



Josephite Associates, Victoria

Summer Newsletter, 2009-10



NEW YEAR, NEW SAINT!

Autumn already and a new year is well on the way with adventures, celebrations and new ideas.

The wonderful news that Mary MacKillop is to be canonised on 17th October, has now seeped into our hearts and we are looking forward to being part of the celebrations I am sure.

If you are unable to attend any, you can hold Australia and the world up in prayer asking for

blessings on this world of ours and especially on the Josephite Sisters and Associates who endeavour to live the charism Mary has bequeathed to us.

You may not be able to travel to Rome, but you may consider doing the *In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage* as your way of celebrating. (See page 3)

We have been blessed with several new groups and members and to help them to understand what being an Associate is and what they are committing themselves to, Mary Ryan rsj and I spent several days last year preparing a formation programme for new Associates, at the end of which they make a request to be enrolled.

The programme consists of five sessions: *Getting to know.....*

1. *Mary MacKillop*
2. *Fr Julian Tenison Woods*
3. *The Charism*
4. *The Mission*
5. *The Associates*

Reading materials and a leader's sheet plus a book of songs and a CD of those songs, are included. So the programme is complete and only needs to be photocopied by a member of the group.

We are inviting established groups to do this program as a renewal of their own commitment. When new members join an established group,

we will ask the co-ordinator to organise mentors, who will work with the new member on each session. Any group who would like to take up this offer can contact me and the materials will be forwarded. If you have any difficulties during the programme a phone call will help and if needed I may be able to visit.

Autumn is a time of ripening, maturing fruits. I love Keats' poem **Ode to Autumn**—*seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness, close bosomed friend of the maturing sun. As the Church of Australia we have now matured, the last Continent to have a saint of its own. Let us Celebrate!!*

Mary Fermio R SJ



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friendship
prayer
service

Autumn Reflection ...

Autumn is a time of "Letting go!" and the whole world around us reminds us of this as leaves let go of branches, vines let go of fruits, trees let go of seeds and berries. Dom David Tomlins of Tarrawarra Abbey in a homily celebrating the canonisation of a young Spanish Cistercian Oblate who died at the age of 27 in 1938 spoke about 'letting go'.

The Abbot recalled the question put to Jesus by a young man who asked "What must I do to gain eternal life?" On replying that he had kept the commandments, so there must have been something else, Jesus replied: "There is one thing you lack" and he was advised to 'let go' of his wealth and his possessions and then he would find treasure in heaven.

Br Rafael in his seeking of eternal life let go of his own desires to be a Cistercian monk and accepted illness and frustration as his way of following Jesus to gain eternal life.

I was reminded of Mary MacKillop and her seeking of eternal life, of her letting go of so much in her life that was good and holy. For many years she let go of her dream of becoming a religious to care for her family; she let go of the joy of teaching at Portland without justifying herself; she let go of family life, which she obviously loved, to choose the life of a Sister of St Joseph which led into the unknown.

Many other aspects of life were "let go" -

- Her reputation when excommunicated
- Her friendship with Fr Woods
- Her position as Mother General experiencing all the frustrations of a second-in-command
- The ability to move independently after her stroke

Can I ask myself ... "What do I need to let go of?" ... to find the freedom to follow Jesus wherever I am led. Mary had a genuine desire to know God's will and to follow it.

"In a sense that is what leaving all, following Jesus, treasure in heaven, eternal life comes down to. 'God alone' ". (Dom David)

Mary Fermio R SJ

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATES

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL MEETING

Because of various circumstances the Regional Meeting at Morwell for 7th February was cancelled. The meeting held over from 2009 will now be held on

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH 2010
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM
SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MORWELL
FROM 10.00 am - 3.30p.m.
BYO LUNCH TO SHARE

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP

2010 AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE

12 – 22 APRIL;
12 – 22 OCTOBER

The Pilgrimage Itinerary

Day 1

Pilgrims arrive at Mary MacKillop Place. Introduction. Museum, Alma Cottage where Mary lived and died. Prayer at the tomb of Mary MacKillop in the Memorial Chapel.

