



August 6, 2020

Dear alumnae, parents, and students,

Earlier this week we learned that a Black at Mercy social media account was created where Black alumnae and students are sharing their painful memories of times when Mercy did not live up to its mission commitment to justice and compassion. We are deeply sorry that we or those who came before us have caused pain or trauma. *For those experiences and for all of those which have gone unsaid, we apologize; we know we can do better and we will.*

We are actively taking steps to address areas of hurt and to change approaches as we continue to be an institution worthy of the name Mercy. It has never been our intent to invalidate or fail to address issues—large or small—that impact our girls. We are actively seeking ways to change for the better the experience of Black girls at Mercy.

We are committed to doing this important work. The Sisters of Mercy were founded on the very premise of creating a safe and supportive environment where girls and women could grow and learn. It is our turn to listen, learn, and grow. But we cannot do that without you. In an effort to analyze our practices, policies, and communication, we invite you to partner with us in this endeavor. Join us as we develop plans and move toward a more just and inclusive Mercy experience. Contact the [office of advancement](#) to be a part of the conversation so we can move toward being a healed and healthy community. It will take us some time to arrange and schedule listening sessions to help us develop an informed plan of action, but in the meantime, we continue to listen. If you would like to share your experiences to assist us in learning and growing, email us at [wearelistening@mercyhighschool.com](mailto:wearelistening@mercyhighschool.com).

In the words of Catherine McAuley, “we shall be able to do anything He [Jesus] wishes us to do, no matter how difficult to accomplish or painful to our feeling.” We look forward to working together and communicating with you about how we will support a healthy and more inclusive Mercy community.

Sincerely,

The Mercy High School Leadership Team