

Josephite Associates

* Friendship * Prayer * Service

Winter Newsletter Queensland

P.O. Box 243
Taigum Q 4018
Phone 041 776 3572

June, 2010

Dear Associates,



TOWARDS CANONISATION

There are many ways all of us could prepare for our Blessed Mary MacKillop's Sainthood in October. I have listed a few ideas you may like to take on board, individually or at your Group Meetings:

- Take part in the outback Queensland Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage. The next pilgrimage will be held from Rockhampton, Mackay, Moranbah, Dysart, Middlemount, Clermont. For more information on the Pilgrimage contact: 07 32661300. The date will be September 19-24.
- Suggest to your Parish Council to organise some inservicing on Mary MacKillop. These could be held in your Parish Hall/Centre one afternoon a week for a month with afternoon tea and a get to know you session.
- Does your Parish School have a picture of Mary MacKillop displayed in its foyer. If not then why not ask the Principal to think about displaying a picture of our Australian Saint.
- Advertise the Josephite Associate Movement at your Parish Masses and try to encourage other parishioners to be a part of this great movement. You could also check out the Parish book stall and make sure they have memorabilia of Mary MacKillop on display for sale. They can purchase supplies through the Mary MacKillop Centre in Annerley or Sydney.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Stage Play: "At the Centre of Light – Mary MacKillop's Story"
Twelfth Night Theatre, Bowen Hills
This will run for a 2 week season from 18th August.
Phone 3252 5122 for tickets or email www.twelfthnighththeatre.com.au
- Conference: "Living the Gospel in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop"
27th – 29th August, 2010
Friday 27th: 7.00pm for 7.30pm – 8.30 pm
Saturday 28th: 9.00 am for 9.30 start – 5.00 pm
Sunday 29th: 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

I have enclosed a Brochure along with accommodation listings.

ASSOCIATE PHOTOS

If you have any photos of your Associate Groups, which include activities you have undertaken or during meetings could you please share them with the rest of us. I would love to include photos from all around Queensland in the Newsletters. It is just another way of bringing us closer together in Friendship, Prayer and Service. Eventually I would even like to look at the possibility of putting yearly photos gathered into commemorative photo albums for city and regional gatherings to keep. You can send your photos through the post, give them to me when I visit or you can email them to me at joanfin1@bigpond.com

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Thank you to those who have already collected and forwarded stamps for the Peru Missions. Please keep sending in your used 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:

Mary MacKillop College,
23 Donkin Street, Nundah 4012.

STORIES

Do you have a story to tell us about your memories of the Sisters?

If you would like to share your memories please send them in and I will have them included in upcoming Newsletters. Many thanks to all those associates who have already sent their stories to us.

DONATIONS TOWARD EXPENSES

Many thanks to those who so generously contribute to the cost of printing, stationery, postage, envelopes, travel, etc. Every little piece of assistance is gratefully appreciated and received.

If you would like to also assist with Associate expenses I would be extremely thankful. If you are unable to personally assist you might consider collecting donations at your Group Meetings.

Donations can be sent to me at the following address:

Sister Joan Finucane
P.O. Box 243, TAIGUM QLD 4018

WANTED

If you are an avid photographer and have any INSPIRATIONAL PHOTOS you can send them to the Sisters for consideration for the 2011 Josephite Calendar. You'll have to be quick with this one as nominations close 30th June, 2010.

Send your photos to:

Sister Lyn Raftery
Province Centre
Locked Bag 303, BURWOOD NSW 1805

JOSEPHITE WEBSITE

The Sisters' website www.sosj.org.au has been updated. There is also a Mary MacKillop website www.marymackillop.org.au. Some of the exciting things you can do through the new websites include:

- Subscribe to free e-news
- Read the Associate newsletters from around the Congregation.
- Pray at Mary's tomb and leave a prayer.
- Find a prayer or reflection for the day.
- Make sure you share these websites with your friends and the local Parish, Schools in your area.

These websites are extremely interactive and should give you hours of fun exploring.

SPECIAL PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

We remember those who have gone before us:

Mavis Eldridge's sister, Agnes. R.I.P

Aline Baker's husband, Frank. R.I.P

Sister Kath Clancy. R.I.P

Fr Bill Murphy. R.I.P Fr Bill gave wise and joyful spiritual support to those in our Josephite Aged Care



Birthday celebrations:

We celebrate with Guido de Glas and who has celebrated his 70th birthday.

Bernice Balzer celebrated her 80th birthday

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers are requested for Merle Condon's brother, Bill. Please keep Bill and his family in your prayers.

Special Prayers for Mary McKew from the Moorooka/Salisbury Associates who is unwell



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. If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to telephone Sister Joan on 041 776 3572 or let one of the Core Group Members know.



DATES FOR 2010 DIARY

- * Allora: Retreat on 22nd June starting at 9.30am.
- * Cairns: At Mater Dei on the 2nd Friday of each month starting at 10.00am.
- * Pittsworth: 8th June 2.00pm
- * Moorooka: Monday 26th July starting at 9.30am.

