

PO Box 57  
Kent Town SA 5071

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## February 2010

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

### Renewing a Connection with...

### *Friendship, Prayer and Service*

by Anne and Paul Murphy

The three key attributes of the Josephite Associates are *Friendship, Prayer and Service*. During 2010 the Leadership Team has made this the theme on which to focus and has invited us to reflect on this.

We have been connected with the Josephites all of our lives so have a great respect for the MacKillop charism and the Josephite family, and have gained much grace from this journey. So here we offer some thoughts about our understanding of these mission words in our lives as Associates:

#### **FRIENDSHIP**

***"See and be grateful." MMK***

We have known a group of friends for 30 years. That's a long time to share in the lives of others and for others to share in our lives.

We have celebrated birthdays, marriages, births, school events, deaths, Christmases, New Years, and a few horse races too! There is a real joy in this journey together, where we have been able to support others and others have supported us. We have all watched one another grow and helped one another to grow. We have great respect for this group and give thanks for our journey together.

What we have learnt in this experience is what it means to be a friend; that being a friend needs work, respect, time, loyalty, faithfulness and, at the core, a great love for others. Drawing others together and sharing in the adventures and stories of others are moments of great sacredness as we ponder this journey and see what is important.

#### **PRAYER**

***"Let us all resign ourselves into His hands, and pray that in all things He may guide us to do His Holy Will. When thoughts of this or that come, I turn to Him and say: 'Only what You will, my God. Use me as You will.'"* MMK**

At a recent Sunday Mass the priest said in his homily, "We get up in the morning and say *"GOOD GOD. IT'S MORNING"* but we should be saying *"GOOD MORNING GOD."* We remembered this quote and we add this simple prayer to start the day... *'Keep us all safe and what do you have in store for us this day?'*

Prayers can be as simple as this or as formal as the 'Our Father'. Our understanding of prayer as we grew up was saying the formal prayers we learnt at school or praying the Rosary as a family.

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Even in our early days of teaching we taught the same as we had learnt, but there was gradually appearing a move to more personalized prayer.

Prayer times can be sitting at home or having a quiet 10 minutes in the workspace talking to God. Prayer is a powerful experience for us and was for Mary MacKillop. We have watched prayer change both in our family life and working life and in ourselves. No matter how we pray our faith is that the will of God happens in us.

## SERVICE

***“We can do nothing without God.” MMK***

We have watched our parents serve in many community roles so service has always been part of us. We are fortunate that our careers have been centred in schools – many Josephite schools where we have learnt the meaning of service

and endeavoured to be of service to others. While we serve, it has also been amazing to reflect on what we have gained ourselves from serving others. But it is also in the simple life tasks that we have also learnt the meaning of service, visiting our neighbours, helping where we can in our Church, helping those who are lost in their travels, looking after our families and wider families.

We are in awe of our journey of service and know that God is with us and we are open to God’s work through us.

For us, our new year’s resolution is to be more conscious of this Associates’ theme in our daily lives and to live in the MacKillop way: *“Never see a need without trying to remedy it.”* (Original Rule, 1867). In light of this focus for 2010 all Associates are warmly invited to our first gathering. Will you join us? See below for details.

# A FPS Event

**(Friendship Prayer Service)**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

11am – 2pm

Bethany Hall, Province Centre  
4 High St, Kensington



### **Our Mission**

As Josephite Associates we respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop in our daily lives in our own unique way.

We support each other by:

### ***Friendship, Prayer and Service***

to make a difference in our local area and so further the Reign of God in our world.

From our Mission Statement above, the Leadership Team proposes reflecting on the words ***Friendship, Prayer and Service*** during this year. So to begin this process Associates are invited to gather for this occasion.

***Friendship:*** invite a friend who may be interested in sharing in this story.

***Prayer:*** we will celebrate a liturgy to launch our new year.

***Service:*** Sr Ursula Hoile rsj who spent many years in Peru will speak about the Josephite ministry in Peru.

Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch. Contact Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 by 19<sup>th</sup> February if you are able to come or email on [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

# A Musical Evening by Julie Langman



On a warm Tuesday in December many were lucky enough to enjoy an evening of beautiful music and fine company. With the talents of Claire Leahy on the violin, Mary Gill on the piano and the majestic voice of Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj, we enjoyed and joined in the singing of Christmas carols – old favourites as well as some new ones. Our computer wiz, Trish Cain, not only produced a power point presentation for the carols, she also tinkled the ivories quite superbly before we broke for a cuppa and supper.

Majella led us in song, entertained us with solos (and some unique adaptations) and nourished our spirit as she led us in a discussion of the words and meanings of some lesser known and thought provoking Christmas songs.

We all offered a prayer of thanks, for something that has been close to our heart this year, as we presented our Christmas decoration to another member in the group. It was a beautiful evening and over supper we extended Christmas greetings to each other, then Majella kicked us out before 9pm.

“Look back a little and see what our good God has done for us.” MMK

## Sharing My Story by Mary Nocka

My journey with the Josephites began as a young girl in Tailem Bend where I was born. My family of origin, and then my own family, have always had close connections with the Josephites through parish, school and friendships. It is only in recent years that I have learnt more about Mary MacKillop and last year joined two tours conducted by Sr Patricia Keane rsj and attended the 8<sup>th</sup> August Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral.

