



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2010

Josephite Associates
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805

Dear Associates,

How has this year of 2010 been for you and those you love? Don't rush your response. Reflect quietly, savour the moments. God is everywhere, especially in the details of our life. As you sip your tea or coffee may I continue our silent conversation for the month of November and our final Josephite newsletter for the year?

Shakespeare once wrote, *"All things are ready if our minds be so."* How appropriate is this thought as we stand at the shore of our next season in the Church's Year -- Advent! A time to pause, reflect and simply wait. Such realistic challenges are in opposition to life, its daily demands and many human encounters – yet, such moments form the foundations of our prayer and life.

Advent, to me, is a season full of hope -- a belief that we can create order in our life experiences, thus providing energy that propels the evolution of Christmas: the birth of Christ anew!

As we journey through the Advent Season, let us remember to pause, to walk a little more slowly, perhaps? Through our prayerful reflection may we seek to rediscover our God. Pray that whatever He is designing within and for us we are open to recognizing. In time, let us share reflections with others as a means of promoting His Kingdom among all people. By seeking to constantly live and operate from our personal beliefs and values we make our ideas real, not mere slogans. This Advent let us daily, consciously ... "walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

In conclusion may I share with you a few lines which have enabled me to recognise another aspect of Christmas and Light! *"Life is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it over to future generations."* (George Bernard Shaw) You do this in your life as Josephite Associates.

Peace and Joy to you. May God hold you close today and always. As you celebrate Christmas, may it be a special time for each of you.

Clare

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Blessed Mother Mary of the Cross
You were an Aussie just like us.
You loved your God and fellow man,
You saw a need and formed a plan.
To shelter the orphan and teach the poor,
To help the destitute and much, much, much more!

There were many ladies who heeded your call.
They came to work, and gave their all.
As Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.
You were their leader from the very start.
You clashed with Bishops and others, too,
Who didn't see your dream or share your view.
So for the Pope's approval you went to Rome,
It was nearly two years before you came home.

The Sisters went in groups of three or two,
Each community was small but knew what to do.
They prayed and taught, visited those sick or in goal,
Your dedicated followers, who wore the brown veil!
Your life wasn't easy, many years you were ill,
But at all times you followed God's will.

Your Order spread throughout our land,
And spread to other countries too.
New Zealand and New Guinea,
Ireland, Africa and Peru.
So Saint Mary to you we pray,
To intercede for us today...
To bless Australia and all therein,
And help us all - heaven to win.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Our very first Australian saint.
You have done Australia proud.
Everyone in this fair land
Will sing your praises long and loud.

Norma O'Brien © 2010

Josephite Associate Local Group: Tamworth

Lakemba Josephite Associates

It was after the AGM in 1990 of the NSW RSJ Associates in Mission, which was the original title at that time, that we formed the LOB Group (Lakemba, Oatley and Belfield Associates). We were blessed to be invited to hold our monthly meeting at the Lakemba convent on the third Monday of each month at 7.30 p.m. and I was chosen to be the first contact person of the group. After a time, Anne Barnes from Oatley became the contact person and thereafter Anne Downey and Colleen Leathley (jointly) from Hurstville, with the circle returning back to Jacque Oudin and me as the contact persons now.

Over several years, we have been very fortunate to have people of the calibre of Anne Barnes, Anne Downey and Colleen Leathley to prepare the prayer sheets and we have discussed several thought-provoking topics during our meetings. Other Lakemba Associates prepare the monthly prayer sheet too, so it is a combined effort all round.

From one of the AGMs, the Lakemba Group adopted a country link in Bourke, Marnie Walker, and to this day, there



is still contact made with Marnie by various members of the group. When Marnie was formally made an Associate, the Lakemba Group went to Dubbo for the weekend for the Dedication service. Anne and Colleen prepared the prayer sheet and carried out the formal welcoming and Act of Dedication in one of the Dubbo parks. Afterwards, we shared the Eucharist together, and then dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate the occasion.

Today, we still meet at the Lakemba convent and we are privileged to have Eileen Cashman rsj and Angela Grant rsj as part of our group. One of the Associates, Carmel Bollard, travels from Oatley, and always makes interesting conversation at our meetings. Our members come from a variety of suburbs: Ashfield, Bankstown, Belfield, Belmore, Beverly Hills, Croydon, Hurstville, Lakemba and Peakhurst. Sr Eileen prepares the cup of tea at the end of the meeting, which is always appreciated. Needless to say, our Christmas party is a happy occasion.

