

# Josephite Associates



*Friendship  
Prayer  
Service*

PO Box 57  
Kent Town SA 5071  
[sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

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## Summer 2011

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### Josephite Associate Conference, Sydney...by Lucia Ciocca

The Conference for Josephite Associates was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August in North Sydney. It was a time when Associates from Australia, New Zealand, and Scotland gathered together to reflect on the following questions: *Who are we as Associates?* and *Where to from here?*

The Conference began on Sunday evening when each Province group shared what they considered to be the highlights and challenges for their group over the past three years and, most importantly, what they hoped for in the coming years. This time proved to be quite interesting. I became aware that, whilst our motto *Prayer Friendship Service* unites us, each Province group of Associates brings this to life in a unique way. Sr Eileen Lenihan, when reflecting on the Congregation's Hopes and Dreams, addressed the following points -

- \*Strong sense of identity
- \*Ways to:
  - nurture spiritual lives
  - share Mary MacKillop's and Sister's charism
  - increase membership
  - network across the world
- \*Mission focussed projects
- \*Life-giving, self governing structures
- \*Self-sustaining structures
- \*Succession plan for leadership

As the Conference progressed, the above points were explored further. Particular importance was given to *Life-giving, self governing structures*. We identified ourselves as being in a time of transition - from Sisters in the leadership roles, to Associates in the leadership roles. Here in South Australia we are fortunate in having worked towards the *self governing structure* and have Mary Hemmings and Di Colborne as our leaders. We are confident that the future will be an exciting one as we journey to a new imagining in light of the Josephite charism.

On Monday Sr Monica Cavanagh's session, *Saint Mary MacKillop - Drawing on her wisdom for Josephite Associates today*, gave us a deeper insight into the life of our first Saint. Our motto was explored through the Micah text :~

Act Justly	<i>Service</i>
Love Tenderly	<i>Friendship</i>
Walk Humbly with God	<i>Prayer</i>

Mary MacKillop was a woman who anchored herself in God's love, and from this place, she drew the strength to become a source of God's love in our world. How are we, as Associates, a source of God's love in our world? Sr Monica's presentation called us to reflect more deeply on a spirituality that *holds and embodies all that it means to be Australian*. Like Mary we, too, are called to move out beyond familiar boundaries.

How do we as Associates move out beyond familiar boundaries? Where will the future take us? How will we shape our future?

We came away with many questions, yet we were gifted with deeper insights into the life of Mary MacKillop. There is much work to be done and a small group of Associates from various Provinces has agreed to meet in order to discuss some of the above questions, as well as explore other issues important to the Josephite Associates. Patsy Sandretti, Mary Hemmings and I give thanks to the SA Province for having given us the opportunity to attend the Conference.

## Sharing my story Bridgette Barrett

I was born on the Yorke Peninsula, but moved as a young child and did most of my schooling in Adelaide. My parents are Anglican and as such I celebrated all my initial sacraments in the Anglican tradition. I chose nursing as a career and met my husband at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I married in 1982, and my husband wanting to be a country doctor, we moved to Kadina. We spent 11 years in Kadina having our children, 1 daughter and 3 sons. Shortly after the birth of our first child and seeking her baptism I joined in celebration at the Catholic Church. So began my journey to Catholicism and subsequent Confirmation into the Catholic faith at Wallaroo.

The children attended the Josephite school at Wallaroo, Kalori, and we developed a strong bond with the sisters, both through the school and the Kadina community. In 1993 we embarked on a journey with the volunteer organization PALMS which is celebrating its Jubilee of 50 years this year. When Sr Margaret Donnelly heard of our plans she immediately said you have to be a "Josephite Associate". Her sister had been a missionary in Kiribati, but was lost at sea travelling between islands. PALMS still sends people to many Pacific places including Kiribati, but we spent 18 months near Rabaul at a MSC German Catholic mission Vunapope in New Guinea. My husband worked in the 350 bed hospital and I did volunteer work at the school that the children attended and with various women's groups such as combating domestic violence. This was a particularly rewarding time in our lives working, living, and praying in friendship and service with the local people.

