority</u>? See Resource 2 for discussion and opportunity to record feedback.</p>	
Informing the present and future...	<p>Resource 2 - this flows from the previous section and should blend well.</p> <p><i>For Boards and Leadership Teams, the attached proforma may help in your discernment.</i></p>	
10 min		
Concluding comment	<p>Leader:</p> <p><i>Invite participants to reflect for a couple of minutes, pondering: How do I/we lead in the value of Compassion with a Preferential Option for the Poor... <u>in my/our work</u>?</i></p>	Participants may be happy to share a thought or two here.
3-5 min		
Final Prayer/ Reflection.	Resource 3: Concluding Blessing:	
5 min		

Reference Material:		
<p>Bible</p> <p>Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Vision, Values and Mission</p> <p><i>By this Everyone Will Know...</i> refer https://www.btewk.com.au/</p> <p>https://www.schoolboards.cesa.catholic.edu.au/induction/catholic-social-teaching/preferential-option-for-the-poor</p> <p>Resource 1: Opening Prayer and Scripture</p> <p>Resource 2: Leader/ Director grid to consider how 'preferential option for the poor' is lived in your college context.</p> <p>Resource 3: Concluding Prayer</p>		

Resource 1:

We Listen:

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" 31 The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20: 29-34

We Ponder:

Compassion is a profound and loving response to a suffering person. Compassion moves us to stay with a suffering person in pain, to alleviate their ill, and to restore their community.

Inspired by Jesus' self-giving love and believing that in loving our neighbour we are sharing in infinite love, we are impelled to reach out to those most in need of compassion. We give priority not to ourselves, but to our neighbours in need.

MAM Vision, Mission and Values.

In Reflection we ask...

'Our work and our call is to keep washing our eyes again and again, like the blind man whom Jesus sends to the pool of Siloam after smearing his eyes with mud. How do we cultivate these practices of seeing, these practices of perception that enable us to recognise God in this world?'

Jan L. Richardson - In the Sanctuary of Women



Resource 2:

1. How do we currently...	2. How else could we...	3. What barriers do we face when we try to...	4. What would help us to...	5. With whom might we partner to better...
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Provide direct assistance to the poor...

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Accompany the poor...

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Develop awareness of the demands of justice...

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Educate and promote social responsibility to address the demands of justice...

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Resource 3: Concluding Prayer

We Listen...

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage, the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you made me welcome. Lacking clothes and you clothed me. Sick and you visited me. In prison and you came to see me.

Then the upright will say to him in reply, *'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you a drink?' When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and cloth you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go and see you?'*

And the King will answer,

In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did it to me.

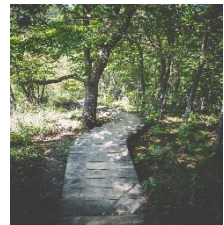
Matthew 25: 34-40

We Ponder the wisdom of Mary Aikenhead...

'May we always act with justice and truth.'

'Serve God with a great heart and a willing mind.'

'Try to practice the motto I have made my own. I can do all things in God who strengthens me.'



A Blessing for the Journey...

That you will learn to look
and not look.

That you will focus your attention
and let your focus fade.

That you will give up everything to see,
then give it up

finally, to be surprised
by the treasure at your feet.

Jan L. Richardson - In the Sanctuary of Women