

Bishop Cote Celebrates Opening Liturgy and Freshwomen Pin Ceremony

On Thursday, September 17, 2009, the Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, DD, Bishop of Norwich, celebrated the Opening Liturgy for the 2009-2010 school year at Mercy. The theme of the Liturgy was "We Are One Body, One Body in Christ." During his homily, Bishop Cote wished the students, administration, faculty and staff of Mercy a happy and successful school year. He presided as the various classes proclaimed their commitment to the Mercy community for the coming year.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the 167 members of the freshman class received their class pins and flowers from their "big sisters," the members of the junior class. Flowers were also presented to the 14 transfer students by the officers of the Student Advisory Council, led by **Mary Corigliano**, President. The Mercy community also welcomed back returning faculty member Mr. Marcus Harley following a year sabbatical.

At the close of the ceremony, Miss Corigliano presented Bishop Cote with a painting of Ireland and Irish soda bread, baked by our principal, in gratitude for his presence at the opening ceremonies and in anticipation of his upcoming trip to Ireland.



Student Council Officers with "thank-you" gifts for Bishop Cote, l-r: **Danielle Machold**, **Mallory Perry** and **Mary Corigliano**.

Please consult the Mercy website for up-to-date information regarding cancellations or postponements of school events. Please refer to Page 10 in the "Student-Parent Handbook" for information regarding weather-related closings and delayed openings.

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Four Mercy seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

As a result of their outstanding performance in this highly competitive program, these students are considered among the most academically talented students in the country, and are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.



Congratulations!

The commended students are l-r: **Jane McGuinness**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul McGuinness of Killingworth, **Beata A. Fogarasi**, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Miklos Fogarasi of Middletown, **Kelly Conklin**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Conklin of East Hampton, and **Erica Oates**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Oates of Wethersfield.

OPEN HOUSE

Mercy will hold an "Open House" from 2:00-4:30 p.m. on **Sunday, November 8, 2009**, for the Class of 2014. Please join us for an information session, student-led tours and refreshments. There is no pre-registration necessary to attend the Open House.

ENTRANCE EXAM

Class of 2014
Saturday, November 14, 2009
8:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Register On-Line www.mercyhigh.com. Please contact the Director of Admissions, Mrs. Diane Santostefano, with any further questions.



From the Desk of the Principal...

BY SISTER MARY
McCARTHY, RSM
Principal of MHS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many faculty and staff members remarked on what a smooth "opening" we had this year – and it was! The seniors are wonderful leaders and the other classes have all demonstrated great spirit, enthusiasm and excitement.

The annual Walk-A-Thon will take place at Mercy on Friday, November 6th. This student fundraiser usually raises over \$50,000 for Mercy! Let me explain to you, especially to the freshman parents, the significance of this event. The cost per pupil of a Mercy education exceeds the actual cost of tuition by over \$2,000! Like most Catholic schools, we must raise the funds to cover the difference. The Walk-A-Thon is the students' part in our fundraising efforts. **It is our expectation that each student reaches a personal goal of \$80.00 in pledges.** While we do not expect students to go door to door soliciting for pledges, especially given some of the danger involved, they can ask relatives, church communities, businesses and alumnae for donations.

The Home and School Association annually makes very significant contributions. The Development Office works extremely hard to bring in the monies needed to enable us to provide your daughters with a superb education. Therefore, we think that an \$80.00 pledge from each student is a reasonable expectation. I thank all of you for your understanding and support without which none of this would happen. Let us pray for sunshine on the 6th!

I want to thank you for welcoming my sister, Sr. Pat, in true Mercy fashion when she spoke at Mini-Class Night. It was apparent that you enjoyed her remarks and she, of course, always enjoys returning to her "favorite school." She mentioned a book she wrote; for those of you who did not know, she wrote a children's book about Douglas, a story that was illustrated by a Mercy student. The book, **Douglas, The Boy Who Loved God** is available at Mercy at a cost of \$10.00 and if you would like it autographed, I can arrange that.

I thank our wonderful Home and School Association members who have already put in many hours of work this year. They hosted the Freshwoman Parents Reception, provided refreshments for Mini-Class Night, and tirelessly worked on the annual auction. They seem to outdo themselves each year with this event.