Four Associates from the Lakemba Group are members of the Newsletter Committee, which meets once a quarter to prepare the newsletter.

Again, we feel blessed to have the opportunity to hold our Associates meetings at the Lakemba convent and to share the meeting with two of the Josephite Sisters. We hope and pray that this will continue for many years to come.

Helen Bache, Lakemba

Coming Events

Associates

Kincumber Retreat

18th–20th February 2011

Led by Bridie O'Connell rsj

Cost \$180

For further information phone

Clare Noonan rsj on 02 8741 2334

Mary MacKillop Place

Prayer and Reflection

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

'A Morning with Mary MacKillop'

Virginia Bourke rsj

Faith Education

29th November and 6th December

(11 am to 1 pm)

'Guided Meditation'

Elizabeth Crilley rsj

For further information

phone 02 8912 4818

or email mackillop@sosj.org.au

Associates Office

Locked Bag 3031

Burwood NSW 1805

(02) 8741 2334

associates@sosjnsw.org.au

The Editorial Team

Editor: Christine Sivewright

Team Members: Helen Bache, Anne Downey,
Jacque Oudin

Clare's Corner

August:

Newsletter sent
Shared in the celebrations of Mary MacKillop's
Feastday at Kingsgrove and Mary MacKillop
Place.
Visited the Group Leaders (and some members)
Barraba—telephone contact:
Bingara, Bundarra—weather prevented visit—
floods
Nyngan, Mungindi, Narrabri
North Coast—South Lismore
Nyngan
Tamworth—telephone contact with Paul
McMahon, printer
Plan is to complete visits to Group Leaders
before the close of 2010:
Wentworth, Tamworth
Central Coast (3), Belmont
Canberra, Thirroul
If time permits—various Sydney Group
Leaders, who were unable to participate in the
May Leadership Gathering at Baulkham Hills
Survey distributed to all Group Leaders
and members requesting individual's level of
participation.

September:

Special thanks to each of our members who have
returned the Survey Form. I appreciate your speedy
response and enjoyed reading your comments.
Our Charism Team of Josephite Associates was
created as a follow-up to our Leaders Gathering held
earlier in the year. The Volunteer Members are:
Helen Bache, Leonie Bell, Anne Downey, Margaret
Millar, Gwen Daly and Lillian Stansell.
On 1st September, 2010, a meeting was held with the
Charism Team and our Facilitator, Christina
Neunzerling rsj. The theme for our 2011 Gathering
is Charism and Spirituality. This Leaders Gathering
will be planned and organised by our Josephite
Associates. More information later.
AGM held Saturday 18th September, 2010. Report
will be available in our Newsletter.

October:

Thanks to each Member of the Josephite Associates
for the planning, preparation and involvement in the
Mass on 9th October, 2010.
Retreat proved very successful. Sincere thanks to
Maureen McDermott rsj for her spiritual support.
Planning towards the creation of a Resource

Directory for Josephite Associates will be
continued into the New Year. It is hoped a Version 1
will be completed and distributed by March, 2011.

Reminders:

Please notify the Associates Office at Croydon when
you change your address (mail / email).
It is essential that you notify us when any of our
Josephite Associate members are sick or have died.
Articles for our Newsletters are welcomed, so please
send yours direct to the Associates' office.

Take care, Clare

Thank You

Thank you to all the Associates who have
already paid their membership contribution
and donations. Although many have indicated
they do not require a receipt, all receipts will be
forwarded with the 2011 newsletters.

Blessed MARY MACKILLOP
Mary MacKillop
Her Story
Her Legacy
Her Inspiration

CHARISM

A charism is simply a gift or calling of the Spirit
given to be
shared with others for the building-up
of the reign of God.

It is a living passion for whatever dimension
of the life of
Christ is needed now, here, in our time.
It can live in us only when we accept it.
It can live only when it is continually nurtured,
energised, renewed and developed in us.
It can live in us only when we take responsibility
to use it.

A charism is a continuing force which
compels us to participate
in the mission of Jesus by addressing
contemporary issues.

Moree Associates

Report of the meeting held at St Joseph's Convent, 1/16 Cummins Avenue, Moree, on Saturday 5th June, 2010, as a follow-up to the Leaders' Gathering held in May 2010.

