

Cross Country Queensland



Image design Michele Shipperley rsj

March 2011

Sisters of St Joseph Queensland - Monthly Newsletter

PROVINCIAL'S LETTER

Dear Sisters

There seems to be much to write about..... March sees the beginning of the season of Autumn; next Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with the feast of Ash Wednesday; St Patrick's and St Joseph's days are almost upon us; there have been earthquakes, floods, fires since the beginning of 2011. Amidst all of this, I've decided to reflect on the past few years, as the 2 March 2011 marks three years since we began the governance of the Province.

As I reflect on these years, I am conscious of the General Chapter Mandate *There is a Vision for the Appointed Time. Wait for it, it will surely come.* So much has happened during the past three years for which we can be truly thankful. As well as implementing the General Chapter mandate, we have also kept an eye on the Provincial Chapter Mandate. At the last Province Chapter, the following was said:

We believe

- ❖ that Pastoral Care underpins and informs our structures of governance and community
- ❖ that we are called to new ways of supporting each other in our commitment to personal wholeness and to ministry
- ❖ in the value of educative programs and personal renewal
- ❖ that cluster groups have a vital role to play in the provision of Pastoral Care

Future Queensland Directions

The broad directions the Sisters of the Province highlighted for the future leadership of the Province to address include:

1. Josephite community living
2. appropriate accommodation for the Sisters and for the Province Administration
3. ongoing Pastoral Care
4. ongoing support, direction and sustainability of all Josephite affiliations
5. environmental sustainability of the material resources of the Province

During these three years, while some of the language may have changed, we have tried to look at the essence of these beliefs and directions so that they may bring life to our Province.

Let us be thankful for over the last three years

- for the blessings we have been to one another
- for the wonderful celebrations that we have had
- for the lives of Gemma McGilvery, Agnella Foley, Francis Xavier Synott, Margaret Mary Campbell, Kath Clancy, Joan Mills, Frances Anne Wallace
- for St Mary MacKillop and the inspiration she is to so many people

- for your collaboration with the service of Rita, Lyn, Monica, Stella and myself
- for the committees that have worked with us over the three years
- for the faithfulness of each of you to your religious commitment
- for the suffering/misunderstandings/challenges that have moved and shaped us over these three years
- for the willingness with which you have embraced what has been asked of you
- for accepting the call to care and connect with each other
- for beginning the local community experience.

Now, the call has come again inviting us to enter into a process of dialogue among the six Josephite Congregations. This request from the Federation Sisters has called us beyond ourselves. Where it takes us, we don't know but the words of Mary MacKillop are strongly there, *Do not be worried about the future of the Institute, I am not.* If it was good enough for Mary MacKillop to trust, surely we can trust in the Spirit. With open hearts and minds, we will find the way forward. Let us proceed with confidence and hope into the next three years.

Love and blessings

Moya

THIS MONTHS DATES

March 2	PLT changeover 6:00 pm Ritual followed by supper in the dining room
March 4-13	Lyn away
March 8	Community Meeting Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
March 9	Launch of Project Compassion
March 10	Mary MacKillop Connecting Committee
March 17-18	Moya in Richmond for Reference Group meeting
March 19	St Joseph Feastday 11:00 am Mass Corpus Christi Church; light lunch at Nolan Hall
March 24	Mass at Cathedral ArchBishop Bathersby Stewardship Committee meeting
March 27-31	CLT meet with PLTs
Mar 31-2 Apr	CLT meet with Provincials

DATE CLAIMERS

June 11-13	Rural Conference - Blackall "Drawing from the Source: Reaching Beyond"
July 6,7,8	Province Days
July 8	Canonisation Lunch at Kedron Wavell Services Club - Community Centre

LETTERS FROM OUR HISTORY

Mary MacKillop and the Bathurst dilemma
Margaret McKenna rsj



On 10 February 1876 Mary MacKillop wrote to Cardinal Franchi:

I am again presuming to address your Eminence to lay before you this time a statement of how we stand with the Bishop of Bathurst. He held a visitation at the Provincial House on Xmas Eve, and besides seeing each sister in private gave them a most touching address in which he laid down his objections to the Constitutions and upheld the Rule as originally drawn up. All the professed sisters [10] with the exception of two answered that they wished to adhere to the Constitutions. Six novices gave the same answer. [He had interviewed each separately to hear her decision. The postulants were not present.] Upon finding these so firmly united his Lordship decided that all who declared for the Constitutions should at once go to the country schools, that he would keep only those at the head convent [known as the Vale, now called Perthville] who were willing to adhere to what he called 'the old Rule'.