In Mercy,

Sister Mary

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTRANCE EXAM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The 2009-2010 academic scholarship winners pose with Bishop Cote and Sr. Mary McCarthy prior to Opening Mass and Freshwoman Pin Ceremony on September 17th. They are l-r: **Catherine Kannam, Sarah Stokowski, Shannon Sulmasy**, Bishop Cote, Sr. Mary, **Jocelyn Marston, Megan Nelson, Sara Richardson** and **Alexandra Femc.**



CELL PHONE POLICY

Student use of cell phones during school hours is prohibited. If a cell phone is confiscated during school hours, the student's parent must call Mrs. Sullivan, Vice Principal of Student Life, to make arrangements to come to the school to pick up his/her daughter's cell phone. No cell phone will be returned to the student. Please refer to Page 23 of your "Student-Parent Handbook".

HEALTH WATCH.....from the Nurse's Desk

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) warns against giving aspirin to children or teens with influenza symptoms. Taking aspirin for the flu creates a rare chance of developing Reye's Syndrome, a very serious disease, that targets the liver and brain. The National Reye's Syndrome foundation, the Surgeon General, the CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that aspirin and products containing aspirin not be taken by anyone under the age of 19 years of age during fever causing illnesses. Teens and young adults self medicate. They have friends that offer them medications. They think the product is safe to use. Any products containing aspirin or salicylates are not okay for teens or children to use. A few products they may be exposed to are: Excedrin, Pamprin, Maalox, and Pepto-Bismal. For the complete list of aspirin containing medications visit www.reyessyndrome.org. Please talk to your daughter/children about the dangers of self medicating, stressing to never take medication from a friend and never to give anyone any medication. What may seem like a "stupid rule" to them could be deadly to someone else.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PIE BAKE

It is the time of year again to bake pies for the local area's less fortunate. Please join us on **Monday, November 23rd** from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria to bake delicious Thanksgiving pies. Each year parents and students participate in this fun-filled evening baking over 300 pies. The apple and pumpkin pies are donated to St. Vincent dePaul Place, the American Red Cross, and the Shepard Home. **Students may use this evening's time as service hours.** Forms may be picked up in the Main Office or email Maria Bergan @ mbergan@mercyhigh.com to register. Donations of any size are welcome to help defray supply costs. Thank you and we hope to see you on the 23rd! **Note: Please bring an apron, measuring spoons, measuring cups - 1, 2 and 4 cup size, knives, large mixing bowls, vegetable peeler, roller pin, paring knife, and rubber gloves.**



MERCY'S SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

The Mercy High School Community recently engaged in its first "One Book" program. During summer break students, faculty, administration and staff read "*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*" by John Boyne and gathered in advisor groups on October 5th to discuss their reading experience.

Since each advisor group is a mix of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, responses and reactions among the students differed in a variety of interesting and insightful ways. Many teachers and staff were impressed by the students' willingness to share their reflections, ask questions, and relate what they knew of the horrors of the Holocaust to other atrocities against humanity committed in other times and in other places.

"Fences like this exist all over the world," Boyne stated in an interview. "We hope you never have to reach such a fence."

Our "One Book" experience was an enriching one and we hope to repeat it with other texts in the future.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 3	H & S Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 6	WALK-A-THON
Nov. 8	OPEN HOUSE (Class of 2014) 2-4:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
Nov. 14	Entrance Exam 8-11:15 a.m. Mercy Mixer 7-10:30 p.m.
Nov. 17	NHS Induction 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	Sophomore Trip to NYC
Nov. 20	Father-Daughter Dance 8-11:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	Pie Baking 6-9:00 p.m.
Nov. 26-27	NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK
Dec. 6	Family Advent Mass & Breakfast 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 8	H & S Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 9, 10	Drama Club Performance 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 17	Winter Concert 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 18	Snow Date Winter Concert
Dec. 21 – Jan. 1	NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK
Jan. 4	Classes Resume
Jan. 5	H & S Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 12	Snow Date H & S Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 18	NO SCHOOL - M.L. King Day
Jan. 19	Parents Night Class of 2014 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	Snow Date Parents Night Class of 2014 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	Spirit Day (Start of Catholic Schools Week)
Jan. 28	Report Card Night 5:30-8:00 p.m.