Present: Kath Faulkner, Margaret Murray, Ruth McGowan, Stella Cusack, Mary Haddad, Pat Houlahan, May Coughlan, Marilyn Tramby, Lalie Fletcher, Margaret Therese Cusack rsj

Apologies: Georgie Peachey, Pam O'Connor, Kay Gillan, Norma Meyer, Sheila Campbell, Ignatius and Bridget Casey

Opening Prayer: Margaret rsj distributed the words of her recently composed hymn A Saint for Today, and accompanied the work on piano, and was joined by all! The Prayer of Dedication was recited together, as well as the Josephite Associates Mission -- friendship, prayer, service from Working Together to Ensure Our Future (a document which was also distributed, together with the latest newsletter).

Discussion: Excerpts from the newsletter were discussed and comparisons made with everyday activities of members, prayer (the Prayer of the Church and the Rosary; Eucharist, linking with long-established prayer group), service to sick members, members of one's own family, etc., and friendship.



Changes: The various changes being introduced in the running of the Associates were noted, and networking with the Groups without Sisters was suggested. The Pope's emphasis on the values appropriate to Associates was taken from a book entitled Partnership in Lay Spirituality (by Maureen Dolan), distributed by Clare at the Contact Persons' meeting.

Rome: Lalie Fletcher shared the fact that her family were providing her with a trip to Rome for the canonisation and the members rejoiced with her. Margaret rsj shared that she was going with other Sisters as a pilgrim as well.

Decisions from the Meeting

Six extra copies of Working Together to Ensure Our Future will be requested for absentees from the meeting.

Two copies of Partnership in Lay Spirituality were given out to be passed around.

We will network with the Narrabri and Bingara groups, who have no resident Sister.

A photo of the group was taken and afternoon tea was provided. A pleasant social gathering was enjoyed by all.

Stella Cusack (Moree Contact Person)

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

Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?

If so, please contact us with your new details

at:

associates@sosjnsw.org.au

Subject: Email address change

What is a Team?

TEAM POTENTIAL

Teams of people working effectively together can:

Achieve better results than individuals working alone

Be more flexible than larger groups

Take more risks and explore areas that individuals may avoid

Generate a wider range of ideas than individuals

Help each other grow in skill and confidence

Demonstrate commitment not only to the task but to each other

Motivate themselves

AGM 2010

Trust
Achievement
Effort
Motivate

Prayers for the Sick

Helen Hird (Quirindi);
Neita Edgton (Dulwich Hill);
Joan Morgan (formerly Lidcombe);
Vera and Jack Sivewright, parents of Christine (Lakemba)

Requiescant in Pace

Patricia Burford rsj;
Louis Doyle (no group);
Kevin Furlong rsj;
Margaret Garard rsj;
Edward Haggerty rsj;
Phyl Star (no group)
Elsie Carroll (Boambee)

~ ADVENT ~

Remembering to "Exult in God"

"My heart exults in the Lord."

1 SAMUEL 2:1

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

LUKE 1:46

Hannah and Mary begin their canticles with similar words, acknowledging all the Holy One has done for them. The voice of wonder and gratitude in these two amazing women is the inner voice I want to keep this Advent. In this season of "counting down the days 'til Christmas," I get trapped in my frenetic world of self-imposed preparations and miss the things for which I need to give thanks. My heart forgets to "exult in God" because I am unaware of so much that is happening. I get caught up in complaining about "how little time there is" to do all the things I hope to do. I become inattentive to the consistent goodness of God as revealed in people and creation around me.

So for these remaining days of Advent, I will try to awaken each morning and recommit my heart to "exulting in God" by seeing and welcoming with gratitude the numerous blessings that are mine. I will be grateful for the use of my body and mind, for the voices of those who care, for the hands and hearts that send letters of cheer, and for each moment that I breathe and have life. At evening I will again "exult in God" by calling to mind the joys my day has held.



Giver of Life, I receive this day from you with a grateful heart.

Reflection

Ah, great it is to believe the dream,
As we stand in youth by the starry stream.
But a greater thing is to live life through,
And say at the end, the dream came true.

(Source unknown)



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.

Associates

Annual General Meeting

On 18th September 2010, the Josephite Associates Annual General Meeting was held at Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney.

