

# Josephite Associates

PO Box 57  
Kent Town SA 5071



*Friendship  
Prayer  
Service*

---

## February 2008

---

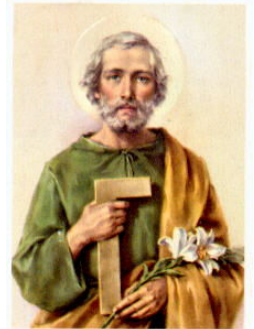
***Happy New Year to all Associates, families and friends***

### **Engaging our 'God-Dream'** by Valerie De Brenni

At the end of 2007 the Josephite Associate Committee decided that in 2008 we would use the theme 'Dreaming' as our focus. As I reflect on what it means to dream, I recall Margaret Silf pointing out the difference between 'day-dreams' and what she calls 'God-Dreams'. The difference has to be discerned carefully. 'Day dreams' tend to be flights of fantasy about what might have been and they tend to leave us feeling flat and unfulfilled. 'God-Dreams', on the other hand, fill us with energy and are a catalyst for growth. This reminds me of the 'God-Dream' of Jesus, for at the heart of the life and ministry of Jesus is his dream of the Reign of God. As we sit with the Gospels it is clear that Jesus identifies closely with this vision of a transformed way of being in the world and lives out of this revelation. In the Reign of God, Jesus envisioned a new kind of family, built on the acceptance of God's will as a basis for living. Jesus reveals a God who enters fully into the human condition, in solidarity with its suffering and transforms it. In Jesus we glimpse what life will be like when God finally reigns on earth, but Jesus also shows us that God is already drawing near to us. This 'God-Dream' is the vision that draws Jesus, inspires him and gives him hope and courage. Grounded in an intimate relationship with God and passionate about the possibility of God's Reign, Jesus lives out of this deep inner heart knowing.

In a similar manner both St. Joseph and Mary MacKillop are people who engage in 'God-Dreams'.

It is through paying careful attention to his dreams that Joseph discerns the action of the Spirit in relation to Mary's pregnancy. Joseph listens to this dream and then lives out of its message. He discovers a God of surprises, as he becomes aware of his need to depend on God and let go the need to be in control of life. Mary MacKillop also has a dream and throughout her life, despite great personal cost, she strives to live this dream to the full. Her 'God-Dream' involves the education of poor children and she is determined to bring that dream to reality. She is so convinced of the significance of this dream and the fact that this is God's will, that she inspires many others to join her. Mary is strongly aware of her utter dependence on God and is continually open to the unknown as she pays attention to God in her life.



As Josephite Associates we know that the Spirit of God is at work in the small, ordinary moments of everyday life. Through the Spirit we learn to notice, appreciate and respond to God. To be open to God's Spirit involves intentional attentiveness, awareness of our utter dependence on God and openness to the unknown, for the Spirit works in surprising ways. May we this year together discern the shape of our 'God-Dream' and encourage each other to respond in faith and trust.

## Last Year's Advent Gathering by Carla Mastrangelo



On the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Mr Shaun Clarke, Religious Education Co-ordinator of Christian Brothers College, introduced our *Year of Dreams and Dreaming* with a mini workshop. To the group of Associates who gathered, it was a chance for reflection and discussion in preparation for Advent. Shaun provided us with a booklet\* which started with this from the pen of Mary MacKillop:

When one dreams  
*It is only a dream.*  
When we dream together  
*It is the beginning of reality.*

And so we began our *Dreaming* with a small ceremony involving the lighting of a candle - inviting us to be prayerful and to be aware of the presence of our God.

A short discussion followed about finding something that was good or positive that occurred in the week gone by. Then we pondered about our dreams – what are they? This proved to be a much more difficult question.

A time for personal reflection allowed us to reflect on our own spirituality, to search for memorable moments in our lives and God's place in it. We came to appreciate that God rescues us in so many ways, not only in the big traumas of our lives but in the everyday things in life – the little things we encounter every day.

Scripture readings from the gospels about the birth of Christ brought to mind that first Christmas. Our longing for peace is embodied in this story and Advent is when peace becomes something visible. How do we make the Christmas message a reality in our lives everyday throughout the year?