The Provincial [of Bathurst – Sr Teresa MacDonald] was then in a dying state but even so the Assistant, who should have remained with her up to the last was sent away to a convent [at Wattle Flat, a small country settlement] that the Bishop decided should be the headquarters of the sisters under the Constitutions. She was not allowed to say adieu to her dying Provincial. The novices were sent to different country places and a sister who would not give up the Constitutions or the Mother House [Sr Hyacinth Quinlan, an Australian aged 25, professed in Adelaide in 1869] but who met the Bishop's views more than the rest was left by him in charge of the postulants [9 of the 17 had been recruited by Bishop Quinn while he was in Ireland.]

In the meantime the Provincial died [13 January 1876 – she was aged 33], upholding the Constitutions to the last and warning the sisters to be faithful to their Mother House in Adelaide. She was buried beside the convent [at Perthville] in which she died and for a time two young sisters found it very hard to leave that convent, they being very much attached to her. In the meantime I arrived in Bathurst having previously acquainted the Bishop of my intended arrival. He treated me kindly but insisted that I should not go near the 'Vale' as our convent [at Perthville] was called but remain at the Convent of Mercy to which he brought me. I submitted for peace sake.

He then unfolded to me his plan. The Vale he intended keeping for his own novitiate, and he wished me to consent to one of our sisters remaining there train the postulants for him. He said she [Sr Hyacinth] was willing to do it if she were permitted. [Hyacinth had written to Mary stating that she supported the Constitutions] I replied that 'if the members of my council agreed to this, I would under the circumstances, but that I was very much in doubt whether it was right or not'. At that time, had he consented to profess the novices according to the Constitutions, as his brother of Brisbane had done, I hoped things could be settled for a time, even if he still wished to train up another institute of his own. Next day he told me he could not profess the novices; and when I said I feared they would not remain, he warned me that I could not remove any of them nor of the professed sisters, he having appealed to Rome. I believed this until I received different advice from a theologian whom I consulted upon the matter. The answer of the theologian was that 'the Bishop having first upset the arrangements made by Rome, I was not only free to act as my council and the body of sisters wished, but that it was my duty to do so, and I should follow the Constitutions'.

In the meantime the novices with one exception, had implored me to remove them to Adelaide. I visited them in their various convents and found that they nor the professed sisters could safely be left in the peculiar position on which they were placed. Still I hoped and wished to leave the professed in charge of three schools until the Bishop could supply their places, and wrote to him to this effect; but he would not accept any of the arrangements I offered.

BRISBANE FLOOD JANUARY 2011

Tears, Fears and the Mud Army

Annie McGuire rsj

Dear Sisters, as we all know many people lost their lives in Qld in the floods and families have been devastated by the loss. Our hearts and prayers are with these people.

Several weeks ago I asked for your prayers for my two sisters who were both affected by the floods in Brisbane. I really appreciated your support and I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you my experience at Mary's place. (Cathy was overseas at the time and the landlord looked after matters)

In November 2010 Mary and Alastair moved into their newly built beautiful home. A home Mary had worked hard for and the first home she had ever owned. They were still settling in. On Tuesday 15th January the river flooded the downstairs area of the home. Road closures prevented any access to the area, (except by boat!) until 4 days later. It was then I arrived at Mary's place at Fig Tree Pocket at 5.00am. The thick slimy and very slippery mud was everywhere. The grass was a slimy brown – no green to be seen. The road was caked in thick wet mud. Shrubs and gardens were laced with the putrid mud. Every house in the street was hit. The street was a mess.

