

Grade: Achieved

For Achieved, the student needs to demonstrate understanding of the development of a community that shares religious or spiritual beliefs.

This involves identifying and describing the community. For example, this could include describing significant features of the community, members of the community, or key beliefs of the community. A description of more than one significant factor in the development of the community is needed. Significant factors could include leadership and people who have helped in the development of the community, conflict, migration, politics, natural disaster/environmental issues, secularisation. Relevant examples need to be included in the description.

This student has identified the Sisters of Mercy as the religious community and given a description of the community by explaining where they came from, charisms of the community, and a brief description of their leader. More than one significant factor in the development of the community has been described, including Vatican II, the integration act, and migration. The student has used examples throughout. The quote from the Sisters of Mercy website should have been acknowledged in the final slide when used as an example.

For Merit, the student could have given a detailed explanation of the significant factors in the development of the Sisters of Mercy community, with examples that support the explanation. Additionally, the student could have given reasons for how more than one significant factor has influenced the development of the Sisters of Mercy. They have done this for one significant factor, migration.

Sisters of Mercy

Who are they?

The Sisters of Mercy are a Catholic community that was found in 1831 by Catherine McAuley in Ireland. Catherine's aim was to make a difference in the lives of women and children, and show the goodness of God in forming a group to help support the poor, sick, and uneducated. The sisters became known as the 'walking nuns' because they left their convents to work in the community, most of the church was focused on teaching and nursing where they looked after the sick in the cholera epidemic in 1832.



Catherine McAuley



Was born on the 29th September 1778. After her father passed away in 1783, she experienced hardships in her social and financial life. She cared for her mother as a teenager during her protracted sickness till her passing. After that, her financial situation made it necessary for her to move in with different relatives just to have a roof over her head. This occasionally meant being apart from her sister and brother. She built a sizable House of Mercy where she and other lay women would care for the ill and dying, homeless women, and educate underprivileged girls using a donation she received from an Irish couple she had served for twenty years. In 1827, The House on Baggot Street first opened, and Catherine and her colleagues established a new religious group, in order to provide more stability for the sick and homeless. She and the other two made the vows to become the first Sisters of Mercy on December 12, 1831. Prior to her passing on November 11, 1841, Catherine established churches and charities in England and Ireland. ([Biography 1.](#))

Sf.1

Vatican II:

Pope John XXIII held an important gathering in Rome from 1962-1965 because he thought the church needed to be renewed. This gathering led to the writing of several significant church documents. The document regarding religious life that was written, was called Perfectae Caritatis. It urged religious leaders to return to their founders original goal, and look for fresh approaches to bringing that vision to the world.



As a result, this helped the Sisters develop because they thought they might use their skills beyond teaching and nursing to address the issues of the world. They started working with those in need in new ministries after leaving schools. At this point, the sisters made the decision to alter their attire so it suited the tasks they were performing.



Sf.2

Integration Agreement:

Before 1975, all Catholic schools were private, which meant that the government did not provide funding for the schools to cover operating costs, construction fees, or teacher salaries. Since child fees were the schools main source of funding, the sisters received no payment for their labor in schools.

Since the government began covering teacher salaries and operating expenses in 1975, Catholic schools were now able to increase the number of lay teachers they hire, which allowed the sisters to relocate their services to other parts of their community.

What happened?

Because the government wouldn't pay for teacher salaries, people couldn't afford to work in schools which prevented the sisters to help women in need.

Why did it help the SOM develop?

For the sisters of mercy, some changes that would've affected them were the integration agreement. This meant that lay teachers could be paid by the government. This helped the sisters of mercy develop because this enabled the sisters to move onto other areas of need in the community, which helped them to expand their teachings and services. They were able to help out the sick more since catholic schools were now hiring lay teachers.

Sf.3

Migration:

The first religious sisters to arrive in Aotearoa, New Zealand, were Sisters of Mercy. They came to Auckland in 1850 at the request of Bishop Pompallier. The Sisters of Mercy were asked to come to New Zealand for the purpose of Maori women, and to use their skills and teachings to help support Maori women, and children. On April 9th 1850 the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Auckland, and immediately started taking in orphans, and took over the St Patrick girls school in Wyndham St, which is where they began their first service in New Zealand. ([auckland](#))

How did this help the SOM develop?

This was a big development for The Sisters of Mercy because they were able to help out Maori women, and children. By 1883 the sisters had developed a program to help look after the poor, sick, and uneducated by feeding the poor, and building schools to help teach children who couldn't afford education. They started opening more schools around New Zealand throughout the years like both St Marys Colleges in Auckland and Wellington, in 1850, and St Mary's High School in Hotika from 1879-1973.

Mercy education is aimed at empowering women to achieve their full potential in creating a more just and peaceful world. As embodied in the Charter of every Mercy college. Mercy's charism has a particular concern for the poor, uneducated and disadvantaged in whatever cultural or social context it operates.