From these experiences I began to dream of going to Sydney to visit the tomb of Mary and learn more of her story in that part of the country. I realised my dream on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009, flying to Sydney to spend three nights at Anderledy Lodge, Mary MacKillop Place, in North Sydney.

While there I attended 8am Mass in the chapel each day and spent quiet time alone by Mary's tomb and in the room where she died. I took in the Visitor's Centre, Museum and gardens. Watching people come to the tomb with their petitions was a powerful experience; I was in awe of the reverence and hope with which people came.

I spoke to a young mother from Scotland who was praying for a boy in remission from a brain tumour. I was moved by the mixture of people who came to sit in quiet prayer, some staying all day. I was inspired by conversation with the many women whose ministry was focussed on the Centre including Sr Carmel, a Federation Josephite, who was so excited that she was able to spend each day in the chapel in prayer.

Mary was a truly incredible person; her wisdom and charism are alive and well today. You will need to have a bit of the mountain goat in you to traverse the North Sydney terrain, but Anderledy Lodge is a beautiful place of deep prayer and peace; a special place to sit with Mary and feel her enduring presence in the many and varied people who gather there.

"God wants us to take fresh courage." MMK

## What's your Story?

The Committee would like to 'hear' from you or someone you know should there be something to contribute towards our Associate journey. Contact may be made by any one of these ways:

1. In writing, please post to: PO Box 57, Kent Town, SA, 5071
2. By email, please send to: [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)
3. Or speak to your Country Contact or one of the Committee members, in particular, Mary Hemmings to make other arrangements. Telephone Mary on 8355 5365.

## Our Associate Country Contacts

Jamestown	Margaret Williams 8664 1739 and Colleen Stewart 8662 4185
Murray Bridge	Jan Howard 8532 4277
Port Lincoln	Moya Bourke 8682 3655 (at St Joseph's School)
Riverland	Anna De Guglielmo 8586 5055 (at St Joseph's School, Renmark)

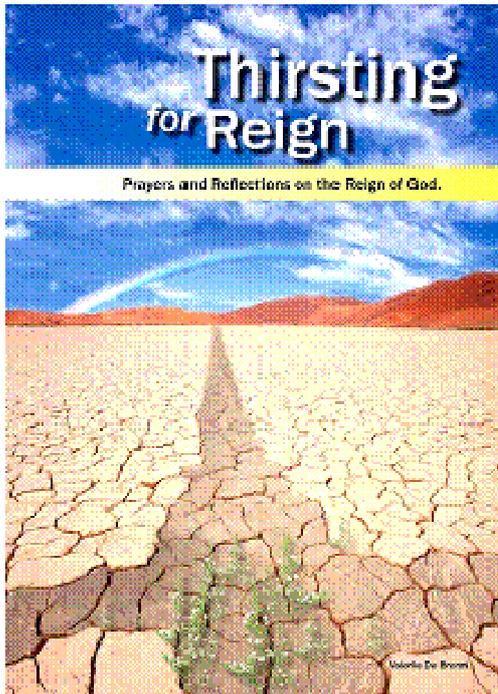
## "Please put me on the List"

Would you like to receive this Associate Newsletter by email? It can be done very easily. You would be able to see the photographs in colour and it would also be environmentally friendly.

Should you choose to be included on this secure list please telephone Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

# Thirsting for Reign

a new book by Val De Brenni



Last year Val De Brenni had her new book, *Thirsting for Reign: Prayers and Reflections on the Reign of God* published and launched. This book, originally written for teachers in Catholic schools, is proving to be valuable for anyone who wants to deepen their prayer life. The following is an excerpt of the talk given by Sr Genevieve Ryan rsj at the book launch:

Val De Brenni is well-known, loved and esteemed in this gathering. She is a colleague and a leader in catechetical, theological and scriptural insights and practice. Though she has undoubtedly written volumes in her various roles and ministries, it is because of this publication, 'Thirsting for Reign' that we now gather to celebrate her labours and admire the scope and purpose of her book.

The cover picture is evocative of the mystery and paradox that confronts us as we engage with the God-quest. Contained in this picture is a mirror image of the journey of faith. Perhaps all of us have gone through large expanses of dryness; we've been parched like this land. Each of us has an inner compass that enables us to walk in the shade of the Cross towards the horizon or towards the centre. The green grass, the new life, the sprouting loveliness reminds us of times we have been delighted by grace and surprised by joy as we have trekked through the landscapes of our spirit. The promise of the clouds gathering and the rainbow provide the impetus we need to stay alive and to be faithful.

Each section provides a thirst-quenching flow. Val offers the reader wellsprings of theological insight at the beginning of each chapter. She then shares a variety of ways to access this deep life-giving water. Her poems/reflections, scriptural passages, reflection questions and invitations to journal allow us to dip in with freedom and choice. The suggestions that include 'Wisdom from the Christian tradition', Prayer directions and ways to Live Contemplatively and Nurture the Sacred through Arts are like wonderful vessels with which we can scoop up the life-giving moisture we need.