Enter the house. Mud everywhere. Open a cupboard – out flows the stinky brown water. The walls are soggy wet. The timber floor is buckled. The furniture is ruined. No time to worry about saving the furniture – the first priority after a flood is to clear everything, rip up the affected floors and walls and get the place dry. The fire men arrive and bring their hose through - clean water to blast the mud. The mud is not so thick now so the broom pushers can begin. This is a back breaking job which goes on and on. Next task - five big, strong young men start to rip up the floor which will take most of the day. In another room a group of supervised volunteers are taking the plaster board off the walls. Someone calls 'break' and we swarm around the esky and look for somewhere to sit outside. I am taking a break now and I start to notice the support and kindness – who brought all this food we are eating? Who are the ten people working in the house that I have never seen before? Who are the two men carrying the ruined fridge? Who is that lady who hasn't stopped working since 7.00 am?

I go outside and am amazed and touched by what I see. The army men and women and the volunteers piling the wrecked furniture and personal belongings on to the endless line of trucks. The 'free coffee' stand four houses up from Mary's. The 'scone lady' going up and down the street. The neighbours checking on each

other - there are some tears and some residents are very worried. There are hugs and kind words all round.

It is now 5 weeks since the flood. Mary and Alastair are staying with friends. They can't live in their house. Their street is still mostly deserted. Reconstruction can begin when the timber dries out, which takes about 2 months.

Someone came up with the idea of the 'Mud Army', and a friend brought the t-shirt for me. It will always remind me of the great sense of community I experienced in the weeks of the clean up. We will all get together again when the 'move back in' time comes around!

FAR MORE THAN MELONS

Chinchilla Community

From 17-20 February, Chinchilla held its biennial Melon Festival. To the organizers this is an opportunity to showcase the local melon industry, to attract tourists to the area, to boost the local businesses, and this year to give people affected by the recent flooding, something to celebrate.

I'd say it did all that, and more. It showed the resilience of people affected by serious flooding; it showed a town recovering from severe damage and financial losses; it showed visitors some interesting aspects of the local area; and it gave many people the chance to relax, laugh, and have fun.

Congratulations to all who were involved in the organizing – in preparing the parade, in the games and competitions, in feeding the thousands who came, in the concert, the beach-party, the fireworks and the sporting events. Well done to all!

In the midst of melon-skiing in the blazing sunshine on Saturday afternoon, a farmer from the Dubbo area was thanked for a \$27,000 cheque, raised by his local area in New South Wales for Condamine and Chinchilla, even though their own farms had been flood-affected!

On Sunday morning I joined hundreds of Christians at a Combined Church service, designed to celebrate our town, its people, and the young women who have been accepted to be chaplains at our State Schools. Present were many young adults, connected to a local Church. One group had come here to assist with flood-recovery, the others to help with the Melon Festival – all from out of town. How that crowd could sing in praise of God! It was exciting to be amongst them!

LET THE CONVERSATION BEGIN

Margaret Gillespie

There are moments in everyone's life that are real joy!

I remember well the morning last August, when a confidential letter from Sr Anne Derwin arrived.

I recall the excitement Juanita and I felt as we read the beautiful message from Srs Jill Dance, Tasmania, and Noelene Quinane, Goulburn, and the term "remembering," a word that really touched me, and which summed up for me the content of the letter.

It was an invitation to us all to **remember** one another more intentionally, with a deeper sense of those things that make us one in spirit, **to begin a conversation**, to allow ourselves to be led by the same Spirit that moved Julian and Mary to begin the great work so long ago.

I had met the Tasmanian Josephites, Jill Dance and Sue McGuinness in Le Puy, and I felt a bond with them then, as I did with every other Josephite there, a tangible "something" that made us feel one. It's a spirit of being Josephite that we all share.

On reading Anne's letter, I could have danced for joy!! In fact both Juanita and I were filled with excitement, rejoicing and discussing this great news, and sharing a glass of wine that night to celebrate! A feeling of elation stayed with me all that day. I remember thinking, "there are two events that will make 2010 a most memorable year for us always, Mary MacKillop's Canonisation, and this letter from the Federation Sisters." Later I thought of the prophetic words of Fr Woods in August, 1887, in a letter to Sr Francis McCarthy in Westbury Tasmania,

"I think the time will come...when all St Joseph's children will be brought back together again, and be what they were in the beginning."

How Mary MacKillop would have desired that, too!

That August day was a time to remember with joy our dear sisters, for of course they are our sisters, who have shared the same spirit, the same founders, the same rule, the same early hardships, the same isolation, the same joys and sorrows.

