



Speaking the silence

KEYNOTE CHAPTERS AND GUIDED REFLECTION/DISCUSSION FACILITATION GUIDE

PROLOGUE

CHAPTER I

MERCY IDENTITY | THIS MERCY GIRL

Mary traces her own Mercy identity back to Primary School and the part the Mercies were playing in bringing free secondary education to the masses.

Take a moment to trace back over the story of your own Mercy identity. Share something of that with the person next to you.

...2mins

Mary is next asked, how the theme, 'Speaking the Silence' resonates with her. She responds,

CHAPTER II

'SPEAKING THE SILENCE' AMSSA 2019 | A TIMELY THEME

Take a moment to consider what most stood out for you in Mary's reflection on how 'Speaking the Silence' is a timely theme.

Share something you wrote down or can remember, with someone next to you.

...2mins

During her presidency Mary McAleese was literally told to 'shut up' in a 2006 Irish Independent opinion analysis piece headline.

She continues in her address to us, being asked to share something of her experiences of being silenced, and speaking out.

CHAPTER III

FINDING MY VOICE | TO INTERROGATE, TO QUESTION, TO BE ADVOCATES

What did you hear Mary saying about the place a Mercy education has in facing the powers that silence?

Take a moment to consider any notes you took or experiences of your own that came to mind. Share something with someone next to you.

...3mins

Next, Mary was asked, at the difficult intersections of faith and life, what sustains and inspires her voice?

CHAPTER IV

SUSTAINING THE SPEAKING OF THE SILENCE | I PRAY MY WAY THROUGH

Mary speaks of prayer, meditative, silent prayer, as the means of 'making it through'. Think for a moment about the place of prayer and meditative silence in the school or Mercy setting you're in. Perhaps share with the person next to you about who are the prayer teachers, the 'grandmothers of prayer', in your life or school?

...3 mins

Let's continue with Mary sharing more about her experience of claiming her Catholic identity in a clericalised Church.

CHAPTER V

ON BEING SILENCED | I DIDN'T ACCEPT IT

What speaks to you from Mary's experience? What light does it shed on how you and we, as Mercy educators and school communities, claim our Catholic identity in this same Church context? Feel free to share something with the person next to you. Finally, Mary was asked about Mercy's call to the young people we teach...

CHAPTER VI

MERCY'S CALL TO ACTION | BE THE CHAMPIONS OF ENDING SILENT SUFFERING

Take a moment to think about the call of Mercy spoken in your classrooms and communities. What are the Gospel values that your school or community will go all the way to defend?

...3mins

Finally, Mary gives us an afterword, about her gratitude to Mercy education – and what she feels she owes it.

CHAPTER VII

GRATITUDE, A MERCY EDUCATION AND MISSION: I OWE IT [MERCY] EVERYTHING

Take a final opportunity to think about what you are grateful that Mercy education provides in your place.

...3mins

As a Mercy educator, how does the mission to be forming 'the intellectual, the moral, the spiritual 'crowbars', that remove the obstacles to the fulfilment of Christ's salvation of the world', sound to you?

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