



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2010

Josephite Associates
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805

Dear Associates,

It is wonderful to be with you again through the silent conversation of the written word. It was once said, *'I am each day as I allow myself to become...'* Don't you love the potential possibilities encased within these words?

The art of becoming is an evolving process enabling growth, new life and, among other things, a deeper inner level of personal freedom. By framing these within our own awareness and openness we allow infinite outcomes. Jesus said, *'I am with you always.'* So, perhaps our daily *becoming* is an invitation to be more deeply and closely engraved into our God through whom we truly *'live and move and have our being'*.

Living daily is simply an integration of living moments into our human lifetime. Giving our heart to each moment is a chance to be aligned and alive more fully with our God. Living with an enriched consciousness of our God within each of us, and those we encounter, will promote His Kingdom in our world today. It's all wrapped up in choice.

I believe Mary MacKillop was ever open to becoming that which was part of God's plan. I believe her gift of Serenity, the ability to see the best in the worst, freed her to tantalise the moments of incidents within her life into different possibilities. Mary recognised the need to sometimes *'lead the people from behind'* (604 B.C. Chinese philosopher) and that problems are *'opportunities in work clothes'*.

As the celebrations of her Canonisation move closely into our daily reality, let us continually live her spirit of openness to our God.

Remember, wherever you are reading these words, that God is *'with us always'*. Our life is our message to the world, as was that of Mary MacKillop. The difference comes as a form of inner change. *'Life is change, change is growth'*, so we must indeed choose wisely.

May God bless us one and all, sustain us in our lives and, most importantly, enable us to recognise each other within our Josephite Associate values of Friendship, Prayer and Service.

Take care, **Clare**



Josephite Associates

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 one another by friendship, prayer and service to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God.

OUR FUTURE

The future is
not some place we are going
but one we are creating.

The paths to it
are not found
but made.

The making of those paths changes
both the maker and the destination.

Australian Commission for the Future – April 1999



Daily Morning Offering

God, my Father,
You love me and forgive me.
So TODAY
I accept all as gift –
and ask to find You, Lord
the giver in the gift.

I choose to face life without fear –
And to live wholeheartedly
to each present moment.

May my heart sing today
a song of grateful thanks and praise.
I am God's work of art!
I am precious in His sight!

Irene McCormack rsj (RIP)



Friendship... Prayer...Service

We are, each one of us, called to be saints. There have been saints at all times and from every corner of the earth, in all professions, of all ages, who venerated Christ and his mother in all sorts of ways. Saints are generous people who know how to love and obey. Life and resurrection are ours. Christ is the light of our faith.

Sainthood – that is serving our brothers and sisters in Christ with the love of God. We need “to want” to be saints. Not everyone can be beautiful, healthy, knowledgeable, wealthy, or the like, but we can all be saints.

*Irena Caruana
Wollongong*

Coming Events

Mary MacKillop Place

Faith Education

6th and 13th September (11 am to 1 pm)

'Guided Meditation'
Elizabeth Crilley rsj

Prayer and Reflection

29th September (10:30 am to 12:30 pm)

'A Morning with Mary MacKillop'
Bridie O'Connell rsj

Prayer and Reflection

27th October (10:30 am to 12:30 pm)

'A Morning with Mary MacKillop'
Laraine Crowe rsj

Faith Education

**18th and 25th October; 1st, 8th and 15th
November (11 am to 1 pm)**

'Praying with the Psalms'
Elizabeth Crilley rsj

Prayer and Reflection

29th November (10:30 am to 12:30 pm)

'A Morning with Mary MacKillop'
Virginia Bourke rsj

For further information
phone 02 8912 4818
or email mackillop@sosj.org.au
www.marymackillopplace.org.au



www.marymackillop.org.au

Associates Office

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(02) 8741 2334
associates@sosjnsw.org.au

The Editorial Team

Editor: Christine Sivewright
Team Members: Helen Bache, Anne Downey,
Jacquie Oudin

Clare's Corner

May:

- May Newsletter delivered
- Group Leaders and Friends Gathering – Theme: Working Together to Ensure our Future
 - ◆ Baulkham Hills Friday 21st May, 2010
 - ◆ Armidale Monday 24th May, 2010
 - ◆ Moree Wednesday 26th May, 2010
 - ◆ Guyra Tuesday 25th May 2010
(individual New Group Leader)

Apologies received from members noted.