We are truly sisters, in almost everything except canonical status, and because of an accident of history born of a controlling, persuasive, and charming Bishop, determined to have total authority over all sisters in his diocese, and a foundress equally and justly determined to be loyal to the Constitutions approved by Rome, we went our separate ways.

Mary, in deference to Bishop Quinn, did agree to allow Sr Hyacinth Quinlan to remain at The Vale for a time to form the postulants and novices that the bishop himself had recruited in Ireland. Already they had some experience of Josephite living. This was to be the nucleus of the new congregation. As well, Mary was prepared to leave sisters in the schools until they could be replaced. It was only after receiving advice from Fr Tappeiner and her council in Adelaide, that Mary gave directions to the sisters to leave the diocese.

We will never know what really motivated Sr Hyacinth to disregard that directive. Perhaps she felt a certain responsibility for the young women in formation, perhaps it was a sense of gratitude to the bishop for his trust in her, and it seemed that she had a personal reluctance to return to Adelaide.

['Before Sr Teresa MacDonald's death in January 1876, Hyacinth had confided to Sr Joseph Dwyer that she would leave the Institute before she would return to Adelaide'] Marie Crowley WOMEN OF THE VALE Spectrum Pub. p 56

Bishop Quinn would have established his Diocesan Congregation anyway, with or without Sr Hyacinth. He was determined to have sole charge of any Congregation in his diocese without interference from a Sister Superior or anyone else. The bishop did invite Fr Woods to help provide a new Rule, but he could have chosen someone else, and the early formation of the postulants and novices might have been in the hands of any other Religious of the Bishop's choosing. The emerging Congregation would have been very different. Who knows?

Was it, perhaps a "happy fault" that Sr Hyacinth gave to the Perthville Congregation a formation that was distinctly Josephite, in the tradition of Julian and Mary, and took that same spirit to New Zealand, and later shared it with the foundation in Tasmania?

Whatever the answers to those questions, the Diocesan Congregations retained the Josephite spirit that we all share. Their ministries, like the Central Josephite ministries flourished. The people among whom we all worked cared little about "brown" or "black", but recognised only the great work being done for the education of children in the cities or the outback, wherever the sisters have been and continue to be.

Becoming secure in our own identities over the years we have been able to let go the early enmities, the "who was to blame" game. What mattered was that God's work was being done wonderfully well, and surely that was all that was important. In recent times as congregations we have shared much more in ministries,

in retreats, in conversations, in reading our respective histories, in coming to understand what unites us.

We are no longer the flourishing, vibrant congregations we once were. The realities of ageing and diminishment face us all. However, this is not a time to “give up”, but to “give to” one another all that can strengthen the Josephite identity wherever Sisters of St Joseph are. We can re-member one another in prayer, we can continue to journey together in whatever creative ways we can imagine. We can welcome the process of exploring the possibilities of closer association with one another, wherever that may lead us. We are sisters, after all. There is no need to speculate about end results. Who knows what God has in mind for us, and where God’s providence may take us in the future?

We recall Mary’s words, **“Don’t be troubled about the future of the Institute; I am not.”** Is not trust in the providence of God still part of our spirit? On that August day, I imagined the delight of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, and I wondered whether they too, danced for joy. Why wouldn’t they?

HOUSE OF PRAYER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Carmel Street

On Saturday 19th February, the House of Prayer celebrated its 30th Birthday. The day began with Prayer and a remembering with gratitude the beginnings and journey of the House, Bishop Michael Putney had words of encouragement and challenge.



We recalled the words that Judy Brown spoke at the opening and blessing of the House in September, 1982:

“There may be something prophetic about this whole venture, this HOP. Its something that Elaine and Carmel believed and knew the people wanted. So they look forward to the day, maybe, 5, 10 years hence when this HOP may actually be completely run and operated by the people of the Diocese. It may become a Lay Organization. We are open to where the Lord will lead and how people will respond to their search for their God”.

This has been fulfilled in ways beyond imagining!

After a celebratory lunch and cutting of the cake, the afternoon was spent in an “Open Space” process where the Community reflected and planned for the future of the House. A very committed group of people!



