

# JCoLT newsflash

March 2021



**This reflection was written by Rosa Davila, Peruvian Companion (and Covenant Josephite) in October 2020 when Josephite Associates became Josephite Companions.**

My dear Companions and Sisters, best wishes to you all in this stage of our life.

**There where you are, you will find God.**

(Mary MacKillop 1871)

After a long time of sharing with the Josephites who came to Peru, like the travellers on the Emmaus road, we met them in a difficult time in our life. We recognised each other by sharing smiles and a cup of coffee first when language was not easy, but with open hearts and ears, singing, dancing, praying and sharing the Gospel, they built community with us. The path got stronger on the coast, in the highlands and the jungle where they are.

[Ever] Since they arrived we've had a strong connection with them. Their simplicity, openness, hospitality, generosity, common-sense and respect for the dignity of everyone, and especially for the most neglected ones, is a good example about what Mary MacKillop, our dear saint, and Julian Tenison Woods expected from the Congregation. Building solidarity, growing in hope and peace, with justice in all things.

Irene's (McCormack) life and death made an unforgettable and special link with you all. We enjoyed life with her and we cried when she left. (Died May 1991)

So who is Companion for me?

It is someone who  
walks and works with me,  
talks and listens to me,  
cries and sings with me  
prays with me  
shares sorrows and joys with me.

Someone who loves me

Someone whom I love.

So, it is how we share life...giving and getting. We Are Community.

My love to you all.

Josephites all over the world are in my heart. Each with whom I have shared will be always in my memory and heart.

Thanks for such example you give me.

Rosa Davila



# Greetings to all of our Josephite Companions!

We hope that many of you have been able to celebrate the change of our name over recent months, either in local groups or regional groups or through the information provided on the website in October last year. This has been a significant moment in our Josephite story.

We are delighted that in December last year Pope Francis declared 2021 to be the Year of St Joseph. This marks the 150th anniversary of Joseph being named as Patron of the Universal Church.

Pope Francis wrote the document *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. We recognize that those who have been in 'the front line' dealing with Covid, be they nurses or doctors, supermarket workers or transport drivers, have exercised patience and offered hope to others through their roles and commitment...as did Joseph in his life.

Pope Francis names Joseph's acceptance of 'the will of God' as a defining characteristic: he accepted Mary unconditionally, he took up the challenge to take his family into a foreign country. Through the events in his life, Joseph discerned God's will and made life decisions, at all times, placing his trust in God. He trusted in divine providence and was prepared to act with courage for the sake of others.

The qualities named above give us some valuable insights as to why Julian and Mary saw in St Joseph a model for those who would gather to continue God's mission through this new venture. As Josephite Companions, we can take a renewed interest and inspiration from Joseph. We can feel especially privileged during this year to share in the Josephite name and to be walking with others who value the qualities and example provided by this unassuming yet instrumental figure in our Christian story.

Further reflections and insights can be gained through the links below. There will be a prayer for the days leading up to St Joseph's Feast on March 19th. This link will be on the sosj webpage. Reflections about Joseph are also being published each month.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

<https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

May we, like Joseph, listen to God in our lives so that we may have the trust and wisdom to step out courageously to continue our part in God's mission.

Mary Hemmings

On behalf of our Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT)

Beverley Badcock, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Helen Dougherty, Pauline McGuire, Sr Moya Campbell and Sr Clare Conaglen

# Launch Celebrations

## South Australian Launch of Josephite Companions

On Saturday February 27th a wonderful gathering of nearly 50 Companions and Sisters at Kensington in Adelaide celebrated the launch of the Josephite Companions' name. A reflection on the Year of St Joseph was provided by Companion Lucia Ciocca, together with insights from a long standing Associate/Companion Mary O'Donnell and from Sr Maryellen Thomas who supported IJALT through our very formative years. A great gathering, following a 'lean year' of meeting up, which included several people wishing to explore the Companions' story with us.

## Townsville Josephite Companions

The Townsville Josephite Companions gathered together on Friday 16th October to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross and participate in the Hour of Courage. The group was small but joined with 3 students from St Joseph's Mundingburra and also several members from the school community.

The prayer was inspiring and uplifting; several members of the movement participated at home utilising the recorded video on the Sisters of St Joseph website.

Saturday also saw the launch of the new name 'Companions' along with the new logo and long-awaited Discovery Handbook and new Administration Handbook.

The video explains the name change and challenges us to move forward with bold steps, always in the care of St Joseph. The Townsville Companions wish everyone who celebrated the 10th Anniversary and the beginning of the next steps on the Josephite pathway much joy.



## New Zealand Celebrations

The New Zealand Josephite Companions Leadership Team gathered in Whanganui during the first weekend in October to join with the sisters in celebrating 140 years since the sisters arrived in New Zealand. The following weekend we gathered over zoom to celebrate the launch together. Elsewhere, Companions from Rotorua and Tokoroa were greeted in a room decorated with colourful streamers and a great poster. They listened to the wonderful version of Mother Mary's life written by Samela Harris which had been in one of our previous newsletters. Re-hearing an outsider's commentary on Mary's life gave us all that different perspective and freshness we sometimes need. This was followed by food, glorious food and singing along with Max Bygraves, accompanied by bubbling, sparkling grape juice. Each person was presented with a new bookmark in the colours of the logo and our afternoon concluded with more singing.....Bishop Pompallier's beautiful hymn, Mo Maria.

## BLACKTOWN NSW JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS LAUNCH

On Monday 19th October the Blacktown Associates held their regular monthly meeting. This was an opportunity to celebrate the move from Associates to Companions. Although there were only 9 members able to be present at the meeting, we used the Companions Launch that had been provided by JCoLT.

We began the meeting with a video to reflect on the qualities portrayed in the life of Mary MacKillop presented by Sister Colleen O'Sullivan rsj and viewed the launch that was prepared for the occasion by JCoLT.

The prayer space was very appropriate with native flowers and the prayer to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop available for all. A special candle with the new Companions' Logo was purchased and will be used at future meetings. Those unable to be present

were sent the book 'Take Courage' and the prayer card.

Members present participated at different parts of the launch and it was a very prayerful experience. We remembered in prayer members who are sick and others who were unable to attend. Our time together concluded with a shared lunch and lots of rejoicing.



### Josephite Companions Conference

Our Conference was initially re-scheduled from last July to this July. Sadly, due to ongoing challenges regarding Covid 19, we recognize that this is still not the time for us to gather and share. We are exploring the possibility of offering some online sessions later in 2021, to provide opportunities to share insights and learn from others. We will keep leaders especially informed of any further details regarding this in the months ahead.

### Subscriptions

The work of our Josephite Companions Leadership Team (JCoLT) has been generously supported by the Congregational Leadership Team for several years and for this we are very grateful. We hope to gradually take on the responsibility of us becoming more self-sufficient as a Movement as we recognize that we have a significant part to play in our local communities and in our wider Church community. As named in earlier correspondence and in places where our Leadership Team has visited, we have asked that members make a contribution of \$10 per year towards this. We realise this may not be possible for all members but we hope that our Companions will see the value in what we need to undertake to keep our Movement viable. In light of this, we ask local groups to determine what best suits their circumstances. This may mean that funds are gathered during the year, through subs or donations or fundraising, and payment is made by October to our JCoLT account. Alternatively, groups may decide that individual members pay directly to this account. We will be very grateful for your generosity as we move forward. Please contact your State/Country Companions Leadership Team or [JCoLT@sosj.org.au](mailto:JCoLT@sosj.org.au) for further clarification.

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