On our return the children attended St Joseph's Hectorville and my daughter continued at Mary MacKillop College. I was actively involved in the Parents and Friends at the College and also was employed to care for the sisters in Tappeiner Court hostel. That has since been demolished and many of the sisters that I cared for have also gone to God, fortunately not too many while I was looking after them!



A recent photo of Bridgette in Greece

I now continue to practise my faith at Tranmere where I am involved in liturgy, RCIA as required and reading and Eucharistic minister. I have completed most of a Bachelor of Theology, but didn't quite finish it, so I welcome the chance to participate in service, prayer and continuing formation that the Josephite Associate group offers.

*"We are but travellers here."*  
MMK

## SA Associates Day of Reflection at Sevenhill By Colleen Stewart

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011, a number of women Associates and one brave man travelled from Adelaide to the Jesuit Retreat Centre at Sevenhill in the beautiful Clare Valley. They were joined by other Associates from Edithburgh, Snowtown, Blyth, Jamestown and Georgetown for a day retreat.

The venue was a renovated barn which felt very significant! (Now owned by the Jesuits.)



Val De Brenni and Lucia Ciocca were the leaders and the theme was, "The woman at the well."

Each person was issued with a journal to record thoughts and feeling.

Throughout the day we were shown videos, listened to a song, listened to readings, did private reading, studied pictures, had discussions and had a blessing ritual.

Also we had two opportunities to walk in the splendid gardens. *"The grounds, shrines, Stations of the Cross, walking paths and surrounding vineyards create an environment conducive to encountering God in a restful and peaceful rural setting."* There was even a small dam close to the buildings.



Thank you to Brother Ian and two ladies who kept us well nourished by providing morning and afternoon tea and a delicious lunch.

## Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the Masses on the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month.

If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to phone Anne Slattery on **8332 8232**. Anne has an answering machine, so please leave a message if Anne is not home. Alternatively you may let one of the Committee members know.

## "Please put me on the List"

Would you like to receive this Associate Newsletter by email? It can be done very easily. You would be able to see the photographs in colour and it would also be environmentally friendly.

Should you choose to be included on this secure list please telephone Anne Slattery on **8332 8232** or email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)



## Report from Murray Bridge by Elaine Boyce and Maureen Howard

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August, the day of the Josephite Associates' meeting, was a beautiful early spring day. The weather and the church grounds couldn't have been more perfect for a display of Peruvian Crafts for sale. The Mary MacKillop International Mission (MMIM) supports community development programmes in East Timor and Peru and one method of raising money is through the sale of Peruvian Crafts brought to Murray Bridge by Sr Mary McNamara and Sr Chris Symonds from Penola. Parishioners were lavish in praise of the articles displayed and many were purchased. The money raised is used for short term community support programmes, such as providing food and medicines, and for longer term building programmes that help bring about substantial change in both East Timor and Peru.

After the 10:30am Mass and the Craft Stall we gathered to acknowledge the Josephite presence in our parish which was celebrating its centenary. Our original guest speaker, Paul Murphy, was unable to attend and we thank Sr Majella for stepping in. Our other Josephite Associate guests were Carla Mastrangelo and Julie Langman.

After a wonderful, pooled luncheon and some time for a "bit of a chat" Sr Majella led us through a succession of images of St Mary MacKillop which took us on a part of her journey. A series of Mary's quotations were brought to life with the beautiful slides. It helped us more deeply relate to Mary and the Josephite charism. We also took note and discussed the age Mary was when she wrote many of her quotations – it was easy to see that Mary was a truly remarkable and courageous woman from a very early age. Two favourite quotes are, "We have much for which to be thankful" and "God will provide for the future."