The day was well supported by members, evident by their attendance and the list of apologies.

Our guest speaker was Mary Quinlan rsj, NSW Provincial; who provided the change we are embracing in the context of today's reality. Her interaction and engagement with the group reaffirmed our alignment between the Josephite Sisters and the Associates, plus the realisation that self-governance is the way to go and we are ready.

We are delighted to say that the positions within the AGM format were filled. The members have taken up these roles as caretakers for 2011.

The positions are:- Leonie Bell – Chairperson, Margaret Saunders – Secretary, Jacque Oudin – Treasurer, Christine Riley – Vice-President, Clare Noonan rsj – President.

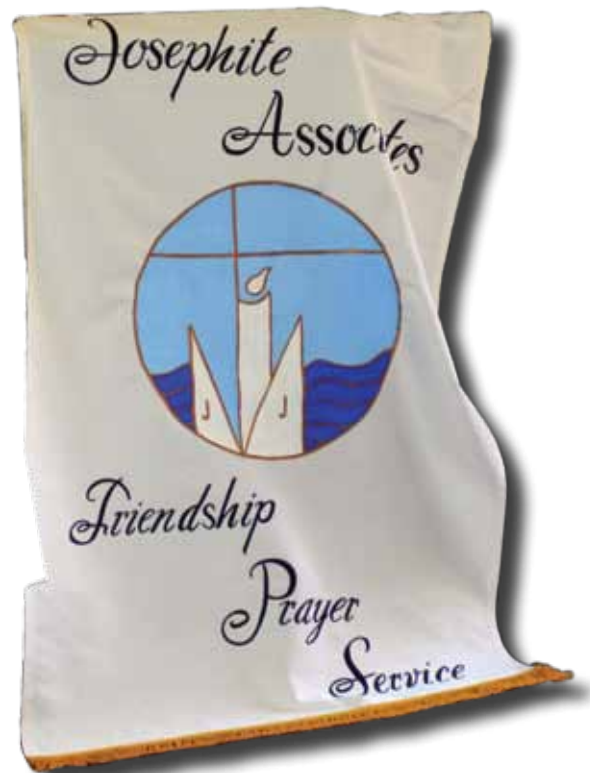
Our Annual Report, delivered by Clare, provided us with a concise and encouraging overall picture of our achievements and development to date. Should you wish to access this report please contact the Associates Office.

Our focus during this period of change is:- Working Together to Ensure our Future

Our theme for 2011 is:- Charism and Spirituality

See you next year at the AGM for 2011

From the Associates Office



2011 Josephite Calendar

Lyn Raftery rsj has advised that the calendar for 2011 will be a special Canonisation Edition. Therefore it will not be printed until after the Canonisation, so that some of the Canonisation photos can be used on the cover and inside the calendar.

This means that the calendars will not be available for distribution until the second week of November. The price will remain the same at \$5.00.

My Daily Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father, walk with me today,
and grant that I may hear your footsteps
and gladly follow where they lead.
Talk with me today and grant that I may
hear
your tender voice, and quicken to its
counsel.

Stay with me today and grant
that I may feel your gentle presence in
all I do, say and think.

Be my strength when I weaken,
my courage when I fear.

Help me to know that it is your hand
holding mine through all the hours of
this day.

And when night falls, grant that I may know
I rest in your Sacred Heart.

Amen. (Source unknown)

For all that has been,
Thanks, God! For all that will be-
Welcome!

The Spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Year of the Priest

Fr Vincent Doyle Lismore NSW

The canonisation of Mary MacKillop as St Mary of the Cross took place on 17th October 2010. I saw many interviews of Maria Casey rsj, the Postulator, in the media. She impressed me by her account of the Canon Law process required to obtain church approval for Mary's canonisation. This encourages us to recognise like Mary MacKillop that our poverty identifies us with Jesus and the grace of his cross. I congratulate her and all who helped to achieve the decision of the church that Mary MacKillop achieved holiness of life to an extraordinary level.

I notice also that Archbishop Phillip Wilson of Adelaide, President of the Australian Bishops, made an apology to the Sisters of St Joseph over the wrongful excommunication, which was removed by Bishop Sheil in 1872, not long before his death. Sheila

McCreanor rsj said, "Mary MacKillop set us an example as she did not hold grudges and while it was a very hard thing, she was shrewd enough to get good advice to know that the excommunication that was done was not valid."

