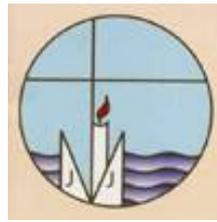


Josephite Associates



Friendship Prayer Service

PO Box 57
Kent Town SA 5071
sa.associates@sosj.org.au

May 2010

The FPS (Friendship, Prayer, Service) Event by Maris Kavanagh



On the 21st February we were privileged to have Sr Ursula Hoile rsj speak to us of her time as part of the Josephite ministry in Peru, which continues to this day. She had us laughing and crying with tales of her time living with and supporting the people of Peru, in particular of

her time helping prison inmates.



Sr Ursula expressed how happy the people were and how they were supportive and helpful toward each other within their own communities.



Sr Ursula described to us, in her factual and entertaining way, the life of the people in Peru; encouraging them to believe in themselves and helping them to develop initiatives in the support of their communities. One could not help but be in awe of the life that Sr Ursula, and the Sisters that were with her, lived at this time. Her photographs of the starkness of the country and the simple dwellings in which people lived (and still live) made one feel that we are indeed very lucky to live in Australia.

Over lunch we were able to purchase some genuine Peruvian products. The sale of such goods goes to help sustain Peruvians within their local communities.

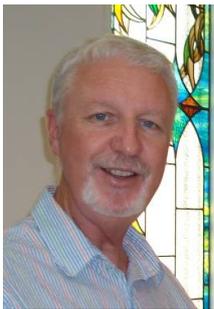


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"God wants us by every means in our power to lead others to life." MMK

from the previous page

We all wished we could help the mission in Peru in some practical way. To that end it is hoped to fundraise at some of the Associate events during 2010. We can do this, for example, with raffles and hope you will join us in this small but important way.



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.

"See the greatness and the beauty of God's mysterious ways." MMK

"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

What Would Have Become of Them?

An Exhibition

Saturday 8th May

12.30pm - 2pm

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

Following morning tea (after the Monthly Mass at 10.30am in the Chapel), the Mary MacKillop Centre will be open. Sr Patricia Keane rsj will give a brief introduction to the exhibition which details 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.



ANNUAL FORMATION DAY (with AGM)

Sunday 18th July

From 1.30pm
Bethany Hall, Province Centre
4 High St, Kensington

'Sainthood in Midst of the Ordinary'

Presented by Sr Catherine Clarke rsj

Our Guest Speaker, Sr Catherine, has been involved in many different areas of education, firstly as a teacher then as a principal. For many years she has served as Chairperson of the SA Commission for Catholic Schools and on the National Catholic Education Commission.

For 6 years Sr Catherine was the Provincial Leader of SA. She has a keen interest in and knowledge of the history of the Josephites.

Sr Catherine brings knowledge, wisdom and life experiences and has a great passion for justice.



Join us as we reflect on what is at the heart of Mary MacKillop's life and what her canonisation will mean for today's Australia.

There will also be a Missioning Ceremony as part of this day which will enable new Associates to be named and others present to renew their commitment to the Associate movement.

Please contact Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 by Friday 9th July if you are able to come or email on sa.associates@sosj.org.au

Other News

RIP Josephites

We remember with love and gratitude these women:

Sr Joan Dundon who entered eternal life on 24th December, 2009

Sr Elizabeth (Betty) Brown who entered eternal life on 18th February, 2010

Sr Maureen Dittmer who entered eternal life on 10th March, 2010

Sr Mary Byrne who entered eternal life on 23rd March, 2010



Jubilee Celebrations

Congratulations are extended to ten Sisters who celebrated significant years of their profession at the 10am Mass at St Ignatius Church, Norwood on the 1st May.

They were:

75 years - Sr Teresita Cormack; 70 years – Sr Maurice Roche; 60 years – Srs Mary Canny, Maureen Colbert, Marie Foale and Judith Mumane; 50 years – Srs Mary Cresp, Judy Gurry, Carita Higgins and Gen Secker.

We give thanks for the inspiration these women have been, and continue to be, in the lives of so many who have crossed their paths.

Covenant Josephites

Two women made commitments as Covenant Josephites: Val De Brenni in March and Di Colborne in April. Read their stories later this year.

Subscriptions for 2010 – 2011

Membership for the next financial year is due soon. Please complete your details below and post, together with your payment of \$15 which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer, Gerald Hinton who will also be at the AGM. Alternatively, you can see anyone from the Committee who will be more than happy to pass it on.

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Josephite Associates SA

Annual Subscription (\$15) for 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011

Miss Ms Mrs Mr _____ (other)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Post to: Mr Gerald Hinton
 25 Chapel Street
 Campbelltown, SA, 5074

Penola and Mary MacKillop

by Theresa (Terry) McDonald

Growing up in a small country town with my mum, dad, three older sisters and a younger brother, I shared a happy and contented childhood. We did not have a convent school in our town but my parents, particularly my mother, had a wonderful trust in God and in prayer. They and the older ladies of the parish instructed us in the Catholic faith and I pay tribute to these good people for what they gave me and my siblings.



At the age of 16 I started work as a Junior Teacher in Laura, South Australia prior to attending Teachers Training College in Adelaide in 1945 – 46.

In 1950 I was appointed to Penola Primary School in the south-east of SA and here I attended St Joseph's Church, meeting my first group of Sisters of St Joseph. How blessed was I, and since then I have always loved these very dear and special ladies.

I married my late husband, Jim, in September 1951 and, over the years, we were blessed with a son and two daughters. How proud we were to send these children to St Joseph's, Penola now known as Mary MacKillop Memorial School. Our years connected with this school were wonderful.

