

In the first Mercy classroom, now the International Room at Mercy International Centre, the tenth Carlow Roundtable convened from May 26th until June 1st.

Originated by Carlow University in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, the Roundtable invites faculty and staff from the 17 Mercy institutions of higher education in America to gather in Catherine's house to discuss how being a Mercy institution inspires the work that they do.

Six institutions were represented this year: Trocaire College in Buffalo, New York; Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey; Gwynedd Mercy University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania; Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Carlow University. In addition, Julia Cavallo, the executive director of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education was in attendance.



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Speakers presented for 20 - 30 minutes followed by 30-minute conversation among participants. Lively dialogue followed each presentation as participants exchanged ideas and experiences. Among the topics were: "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as a Roadmap of Living Mercy" by Tatiana Diaz (Gwynedd Mercy University); "voices and Mercy Behind the Walls: Serving Incarcerated and University Students Through Inside Out Prison Exchange Courses" by Maria Garase and Daryl George's (Mercyhurst University); "Addressing the Needs of LGBTQIA+ Students" by Jaime Rivera Flores (Georgian Court University).



Days of presentations were punctuated by visits to Trinity College and the Book of Kells and time to explore Dublin.

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Our conference ended with a shared reflection on the blessings received and shared conversation about how the institutions work more closely together. The inspiration of being in Catherine's house with the opportunity to interact with colleagues in the ministry of Mercy higher education made this a unique and transformative experience.

Sheila Carney RSM