In June 2009 Pope Benedict XVI put before the whole church the image of the priest as an icon or image of Christ and asked us to reflect on this sharing in Jesus' priestly ministry. The priest is asked to allow his life to be changed by God by accepting God's invitation to become like Jesus in personal holiness and pastoral care for all God's faithful: lay, religious and clergy. Jesus ministered to the first Pope, to the Twelve, to the religious leaders of the time, to lay people, and to people outside His community. There are no limits to the ministry of Jesus or that of His priests.

Priests teach us how to receive the salvation that Jesus has won for us when we hear God's living Word spoken to us. This word from God brings us faith in Him

Who opens us up to receive the life-giving gift of His whole life, of His death and rising to life. Jesus asks His companions (lay, religious and priests) to welcome into their hearts His life-giving Holy Spirit to empower them to bring Jesus to everyone in the whole world, particularly the needy.

The Associates make up the largest group of Christ's faithful called to bring to the world the vision of Jesus expressed



in the call of Mary and her sisters, Fr Julian Tenison Woods and all priests "to never see a need without doing something about it." Through her baptism and consecration to Christ, Mary saw the needs of the poor in the many divided States and communities in Australia and New Zealand. With Fr Julian Tenison Woods and her sisters, she did something about it.

My experience of the Sisters of St Joseph in the Lismore diocese at Woodburn, Bangalow, Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, South Murwillumbah, South Lismore, Alstonville, and with the Lochinvar Sisters at Wauchope and Port Macquarie was that the Sisters supported the priest personally in his ministry because all the Sisters seem to reflect faithfully, as a group, Mary's understanding of the Pope's and the Church's teaching of the spirituality of the priest. She leaves all of us a great legacy of a constant Baptismal grace we gain from our share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ to do what we can for those in need.



SCRIPTURE READING 1 (1Cor 1:4-6)

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank God that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially through your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you.

(Pause for reflection)

PRAYER: "Remember that we are but travellers here."
(Mary of the Cross MacKillop).

Leader: *We offer our thanks to our God ...*

Response: *We thank you, Loving God.*

- for freedom from want and hunger...
- for freedom to be able to pass on our Christian faith...
- for freedom for clergy to preach Christ to us...
- for access to clean water...
- for rain in good seasons and water in our rivers...
- for freedom to vote without fear of death or terrorism...
- for the leaders' apology to indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders...
- for the dedicated lives of religious communities of nameless men and women who have laboured to bring about justice and education for the poor...
- for the dedicated life and work of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop who lived a life of selfless service to the poor...
- for loved ones who have died and pioneers who have handed down to us the torch of faith...

SCRIPTURE READING 2: 2Cor.1:3-4

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, from whom all help comes. He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help those who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.

(Pause for reflection)

THANK YOU PRAYER

Thank you God for little things that often come our way-
The things we take for granted and don't mention when we pray-

An unexpected courtesy, a thoughtful, kindly deed,
A hand reached out to help us in time of sudden need.
Oh make us more aware, dear God, of little daily graces,
That come to us with sweet surprise from never dreamed of places.

Prepared by the Moree Associates Group

A Saint for Today

Margaret Therese Cusack rsj

Chorus:

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
You're our Australian Saint.
You show us how to live the Christ-way
In the world we know today.

In hardship and pain,
You travelled near and far.
You sought out all who lived in poverty.
You loved the homeless poor,
The stranger at your door,
The child in need of love and dignity.

To keep the dream alive,
Your spirit fanned a fire
In kindred hearts of other women too,
Who walked beneath your flame,
To teach in Joseph's name,
To care for those who'd lost their dignity.

Your voice of love cries out,
Resounds throughout this world,
Proclaims a message: 'Set the Spirit free!'
God's glory was your aim-
The love of God proclaim-
The secret of all human dignity.

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Printing: Marie Therese Levey rsj
CD available from Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney



November 1st All Saints Prayer

O God, we praise you as we celebrate the company of martyrs and saints whose faithful witness reveals your steadfast love. May the hope that they give us nourish our longing to love and serve you more. Without you we can do nothing; remember your love, and make us worthy of the company of the blessed. This we ask in the name of Jesus, and in the names of all our loved ones who have joined the multitude singing your praise forever. Amen.

The New Companion to the Breviary