



Josephite Associates

* Friendship * Prayer * Service
- November 2008 -

Hello from the Coordinator

Who will ever forget World Youth Day 2008! Sydney did a wonderful job as host city and the Josephite Associates were there in the thick of things. (Read some of their stories in this issue.) Before the Timorese pilgrims returned to their homes we had the honour of meeting and enrolling them as Josephite Associates at the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop. This was a truly special event.

I was not present at the Feast Day Mass this year, but I heard it was a happy celebration, with many Associates present in the Chapel.

The Annual General Meeting and the Kincumber retreat were times when we came together to pray, meet each other and share ideas and stories.

What a lovely time of year to visit the country areas. Reflection days in Tamworth and Nimmitabel went well and we look forward to going west in November. It is always such a pleasure to meet with the country members.

I continued to visit groups in Auburn, Boambee, Oatley, Lakemba, Lidcombe and Blacktown. It was a delight to be invited to go to Seven Hills to recommence their group.

Don't forget the Advent Prayer day on Monday 1st December, with Sr Jeanette Foxe leading us. A good opportunity to prepare for the wonderful feast of Christmas.

Next year we celebrate 100 years since the death of Blessed Mary and will be looking at ideas of how each group could celebrate in some way. Start thinking about this!

Christmas blessings to you and your families!

Until next year!

Sr Helen Saunders.

Coming Events—Associates

Nyngan Reflection Day
22nd November 2008

'Joseph—Jesus Called Him Dad'
Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj

Advent Prayer Day
1st December 2008

Advent Theme
Led by Sr Jeanette Foxe rsj

Kincumber Retreat
20th–22nd February 2009

'Seasons of Spirituality in Mary MacKillop
and Julian Tenison Woods'
Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj
Cost \$170.00

*For further information phone
Sr Helen Saunders on 02 8741 2334*

Coming Events— Mary MacKillop Place

Bereavement Mass
24th November 2008

Guided Meditations
1st and 8th December 2008

These guided meditations on the Gospels are designed to help us to experience Jesus, Mary and Joseph through thought, touch, love and reflective prayer as we prepare for Advent/Christmas.

Led by Sr Elizabeth Crilley rsj

*For further information phone
the Ministries Manager on 02 8912 4818*

Introducing the Provincial Leadership Team

Sr Antoinette Baldwin



Antoinette grew up on the beautiful Central Coast of NSW and was educated by the Josephites at Woy Woy and Wyong. She entered in 1962 and was a postulant at St Margaret's Hospital where she had been working. After Profession in 1965 she trained as a primary teacher and taught at Uralla, Quirindi and South Murwillumbah. Antoinette returned to nursing after the general Chapter of 1971, along with other nurses who had been in other ministries. After general training at St Margaret's, Children's and St Vincent's Hospitals she worked in the Children's Hospital until undertaking Midwifery Training at the Mercy Maternity in East Melbourne and Infant Welfare at the Queen Elizabeth in Carlton (Vic). She then worked at St Margaret's, mainly in Nurse Education, Neonatal Intensive Care and Administration, until its

closure in 1997. During that time she spent six months at King George V and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Camperdown training in the care of sick infants. When St Margaret's closed, Antoinette moved to Aged Care and while studying at the College of Nursing worked as educator, quality coordinator and infection controller at Sisters of St Joseph Aged Care at Hunters Hill. Since 2002 she has been a member of the Provincial Leadership Team in NSW. She enjoys reading, music, gardening, swimming and golf.

Edited extract from "Sisters All" (Vol.1 Issue 3, April 2008)

Editor's Note: We introduced the Provincial, Sr Mary Quinlan, in the August 2008 issue. We will introduce the other members of the Provincial Leadership Team in future issues of the Newsletter.

Vale Maryanne Hardwick

(30.6.1948 - 7.6.2008)



Maryanne came to Australia from Malta aged 14 years, with her parents Mary and Joseph and her siblings Joseph, Doris and Elizabeth. She attended a Catholic school at Haberfield. After finishing school she went to College in Sydney to become a secretary and later worked for a solicitor in the city from the age of 16 years.

I met Maryanne 15 years ago, when she joined a prayer group at my place. We became good friends and spent many happy times together. Later on we joined the Josephite Associates, where we attended prayer days and weekend retreats away with the Associates from other groups. I found her a very caring person always helping someone.