Day 2

Pilgrim Mass. Graves of Julian Woods, Flora MacKillop and early Sisters, Rocks area where Mary and the Sisters first lived in Sydney.

Day 3

Flight to Melbourne. Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre and St Francis Church.

Day 4

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, and Mary's birthplace, family graves, early Josephite ministry, Bacchus Marsh. Overnight Ballarat.

Day 5

Travel through the majestic Grampians to Hamilton. Grave of Alexander MacKillop, St Mary's Church. Overnight at Hamilton.

Day 6

Portland, home of the MacKillop family in the 1860s. Port McDonnell. Overnight Mt. Gambier.

Day 7

Penola: Josephite beginnings, Schoolhouse, Interpretive Centre, Cemetery, Fr Wood's tree. Dinner at the Royal Oak. Overnight Mt. Gambier.

Day 8

To Adelaide via Robe and Our Lady Star of the Sea Church built by Julian Woods.

Day 9

Adelaide: Port Adelaide and St Mary's Church, Franklin St Chapel of the excommunication. St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral & Square, Morphett Vale

Day 10

Adelaide: Graves of early sisters, St Ignatius Church, Norwood, Mary MacKillop Centre, Kensington. Reflection on Pilgrimage experience. Closing.

Day 11

Flight to destinations or optional extension in Adelaide (at own expense).

Pilgrimage Costs

Ex Melbourne: Per person twin share: **\$2,520.00**

This cost includes: Airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and all meals.

Cancellation and/or travel insurance is recommended and is available on request.

Single room supplement: \$420

For further information and application form

Victoria: Sr Lynette Young RSJ :

Telephone: 03 5672 4394

Email: lynette.young@sosj.org.au

You are asked to book early as there is a maximum of 36 participants.

A \$200 deposit is required when application form is returned to:

Cardigan Touring Services

Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage

PO Box 4010

ALFREDTON VIC 3350

Tel: 03 5334 3322



AROUND THE TRAPS ... in PERU

Just a little about how life has been for me in Peru. I have been here since 1996 and...have lived and worked in El Pacifico I the zona of San Martin de Porres and in the later years in Motupe in the zona of San Juan de Lurigancho. During this time my ministry has been in both Parish and in the area of pastoral care with prisoners in the maximum security gaol called "Castro Castro".

....For 10 years I have been visiting the gaol going about two or three times a week. My ministry with the men has been one of being present to them, listening to their stories about their experiences, dreams, sharing faith and then practically I have had groups for English classes.

These men have long prison sentences for their participation in a Political group called The Shining Path. You might ask yourself why spend time with the same group who indirectly shared the same ideals which eventually led to the death of Irene McCormack and to be honest, I can't tell you. I didn't choose the path—they were there in the gaol close to me and I met them through my role. We don't question who we serve, we are here to serve all people and to give the same respect and dignity to each.

In the ten years that I have served in this gaol I have come to know many of these men, as young Uni students they had studied for a profession that could change their lives. Unfortunately, they had high ideals of wanting to see their country change to be a better

place; which meant in the long run they ended up in prison. Many were studying to be doctors, psychologists, teachers, engineers etc. Over my time with them many have finished their time or been given pardons and now live and work in their chosen professions and contribute back to society.

I ask myself what remains with me as something significant about my time with these prisoners. I believe that the men remained with or had a sense of positiveness about their lives and situation. These young men were given long sentences such as 20 or 25 years and for them it was a day to day struggle to remain animated and involved in life. ..they found creativity in their confined world and began to do hand-crafts, paintings and ceramics. These things they sold to financially help their family outside the prison. Some completed their studies through the help and guidance of the support people in the prison.

We all need to learn to be positive in whatever situation we find ourselves because this leads to hope and ...hope gives life...!

Margaret Malady



After some years in Pitumarca with its rain, green grass, eucalyptus trees, crops and beautiful clear skies, I am now living among the dust and the bluey grey haze of contamination surrounding us in the outskirts of Lima city. I share community with Sisters Margaret Malady and Clare Conaglan. The parish is enormous and is serviced by 3 priests, sisters of various congregations and many lay people working together to build community for the reign of God.

