



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates Locked Bag 3031 BURWOOD NSW 1805 (Letters only) • 5 Alexandra Ave Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2012

Dear Josephite Associates,
The following blessing is extended to all Josephite Associates. This blessing was part of the prayer ritual at the Annual General Meeting, where for the first time elected persons were **called** by Sister Mary Quinlan, the NSW Provincial, into a Governance Role. What does the election of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary mean to the Josephite Associates in New South Wales? We (the elected) **are called to serve you as we move to self governance**. Due to the aging reality of the Josephite Sisters we realise that their mission will not be the same as it is today. Sister Mary Quinlan in her wisdom had the foresight to set up the Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc. with its own Constitution in order that we continue into the future. The Josephite Associates office at the Croydon Province Centre is where the business affairs will be managed by **volunteers**. There are numerous Josephite Associates in NSW who would be more than capable of holding elected positions but due to their circumstances of distance, cannot work at the Croydon Province Centre. This is not to stop their involvement and we encourage contact by phone, email and letter with ideas and suggestions as we move to accept this change to self governance.

This year 2012 is designated by the Church as **The Year of Grace** – what a most wonderful title for all Josephite Associates to embrace. Grace is a virtue from God, the moral quality of kindness. Grace is living a life of love and kindness towards others. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”(Ephesians 2:8-10) .

The person we are trying to model our lives upon, St Mary of the Cross, experienced an **outpouring of grace from God** at her excommunication. Father Paul Gardiner SJ in his book *An Extraordinary Australian Mary MacKillop* describes how Mary felt: “I do not know how to describe the feeling, but I was intensely happy and felt nearer to God than I had ever felt before. The sensation of the calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.” This acceptance of her Cross at that moment can only be through the **grace of God**.

Each person we meet is an encounter with God, may we be gracious, kind and loving and see the face of God in each person. Wishing all Josephite Associates every blessing in 2012.

Leonie Bell President

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc.

28th Josephite Associates AGM – 17th September 2011

The 28th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Josephite Associates was held on 17th September 2011 at Marian Court, Strathfield. This issue of the Newsletter contains reports from the AGM.
JA Office Management Team



Blessing

May the peace of Christ enfold you.
The love of God and His trust motivate you.
The Spirit of Wisdom guide you.
The joy of Josephite Associate's life shine within you!
The gift of Friendship continue to enrich you.
The gift of Service be alive within reality,
and your life be, as always,
A Prayer.

Clare Noonan rsj

28th AGM Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc.

17th September, 2011

Take Time

Take time to rest – it is the foundation of health and vitality.
Take time to think – it is the source of achievement.
Take time to read – it is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to play – it is the secret of staying young.
Take time to be quiet – it is opportunity to seek God.
Take time to share – it is too short a life to be selfish.
Take time to be aware – it is the opportunity to help others.
Take time to laugh – it's the music of the heart.
Take time to be loved – it nourishes the soul.
Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness.
Take time to pray – it is the greatest power on earth.
Take time to dream – it's the well of inspiration.
There is a time for everything.
“There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

AGM – Voting Process

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND: AGM JA Postal Voting

The President of the AGM, Clare Noonan rsj, updated members about Postal Voting procedures, the benefits and outcomes of the Postal Voting.

Clare thanked all members who nominated and voted. She also took the opportunity to thank the many long term JA Members who wrote supporting the new directions, and offered prayer support and statements of encouragement regarding changes.

Clare explained the philosophy behind the Postal Voting procedure as an opportunity for all Members to be:

1. Involved in the process of voting (1400)
2. Open to nominations or free to decline
3. Accountable for their decision to either vote or not vote
4. Responsible for the outcome
5. Supportive of and loyal to the newly elected Office Bearers
6. Affirmed in their prayerful support for the spiritual life of the JAs

Clare gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing AGM caretakers.

ELECTED OFFICERS for JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES:

Leonie Bell – President/Chairperson

(There were 6 members nominated for this position)

Beverley Badcock – Vice president

(There were 8 members nominated for this position)

Jacque Oudin – Treasurer **

(There were 4 members nominated for this position)

NOTE: ** Jacque Oudin resigned her position in October 2011 – due to work commitments.

Eileen Stevenson (a nominee for this position) was appointed as AGM Elected Officer.

Maureen Rayner– Secretary

(There were 6 members nominated for this position)

These positions will be effective for two years. The next Postal Voting will be at the 30th JA AGM in 2013.