She worked at the chemist shop in Woy Woy, where she helped everyone who came in, and spent time asking about their health, even though she didn't have good health herself.

At her funeral her family said her loves were family, God and people. I am so glad I had her as my friend and we will miss you, dear.

Rest in peace.

Betty Fraser, Woy Woy

Associates Office - Locked Bag 3031
Burwood NSW 1805 - (02) 8741 2334

The Website for Mary MacKillop Place,
Mount Street, North Sydney is
www.marymackillopplace.org.au
for
Coming events, Feast and Memorial dates,
Pilgrimage information and an invitation to
a place of prayer with our Australian
Saint.

Sharing My Home with Some Pilgrims

I had put my name down to host two pilgrims—I had thought from 14th to 20th July. Anyway, the two young Italian ladies who stayed with me arrived on the 17th July, having attended the Pope's Mass and some sort of orientation. I picked them up at St Christopher's Parish Centre, Panania, at 11 p.m. After I had settled them in my home and had shown them around, Mery [yes, with an e] and Guisy were making themselves at home. That evening Mery gave me a small gift, which I did not open straight away, as I think I was more concerned about settling them in and finding out what time they had to be on the move the next day. Mery could speak a little English and Guisy a few words. At breakfast the next morning, Mery informed me she had two spare tickets for the Stations of the Cross at the Domain.



Mery, Sandra and Guisy

In any case, I was going into the city with a friend to have a look at the various sites. So, after looking around at Barangaroo, my friend and I headed towards Hyde Park where we had been told there was activity. Hyde Park was crowded but with a happy atmosphere. We would sit down and start talking to someone looking for the University of Notre Dame or Church of Notre Dame which I hadn't heard of in the city. A bit later we started talking to a lady from Bowral, who over the previous few days had been to a number of the events. My friend did not stay, so I walked down towards the Domain; on the way I spotted the lady from Bowral and gave her the other ticket. Later on, when I was seated on the ground awaiting the commencement of the Stations of the Cross, she came and sat down with me. We were company for each other. A lot of things in our life are little things leading to something else, i.e. God in charge. The Stations were very moving—my pilgrims told me the next morning that they were better than in Cologne.

On opening the small gift, I discovered it was a small statue of the Angel of Travel; very beautiful—I had often admired these little statues. When I thanked Mery and told her that I thought it was lovely, she asked me if I liked to travel, which I do. Taking out a map of Italy, she showed me Monopoli where she and Guisy were from, though Guisy worked in Prato, near Florence. This opened conversation a little so that we could share. When I asked the girls their occupations, Mery answered in a quiet, humble way that she was a doctor, and Guisy, who played the cello and had studied music, was a music therapist, giving pleasure to disabled people. Both in very caring careers.

I did not go to the Pope's Mass on the Sunday, as my best school friend had a 60th birthday party on the Saturday night at Wentworth Falls, but I watched the Mass in the comfort of my lounge room. On the Monday morning, I gave the girls pictures of Blessed Mary MacKillop and went to Mass with them—it was in Italian but that didn't matter. Then they went to Manly and a new Wildlife Park at Darling Harbour. My next door neighbour feeds cockatoos—the girls were quite taken with them. That evening they gave me a picture of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

As I was enjoying the girls' company, I asked them to have dinner with me and my younger daughter, who lives nearby. She is also in a health profession, and it turned out that she is a year older than my visitors. On the Tuesday evening we shared a baked dinner, with an old family favourite, apple roly. The reaction from Guisy was a finger and thumb in a circle, like tops. The next evening they asked if any was left, and there was. They said they had told their friends about the sweet—I was glad they enjoyed it. A large group of the pilgrims from St Christopher's went up the Blue Mountains in coaches, which was good, as the girls had thought of getting the train. This was better for them. On Thursday they left to spend time in Melbourne with some relatives and sightsee some more. I took them to the station at 6.15 a.m. and it was a sad farewell.

I think they were nervous about staying with me and I was too, but by sharing a lot of understanding and bits of laughter we became quite at ease with each other. It was a pleasure for me to have shared my home with two lovely faith-filled young ladies. We learnt to communicate, and a strong fondness and love grew between us.

