

Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

Winter Newsletter

1 June 2010

Greetings to Associates, Sisters and Friends

As we wait, with a great deal of anticipation and joy, for the canonization of Blessed Mary MacKillop, let's use this waiting time to remember the values that Mary was passionate about.

She always showed concern for the dignity of each person, no matter how poor, no matter how they were living. That is why we are featuring on this front page of the newsletter Sr Ann Neven's report on Mary MacKillop House – a place where young girls who are living on the fringes of society are offered support, education and a chance to live a different life.

Mary MacKillop House (Beautiful Daughters)

West Auckland



As Saint Joseph day nears, it is the sixth year since Mary MacKillop House was opened to support young women who are needing guidance and education to bring about some changes for good in their lives.

As you know this facility has operated two programmes over the past few years – one the Beautiful Daughters programme aimed at developing self esteem through values, care of self and skills in living. This is how the programme began. Over the past few years the educational component has also developed and assisted girls in gaining literacy and numeracy skills and in gaining NCEA qualifications. This year anyone offering alternative education options for young people had to tender for a Government contract to remain open. The minimum number for a tender was for ten youth. Mary MacKillop House was successful in this and so this year the facility will cater for 10 girls. The

Government also asked to see what was being offered as the success rate for the students was noted. It seems that the combination of the two aspects of the programme works well for these young women. It is currently staffed by two full time tutors and some external tutors who come in weekly for things such as craft, care of nails, sewing.

It was interesting to meet some of the young women and some family members at the end of year prize giving in December last year. I spoke with the mother and grandmother of the girl who was awarded the prize for all around achievement. They expressed thanks to the Sisters for having this place as it has given their daughter a chance to turn her life around. She has a changed attitude and now wants to do well for herself. Their gratitude was heartfelt and they saw that their daughter now had hope for a better future. It is certainly a thrill to see these young women who come from difficult

situations in life slowly change and want more for themselves.

It was a risk at the time we did this. However it is certainly one of the ways we help to bring life to those who struggle, and reflects Mary MacKillop's passion to bring education, freedom and opportunity to the young of our world.

Thanks to all those Sisters and Associates who continue to give generously to Mary MacKillop House so that our mission can continue to touch the lives of troubled young women.

Ann Neven

The following reflection was written by one of the girls who is new to Mary MacKillop House this year

Mary MacKillop House

16.03.2010

There is such a place, where I can just hide from the world, but at the same time socialize.

A place where it's not too crowded and not too quiet.

It's the place where we seek knowledge and sisterhood, and eventually builds into a family. It's a place where pain is shared and comfort is offered.

It's the place where all you can feel is joy,

Where happiness is found and fun, where a team is built up to accomplish so much, but as one.

It's the place that makes you laugh, when you almost forgot how to!

Sister Marie Hogan is leaving Gisborne . . .

Sister Marie has been a familiar figure in Gisborne for many years. She was born and educated in Gisborne and taught at Campion College for seven years in the 1970's. Returning to Gisborne in 1991, she has spent the last 19 years in ministry there, and has been a strong supporter of the Associates.

Sr Marie is moving to a unit at the Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay. She writes "It will be hard to say goodbye to so many lovely friends, but I know it is time to go."

All the Associates hope you enjoy a well deserved retirement and thank you for your inspiration and support over all these years.





Mary MacKillop statue in Adelaide South Australia

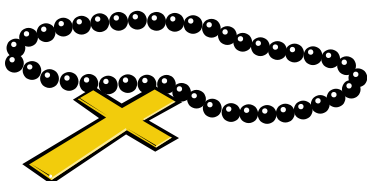
This lovely bronze statue, which captures Blessed Mary MacKillop's love for children, was unveiled as the centerpiece of the new Mary MacKillop Plaza in the grounds of St Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide. Archbishop Wilson, who blessed and dedicated the statue in 2009, the centenary of Mary's death, said the statue was a sign of the Church's continuing affection for Mary MacKillop and her tremendous contribution to the life of the diocese.

"Mary was a familiar figure in this part of the city in the late 1860s, with her first school being the St Francis Xavier Cathedral School Hall. The sculptor was Adelaide artist Judith Rolevink.



*to the Whangarei Associates who
prepared the prayer sheet for
this June newsletter*

Prayers please for
Joan Carruthers who
died recently ~ a faithful
Thames Associate for
many years.



Australian Pilgrimage In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop

With all the cheap flights being offered to Australia at the moment, you might like to consider booking yourself into the 12th – 22nd October 2010 pilgrimage.

For more information look up the website
www.sosj.org.au/mary/Pilgrimages

or contact Sr Monica Barlow
mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au

JOSEPHITES IN PERU

Have a look at the website
www.sosj.org.au/about/peru/indexhtml

There is a lot of interesting information about what is happening. Associates wanting to help the Josephite ministries in Peru might like to look at what some of the Australian Associate groups are doing.



To all the wonderful Associates and Sisters who attended our St Joseph's Day Liturgy in Auckland.

Thanks to your generosity our raffle raised \$326 towards the House of Bethany and Beautiful Daughters.

A special thank you to all those people who brought items for the raffle. We were able to award three prizes, including Sr Colleen's generous donation of Sr Sheila McCreanor's book *Mary MacKillop on Mission: To her Last Breath*. (Correspondence about the Aotearoa New Zealand foundations)

The dates for the New Zealand celebrations for Blessed Mary MacKillop's Beatification should be available soon

In the meantime keep up to date with what is happening by accessing the new and revamped websites www.marymackillop.org.au and www.sosj.org.au People are invited to subscribe to the Online Newsletter of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Sisters of Saint Joseph E-News is published on the 8th day of each month and distributed via email. Each HTML edition of the E-News is also archived on this website. They will find this on the opening page of the sosj website called sosj e-news. Click on this and then supply name and email address and the news will be sent automatically each month. Find it on this page: <http://www.sosj.org.au/news-events/enews.cfm?loadref=57>



Blessed Mary MacKillop

Soon to be canonized – Australia's first saint

A woman of faith, prayer and action

A woman who loved God and God's people in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

A woman of courage and hope

A woman with a compassionate heart who gave her all