I have been asked about the possibility of working in Jicamarca. This particular area has grown rapidly. We are constantly hearing about another invasion in the heights of Jicamarca. Overnight people arrive and take possession of land and put down straw matting and call this home. It's a dangerous place for some and murders have taken place over land disputes. Families live in fear that others will invade and take their house or land. One woman I met recently was so scared about this threat to herself and her family, her body has reacted and she now has numbness on one side of her face.

...Of course there is no water in these areas and so the large trucks arrive and the people buy water, for those on the level ground it is cheaper to buy, but the people further up the mountain have to pay more. I was walking behind a truck the other day and it was struggling to take the mountain. I kept thinking *what if the brakes failed*, those walking or driving or living in its path would be squashed or maimed. Generally trucks and cars are not well maintained and thus tyres and brakes are not checked or changed when needed. Mick McKinnon (a priest from Ballarat) is the parish priest and he has tried to establish chapels/

multipurpose areas in each community to have a gathering place. A coordinator has been appointed to help, support and guide the community. From my observation it's a woman who has this role. She calls the community together for Mass or liturgy of the word or to have a working-bee. Many gather beforehand to prepare the Mass or liturgy and of course to clean, sweep and setup for the celebration. A majority of the areas are used also for *comedors* during the week. These are kitchens run by volunteers (usually mothers) where food is prepared for children and in particular children who are malnourished.

Where to be a sign of God's presence at this time?... Where to live and where to minister? Jicamarca is a new beginning for many people and also for myself...life is full of struggles in new beginnings and to have found something of value, something that gives life one discovers the touch of hope. As my ministry emerges with these people, walking around in the dirt and watching for the dogs, I will keep my eyes and ears open for those places of hope and life and smile as I discover God's presence.

Cathy Dean



KATHLEEN FALLS IN LOVE WITH THE KIMBERLEY!

Having arrived at Kununurra in mid-April, I experienced my first 'Sunday Mass' - celebrated in a ro-tunda on a Saturday morning for the Aboriginal community. Dogs were everywhere, and Father sat at a card table surrounded by children tearing around on bikes and scooters; neighbours yelling from the adjacent house and the five-strong congregation were ignoring it all as we sang the specially written liturgy!

Then Sr Anne Porter left for Melbourne, and I thought I had a week to myself. But the visitors came; both invited and uninvited. The police were quick to move some on and Frances, a volunteer friend, came and we wondered what we were in for. Sr Alma Cabassi was in Mullen as acting principal, we continued on in our ignorance.

We (the Kununurra and Wyndham Principals) visited Gibb River Road and Sr Nola Goodwin, in her very isolated place some four hours away for Kununurra. Somehow we went 200 kms too far! Such breath-taking scenery as we swam in rivers and ate by campfire, fished and shared stories with one another.

Without any definite work, it was decided I would visit Halls Creek and stayed in the presbytery with Monica, pastoral worker who runs the parish. Over there, it's one Priest ministering over a radius of over 1000 kms, and only on loan for three months! Halls Creed is a small, semi-desert town, with 60 children (58

Aboriginal) in the Catholic School. I am now doing remedial teaching there, that is becoming more counseling. The children who live in the hostel are always glad to see me as they look for security and consistency. Eventually, the bishop gave me permission to be there, and to stay until the convent is free (it is presently being rented) Sr Pauline Morgan (WA Provincial) suggested I use the 'donger' (unit) at Warmun (Turkey Creek) to work with Sr Teresa Morellini and the many children needing emotional support. This gave me a little stability—I now spend 3 1/2 days per week in each place and get back to Kununurra about once every six weeks.

Mary MacKillop had a lot in common with me ... *no-where to lay my head* ... because of certain people who wanted me, but didn't want to make commitments! But the people and the place get under your skin!

As I left each place to come back to Victoria, I could feel the tears close to the surface. Seven months there...and it has captured my heart! I look forward to returning to my 'home' - the Kimberley—in late January.