MEMORIES OF BAULKHAM HILLS

Kristin Johnston - Project Coordinator

Annie Bond rsj, Director of Baulkham Hills has requested that a history be displayed of Baulkham Hills. This will be displayed in pictures, photos, facts and stories along the wall of what was the scullery. This position was chosen as the sun does not come onto that long wall. We want this history to ‘come alive’ and have an impact on everyone who visits Baulkham Hills. To do this we are inviting everyone to contribute so we have as much information as possible. The headings below are a guide for your memory, but they are not exhaustive. We would like you to respond preferably by email (which makes the collation easier) or by post. I would also like to interview some people either individually or in small groups. Respondents will be acknowledged alphabetically on the display.

Suggested headings

- Name (so that I can follow up on details)
- Years at Baulkham Hills
- Role at Baulkham Hills (eg, novice, Community member, visitor)
- Facts you know about the place
- Some significant memories you have and stories to share and their impact on you and others eg
 - a. Formation
 - b. Liturgies
 - c. Celebrations
 - d. Study
 - e. charges (kitchen, ramp, bakehouse, house, cows, etc)
 - f. improvement projects such as building the chook pens, fencing, grottos, planting, watering, paths...
 - g. visitors (apart from family and friends)
 - h. what else?
- Impact of the changes in the role and purpose of the centre
- What dreams do you dream for the future of Baulkham Hills?
- What else?
- I would be happy to be interviewed by phone or personally. Yes. No.
- I would suggest that you interview (name person or persons)

Please email or post your recorded memories to me as soon as you are able. Many thanks for your assistance
Kristin Johnston Coordinator of the Project

Email: kristin.johnston@bigpond.com

Address: 1 Patterson Place Croydon NSW 2132

Phone: 0418 433 136

ST JOSEPH ON THE JOURNEY

Carmel Street rsj

This statue was given to me for my Golden Jubilee. The sculpture is cast by the Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange in U.S.A. It is cast in DuraStone. Sculpture and reflection by Mary Southard csj.



I would like to share the prayer with you for St. Joseph's Day:

*St Joseph, one who is deeply engaged in the adventure of life,
always ready for the journey, always caring, always "Yes".
Joseph who dreams and lives the dream,
who follows his heart into Love, into Mystery.*

*Grounded in love – in his close relationship with God,
with his own soul, and with his family,
Joseph is always ready to take the next step,
to move into each unknown, each new day, filled with hope.*

*St. Joseph, be with us in the Great Journey
we are on in our own time. Amen.*

TOOWOOMBA PILGRIMAGE

Di Phillips rsj

To complete the celebrations for the canonisation of Mary MacKillop in the Toowoomba diocese a pilgrimage is planned for the last week of March this year. The style of this pilgrimage is a little different from usual in that we will be based in Toowoomba and travel out each day by bus to different places. Each morning the pilgrims will gather at St Patrick's Cathedral for prayer and ritual and then travel to two towns. At the end of the day the pilgrims will return to the Cathedral to complete the day with prayer and sometimes with a meal together.

The pilgrimage starts with 5.30 pm Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday 27 March with a commissioning of the pilgrims. That evening we have a meal together and go back to where we are staying.

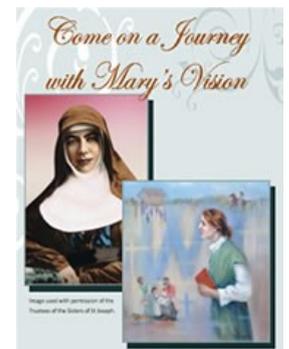
On Monday 28 March the pilgrimage starts at the Cathedral and we travel by bus down to Helidon where we will walk the Mary MacKillop St, share letters from the Sisters to Mary, go to the Church for Mass and lunch at the parish centre. After lunch the bus will take us to St Thomas More's School where we will meet staff, share stories, gather for prayer and finish with a cuppa at the church before returning once more to the Cathedral.

Tuesday 29 March sees the pilgrims travel from the Cathedral to Pittsworth and then onto Allora where one of the priests on the pilgrimage will celebrate Eucharist with us and the parishioners. In each place we will meet parishioners, visit the school and other places associated with the lives of the Sisters when they ministered there.

Finally, on Wednesday 30 March we set out from the Cathedral to the Mary MacKillop School at Highfields where we will meet the students and staff from the school. We have morning tea there before setting out by bus to Crows Nest. There we hope to meet the parishioners, share stories and visit places of interest for the Sisters. Again a priest on the pilgrimage will celebrate Eucharist before we travel back to the Cathedral where we will have a closing ritual.