- Mary Gallagher will coordinate this Eucharistic Celebration on our behalf. Please mark this date in the Calendar (Saturday 9th October 2010).

June:

- Group Leaders and Friends Gathering – Cooma Thursday 3rd June 2010
- Meeting regarding Vigil Mass at Mary MacKillop Place - Tuesday 22nd June, 2010
- Newsletter Editorial Meeting on Wednesday 23rd June, 2010
- Finance Records and Projected Budget planning finalised for close of 2009 Financial Year.
- Special thanks to the Account Support Person, Jean Noonan, who has managed our finances since January 2010.
- All MYOB accounting records handed to Province Finance Manager at 28th June 2010
- As from the beginning of the new financial year, all records of Associates will be operated at the Office, Croydon. The program will be managed by Anne Downey and another Associate and me. This is a major step towards our target of Self-Governance in the area of economic sustainability for the Josephite Associates. We thank the Province of NSW Josephites who are helping us into and guiding us through this significant and important part of our change.
- Our financial change requires each of us to embrace what needs to be for our future as Josephite Associates.

- Group Leader Gatherings have enabled us to share the areas of change with many of you. A letter will be sent to each of you our members across the next few weeks.

July:

- MYOB is the official financial accounting system for Josephite Associates.
- Group Leaders and Friends Gatherings (dates being finalised): Hillston, Nyngan, North Coast, Tamworth, Narrabri, Bundarra, Canberra, Belmont, Sydney, Thirroul
- Newsletter collating; group packing and individual copies distributed and posted.
- **October Retreat** on track. 20 participants. **Reminder that payment is due.** Retreat closes on the Saturday. Official departure date is Sunday 17th October 2010 immediately after breakfast. These arrangements ensure that each of us will be back at our local Parish Community to celebrate the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop.
- Bishop Bede Heather will be Mass celebrant, Maureen McDermott rsj will be our Facilitator and Spiritual Guide, and our host will be Ellen rsj and Staff at Kincumber.

Future Dates:

- **18th September AGM – REMINDER:** You must notify Anne Downey (02 8741 2334) re attendance.
- **9th October Vigil Mass**

Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?
If so, please contact us with your new details
at:

associates@sosjns.org.au

Subject: Email address change

Alstonville/Lismore Associates Report

On the afternoon of 25th May 2010, ten ladies from the Lismore/Alstonville area, all loyal Associates for many years, met in Wollongbar, at Margaret Webb's home. Margaret is now in a wheelchair, as she has had her left leg amputated below her knee, but is waiting patiently for her artificial leg. She is an inspiration to us all as she never gives up, or resorts to self pity.

We all shared in the prayers and reflections, with many comments going back and forth, especially comparing days gone by with modern times. Our main theme was "to seek out and love what is best in the person, and not prejudice by appearances". This is especially true of young persons with piercing, tattoos, etc. (not our own grandchildren of course, only other peoples!).

Rosemary Davis presided, and it was good to see her well and about again after breaking her ankle. After our prayers, reflection and discussions, we had a very nice afternoon tea and chat.

We thank Margaret for making her home available to us.

Esme Daley,
Alstonville

Friends of St Joseph's Kincumber

The period for our \$20,000 Coastcare Grant is coming to a close in September.

To complete our works program for this project a 'working get-together' has been arranged for :-

Sunday 12 September 2010
9.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

If possible, come prepared for some weeding and gardening. Secateurs and loppers would be a great help. If you are unable to work, why not come for the social contact and view the progress of the project.

Don't forget the sunhat, suncream and gloves.

Sr Ellen will arrange for suitable refreshments.

For further information phone:
Kincumber **02 43682805**

Junior Josephite Associates, Lithgow

Members of the Junior Josephite Associates at St. Patrick's School in Lithgow NSW reflect on why Mary MacKillop is considered a saint.