'Thirsting for Reign' will offer many of us oases moments as we travel deserts dry! Keep it in your back-pack and drink in its sustenance at regular intervals.

*Thirsting for Reign: Prayers and Reflections on the Reign of God*, is available directly from Val or from Pauline Book and Media. Cost: \$29.95

## Updating the Database

*Do you receive the newsletter but it is addressed incorrectly?*

*Have you moved and keep getting the newsletter forwarded on to you?*

*Are your details that we have simply incorrect in some way?*

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of these questions then please let us know as the Committee is trying to update the database. You can contact us by email on [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au) or by post by writing to PO Box 57, Kent Town, SA, 5071.

# *What Would Have Become of Them?*

## *An Exhibition*

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**12.30pm – 2pm**

**Mary MacKillop Centre  
19 Phillips St, Kensington**

Following morning tea (after the Monthly Mass), the Mary MacKillop Centre will be open. Sr Patricia Keane rsj will give a brief introduction to the exhibition which is about the story of Josephite involvement in social work in South Australia. Associates and friends are then welcome to view the display. Entry to the exhibition is \$5 per person.

## **News from the Mary MacKillop Centre**

by Sr Patricia Keane rsj

### **Josephite Calendar 2010**

There are still some calendars in stock. Cost is \$5.50. Postage is extra.

### **Pilgrimages**

- Kensington, Norwood and Eastern Suburbs, 28<sup>th</sup> March.  
1pm – 5pm. Cost: \$40 per person.
- Adelaide City and Districts, 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
8.30am – 5pm. Cost: \$60 pp.
- Northern Country Towns, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August.  
9.30am Friday – 6.30pm Sunday. Cost: \$425 pp twin share.

Further details and bookings may be made by contacting the MMK Centre on 8364 5311.

### **Walk through Mary MacKillop's Kensington and Norwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> August**

Check the details in the WEA brochure if you would like to join in this leisurely walk which will be led by Sr Patricia Keane. Bookings through the WEA.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Sometimes when groups visit the Centre, an extra pair of hands would be greatly appreciated. This would just be on the occasional time, not as a regular occurrence – not at this stage anyway. It would be helping with hospitality in the form of making a cup of tea, coffee etc.

If you are prepared to be contacted sometimes – depending on the day – telephone me at the Centre on 8364 5311 to indicate which day/time would suit you. When a need arises I will then give you a call to see if that day/time still suits.

## **Subscriptions**

Have you updated your membership? It's not too late. You can complete your details on the form found in last August's newsletter and post, together with your payment of \$15 which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer, Mr Gerald Hinton, 25 Chapel St, Campbelltown, 5074. Alternatively, you can see anyone from the Committee who will be more than happy to pass it on.

*Thank you to all Associates who have already attended to this.*

# Diary Dates for 2010

## ▶▶ Monthly Mass and Reflection re Mary MacKillop

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

## ▶▶ A FPS Event

Date: Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February  
For more details please refer to page 2.

## ▶▶ Talk and Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> May  
For more details please refer to page 6.

“Help one another on, and  
forgive and forget anything  
painful in the past” MMK

## ▶▶ Annual General Meeting

Date: TBA – sometime mid-year  
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington  
More details in the next newsletter.

## ▶▶ Retreat Day

Date: TBA – sometime in November  
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington  
This will have an Advent theme. More details to come.

## ▶▶ A Musical Evening

Date: TBA – sometime in December  
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington  
More details in the next newsletter.



## 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 PO Box 57, Kent Town SA, 5071.

## Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or 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 this way, please feel free to telephone Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or let one of the Committee members know.

## Stop Press: Towards Canonisation

This will be the year when we acknowledge a great Australian woman. With the latest news from Pope Benedict XVI, Mary MacKillop's sainthood is imminent. We wait in hope and pray for news soon.

# Josephite Associates' Prayer Page

## Mary MacKillop



### A Woman Held in the Hospitable Heart of God

**From the pen of Mary MacKillop:** God's love is too deep for words to express. 1870

**Scripture:** Abide in me as I abide in you. *John 15:4*

**Reflection:** Mary MacKillop was a big hearted woman full of compassion and love. She felt and experienced the abundance of God's love for her. In times of trials and tribulations she found refuge in the hospitable heart of God's love. *'When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten, I quietly creep into the deep abyss of the Sacred Heart; and securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace'* 1907. She was a woman whose heartbeat was in unison with the heartbeat of God. In her life she became a heartbeat of God for our wounded world.

**From the life of Mary MacKillop:** Two of the Sisters who knew Mary MacKillop wrote – I can only say that Mother Mary had the biggest and most generous heart full of charity for all. Next to the love of God in the heart of Mother Mary was the love of her Sisters and the children – especially the poor children.

**Pause for reflection:** In what ways has God shown love to me in my life?

**Prayer:** God of hospitality open our hearts to the abundance of your love. May we, like Mary MacKillop, trust in your loving care for us in all the situations of our lives. May we share this love in our wounded world. Blessed Mary of the Cross, open to God's presence, pray for us.

**Action:** Take time today to sit in the presence of God's love.