"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP" - PILGRIMAGE— 2009 Testimonials - from West Australian Associates' Newsletter

From the first meeting that evening with the other Pilgrims in the Tenison Room, with the amazing well, we were immediately beginning to feel the presence of Mary, trying to imagine and remember that this well was also the source of Mary's water in the 1880's. The Pilgrimage was so well organized with each day presenting us with a new chapter in Mary's life. We are so fortunate that so much history is still with us, visiting Sydney Rocks area and visiting the same buildings where Mary her Sisters actually taught school and where the novices helped provide breakfast for the homeless men, all the while we tried to visualize this rough neighbourhood by the sea and how very poor the area was back in the 1880's"

Fay Manoni—Josephite Associate

"Most profound for me was Mary's tomb North Sydney, the jetty at Port MacDonal SA where Mary left for Adelaide beginning her journey in religious life...Penola itself and the Chapel at Franklin St where she was excommunicated, being there was an extraordinary experience."

Annette Morellini—Josephite Associate

"In May 2009 I was very blessed and felt very privileged to go on a pilgrimage to see where Mary and the Sisters lived and worked. It was wonderful to hear about Fr Julian Tenison Woods, where he and the people met for Mass out in the open under a tree."

Nancy Tylor, Josephite Associate

ASSOCIATES' REGIONAL MEETINGS 2010...

During 2010 we are planning two extra regional meetings to enable more to be present and gain from the formation offered and the inter-action between Associates from other places. *In doing this we are also naming the groups we hope would travel to the particular venue:*

BAIRNSDALE with Maffra, Lakes Entrance, Orbost, Buchan; **EAGLEHAWK** with Swan Hill, Heathcote; **MORWELL** with South and West Gippsland and Latrobe Valley; **BACCHUS MARSH** with Sunbury, Sebastopol, any Western Suburbs; **NUMURKAH** with Nagambie, Rushworth, Shepparton; **HAWTHORN EAST**— Melbourne Associates.

We will also start the meetings earlier in the year. We encourage you to try and attend a regional meeting at least once every two years, if it is physically possible for you to do so. As Josephite Sisters continue their formation all their lives, it is important for Josephite Associates to participate in some regular formation where possible. The dates of the meetings are on the enclosed sheet so that you can enter them into your diaries and start arrangements for transport.

We look forward to seeing you!

TEN YEARS IN THE BUSH

Extracts from a lecture given by Fr Julian Tenison Woods on 19 December, 1866 to some 90 locals at Penola in connection with the Mechanics Institute.

Continued from Summer 2009:

Roads were much fewer of course and not always easy to find but then you could always take the bush without any fear of being stopped by fences. You could make a straight line by compass from one side of the country to the other....you might find a road as far as a hut where the improved feed and the sound of a bullock bell told you that such a place was near even before you could see it. From the occupier after the offer of a pannikin of tea, you received the directions, some of which were most amusing. I have heard of such directions as the following.

....follow this track until it disappears then go on until you come to a swamp. Keep that to your left until you see a mob of white cattle, leave them behind you and you will come across a road which will take you to a burnt hut, which is five miles from the home station. I do not say I ever got such directions but I have received plenty that puzzled me to follow.

Yet I was never lost for a night. I have been many nights out in the bush and have slept on my saddle many a time. I have camped out under a tree and under the tarpauling (sic) of a dray, but I have never been lost. ...I can recall no less than eight cases in which grown up persons were lost in the bush in this district and some of them not very far away from Penola. All of them are supposed to have perished and the bodies of three of them at least have never been found. I am not counting children in this enumeration. A good many children have been lost and some of them very near Penola. The week after I arrived the body, or rather the bones of a child, were found in a swamp close to the township from which it had been lost some two years previously. ...Only one serious accident ever happened to me and that was in jumping over a boundary fence. In consequence of my not having looked before I leaped I fell into a ditch and my horse came on the top of me from which position neither of us were able to rise. With some considerable difficulty I extricated myself, but my horse was fixed as though he were in a vice and I should never have got him out...By an extraordinary good fortune Mr Jeffrey the owner of the station which was about six miles away came by that way and he rode home for a spade to extricate my poor horse. Half an hour's work put that portion of the business right but that was not all. My



saddle was broken. My chalice was bent flat and all I got in return was a lesson to stick to the road and try no short cuts as the reign of boundary fences had commenced...