'Mary MacKillop was a miracle worker. She started schools for the poor and began the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. We know her as a hero, a strong faith-filled woman who journeyed throughout Australia. Mary went through so much but still kept the schools going. She was an extraordinary woman who did so much to help others in need. She said so many wise things and this is my favourite "Keep up your courage...we do not live here forever". (Jessamyn Maumill, Grade 5)

'Mary MacKillop was a woman of faith who dedicated her life to God. She came from a poor family but she never gave up hope. She did the most wonderful things for everyone around her. When we look back on these things we realise that everything she did had a meaning. Everyone should follow Mary's example and help those in need.' (Isabella Yates, Grade 5)

Extract taken from Australian Catholics magazine (Christmas 2009) and reprinted with the Editor's permission.

The newsletter is now available
on the Web, at

<http://www.sosj.org.au/connect/NSWAssociates.html>

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

Stamps

Locked Bag 3031

Burwood NSW 1805

Phone 02 8741 2334

Fax 02 8741 2399

Maureen Dean R.I.P.

The death of Maureen Dean occurred in the early hours of Thursday, 1st April 2010. Maureen was the much loved sister of the members of the Grant family, Rae (Tompsett), Angela, Patricia, Bob and Norm. She leaves a grieving family for whom she has been a wonderful wife, mother and Nanna.

Her husband, George, has been her carer for the last few years as her health deteriorated. His dedicated care enabled her to live at home till late Wednesday evening when she was transferred to Hospital. Her seven children, Michael, Bernard, Tony, Phillip, Mary, Helen and Raymond have visited frequently and each did what their particular skill enabled them to do to make life easier for her and for George. She leaves 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Maureen is known to many Sisters of St Joseph as her children all attended school in Lithgow where she was often called on to teach craft, to relieve Sisters in the class room and to make creative costumes, especially for Sr Emerentia's concerts! She and George were wonderfully supportive parishioners.

Maureen joined the Josephite Associates soon after its formation. She devotedly ran her group at Belmont, attended numerous Kincumber weekends, served on the first Associates Committee, sold Josephite Calendars, and collected stamps from parishioners. She raised hundreds of dollars for the Peru Missions by organising stalls and raffles and by sewing uniquely crafted bags which brought in additional funds. The missionary spirit of Mary MacKillop was evident in her.

This unique, generous, creative and loving person will be greatly missed by a wide range of people whom she has befriended. Her funeral was celebrated with Mass at St



Francis Xavier's Church, Belmont on Wednesday, 7th April at 1.30 p.m.

Thank you for your prayers for Maureen. May Maureen be welcomed into the presence of the Risen Lord.

Angela Grant rsj

Requiescant in Pace

Constance Beckhaus rsj;
Shirley Brimmer (Pymont);
Kathleen Clancy rsj;
Greg Craig (Woy Woy);
Jude Giannone, daughter of Dawn Fitzpatrick (Lidcombe);
Lesley Hazzard (Panania);
Carmel Maher rsj;
Norman Mason, father of Maureen Harrison (Quirindi)
Kathleen O'Dwyer rsj;
Elizabeth O'Neill rsj

Maureen Dean as the Associates knew her

Maureen was a truly great woman. Extremely gifted in sewing, craft and calligraphy, she made thousands of items during her lifetime in order to raise money for the Missions. Since establishing an Associate group in Belmont in the mid-nineties, her contribution to the Josephite Mission in Peru has been remarkable. A woman of prayer and faith, her great devotion to Mary MacKillop led her to become an active member of the NSW Associates and a truly devoted leader of the Belmont Associate Group. Maureen was a genuinely caring person and took many people and causes under her wing. She had a great battle with her health in latter years, and is sadly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

Margaret Hughes
Belmont

Prayers for the Sick

Don Davidson (Quirindi);
Noelene McNeill (Barraba), sister of Jan Baker rsj;
Joan Morgan (Lidcombe);
Vera and Jack Sivewright, parents of Christine (Lakemba)



www.marymackillop.org.au

The Website for
Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney is

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

for

Coming events, Feast and Memorial dates, Pilgrimage information
and an invitation to a place of prayer with our Australian Saint.

ethica* accessories



the words of one of the Sisters that really struck me, when she said; it is not what they, the Sisters, teach the women but what they learn from them.

