



# Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

September 2011

Dear Associates, Sisters and Friends,

As you will remember from our last newsletter, the Associate Leadership Team was to gather at Mission Bay to explore ways of moving forward and finding new directions for New Zealand Josephite Associates. Two meetings were held in May and June. Sr. Ann Neven led an enthusiastic Leadership Team through a process, which has allowed us to formulate a plan of action for the next eighteen months. Our focus questions were:

- What are our hopes and expectations of the Associates Leadership Team?
- How do we lead the Associate Movement into the future?
- What are our roles and responsibilities?
- What do we see as our work for the next eighteen months?

Exploring these questions has given the Leadership Team renewed direction for the period ahead. Each Leadership Team member has undertaken a role and responsibility for beginning each of the key tasks identified and we will update you on progress in the up-coming newsletters.

*Patty and Peta report...Recently we attended the Associates Leadership Team Conference in Sydney. This was a wonderful 2 days of networking with Australian and Scottish Province Associate Leaders. Much was accomplished as we focussed on the ways and means for the Associate Movement to become self governing over time. The Sisters were fantastic at guiding us through this process. A working party from gathered Associates was formed and will take the next step in actioning ideas and beginning the process of looking ahead to the future. Being at Mount Street Mary MacKillop Centre, surrounded by the presence of Mary's spirit and her Sisters, was a very humbling and moving experience and one that we will treasure for a long time to come.*



# CHRISTCHURCH CELEBRATES!

Despite it being a very cold day in Christchurch, a group of around fifty faithful people, including Eleanor and myself, gathered at St Gregory's Church in Bishopdale on Sunday 7 August to celebrate this year's significant feast day of Mary MacKillop. Given that Fr Miles O'Malley RIP had loyally organised a celebration for Mary's feast day each year, we decided to dedicate this time of prayer to him in thanksgiving for his faithfulness. With the church at Dallington no longer there, Bishopdale was the obvious place to gather.

Mary MacKillop (aka Mikyla Challies from Marian College) was present to distribute inspirational sayings before and after the service to the delight of everyone! During the prayer, three women from the Providence group and two young students from St Paul's Dallington and St Joseph's Rangiora shared how Mary MacKillop helped them in their lives. This had a profound effect on those gathered.

The students, Hannah and Ben, were particularly inspiring with their obvious appreciation for the example Mary gives us. Another special moment was the singing of the Litany for Mary MacKillop cantored by Ken Joblin. Ken led us with great dignity and prayerfulness, inspiring everyone with his ability to overcome his visual impairment.

Father Ray Schmack concluded this time of prayer fittingly with a solemn blessing. The Associates of Bishopdale and the Providence group generously provided the afternoon tea. This time allowed an opportunity to catch up with old friends and to sell a few more Mary MacKillop stamps!

***Jill McLoughlin rsj***



Associates with Mary MacKillop and Hannah Everingha

# DUNEDIN CELEBRATES!



## St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast day celebrations

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August Josephite Associates celebrated the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. It was the closest Saturday to her special day the 8<sup>th</sup> August. Members and guests joined in a house mass at Trish Clark's home in Fairfield, celebrated by Fr Merv McGettigan. Fr Kevin Morton read the gospel of the day, the feast of the Transfiguration.

A shared lunch was enjoyed by the 13 people present, apologies were received from 6 members, which was followed by a study from the "Little Brown Book" by Sue and Leo Kane. "Find happiness in making others happy" St Mary said in 1899.

Myrtle Meier passed around her treasures from Penola. A cross carved to fit in the hand, with a cameo of St Mary in the centre, which was carved by college pupils of Penola's Catholic high school. Also shown was a set of medallions, which were given to her by non catholic friends from Melbourne. St Mary of the cross MacKillop reaches out to all denominations. During the festivities we sang the beautiful hymn "A Cross of Stars"

The afternoon finished with the lighting of tea light candles floating in a glass bowl of water. Fr Merv blessed these, and the names of 5 members of our group who have died since we started in 1995 were read out and prayed for along with private petitions.

A cup of tea followed this spiritual gathering and we all departed home with St Mary's spirit in our hearts.

Denise Mitchell

### **Available Resources**

A number of Associate groups have requested resource information. The best place for ordering and buying merchandise is from the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart website.

Sr. Ann recommended a great resource for groups, which is the new second addition DVD release of 'Soul of the Sunburnt Country'. This DVD includes information on St. Mary MacKillop's story, Josephite ministries, the Canonisation and testimonials.

There is also a leadership resource for Associate group formation, which group coordinators may be interested in. It is called 'A Glimpse into the Life of Mary MacKillop – The Life and Spirituality of Mary MacKillop'. Sr. Ann Neven, Sr. Katrina Brill and Sr. Monica Cavanagh have prepared this resource. Contact Sr. Margaret O'Neil at Mission Bay for further information about this pack.

Great gift ideas are the sets of Mary MacKillop Inspirational Cards, which portray quotes from St. Mary MacKillop. These also can be purchased from Sr. Margaret O'Neil.

Mary MacKillop Kiwi stamps are also still available from the Province Office @ \$5 a booklet



*Rest in Peace*

We pray for the repose of the souls of:

Marie Crosbie - Thames Associate  
Pat Restall - daughter of Mia Heaphy – Christchurch Associate  
Molly Dolheguy - foundation member of the Bishopdale Christchurch Associates Group  
Gregory George Walker - father of Jane Gunson - Whangarei Associate  
Pat Keneally – Te Awamutu Associate

### *Acknowledgements*

Over many years, these folk have given generously of their time to ensure that the newsletter is distributed around New Zealand. Our grateful thanks go to Sandra Mews for coordinating the postage, Sr. Denise, for the printing of the newsletter, and our Lady Star of the Sea for contributing to paper and printing costs.

We also thank Sr. Rita for preparing the spring prayer sheet.

We thank Associates for their generous donations, which support the cost of the newsletter. We also thank those groups, who are sending updates of addresses and contacts. This will be a great help to updating the database.

### ***Saint Mary MacKillop's Feast Day***

Many of you will have recently celebrated Saint Mary's first Feast Day as a Saint, on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Her canonisation, last October, continues to inspire us to make room for all, hear God's word, have an attitude of gratitude, do our bit and never see a need without doing something about it.

As the Leadership Team undertakes our new tasks, on behalf of the Associates, we are held up by the words of Saint Mary MacKillop

'Little did we dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning... God will provide for the future.'



Warm regards,

Peta and Jane  
on behalf of the Associate Leadership Team