Pilgrims need to find their own accommodation. The cost of the pilgrimage is \$60.00 for pensioners. To apply: contact Mary Schwartz at the liturgy office in Toowoomba.
Phone: 4632 0989
Email: liturgyoffice@twb.catholic.org.au

See enclosed brochure



DABHAR GATHERING DATE CLAIMER

for our first DABHAR GATHERING
for 2011

All are welcome to come along to this meeting
to be held at **Nundah**
on Wednesday 23rd March 2011.

We usually gather for Morning Tea
in the dining room
following Celebration of Eucharist (or Service)
In the Chapel at 9:30am.

SENIORS' CORNER

Therese Wilson rsj

How 'Old' is old?

How do we see ourselves?



It can be interesting, sometimes challenging to reflect that how we see ourselves is not always the way others see us.

Consider, for instance, the following snippets from the views of children regarding older people:

'Old is if you are 67 to 110 years. Sometimes all you do is sit around your house. If you are 60 you are semi-old, and if you are 65 you are almost old, but if you are 67 you are old.'



"Being old is having wrinkles and glasses, getting shorter, sometimes getting a hearing aid, being retired and having hobbies."

"Older people are funny and kind when you go to see them. They like to bake things. When old people see young kids they feel they should kiss and hug them all the time."

'I think old is when you get wrinkles and things for the rest of your life. People are not the only ones who grow old, animals and food get old too.'

And some views from a high class:



"To me elderly people are kind, considerate, neat, easy going, lovable, great at sewing or knitting, understanding and most of all great at making delicious cakes. If you are in a tight spot or in trouble you can turn to elderly people because they have the answers."

"Most people are more active than a lot of people think. While we are at school they are busy doing their own thing, such as walking, writing, painting, knitting, working with wood, or crafts, and doing volunteer work."

I think elderly people should be well respected like any other human being."

"In my opinion an old person is a person who thinks that they are old. Physically a person can look old but mentally they can be going one hundred miles an hour."



CYCLONE YASI HITS QUEENSLAND COAST

Therese Wilson rsj



Recently we watched for days as satellite images of our worst ever cyclone were being tracked across the TV screen

An aspect that fascinated me was of one close-up image showing distinctly the **'eye' of the cyclone**. I was reminded of a reflection given some years back during a retreat which I share below:

Image of Eucharist...

The eye of a cyclone is a remarkable thing. To get an idea of it, picture a Frisbee with a small hole cut out of its centre.

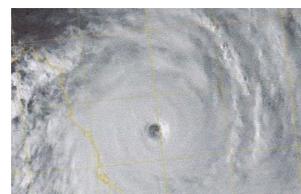
Now, expand the Frisbee so that it measures 100 miles across and the small hole measures 10 miles across.

Next, spin the Frisbee at the rate of 100 miles per hour. That's what a cyclone is like. But keep in mind that inside its 10-mile eye, there is no wind - only blue skies and sunshine.

The eye of a cyclone is an image of the Eucharist. Political storms may rage about us, but in the Eucharist there is a peaceful calm, blue skies of hope, and a shining "Son" of love.

Just as the eye of the cyclone lasts only about an hour as it passes over, so the Eucharist lasts only a short while.

Jesus never intended that we stay in the "eye" of the Eucharist. He intended that we go back into the storm and become an "eye" of peace for others.



MACKILLOP RURAL CONFERENCE

Di Phillips rsj

Two years ago we held the first MacKillop Rural Conference at Emu Park. This time we have chosen Blackall as the venue. The conference is being held over the Queen's Birthday weekend on the 11,12 and 13 of June. That is also the weekend we celebrate Pentecost which will be significant because the theme is "Drawing from the source: Reaching beyond".



People from rural communities connected with the Josephite story are coming. We hope the conference will nurture the participants in their commitment to ministry and provide space for them to share resources, experiences and ideas for ministry. A good contingent of Sisters have expressed interest as well.