The following students have been selected to sit on various city of Middletown commissions:

Marlana Gomes (second year) Board of Health
Sally Cubeta – Citizens Advisory Committee
Monica Gennuso – Design Review and Preservation
Erika Zywocinski – Human Relations Commission
Francesca Guiliano – Youth Services Advisory Board

FALL SPORTS - by A.D. Ms. Besty Gilmartin

CROSS COUNTRY – The first meet of the season was the Mercy Invitational with 6 boys' & girls' teams competing. Mercy placed 2nd in a very close contest. The second meet saw Mercy defeat Lyman Hall, Sacred Heart Academy and lose to Shelton. **Brianne Vess** won that race. Placing in the top 15 for Mercy were **Leah Hetzel, Kathleen Darling, Monica Castro, Cathy Kisiel** and **Julie Corcoran**. Captains of this year's team are **Danielle Gallagher** and **Colleen Hanly**.

FIELD HOCKEY – Team Captains are **Nicole Johnson** and **Caitlin Wright**. Southington defeated Mercy 3-2 in the first match of the season. In next 3 matches the varsity tied Amity 1-1. North Haven 3-3, and Hamden 2-2. **Sarah Bower** has 3 goals and **Tori Vickerman** has 2 to lead the offense. Leading the defense are **Nicole Johnson** and **Adrianna Simeone** in the midfield and **Kaitlyn Carroll** in the goal.

The JV team is undefeated 4-0. **Mary Neidhardt** and **Lea Offner** are leading goal scorers. **Audrey Gaynier, Caroline Woods** are contributing on defense and goalie **Erika Nicholas** has allowed only one goal in 4 games.

SWIM – Captains are **Jackie DeFilippo, Alex Fitzner** and **Emily VanSteenbergen**. Mercy lost a thriller to Branford to open the season 94-91, then defeated Hand High School 100-84 and lost to Cheshire 109-72. The leading point scorers for Mercy are **Kelsey Fachini, Caroline Gallagher, Theresa Goehring, Leanne Shemeth, Jennifer Masselli, Erica Naumann, Mary McKenna, Nicole Rhodes, Celine Coleman, Haylle Reidy** and **Michaela Kearney**. **Michaela** has already set a new school record in the 200 freestyle event.

VOLLEYBALL – Captains are **Jennifer Carta, Alisa Daniels** and **Chelsey Wiese**. Mercy defeated Wilbur Cross and West Haven to start the season and then lost to Foran and Sacred Heart Academy. Serving well for the varsity are **Rachel Dion** and **Katie Nielsen**. **Chelsey Wiese** has 41 Digs, **Jenny Carta** 22 Digs, and **Morgan Thompson** 27 Digs. **Amber Bepko** has 34 Kills and 34 Digs.

The JV team is 1-3. **Shannon Carabetta** is leading the team in serving. **Nina Zimmitti** and **Meghan Nelson** are playing well.

SOCCER - Captains are **Marlana Gomes, Alessandra Morales**, and **Alexandra Revoir**. The varsity is 2-2 with wins over Branford and Sacred Heart Academy and losses to Wilbur Cross and Cheshire in double overtime. **Marlana Gomes** and **Morgan Humphreys** are leading the offense with 2 goals each. Anchoring the defense are **Audrey**

Bordieri, Stephanie Swanson, Sheena Landy and **Katie Donnelly** in goal. The JV Team is 2-1-1 with **Casey Mainetti** scoring 3 goals and **Kristen Perrelli** and **Kathryn Overturf** playing well on defense. The Freshwoman team is 2-1. **Sara Richardson** and **Emma DiDomenico** have 2 goals and **Allyson DeFilippo, Hope Tiezzi, Emily Fritsch** and **Allison McCormick** in goal are hustling on defense.

A student's summer accomplishment ...

Claire Crouch '10, finished her summer competing on the Connecticut Jr. PGA golf tour with a trip to the Jack A. Kelly Tournament of Champions at the Fox-Hopyard Country Club in East Haddam. This invitational only event featured the top 60 boys and girls from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Claire finished 16th in her division.

Fall Captains for the 2009 Season

Seventeen team captains pose with their Athletic Director, Ms. Betsy Gilmartin. There are 207 athletes involved in the fall sports program this year at Mercy. GO Tigers!!