Recently, we had our first winter warmer in Melbourne at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. A big thank you to Gary McLean, Josephine Dubiel rsj and all who made it possible. We met lots of wonderful people and hopefully will see them again soon. It was a great night, lots of people and an inspiring speech by Joan Healy rsj.

We also had our winter warmer in Sydney, another successful night with Peruvian music and treats. Thank you all for coming, helping and supporting a great cause. We heard Angela Carroll rsj's speech, which was very emotional. She spoke about what Ethica means to the women, how they knit with hope for the future, hope for their family, hope for themselves and hope for us. Working with Ethica changes their lives socially and emotionally, giving them a voice, a skill, and an income.

Our next big event was "The Art of Peruvian Craft" on 20th June 2010 at the Australian Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour. There were guest alpacas, music and dance, lectures, food and of course all our beautiful Ethica products.

For our upcoming events, please keep looking at our website www.ethica.org.au under News and Events.

Editor's Note: *This is an edited extract from the ethica*accessories newsletter, sent to us by Gina Bradley of the Peru Commission.*

We recently celebrated Fair Trade Fortnight in Sydney. This is tackling poverty through trade. Ethica sold products in Manly, Paddington, Leichhardt, Belrose and Dural, for the women in Peru.

It was great to see that Fair Trade is becoming more important in our everyday life; people are more aware of what it means and how we can all help others in different countries. Remember small steps will achieve big things.

In the past months we have been privileged with the visits of sisters from Peru: Marj Crossman rsj, Cath Dean rsj, Clare Conaglen rsj, Margaret Malady rsj and just recently Angela Carroll rsj. It has truly been an inspiration to meet them and hear their stories and their commitment to the women in Peru. I remember



McMahon wedding rich with history

by Paul McMahon, Josephite Associate

With my daughter Rebecca, clinging nervously to my left arm and the haunting tones of the Irish uilleann pipes playing “Canon in D minor”, we turned into the isle at St Michael’s Church for the short walk to the altar where I presented her to her soon to be husband, Simon Dimopoulos. It seemed that family and friends not only filled every pew and standing space in the little country church at Sandy Creek but spirits of ancestors from generations past were present in every corner. This emotional moment was a fitting culmination to years of research into the beginning of our McMahon family in Australia.

On a visit to my aunt Frances in Lismore NSW during 2004, I started asking questions as to where our family came from. I knew they were from Ireland, came to Australia and settled in Victoria but that was about the extent of my knowledge about them, whoever they were. My father Pat, was only 53 years old when he passed away in 1979 and I was second of six boys, living at Glen Innes. There never seemed to be time to discuss things such as this, nor did it seem important.

Frances found a couple of old photographs and documents and was able to tell me that my great grandfather John McMahon aged about 14 came from County Clare in Ireland accompanied by his older sister Catherine and settled at Sandy Creek, near Beechworth in Victoria. Another thing that she recalled was that there was a church at Sandy Creek with a brass plate below the XII Station of the Cross dedicated to John and Mary McMahon, my great grandparents.



John and Mary McMahon

Some months after my visit to Lismore, my brother Kevin was to attend a work related conference in Wodonga Victoria, very close to the rural area of Sandy Creek. I loaded him up with a map and some rough directions and sent him on a mission . . . to find the Sandy Creek church. After a 40k drive in the country, he found the church. It stands very prominently on a hill and can be seen for miles.

As he wandered around the outside of the church, wondering what to do next, he was approached by a local farmer from across the road who enquired what his business was at



St Michael's Catholic Church, Sandy Creek

the church and was then directed back down the road a few hundred yards to a farmhouse where he would find people who “might be able to give you some useful information”.

After passing customary pleasantries, Kevin found himself being introduced to John and Teresa Wright. John, grandson of Ellen McMahon (eldest daughter of John and Mary) - “Jackpot”. The start of many frantic phone calls and the beginning of a treasured relationship that would produce much more than family history.