Mary MacKillop was deeply committed to nurturing the faith of people in isolated and rural places. This is one response as a Province to the needs of today in rural Queensland. Over the years the Queensland Province has supported rural people through spirituality, schooling and other forms of education, friendship and pastoral care. With this conference it is hoped that people will develop their own network of support that is imbued with the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

An application form is being made available very soon. Applications need to be in by the end of March. For more information contact Di Phillips on 4693 3562 or mackillop.links@bigpond.com

QUILPIE COMMUNITY

Anne Hoey rsj and Margaret Andersen rsj

Coming back to Quilpie after the South East Queensland floods, Ann and I saw some of the effects of the devastation caused by the flood waters as we travelled the Warrego Highway. When we arrived in Quilpie it was as though the floods had never happened!

Our first community involvement this year was to prepare a memorial service for a parishioner and dear friend of ours. Jan Tiller had died very unexpectedly in Brisbane and was cremated in Toowoomba. With the floods and road closures, it was impossible to have a funeral service at the time so her sister, Sue McWaters, asked us to prepare a memorial service.

Working with Sue and the Quilpie Shire Council, we planned a simple farewell to a well-loved community member. Plans were going well; Church was cleaned thanks to willing helpers, booklet prepared... then we heard the weather report for Saturday, 49 degrees. We had had days of 45 and 47 degrees during the week so there was some warning.

Then the question - The Church will be too hot to hold the service - only one very ancient fan moving the hot air- we would need to find a cooler venue! Thanks to the Quilpie Shire Council, we were able to use the air conditioned supper room at the hall. Everyone was very relieved and a good crowd of people came to thank God for the blessing Jan was to us all - on the day of her 70th birthday.

As this goes to print, we are preparing a prayer gathering for those devastated by floods, cyclones and now, earthquakes. This is a community service with the involvement of many community groups. It will be an opportunity for the Quilpie community to gather, reflect and contribute to the fund raising effort.

This year the ladies of the C.W.A offered to help us prepare an afternoon to celebrate International Women's Day. With the support of the Quilpie Cultural Society and Quilpie Shire Council, we are looking forward to an afternoon of reflection, chatting and a delicious afternoon tea.

The school year has started well and the term has gone quickly already.

We look forward to meeting up with some of you at the Rural Conference.

RETREATS

Juanita Scari rsj

Sisters, by now you would have received the brochure that was sent out in the first province mailing for the year.

There are 2 group retreats being offered.

1. The Song of Songs - 16 to 23 May
2. Living into the Spirit of Mary MacKillop - 18 to 25 Sept

Some Sisters have already booked in. If you wish to make one of these retreats, could you please be in touch with me by 15 March.

After that date I will be opening them out to Sisters from other Provinces and congregations.

VILLA MARIA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

Denise Brosnan

Spiritual Support Group for Persons with a life-threatening illness

Are you living post a diagnosis of cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, MS or another illness? Come and join us. Carers are welcome.

This group offers an opportunity to meet for sharing (optional); meditation; input; reflection; gentle exercise (optional); cuppa and friendship. This is essentially ecumenical. All are welcome.

When: Thursdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am
commencing 3rd March, 2011

Where: Villa Maria Spirituality Centre,
123 Warren St, Fortitude Valley.
(Parking available underneath building)

Facilitators: Denise Brosnan rsj and David Betts

Facilitators for this group are cancer survivors and have been trained in a Spiritual Direction Formation Programme. They are also experienced educators. Denise is a qualified counsellor.

For more information or to RSVP: mobile: 0439 675 571
or (07) 3831 8065 or denisebrosnan@hotmail.com

Villa Maria Spirituality Centre: a ministry of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and the Sisters of St Joseph.

SISTERS' THANK YOU MESSAGES

✿ Dear Sisters, thank you for your prayers for my sisters caught in the flood disaster. Mary's house is now drying out from the slimy mud and water. The whole of the ground floor of her house was ruined and everything had to be thrown out. It will take months and thousands of dollars to repair. Cathy lost most of her contents but she will bounce back. They have both really appreciated the thoughts and prayers. Many thanks. **Annie McGuire**

✿ I thank you for your birthday greetings which in their various forms made the day memorable and joyful. May St Mary MacKillop watch over joy and obtain all the blessings you desire. Love and prayers. **Therese McQuillan**