In one of our final reflective moments, we were asked to choose one of the expressions from the booklet that rang true for us at the time and to read the scripture passage associated with it. For example:

*"I never have enough time."* Read Luke 10:38-42 about Martha and Mary. Consider "What are my priorities in my life as an individual?"

All of the readings illustrated that Christ is there with us on our journey through life.

The concluding prayers inspired us anew and we ended with a series of blessings.

Many thanks are extended to Shaun whose presentation, images and songs helped to create a meaningful experience and one in which it was easy to participate.



Mary Hemmings, Shaun Clarke and Imelda Bates (from the Yorketown Parish)

\* Should you be interested in obtaining a copy of this booklet, Majella O'Sullivan rsj has a limited number in stock. She may be contacted by telephoning 8271 4630.

*"Let God's glory ... absorb  
our thoughts."*

## **My Profile** by Julie Langman

As part of the Josephite Associates Leadership Team for 07 – 09, I have been asked to write a little about myself. My name is Julie Langman, and I became an Associate in Port Lincoln in the mid 1980's.

My parents are John and Eileen Quirke of Loxton. I was born in Loxton, the middle child of a family of 5 children. We grew up on a fruit block and spent our school holidays harvesting either citrus, stone or pome fruits. At the end of a school year we could apply for "harvest leave", so that we finished school a couple of weeks early. In those days we dried apricots, then peaches and pears. We were only ever part way through drying the pears before school would re-commence each year.

In my primary school years I attended St Albert's Dominican School. Today I am still amazed at how wonderful the nuns were that taught me. I then attended Loxton High School and after *Matric* (Year 12), I went to Roseworthy Agricultural College. After completing my studies I obtained employment in the Department of Lands in Adelaide. My first transfer was to Berri, then in 1982 I was transferred to Port Lincoln.

My introduction to the Sisters of St Joseph began when I received an offer to share accommodation with Monica M<sup>c</sup>Cormack, who had moved that year to Port Lincoln from Darwin. Monica taught at the local St Joseph's School and although she was late for most things, she was never late for what mattered most – school and Mass. We often took separate cars to Mass as Monica wouldn't wait for me! Monica was the channel through which my association with the Josephites developed, and for that I really thank her.

After some time in Port Lincoln I married Mark Langman and we have one son. I had a career change in the mid 1990's from land matters to children with special needs. I had the privilege of working along side some wonderful people at St Joseph's School in Port Lincoln. Mark's work brought us to Adelaide in 1999 and since then I have been working at St Joseph's School in Kingswood.

*"See the hand of God in all that happens."*



## **Postage Stamps**

Used postage stamps provide some extra income for the Peruvian mission. If you would like to collect used stamps, please leave a sizeable border of paper, eg 1cm around the stamps. Stamps can be sent to the Province Centre or posted to Box 57, Kent Town, 5071.

## **Travelling difficulties and/or Prayers**

- Are you an Associate who now finds it difficult to travel? Would you like to be included in a phone link, to have another Associate phone you occasionally?
- Do you know of any Associates who are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the monthly Masses on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you would appreciate assistance in either or both of these ways, please feel free to phone Mary McInerney on 8344 3203 (Mary uses the 101 answering service, so please leave a message if Mary is unavailable).

## **Our Associate Country Contacts**

Jamestown	Colleen Stewart 8662 4185
Murray Bridge	Pam Howard
Port Lincoln	Moya Bourke 8682 3655 (at St Joseph's School)
Riverland	Anna De Guglielmo 8586 5055 (at St Joseph's School)

# Josephite Chapter News compiled by Majella O'Sullivan rsj

## GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

In March this year we say farewell to Sr Christine Rowan, the Provincial of South Australia for the last six years. Christine has been a great support of the Associates over this time - her leadership has been an inspiration. We have been blessed as a Province to have had her in our midst. We thank her for the many gifts we have received because of her leadership, and we wish Christine well as she begins a new journey in her life.