Sandra Hanley, Auburn

Reflection on WYD08 at Mary MacKillop Place

I don't think that Mary MacKillop, in her wildest dreams, would have envisaged the roof of her Memorial Chapel being raised with the sounds of the Mass sung in so many different languages. It was a truly uplifting and inspiring experience to be witness to the young people's faith during WYD08. Up there with photos of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House will be those of the tomb of Mary MacKillop. The story of her work and spirituality will now be spread to the corners of the earth.



We, the volunteers, were rostered on duty in four-hourly shifts. My husband, Pete, dropped me off at Gosford Station at 3.30 a.m. each day to begin my shift from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. In the dark of the early morning the international and Australian groups began to arrive from the railway station and specially chartered buses. The groups continued all day and into the night. It was an overwhelming experience.

In the true spirit of Mary MacKillop, we moved to where we were needed the most—meeting and greeting, crowd control, tour guiding, selling merchandise, assisting in the Chapel. Sometimes it

was in several places in the one shift. During the week I have met and worked with some wonderful and dedicated volunteers and new friendships have been forged. Their generosity and tirelessness were awe inspiring.

Congratulations to the staff and committee for their organisational skills. It was a mammoth task. They certainly "Embraced Mary MacKillop and Engaged the World".

Robin Vaughan, volunteer

Letter to Blessed Mary MacKillop — WYD08

Dear Mary,

I wondered what you were thinking as you looked down from heaven on the scenario unfolding at your place in North Sydney in July! You must have found it truly heart-warming to watch what was going on – nearly 100 years after you lived there.

What precious moments for those present to share with you when Il Papa visited the Chapel...

You must have been touched by all the hundreds and thousands of pilgrims who came to visit your tomb, praying with such reverence, awe and wonder in the chapel on the way. A youthful spirit pervaded everywhere and encompassed all things. You were with us on the Candlelight Procession of Sr Monica Barlow's Vigil of Prayers as she led us through meditations of you as Pilgrim, as Witness and carrying your Cross.

You have been such a good friend to me over the past ten years that I went to North Sydney as a volunteer to give something back. Yet somehow I feel it is me on the receiving end once more. The experience was unforgettable, as Pope Benedict said.

May your courage and your spirit continue to live and shine brightly in all the Sisters and Associates, and I ask special blessings on the Boambee group with whom I share your charism.

I thank God for your 'Yes'.

Brenda Rainbow, Boambee

Prayers for the Sick

Therese Horeau, daughter of Patricia Anable (Auburn)
Geoff Rainbow, husband of Brenda (Boambee)

Memories of WYD (1)

During World Youth Day week I was privileged to be on duty in Mary MacKillop Chapel. I was able to be present at a number of Masses celebrated by priests from many different countries, which was very inspiring. Witnessing the respect and prayerful devotion by the thousands of these young pilgrims visiting the chapel and praying at the tomb, gave me renewed hope in our future generation. I'm sure they were all touched by the spirit of Blessed Mary MacKillop, as I was.

Patricia Smith, North Sydney

Memories of WYD (2)

My memories of World Youth Day are very special, as I was a volunteer at Mary MacKillop Chapel, at Shore College and at St Francis Xavier's Parish, Lavender Bay, welcoming all the wonderful pilgrims from so many countries. They came with a faith-filled spirit and were happy to be here celebrating Masses, catechesis, lunches, etc., and were so grateful for anything that was done for them. As they filed into the chapel, their faces were full of joy and I felt privileged to be part of their journey. Pope Benedict XVI brought many blessings to this country and he too was thrilled with all the pilgrims.

As I walked back to the Catholic University in Edward Street, North Sydney with my Associate friends, Joan Giffney and Pat Smith, our hearts were full of joy as we recounted the events that had taken place. We likened it to the road to Emmaus, and we shared our joy also with the Josephite Sisters and other volunteers, over a delicious lunch at the University.

Yvonne Quarrell, North Sydney

World Youth Day Vocations Expo

The morning began with a walk through Darling Harbour and enjoying the WYD singers who were entertaining the many happy pilgrims who had already gathered. The pilgrims radiated their joy of living and being part of this wonderful event with their endless smiles. On to the WYD Vocations Expo at the Convention Centre and to be greeted at the Josephite stand by the Josephite Sisters who were there to commence their WYD vocations message over the next four days and we were there as volunteer Josephite Associates.