During our meeting we also discussed what it meant to be an Associate. As we move forward we cannot rely on Sr Maria to be there to lead us. We need to take responsibility for our meetings in the future, whether those meetings be at a member's home, in the church hall or a coffee shop. We would also love to see more of our Murray Bridge parishioners joining our wonderful Association.

Towards the end of our meeting we all participated in a small ceremony where new and "old" members committed / re-committed to the Josephite Associates. Four of our newer Associate members, Elaine, Cathy, Joy and Luisa were presented with their Associate badges and certificates. (The rest of us received certificates also.) No gathering with Sr Majella would be complete without her leading us in song.

*"Always be generous  
with God." MMK*

## Our Associate Country Contacts

Jamestown (*P Sandretti*)

Murray Bridge (*J Langman*)

Port Lincoln (*D Colborne*)

Margaret Williams 8664 1739 and Colleen Stewart 8662 4185

Maureen Howard 8532 1520

Julie Palmer 8682 3655 (at St Joseph's School)

## Fundraising for 2012

In 2010 our fundraising focus was Peru (usually through raffles at our gatherings).

In 2011 our fundraising focus has been Ain Karim.

In 2012 our fundraising focus will be the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

# News from the Mary MacKillop Centre

Compiled by Sr Patricia Keane rsj

The Mary MacKillop Centre will be closed from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012.

## ***By popular demand:* Penola and the South East Pilgrimage - No 2**

The weekend of 19—21 October 2012

Bookings are now being received. Don't miss out this time.

Phone: 8364 5311 for more details

NB This pilgrimage date has been changed. It was previously advertised as being on the weekend of 26—28 October. Due to unforeseen circumstances it has had to be put forward one week.

## **CHRISTMAS AT MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE**

This year we have quite a selection of CHRISTMAS SPECIALS suitable as gifts.

- ◆ We have some beautiful Christmas Cribs of various prices. A few years ago it was very difficult to purchase these.
- ◆ We also have a selection of children's Christmas books.
- ◆ For the months of November and December many of our books are selling at discounted prices.
- ◆ For your convenience we also have a selection of Christmas cards.
- ◆ I am able to purchase from Sevenhill Cellars direct on your behalf, the St Mary MacKillop red and white wines.

To find out more ring 8364 5311

It would be well worth a visit to the Centre on Monday—Thursday between 10am and 4pm.

## Do you have your 2012 Josephite Calendar?

If you would like to be a Josephite Calendar ambassador perhaps you could remind the Parish Secretary that the Calendars are available and can be sold along with the Columban Calendar. I know many people have a life long allegiance to the Columban Calendars, however it would be good to have a choice. RRP is \$6.50.

To place an order please telephone the Mary MacKillop Centre on 8364 5311, or to purchase a calendar or other Christmas items, visit the Centre at 19 Phillips Street, Kensington.

*"We have much for which to be thankful." MMK*



# Diary Dates for 2011 and 2012

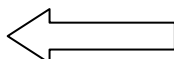
## St Mary MacKillop's Monthly Mass and Reflection

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> of each month (except Sundays)  
Time: 10.30am (Mass) and 5.45pm (Reflection)  
Place: Kensington Chapel, 286 Portrush Rd, Kensington

Please note that the 8<sup>th</sup> January is a Sunday and that there will be NO Mass.

## A Musical Evening

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2011



Note change of date

From 7pm

Bethany Hall, Province Centre  
4 High St, Kensington



Associates, families and friends are invited to an evening's entertainment. This is an opportunity to socialise with others in an informal setting in an informal way. Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj will lead us and have us singing and laughing.

Please bring a plate of supper to share as well as one inexpensive Christmas tree decoration per person.

So, come along. Bring a friend! Wear your favourite Christmas colours.