Back Row l-r: **C. Hanly, M. Gomes, E. Bruno, J. DeFilippo, E. Vansteebergen, C. Wright, A. Daniels**, Ms. B. Gilmartin

Middle Row l-r: **A. Revoir, A. Morales, A. Fitzner, N. Johnson, J. Carta**

Front Row l-r **A. Lynch, K. Charette, C. Wiese, B. Rhodes, D. Gallagher**

HOME & SCHOOL CORNER

The magazine drive is one of Mercy's annual fundraisers. This year students brought in over \$53,000 in orders (down from \$67,000 last year.) Our high saleswoman for the drive was **Jamie Casagrande** who brought in 28 orders totaling \$1,067! Jamie won \$100 in cash for her efforts. Girls could also win prizes for being the high saleswoman for each of the four collection days. **Jamie Casagrande** also won the 1st collection day with 12 orders totaling \$402 and took home the \$100 VISA gift card. The 2nd collection day prize of a Nikon digital camera was won by **Emily Cunningham** who sold 8 orders totaling \$216. **Bradleigh Rhodes**, with 17 orders totaling \$834 won the Coach purse prize for high sales on the 3rd collection day. Another \$100 VISA gift card was won by **Madeline Kerins** for her high sales of 23 orders totaling \$630 on the 4th collection day. In addition, 11 girls had sales of at least \$400 for the entire drive, won Coach wristlets and were entered in a drawing for a Coach purse. Carolyn Daniels, President of the Home and School Association pulled the winning name in the drawing, and the purse was won by **Emily Cunningham**. Twenty-seven Advisor Groups had at least 80% of their girls participate in the drive by bringing in at least 2 orders each, and were entered in the annual *Pig Race!* For the 2nd year in a row, Mrs. Williamson's advisor group won the race and was treated to a hot breakfast cooked by the Development Office. **REMINDER:** Magazines can be ordered/renewed all year long at QSP.com. Click on Mercy High School, and the school will receive a check for 40% of your order! **Congratulations girls and thank you for your help to make this fundraiser a success!**



Mrs. Robyn Fortier presents **Bradleigh Rhodes**'10 with the Coach pocketbook she won for high sales on the 3rd collection day.

ADVENT BREAKFAST – The Mercy Home and School Association invites all Mercy families to celebrate the start of Advent with us by attending the Advent Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, December 6th. Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium followed by a *free* breakfast, in the cafeteria/old gym. Flyers for attending the Advent Breakfast and ordering a poinsettia plant will be sent home to each family.

PEACE & GOING GREEN



Betsy DelCiampo '10, spent many days at school this past summer painting a life-size mural on the wall outside of the cafeteria. Betsy was inspired by the initiative of Mercy's Peace Jam and Ecology Clubs to design and paint the mural, which features messages of peace and "Going Green" with life size portraits of Mercy students. The mural was painted to welcome back students and to remind them to support Mercy's values, service projects and award-winning "Going Green" initiatives.

Additional Summer Experiences...

Jessica Boucher '10, **Morgan Friel '11**, **Alexis Golden '12**, **Cristina Gutierrez '11** and **Elizabeth Konefal '12** traveled to Australia as delegates for *People to People Student Ambassador Program*. This three-week adventure took them to many cities including a visit to the new Parliament building.

Victoria Jones '11, ventured to UCLA Medical Center for the *National Youth Leadership Forum, Medicine*. While there Victoria observed procedures, examined diagnostic tools, future medical specialties and met and interacted with doctors, nurses and research practitioners.

Alexandra Fitzner '10, participated in the "Summer at Brown" at Brown University where she took a social psychology class, **Elizabeth Saia '11**, attended the University of Connecticut Explore Engineering summer program to explore careers and majors in engineering, and **Lindsey Krupa '11**, participated in the Rustic Pathways service adventure program in Costa Rica.

Opening of school this year held an extra note of excitement with 50th Year Jubilee celebrations of two of our faculty members. Sr. Peggy O'Neill, RSM – Registrar, celebrated her 50 year jubilee with the Sisters of Mercy. Sr. Marian St. Marie, DHS – World History teacher, celebrated her 50 year jubilee as a Daughter of the Holy Spirit. Faculty, administrators and staff, as well as some close friends and family members joined the sisters at a surprise luncheon given in their honor following Mass. Congratulations, Sisters!



Sr. Peggy O'Neill, RSM receives her corsage from Sr. Mary McCarthy, RSM at the luncheon honoring her Golden jubilee.



Sr. Marian St. Marie, DHS and Sr. Mary McCarthy, RSM enjoy the day at the celebration honoring her 50 years as a Sister of the Daughter of the Holy Spirit.

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Mercy High School

Educating Today's Young Women in a Spiritual Community