The first pilgrims we greeted were from Melbourne and Perth and they were well in tune with Mary MacKillop's story and her charism. As the day wore on, pilgrims from all over the world stopped at the stand to share their WYD journey and to listen about Mary MacKillop and what it means being an Associate. The pilgrims came from the Philippines, Canada, America, Vietnam, East Timor, Mauritius, France, Ireland, and India, to mention some of the countries. Sue from Adelaide, who has seven children, was definite that she would be contacting Kensington in Adelaide about becoming an Associate. What proved very popular with the pilgrims was filling out a Prayer Petition which, once completed, was put into a special bag to be placed at Mary MacKillop's tomb at North Sydney. Several pilgrims had already visited or were going to visit her tomb.

At the final Friday night session, the Vocations Expo centre buzzed with so much activity that it was electrifying. Music came continuously from the stage area to add to the atmosphere of celebration. We had the opportunity to visit other vocation stands, which enhanced the occasion of being part of this memorable event. Late that Friday evening, we were approached by a tall priest and we noticed a crimson colour around his robe to indicate his Bishop status and we welcomed him accordingly. To our astonishment, we found that he was Cardinal Sean Brady, which led to further dialogue with him. He is from Armagh and is the Primate of Ireland. He stated how he had enjoyed his visit to WYD in Sydney. When he shook our hands in farewell, we felt very blessed by this encounter.

As we left the Darling Harbour Convention Centre for home, we knew that we would have unforgettable memories of our time at the Josephite Vocations stand. One imagines that the WYD pilgrims will have their own memorable experiences as well as their own vocations as time goes by.

Helen Bache and Jacquie Oudin, Lakemba

Associates Movement Takes Root in East Timor



On 24th July, 2008, an historic event took place round the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop at North Sydney. Eleven young East Timorese pilgrims to WYD08 were received as Josephite Associates. Already they had learnt the story of Blessed Mary MacKillop and her love for the poor during their contact with Srs Josephine Mitchell and Susan Connelly and the other staff at St Mary's. They were ready to commit themselves to live and work in her spirit in their own land. On this day, they were joined by a group of Australian-based East Timorese who also dedicated themselves as Associates. They were all encouraged in their commitment by the presence of our Congregational Leader, Sr Anne Derwin, and the members of her team.

Also encouraging them were Sr Helen Saunders, our NSW Coordinator, and other Sisters. Since returning home, they have been joined by two priests and another two women as Associates. They have formed their committee and undertaken their first "mission", a pilgrimage to Santa Cruz cemetery, to pray for their country through Blessed Mary of the Cross. They plan to visit the prisons as an expression of their mission. Some among them already have significant ministries in catechetics, music and teaching meditation. Let us all pray in support of them as they plant the Josephite Associates in their land.

Sr Angela Grant

Four Boambee Ladies Receive Papal Medals



Recently four ladies, Marie Watts, Pat Druhan, Allie Scanlon and Margaret Johnson, from Mary Help of Christians Parish, Sawtell were awarded the Benemerenti Medal. This medal was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 and is conferred on those who have exhibited long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community. It has the word *benemerenti* (well deserving person) on the back together with the Papal Crest with crossed keys; the ribbon is woven in the Papal colours. The front of the medal depicts Christ blessing us with the Papal emblems either side. These ladies (three of them Associates), have worked long

and hard with Meals on Wheels; St Vincent de Paul; Aged Care; Visitation of the sick and elderly, etc. Well done!

From the Sawtell parish bulletin

L-R: Pat Druhan, Marie Watts, Fr John Casey, P.P., Allie Scanlon, Margaret Johnson

Editor's Note: Coming in the next issue—another Associate (Stella Cusack of Moree) receives a Papal medal!

Requiescant in Pace

Gordon Baker, brother of Srs Mary and Jan Baker and Noelene McNeil (Barraba);
 Brian Biddle, husband of Fay (Glen Innes);
 Monica Flint (Canberra); Sr Enid Grant;
 Betty Hockey (Panania);
 Beryl Malcolm (Warialda);
 Lorna Matheson (Quirindi);
 Gwen Parker (Revesby); Sr Ailbe Rahilly;
 Kathleen Rodgers (Rockdale);
 Elaine Waters (Cronulla); Sr Kathleen Walsh;

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the Josephite mission in Peru

Please send to Sr Helen Saunders
 Locked Bag 3031
 Burwood NSW 1805
 Phone 02 8741 2334
 Fax 02 8741 2399