My wife Christine and I have since had several stays with John and Teresa at their Sandy Creek farm and Teresa, “keeper of old documents and photos in archival hatbox”, has produced enough hard copy to compile a family history including photographs of all but one McMahon family member.

Briefly, John McMahon escaped the potato famine in Ireland, sailed to Australia around 1858, filed a gold fossicking claim at Sandy Creek where he and his new Australian born bride, Mary McGrath raised a family of eleven children. Three of the boys, James, John and Tom served in WWI. Sadly two of the brothers, James and John, were killed in action in France, their bodies never to be found. Tom returned to Sandy Creek and replaced their original slab hut with a new weatherboard house which has been the McMahon and descendant families’ home to this very day.

My grandfather Michael, was refused enlistment to serve in WWI as there were already three brothers from his family enlisted. He joined NSW police and was posted to



*Privates James and John McMahon
KIA WWI France*



Rebecca McMahon escorted down the isle by her father Paul



Simon and Rebecca Dimopoulos

Moree in northwest NSW, where he married and also raised a family of eleven, one of whom is my father Patrick. They eventually moved to Inverell and finally Glen Innes where several of my aunts and uncles, my brothers and I as well as some of our five children were educated by the Sisters at St Josephs.

It is now 2009, Rebecca and Simon have begun the daunting task of trying to organise their wedding in Melbourne. They had never met our “new rellies” at Sandy Creek and so to coincide with a trip my son Daniel and I were making, decided to meet us at Beechworth where John and Teresa Wright would also come and join us for dinner. John suggested we travel to Sandy Creek next morning where we could all attend Mass at Sandy Creek church. After Mass while standing in the magnificent autumn sunshine, talking with the locals, John casually said to Rebecca, “This would be a great place for you and Simon to be married.” The seed was sown and so on 20th March 2010 Rebecca (radiantly adorned in the sixty year old wedding gown made by her grandmother, Frances Knox, for her own wedding in 1950) and Simon, surrounded by 140 family and friends, were married.

John Wright commented to me outside the church, “We’ll never see anything like this again at Sandy Creek in our life time.”

Perhaps it is just a new beginning.

Various thoughts and prayers from Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Life*

Blessings

“Blessings” What are they? To bless is not so much to make sacred, as it is to acknowledge the sacredness that is already there. All of creation is sacred because it is made by God. To bless anything of creation...is to acknowledge the touch of the Creator on that person or object. Wherever we place our feet – wherever we are – can be a blessing if we are aware of the inherent sacredness and beauty of that place”

“One practice that has helped to reawaken my gratitude, when my thankfulness has grown lean, is to take one of my five senses each day and be attentive to it. One day I notice all sounds that I hear, another day I pay close attention to everything I see... Doing this helps me to move out of my tired approach to life. I restore my alertness to my daily gifts and begin again to see the universe as one vast blessing.”

Take a few minutes to reflect quietly

Generous God, you have poured so much into our lives. You have offered us many graces, moments filled with wonders of your goodness. You have been bountiful, in sharing your unconditional love with us.

All-embracing God, you call us to share compassion with those who are searching, suffering and sorely in need of our hospitality. You daily invite us to be in union with all those you have gifted with life.

Healing God, you know how our lives each have their share of heartaches and brokenness. You see the deepest recesses of our spirits where pain and confusion need the touch of your restoring power. Remind us often that broken hearts can be healed and gifted by you.

Perceptive and insightful God, you see into our hearts. You know where the clutter lies. You invite us daily to pour out all that keeps us from being truly focused on all your gifts.

Forgiving God, you know our weaknesses and failures. You know how we ignore or refuse to be open and receptive. Yet you continue to believe in us. You are always waiting, ready to fill us with your generous love and gifts.

Gifting God, your gifts are meant to refresh, nourish and renew life. You call us to bless others. Stir up within us a desire to share our gifts with the whole of the universe.

Loving, life-giving God, you continuously pour your transforming love into our lives. Like a spring rain falling into the open soil, so your love and ours are mingled into an energizing oneness. Your presence is the power we need to grow and to change. Your blessing of love enables us to commit ourselves to the unending process of receiving, and sharing. How grateful we are!

Thank you my God

Prepared by the MidMountains Associates Group