Between 1970 – 75 I became very ill and as I was recovering, someone asked if I would speak on our local television station and tell the story of the old St Joseph's Hall, now known as the Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse. I was quite embarrassed as I knew so little about the building or Mary MacKillop.

The late Sr Pat White rsj came to my rescue and over a period of 3 weeks taught me all she could. With help I am sure from Mary MacKillop, I did what was asked of me. From then on my health gradually improved and my love of the Mary MacKillop story grew.

As most of you would know, Mary MacKillop began teaching in a little old converted stable in January 1866; a significant fact considering Jesus was born in a stable. Prior to this, Mary taught in Winella Cottage for a short time and also used this home as living quarters. A fig tree and well, which Mary would have used for drinking water, are still there. In January 1867, Bishop Sheil blessed Mary and called her Sr Mary. Thus began the order of the Sisters of St Joseph.

At this time Fr Julian Tenison Woods took out a loan of £190 to build a stone schoolhouse for Mary (the Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse). After the Sisters eventually left Penola this building was allowed to become very derelict over many years. One night our local district council took a vote and only one vote saved it from demolition. I am convinced Mary MacKillop voted too that night.

The schoolhouse was eventually restored by a group of dedicated and hardworking parishioners. Many have gone to their rest but I am sure having received their reward. It was then opened as a museum and once again a group of volunteers opened the doors each weekend. Without publicity the demand grew until we were then opening 7 days a week.

As the number of visitors increased we realised more space was needed and the new Mary MacKillop Centre, to remember Mary, was built. A display featuring Fr Woods was added and a lagoon and native garden surrounding the building recognises his love of God, nature and science. The displays in the old schoolhouse were also upgraded and this was opened to the public last year.

Having lived in Penola for over 50 years how could I not be immersed in the wonder of the Mary MacKillop story. I simply have to walk in these buildings and around the grounds to find peace, joy and very often tears.

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Unfortunately, my husband became very ill. With sadness and a heavy heart we sold our home in Penola and moved to Prospect, in Adelaide. Sr Patricia Keane rsj welcomed us and allowed us to become part of her group who worked in exactly the same way as the volunteers in Penola.

I now love to go to Mass in the Chapel at Kensington and find the same peace and

joy there. Just walking around the grounds reminds me of the hymn "This is Holy Ground".

Being privileged to meet so many of the Sisters of St Joseph so often warms my heart.

I hope each and every one of you reading my very simple story can find that same peace, joy and even tears.

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
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) |

News from the Mary MacKillop Centre

by Sr Patricia Keane rsj

Pilgrimages

- Adelaide City and Districts, 23rd May
8.30am – 5pm. Cost: \$60 pp.
- Northern Country Towns, 13th – 15th 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: 1st 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 Still Needed

If you are prepared to help out sometimes with making a cup of tea, coffee, etc for groups of visitors to the Centre please telephone me at the Centre on 8364 5311 to indicate which day/time would suit you. This would just be on the occasional time, not as a regular occurrence – not at this stage anyway.

Diary Dates for 2010 (updated)

▶▶ **Monthly Mass and Reflection re Mary MacKillop**

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

▶▶ **Talk and Exhibition**

Date: Saturday, 8th May
For more details please refer to page 3.

▶▶ **Annual Formation Day (with AGM)**

Date: Sunday, 18th July
For more details please refer to page 3.

▶▶ **Advent/Retreat Day**

Date: Saturday, 13th November
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington
Lucia Ciocca and Val De Brenni will be co-facilitating this event. More details to come.

▶▶ **A Musical Evening**

Date: Wednesday, 15th December
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington
More details in the next newsletter.

Mary MacKillop: Towards Canonisation Update

Please note that details have not yet been finalised. As a guide, these are dates so far:

- ❖ **8th August** Anniversary of the death of Mary.
- ❖ **8th October** Breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 7.30am. Funds raised go to the Mary MacKillop Foundation.
- ❖ **8th – 16th October** 9 days of reflection and prayer preparation at the Kensington Chapel each evening.
- ❖ **17th October** Canonisation of Mary in Rome. There will be concurrent activities in Adelaide.
- ❖ **31st October** Thanksgiving liturgy.

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 8th.

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.

"We must not forget our
loved ones in our prayers."
MMK

Josephite Associates' Prayer Page

Mary MacKillop



A Woman With A Heart For Mission

From the pen of Mary MacKillop: Seek first the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard. 1900

Scripture: The spirit of God is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. *Luke 4:18*

Reflection: Mary MacKillop was devoted to the service of the poor. Her love for poor children knew no bounds. She established a Catholic school system for children who were isolated and in poor circumstances. She had a practical love for those who were poor and destitute setting up orphanages, refuges for the sick and elderly and visited those who were in prison. She welcomed those experiencing difficult situations and provided opportunities for those who were most vulnerable in the society of her time.

From the life of Mary MacKillop: Mary MacKillop had driven some miles in a snow storm, but her first wish was to visit the school. There was a poor little bare-footed and ragged boy standing in the class. Mary went straight to him, and putting her arms around him kissed him saying, "Ah Sister, these are the children I love."

Pause for reflection: In what way is God calling me to bring good news to those who are poor?

Prayer: God of love, your heart reaches out to those who are poor in our world. Open our eyes and ears to hear the cries of your people bound down by the injustices of this world. May we, like Mary MacKillop, respond in word and action to the struggling peoples of our world. Blessed Mary of the Cross, serving the neglected ones, pray for us.

Action: Today, reach out to someone in your neighbourhood who is in need.

Extract from *Praying from the Heart* – used with permission.