We also thank and farewell the Provincial Leadership Team of Srs Josephine Dubiel, Ursula Hoile, Elizabeth Murphy and Mary Mercer for their dedication and support of the Associates over the last six years.

God's Blessings as you all begin a new venture in your life.

## NEW PROVINCIAL AND TEAM

In March we welcome to South Australia Sr Marion Gambin. Marion will be our Provincial for the next three years. Marion comes from NSW. She was born in London and came to Australia in 1966. Marion is an Educator. She has been a Principal and on the Motor Mission in country NSW. For the last six years she has been on the Provincial Team in NSW. We welcome Marion and wish her well as she begins her Leadership in the Province.

There is also a new Provincial Team who will support Marion for the next three years. The team is from South Australia and they are Srs Ursula Hoile, Angela Mahar, Mary Mercer and Loreto O'Connor.

All the best!

## CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

We farewell and thank the Congregational Team of Srs Katrina Brill, Monica Cavanagh, Sheila McCreanor, Joan Healey, and Pat Malone. We thank them for their support and guidance over their years of Leadership. We especially thank Monica for her support of the Associates.

We have a new Congregational Team. The Congregational Leader is Sr Anne Derwin (NSW). The Team is Srs Sheila McCreanor (SA), Ann Gilroy (NZ), Eileen Lenihan (Ireland), Annette Arnold (QLD).

God's Blessings and thank you for your generosity in accepting these roles.

## NEW PROVINCIALS

Here are the Provincials for the other Provinces. You will notice two Sisters from South Australia!

- WA – Sr Pauline Morgan
- VIC – Sr Josephine Dubiel
- NSW – Sr Mary Quilan
- QLD – Sr Moya Campbell
- NZ – Sr Colleen Keeble
- IRELAND – Sr Margaret O'Sullivan

We wish Pauline and Josephine well in their new homes for three years!

*"Firmness and gentleness should go hand in hand."*



## **News from the Mary MacKillop Centre** compiled by Sr Patricia Keane

- The 2008 Josephite Calendars are still available.
- During my two years in Scotland I wrote a book entitled Mary MacKillop - The Scottish Connection which tells the story of Mary's visit to the homeland of her parents. It was originally published in Scotland in 2007 and has now been revised and reprinted in Adelaide. Books are available from the Mary MacKillop Centre and priced at \$5.00. Postage is extra. Telephone 8364 5311 to place an order or call in to the Centre.
- An exhibition Mary MacKillop - The Scottish Connection based on the book is currently on display at the Mary MacKillop Centre. It contains additional coloured photographs of the significant Mary MacKillop Scottish locations referred to in the book. The Centre is open from 10am – 4pm from Mon – Thurs and first Sundays from 1.30pm – 4pm.

## Diary Dates for 2008

### ☺ **Monthly Mass and Reflection re Mary MacKillop**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Time: 10.30am (Mass) and 5.45pm (Reflection)  
Where: Kensington Chapel, 286 Portrush Rd, Kensington

### ☺ **Formation**

Date: Mondays 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> June  
Time: 7pm – 8.30pm  
Where: Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington

In the coming months the Committee is inviting Associates and others who may be interested in exploring the story of Mary MacKillop and her relevance to us today, to gather regularly. These informal gatherings are based on a programme produced by the NZ Associates.

For further information, please contact Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365.

### ☺ **Talk and Display**

Date: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Time: 12.30pm – 2pm  
Where: Mary MacKillop Centre, High St, Kensington

Following morning tea (after the Monthly Mass), the Mary MacKillop Centre will be open. Sr Patricia Keane will give some input regarding the current display and she will also speak about Mary's dream.

### ☺ **Jubilee Mass**

Date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Time: 10am  
Where: St Ignatius Church, 139 William St, Norwood

Celebrating 70 years of her profession will be Sr Francis Borgia Miller and 50 years profession will be Srs Margaret Mary Atkins, Mary Goretti Greenslade, Margaret Hehir, Margaret Mary Murphy, Marcella Myers and Pauline Schutze.