Please contact Mary Hemmings with numbers and if you need transport. The telephone number is 8355 5365 or email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Reflection Day leading into the season of LENT

10:30am for an 11am start through until approx. 3pm

Bethany Hall, Province Centre, 4 High St, Kensington

Bring lunch to share

Please contact Anne Slattery with numbers and if you need transport. Anne's telephone number is **8332 8232**. Anne has an answering machine, so please leave a message if Anne is not home. Alternatively, you may email us at [sa.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:sa.associates@sosj.org.au)

"God will provide for the future." MMK

## Subscriptions for 2011 – 2012

You can still pay for your membership for this financial year (2011 – 2012). Please complete the form from our Winter newsletter and post, together with your payment of \$15 which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer, Gerald Hinton, 25 Chapel St, Campbelltown, 5074. Alternatively, you can see anyone from the Committee who will be more than happy to pass it on.

# OUR PRAYER OF BIRTH AND ORIGINS

Begin with reading the genealogy leading to Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Matthew 1:1-17.

The presence of the four women, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba presents us with a surprise that we are not meant to ignore. Normally a Jewish genealogy would not feature women, but these women, who are anything but models of the great Jewish matriarchs are highlighted as critical figures in God's scheme of things.

Matthew wants us to view them as representing 'holy irregularities' in God's plan. We are called to acknowledge that our God has an amazing capacity 'to write straight with crooked lines!' This can prompt us all to re-look at any skeleton we might find in the family cupboard and to gaze with wonder at how the God of surprises has been active in our personal history.

*It was you who created my inmost self,  
and put me together in my mother's womb;  
For all these mysteries  
I thank you: for the wonder of myself,  
for the wonder of your works.*

Ps 139:13-14

As you look with this faith perspective at your family tree, name those who have been significant for you in your journey. Look at those who have nurtured you into life, those who were or are kindred spirits who brought your faith to birth. Do not overlook the 'holy irregularities!' Mary MacKillop would surely have mentioned her father, Alexander, at this point!

In prayer, consider the gifts and strengths which have come into your life from these foremothers and forefathers. What limitations and vulnerability have they passed on to you? How conscious are you of your likeness to these ancestors? How are you different? What aspect of your own spirituality do you wish to pass on to those in the next generation?

## **With Mary MacKillop, we can pray:**

Jesus, you came into our midst as one of us,  
sharing our humanity,  
like us in all but our sinfulness.

You bore the imprint of your family line;  
you enjoyed the virtue and quality  
of those who lived with integrity.

With compassion, you grieved for  
those whose lives were broken  
or destructive or even scandalous.

Enable us to recognise the power of goodness  
and creativity that flows into our lives  
through our family background.

Assure us of your presence  
when we face what is flawed  
so that your mystery dwells with us at all times.

May we grow in wisdom and grace  
within our family circle.



## THE LIVING WATER

*Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."*

John 4:14

### For Reflection ~

The Samaritan woman was not at all prepared for her meeting with Christ. As a woman she expected to be ignored, yet Jesus spoke words that pierced the very depths of her soul. As a Samaritan she anticipated, from any Jew, only hostility; from Jesus she received understanding and respect. The woman offered Jesus water from the well; he offered her a spring of living water.

The living water is the Spirit of God dwelling within each one of us. The Spirit waits only to be freed, freed to flow into, to cleanse, and to replenish every facet of our lives. With God our Creator as its source, this living water, the Spirit, renews with creative blessing all our thoughts, actions, and words.

*from Birth ~ a Guide for Prayer by J Bergan and M Schwan*

### To Ponder ~

\*Mary MacKillop was filled with the Spirit of God ~ the living water. When, like Mary, do I show understanding and respect?

\*How do I enable the Spirit of God dwelling within me, to be freed?

### Prayer ~

God our Mother,  
Living Water, River of Mercy, Source of Life,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
who quenches our thirst, refreshes our weariness,  
bathes and washes and cleanses our wounds,  
be for us always a fountain of life'  
and for all the world a river of hope  
springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair.

*Miriam Therese Winter*