The wide fields of my duties may be seen from the time it has taken to visit distant parts of the district. I was once sent for to a remote part of the Mallee - Ryan's station to visit a sick man and tho' I used every haste yet the person had been dead and buried a week before I arrived. Of course in these long journeys one had to be entirely dependent on the hospitality of the settlers for a night's lodging as one went from place to place. I need hardly say that this has always been most readily and cheerfully offered.

..there was perhaps a good deal of sameness in the conversation, for after all-life in the bush is very monotonous...First of course would be the trifling items of news floating about, the last race, the next show, the recent accident or the row which two neighbours had had at the township. Then would come sheep, sheep, horses, horses, horses, (that was a very fertile subject) stations, etc. At some places a little music would enliven the evening or even occasionally, the tables would be cleared away and a dance proposed at which I am not ashamed to say I have acted as musician....

Many persons have remarked to me that I seem to have strong sympathy with the squatters and I admit it. How can I feel otherwise than warmly to those who have been ever so kind and friendly to me. Their homes have been mine for these years past and the warm welcome has often been the only refuge I had after long journeys made amid much hunger and fatigue. When wet and cold and weary they have given me the comforts I required, not only cheerfully but eagerly and though many have differed with me in religion they have extended to me a warm and earnest interest in all my undertakings...The district is now more prosperous than ever it was and I trust there will be still plenty of wealth and position grow out from the class who are labouring in it now. And now I am leaving this district after a residence of ten happy years of many sunny memories. It has been thank God so peaceful, so unruffled a period of my life that I look back upon it as a kind of vacation which I have spent here in the bush. It has been so long and so bright a holiday time for me that I do not look forward to a change without some misgiving as to the result.

(Many pages of this talk have been omitted, but I hope these three extracts have given some insight into the person and work of Fr Woods while in Penola and the type of country in which he worked. The complete talk can be found in the Australian Catholic Record July 1989)

DONATION TOWARDS ASSOCIATES' EXPENSES

Some groups have been very generous in collecting at their meetings and handing in an amount towards costs. Others donate directly.

As we post nearly 500 newsletters each month printing and postage amount to a rather large sum. So your contributions are very much appreciated.

You will find enclosed with this newsletter, a form to be included with any donations toward the cost of the Newsletter for 2010 and other travelling expenses etc.

Please indicate whether you need a receipt—
if not that will save a stamp!

THANK YOU

CELEBRATING MARY MACKILLOP

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a gift from the Sisters prepared by the Towards Canonisation Committee in Sydney.

We hope this gift will bring you closer to God who calls us to share, as Josephites, the charism given to Mary MacKillop for the world.
Let us keep each other in prayer.

For a full-colour version of this, and previous Associates' Newsletters, go to:
www.sosj.org.au.

Click *Connections*, then *Associates*, then *Victoria*, then scroll down to the Newsletter you wish to view!
Easy!!

USED STAMPS

Thanks to those who have already collected and forwarded stamps for Peru. Keep them coming!!
Send to:

**St Joseph's Province Centre
Locked Bag 3031,
BURWOOD NSW 1805**
Mark envelope **STAMPS**



FOR THE CANONISATION ITINERARY:

www.sosj.org.au click on Canonisation.

LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT JOSEPHITE MINISTRIES?

For the **PERU** newsletter by email:
perucommission@sosj.org.au

For information:
www.sosj.org.au/about/peru/index.html

For purchase of goods from Peru:
www.ethica.org.au or
gina.bradley@sosj.org.au

For news from **EAST TIMOR**:
www.mmiets.org.au

For the newsletter from **MARY MACKILLOP EAST TIMOR MISSION**
Contact Sr Susan Connelly on
sc@mmiets.org.au

For news about **ABORIGINAL** ministry:
www.sosj.org.au click onto
Justice Space Link
Aboriginal Partnerships

AROUND THE ASSOCIATES' TRAPS ...

We'd love to hear from you, and would welcome reports, photos and any other items you would consider to be of interest to our Victorian Associates.

Please either mail to:

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Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
Josephite Associates' Office,
PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

OR Email: associatesvic@sosj.org.au
OR Fax: 03 5367 2078

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