### ☺ **A Walk around Mary MacKillop's Kensington and Norwood**

Date: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Check the details in the **April** course guide of the WEA brochure (available 9<sup>th</sup> April) if you would like to join in this leisurely walk which will be led by Sr Patricia Keane. Bookings through the WEA.

### ☺ **Mary MacKillop Pilgrimages**

#### 1. To the Lower North

Date: Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

This is a full day, taking in, among other places, Gawler, Sevenhill, Clare, Mintaro, Kapunda, etc.

#### 2. Around Adelaide and Districts

Date: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August

This will include many significant locations in the Adelaide city, as well as Port Adelaide and Brompton

Sr Patricia Keane is organising both pilgrimages and was careful to avoid the Crows and Power home games. The final cost of both pilgrimages has yet to be finalised. They can, of course, only go ahead if the minimum number of participants is met so as to cover the cost of hiring the bus.

For further information, please contact the Mary MacKillop Centre on 8364 5311.

### ☺ **Annual General Meeting**

Date: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Sr Virginia Bourke will lead us in this day. More details next newsletter.

### ☺ **Retreat Day**

Date: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Sr Lil Girardi will lead this day. More details next newsletter.

### ☺ **Reflection Afternoon**

Date: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. The theme will be Advent. More details next newsletter.

# Josephite Associates' Prayer Sheet

## BEGINNING A NEW YEAR

### **Leader:**

A new year begins with all  
Its hopes and dreams  
Its fears and trepidations.  
Life's never what it seems!

I approach a little unsure, but confident  
In the plans and preparations already done;  
Ready for the challenge of the days ahead  
For the mundane, the surprises, the inevitable  
unknown!

Something in me looks forward with joy  
With excitement for new things to come.  
Something in me is tentative, anxious  
Knowing it won't all be fun.

But I do know there's growth and opportunity  
Awaiting me each new day.  
I know that the God of my hoping and believing  
Walks with me all of the way.

So I welcome this New Year with confidence  
With faith in my God and my friend.  
And I pray these months will be special  
From this day unto year's end.

### **Reflection:**

What do I look forward to in this coming year?  
What are my hopes and fears?  
What place does God have in my plans and my  
dreams?

### **Reader:**

Do Not Worry (Luke 12:22-28)

Jesus said to his disciples:

*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,  
what you will eat, or about your body, what you  
will wear. For life is more than food and the  
body more than clothing. Consider the ravens;  
they neither sow nor reap, they have neither  
storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them.  
Of how much more value are you than the  
birds! And can any of you by worrying add a  
single hour to your span of life? If then you are  
not able to do so small a thing as that, why do  
you worry about the rest?*

### **Let us Pray:**

God who created us and made us who we are,  
we come to you at the beginning of another  
year.

We ask you to bless us, to continue to walk with  
us,  
to lead us and teach us your will and your ways.  
Guide us and strengthen us for the days that lie  
ahead.  
Keep us faithful to the good things we've  
planned.  
And if through weakness we should go astray  
bring us back and heal us – don't let us turn  
away.  
We ask this of you God our creator  
and maker of all that is good.  
*Amen.*

## FROM THE ADVENT BOOKLET

### **A Series of Blessings:**

May the God of simplicity be with you, opening  
you to a clear vision of what is real and true,  
leading you deeply into the mystery of  
childhood; and may your dealings with others  
be marked by the honesty which is simplicity;  
may the blessing of simplicity be on you.

May the God of patience be with you, waiting  
for you with outstretched arms, letting you find  
out yourself; and may God's patience with all  
the young who fall from small heights and the  
old who fall from greater heights be your  
patience; may the blessing of patience be on  
you.

May the God of peace be with you, stilling the  
heart that hammers with fear of doubt or  
confusion; and may your peace, the warm  
mantle of your peace, cover those who are  
troubled or anxious; may the blessing of peace  
be on you.

May the God of joy be with you, thrilling you  
with divine nearness, filling your throat to  
ringing, singing exultation; may the blessing of  
joy be on you.

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Beloved Lord  
Breathe calm in my mind  
Peace in my heart  
And silence in my soul.  
In the silence let me hear your voice  
In peace let me see your face  
In calm let me know your love.  
*Amen.*

