



2017-2023 Institute Leadership Team

The team began their term on August 1, 2017

Sister Patricia McDermott, President



Sister Patricia McDermott is the president of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Prior to being elected president in 2011 and again in 2017, she served two terms on the Institute Leadership Team. Pat served as president of the former regional community of the Sisters of Mercy in Omaha, Nebraska, from 1990 to 1998 and as an administrative team member for the previous four years. She taught English, journalism and religious education at the secondary level for 10 years before finishing doctoral studies and teaching pastoral theology at The Catholic University of America. Pat has held many board positions in institutions that provide health care, education and housing, serving with lay colleagues as well as women religious. She

values the commitment to the mission of Mercy that she sees in ministry partners who witness to the legacy of Catherine McAuley and who provide multiple responses to the needs of our suffering world.

Sister Patricia Flynn, Vice President



Sister Patricia Flynn, a native of Portland, Maine, has taught at the junior high, high school and college levels and worked in diocesan and regional community administration. Before her election to the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Northeast Community Leadership Team in 2014, she taught philosophy at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine. She has also served as director of pastoral and educational services for the Diocese of Portland, Maine, and, prior to the formation of the Northeast Community, as formation director for the Portland Regional Community and on the Portland Regional Community Leadership Team. Pat has a Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University; a Certificate in religious formation

from St. Louis University; an M.A. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America; and a B.A. in English from Saint Joseph's College.

Sister Judith Frikker, Councilor



Sister Judith Frikker, MD, has served in leadership roles for the Sisters of Mercy for the past 15 years, including vice president and president of the West Midwest Community. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Judith entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1967. She has a B.S. from Mercy College of Detroit (1973) and earned her Doctor of Medicine Degree from Michigan State University (1978), later training in internal medicine. She ministered for six years at two Mercy hospitals in Michigan and spent two months serving at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Guyana, a life-changing experience that led her to 12 years of ministry as a physician and parish pastoral worker in Chile.

Sister Anne Marie Miller, Councilor



Sister Anne Marie Miller formerly served on the West Midwest Community Leadership Team. Prior to this ministry, Anne Marie spent 26 years as an educator and administrator in northern California. These roles included: teacher and principal at St. Joseph Parish School in Auburn; teacher Holy Cross School in West Sacramento; principal at Mt. St. Mary Academy in Grass Valley; and associate director of Corporate Work Study at Cristo Rey High School in Sacramento. A native of Dublin, Ireland, Anne Marie holds a B.A. in Diversified Liberal Arts from St. Mary's College and an M.A. in religious education from Loyola University. She has been a Sister of Mercy for 31 years.

Sister Áine O'Connor, Councilor



A Sister of Mercy for more than 20 years, Áine O'Connor is originally from Dublin, Ireland and holds dual citizenship. From 2011-2016, she served as the Mercy Global Action Coordinator at the United Nations for Mercy International Association. In the name of Mercy, a particular focus of her work at the UN was to advance the realization of the human right to water and sanitation and to address the root causes of global poverty and the negative impacts of oil, gas and extractive projects. Prior to this, Áine served in healthcare ministry for 10 years as assistant to the president for mission at Mercy Health Service in Baltimore, Maryland. She also studied and practiced as a speech pathologist before entering the Sisters of Mercy, specializing in the assessment and treatment of swallowing disorders. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Dublin, Trinity College. She also holds an M.A. in applied healing arts from the Tai Sophia Institute and a bachelor's in speech and language therapy from the University of Dublin, Trinity College.