✿ Dear Sisters, What a wonderful experience it was to be back among you for the celebration of my Golden Jubilee. Many thanks to Moya and Team, Anne Cannon and the many sisters who organised our big day and helped to make it so memorable. Thank you Sisters for your prayers, Masses cards and gifts. My family were very impressed with the celebrations both in Sydney and Brisbane and they are still telling people how they stayed one night in a convent with two nuns. Anne and Anita made a great impression. May God bless you all. Thank you. **Mary Doody**

✿ It's great to be living in a place where 'birthdays' are special days, so my day here was most enjoyable. Your cards and faxes were very much appreciated, thanks. My family also added celebrations, so it was really a week of surprises for me. God bless you. **Marguerite Liddy**

✿ Dear Sisters, a belated thank you for the cards, faxes and phone calls I received for my 70th Birthday. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Keeping you in my Mass and prayers. God Bless. **Lorraine Power**

✿ A very big "Thank you" for all the Masses, prayers, cards, gifts, faxes and wonderful good wishes for my Birthday. I had a lovely day. God bless you all and be assured of my prayers. **Kathleen Helen Thygesen**

✿ "Sincere thanks for the faxes, cards and gifts I received for my birthday - they were all very much appreciated." **Margaret MacNamara**

✿ My heartfelt thanks to all those of you who helped to make my birthday celebration such a happy one. I really appreciated the faxes, cards, phone calls, greetings and scratchits - some successful! In addition, the lovely birthday celebration at our Joanna Community meeting was a delightful surprise and so special. Thank you. **Cecilia Anning**

✿ Since the scratchit enclosed in a beautiful card from the PLT and Co., netted six dollars, I am open for anyone needing a loan. For this, and for Masses, prayers, love, cards, gifts, flowers and faxes, I am most grateful. **Veronica McSweeney**

✿ I wish to acknowledge gratefully, the kindness and care you have shown me over these past few weeks. I have also appreciated the prayers, messages of love, support and concern, the emails and phone calls. Thank you so very much. **Ann Fleming**

Health and Well Being Seminar

Wednesday 13 April, 2011



Program

9:15 - 9:30	Registration and Welcome
9:30 - 10:00	Reducing Cancer risk for women
10:00 - 10:30	Healthy Living to reduce Cancer risk
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 - 11:30	Medicines and you
11:30 - 12:30	Beyond Maturity Blues * Dealing with depression and anxiety
12:30 - 1:00	Discussion Evaluation
1:00 - 1:30	Lunch

Morning Tea and Lunch are provided
(Please notify of dietary requirements when registering)

Registration

Date: Wednesday 13, April
Time: 9:15am - 1:30pm
Place: Villa Maria, 123 Warren Street, Fortitude Valley
Undercover parking available

Register by 31 March

Register early as there are only 10 places

To register please contact:

Georgi Slade on 0459 838 841



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
AUSTRALIA

NOTIFICATION FOR ALL BISHOPS, CLERGY, RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS AND CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Holy See continues to receive notices of financial scams perpetrated via Email and which falsely refer to Heads of Dicasteries and other Church Authorities. Such scams solicit financial support in favour of exceptional situations or fictitious projects. They also ask for monetary transfers that involve money laundering resulting from illicit dealings.

In case of any doubt regarding the legitimacy of requests made with reference Cardinals, Bishops or other Officials of the Roman Curia, it is advisable to contact the Apostolic Nunciature for further inquiry and clarification. It would likewise be worthwhile that the Episcopal Conference, Religious Superiors and other Institutions (universities, schools, and associations) be notified of this occurrence so that they may in turn be prudent in verifying such cases, thus not succumbing to the requests.

Canberra 15 February 2011



CHANGES TO SISTERS DETAILS

Kathleen Helen has a new email address:

helen.thyg@bigpond.com

Chris Symonds has a new mobile number:

0487 234 386

We remember with gratitude and prayer

*Sr Frances Anne Wallace
Sister of St Joseph
Queensland Province*



Who entered eternal life

23 February 2011

*In the **91st** year of her age
and the **76th** year of her Religious Life*



R.I.P.

Newsletter

Cross Country cut off date is 27th of each month.

The Newsletter will be posted in the first week of each month.

Please send articles to Lyndall by fax or email

Sisters of St Joseph: www.sosj.org.au

Mary MacKillop: www.marymackillop.org.au

Sisters of St Joseph Queensland - Monthly Newsletter