I urge you to try to attend a regional meeting, especially if you could not get there in 2009. What you receive from the friendship, prayer, service and sharing of the day is invaluable. You might even like to invite someone who could be interested in the Josephite Associate Movement!

DATES CLAIMERS

- August 1 Brisbane Pilgrimage 2.00pm. Contact Josephite Province Centre on 3266 1300
- August 4 Play Reading, Mary MacKillop College 7.00pm for 7.30pm Presented by JAN Inc
- August 8 2.00pm St Joseph's Nundah followed by afternoon tea at Nolan Hall
- September 19-24 Rockhampton Pilgrimage
- October 17 Canonisation Event, St Stephen's Cathedral and Precinct from 4.00pm. Canonisation viewing 6.00pm

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATES

There are many new associates so a very big welcome to each of you.

Finally there are many things happening this year so I hope you can attend some of the events. A special thank you to the great hospitality that I received recently when I was with you. On this feast of the Sacred Heart may the heart of Jesus rekindle the fire in each of us.

Yours sincerely,

Sister Joan Finucane

Joan Finucane for the Core Group



Winter Prayer and Meditation

A little prayer to meditate upon, during the quiet hours of winter-time.

During lengthening days of light
May our actions be lighthearted
Upon right and noble impulses.

During quiet hours beyond dusk, before dawn
May we take time to think over events from the day
Plan for good in the morrow.

In light of day
May we extend our personal borders
Caring and sharing expansively.

So the world glows bright from our presence
May we blaze as beacons of harmony
Lighting the path ahead.

To nurture efforts toward lasting peace
May we with act with kindness toward all
Embracing our family and friends wholeheartedly
Ever gracing our world-wide family lightheartedly.

~~~~~  
Prayer and photo credit Susan Helene Kramer



## *Embrace the Moment*

*( Author Unknown )*

*I may never see tomorrow  
there's no written guarantee  
And things that happened  
yesterday belong to history.*

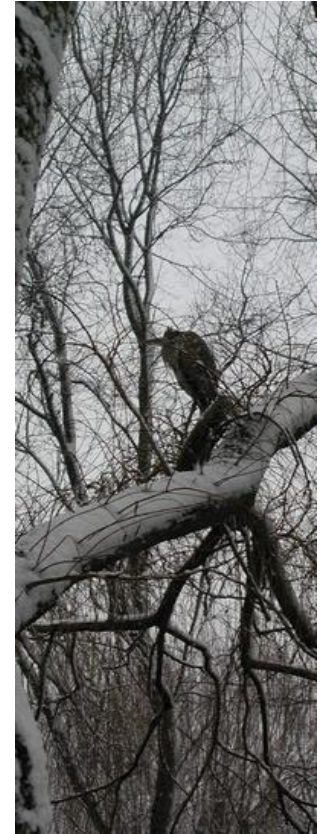
*I cannot predict the future  
I cannot change the past  
I have just the present moments  
I must treat it as my last.*

*I must use this moment wisely  
for it soon will pass away  
and be lost forever  
as part of yesterday.*

*I must exercise compassion  
help the fallen to their feet  
Be a friend unto the friendless  
make an empty life complete.*

*The unkind things I do today  
may never be undone  
And friendships that I fail to win  
may nevermore be won.*

*I may not have another chance  
on bended knees to pray  
And I thank God with a humble heart  
for giving me this Day.*



## 16<sup>th</sup> June: Prayer for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

My Heart is pierced by miserly loving, indifference to others, deliberate injustices and by unexpected kindnesses.

My Heart goes out to those in pain, feeling lonely, overcome by life's struggles and to those who seek to understand and comfort them.

My Heart draws in those at the edges, those feeling alienated and lost and all those whose arms create community.

My Heart is strengthened by day to day faithfulness, standing with, walking beside and when invited – by walking in front.

My Heart is ablaze transforming poverty, war, and hopelessness and with the spread of reconciling relationship.

My Heart cries out for right relationship, meaningful connections, making the most of life now, and for a gentle time with you.

My Heart is your heart. Be my heart!

## REFLECTIVE READING

Winter Solstice is the shortest day and the longest night of the year. It occurs around the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It marks the gradual return of the sun and signifies birth when new seeds of life will spring forth. Similarly, Christianity uses this time of year to mark the birth of the son, signifying life eternal for all who partake of the light and become the body of Christ.

A good way to remember this special Solstice is, as the hours of daylight grow, so too, we can let our inner light of understanding, love and intuitions grow. Allowing both the dark and the light to resonate within us, for it is part of us and we can practice new beginnings of unity, compassion, empathy and global love.

## PREPARE FOR THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Spend the Solstice in candlelight, meditation and reflection whilst looking forward to the new dawn. Decorate your home with the colours of winter; white to represent the winter snow, dark green winter foliage, red winter berries and fruits, gold to represent the returning energy of the sun and silver for the delicate frost that settles all around at this cold time of year.

(Reflection by Donna Oxley)

