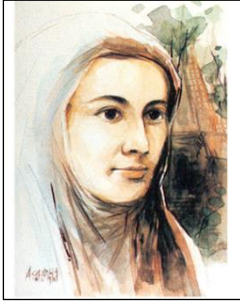


60th Anniversary Celebrations

This year, 2019, Merici College Braddon (previously named Braddon Catholic Girls High School 1959-1983) is celebrating 60 years since the opening of this school in 1959.

Last year the school community began to look towards their celebration and asked the question ...

If Angela Merici were standing among us today



WHAT WOULD SHE WANT TO SAY TO US?

Given the history of this College, it was felt that Angela Merici would want the school community to reflect on 1 Cor 12: 4-7.

There are a variety of **GIFTS**
but always the same **SPIRIT**
working in us **ALL**
FOR A GOOD PURPOSE.

1 Cor 12:4-7



To grasp the enormity of these words Angela Merici would challenge us today, to look back over the 60 years to when this College first began in 1959....

The very foundations of this College have been built on

- a variety of **GIFTS**
- always the same **SPIRIT**
- working in us **ALL**
- **FOR A GOOD PURPOSE.**

It happened like this....

The city of Canberra was built to be the capital of Australia representing all the States and Territories that make up Australia.

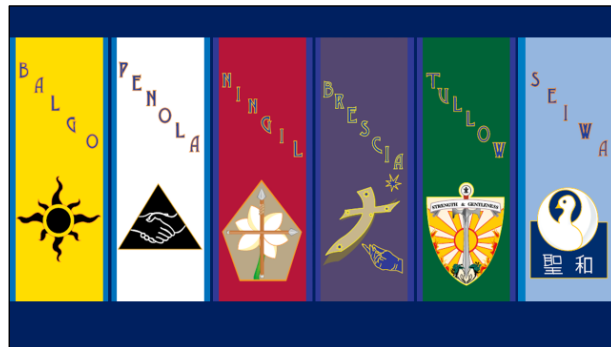
When the first Catholic High School was to be built in Canberra, Archbishop Eris O'Brien wanted it to be

- inclusive on all levels,
- a place welcoming ALL,
- embracing not just one group of teaching Sisters but many, thus
- reflecting the diversity and uniqueness of our Australian Community.

Looking back it is clear that, the then Braddon Catholic Girls High School (now Merici College) was founded on the

MODEL of COLLABORATIVE WOMENS' LEADERSHIP (an Angela model).

Such a venture was ahead of its time, probably the first of its kind, calling forth the "pooling" of the charisms, gifts and talents of the six Founding Religious Congregations (including the Ursulines) for the purpose of the education of young women.



It was in 1959, the leaders of SIX Religious Congregations, as represented by these SIX house banners (designed in later years)...

- The Good Samaritans,
- The Brigidines,
- The Sisters of Mercy,
- The Josephites,
- Presentation Sisters and
- The Ursulines.

accepting the Archbishop's challenge to bring.....



Over recent years Merici College Community has embraced, once more, the charism of the six founding Congregations. This was done by inviting any Sisters from these Congregations, who may still be living in Canberra, to come and be once more "a strong presence" through participating, whenever possible, in the daily life of the College Community.

This "strong presence" is visibly expressed by each Religious Congregation, as they whole-heartedly support the staff and students in

- understanding the Charism of each Foundress,
- Reflecting, discussing and sharing of ways Merici College Community can embrace these Charisms, and
- celebrating "the variety of gifts" through participating in College Liturgies, House activities and Special Day celebrations.



Last year, as part of its preparation for this 60th Year Celebration, the Merici College Community welcomed the planting of the Angela Merici Rose in the College garden.

Even today, the Angela story and the Merici College story continue to be entwined around this little rose.

A few weeks ago at a Merici College Eucharistic Celebration of the Feast of St Angela, NEW House banners were unfolded. The designs are a modern interpretation of the Charism of the six founding Religious Groups.



Amazingly, these newly designed banners were "secretly" created by the College Community WITHOUT any input from the Religious Groups. As each banner was revealed and its symbolism explained it was a moment of GREAT JOY.

Obviously, this College Community not only understands, but has continued to embrace the charism of the six Founding Religious Groups.



One example.....

The **Brescia Banner** (Ursuline) depicts:

The open book of life-long learning.

Out of this foundation grows the Vine,

"Cultivate the vine entrusted to you." (Angela)

The Angela Rose blooms at the top of the Vine in the shape of a UNIVERSAL HEART reflecting the Charism of the Ursulines...

wisdom women in our world today.

Angela was right when she said,

"Have faith and firm hope.....

you will see wonders."

Celebrating 60 Years

MERICI COLLEGE 60th ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Motivated by the works of our founding religious orders and with the guidance of God, we pray that the Spirit will:

- ✦ Inspire us to discover the joy of learning by opening our minds to the gift of education.
- ✦ Give us the courage and perseverance to stand up for what we believe in, even in the face of adversity.
- ✦ Strengthen us to serve you and our communities with hearts full of thanks for our blessings, while being conscious of the needs of the poor and marginalized.
- ✦ Encourage us to make a difference in the world.
- ✦ Help us to consider the future of our relationships in harmony with you, ourselves, others and creation.

We thank you for your care of the Merici College community over the past 60 years. Continue to inspire young women like us to be strong and determined in our community.

We make this prayer, united together, keep us faithful to all that is true, in a spirit of Fidelitas.

Amen

Attributed to Year 7, 2018 Merici College Students:

Haley Bissett, Leila Buckley, Isabelle Coric,
Ruby Causer, Imogen Dorsett, Zara Eglington, Caryss Evans,
Tessa George, Charlise Hawkins, Isabella McFarland,
Nyambugi (Zoe) Nyjenga, Chloe Rushton, Tabitha Thevaranjan