We take this opportunity to thank Jacque, who presented an excellent 2011 AGM Financial Report; we wish her well and look forward to re-connecting at our JA Gatherings.

Report from JA Office November 2011

Associates Office

Locked Bag 3031
Burwood NSW 1805 (Letters only)
5 Alexandra Ave Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)
(02) 8741 2334
associates@sosjnsw.org.au

The Editorial Team

Editor: Christine Sivewright

Team Members: Helen Bache, Leonie Bell, Anne Downey,
Jacque Oudin

Design and Print: Paul McMahan

AGM - Summary - Transitional Leader (TL)

At the 28th AGM, Clare Noonan rsj delivered her final speech as Transitional Leader of the NSW Josephite Associates. While Clare will remain as TL to the end of 2012, her role and involvement will take a new direction and purpose. Each of you, as a member of the Associates, will receive an individual copy of Clare's Report, which captures a reflective summary of JA Transition: what has been achieved during 2010 and 2011; current reality; movements into Stage 3 as Self Governance Associates.

In 2012, at our 29th AGM, we will ritualise with the Provincial Sister Mary Quinlan our final change. The Josephites, via the Provincial, will commission the Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc. to their final ownership for Governance and Leadership Services.

Thank you for your wonderful prayerful and active support. May God continue to bless us as we work together within our values of Friendship, Prayer and Service under the banner of our Australian Saint - Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

JA Office Management Team



AGM Praying for the JA RIP Members 2011



JA 28th AGM – Blessing Governance Group

The newsletter is now available on the Web, at
<http://www.sosj.org.au/connect/NSWAssociates.html>



www.marymackillop.org.au

AGM – Annual Report - President's Report

The President, Clare Noonan rsj, thanked all volunteers for their support of the Josephite Associates. The report spelled out the many activities that involved JA fulfilment of service to others. Specific appreciation of support from Mary Quinlan rsj, Josephite Provincial, was expressed.

Many goals were achieved by the Office Management Team. Operational services to members were developed, improved and documented. A spirit of unity in purpose and change, among members, made this possible.

Our President provided a comprehensive report of Stage 2 of our JA Transition. A copy is available on request from the JA Office.

Mary Quinlan rsj, Provincial NSW, delivered an encouraging outline of the JA Journey to date, expressing her full support to all Associates while committing a financial contribution towards the future planning in relation to Stage 3: Governance Program. The presentation of the Constitution of the Josephite Associates was a significant movement towards change in service leadership, governance and sustainability.

In conclusion, the opportunity was taken by the President to acknowledge the support, understanding and prayers of all members, thus signifying a strong commitment of NSW Josephite Associates to...

Working Together to Ensure 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 these paths
changes both the maker and the destination.

(JA Handbook)



Thank you for supporting me in my fundraising in the City2Surf 2011. With your help I was able to raise \$2,025.00. This means 471 Cambodian children will receive financial literacy lessons for one year to learn how to save for a brighter future.

Catherine Burgess JA

Lakemba Group

Josephite Community Aid (JCA) Christmas Hampers

Josephite Community Aid is a group committed to aiding people who are poor and underprivileged through the dedication of young volunteers.

This year, the Josephite Associates and the Lakemba JA Group each donated a hamper towards the JCA 2011 Christmas Hamper Appeal.

The JCA hampers are organised annually at the NSW Province Centre in early December. Goods received for these hampers are organised and delivered by members of the JCA and other helpers, approximately 300 hampers are delivered. Most of the benefactors are families who have limited contact with Australians. These families look forward to the company of the young visitors. They share a cup of tea and a conversation together.

May the JCA work continue to flow abundantly over the years to come, especially for their generosity of time, commitment and spirit.

HA Bache JA Lakemba Group

JA Corner

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.

February 2012:

- Governance Group meeting 4th-5th February

March 2012:

- St Joseph's Feast Day celebration 17th March

May 2012:

- Governance Group Meeting 19th May
- Prayer Day at Auburn 15th May

June 2012:

- Grave Sites Tour (Gore Hill, Macquarie Park, Waverley, Rookwood) 16th June - Please phone Associates Office 8741 2334 for bookings.

October 2012:

- National Pilgrimage 24th October – 3rd November

JA PRAYER DAY

Led by Sr Mary Flynn rsj

Tuesday 15th May 2012 Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

McDermott House

Corner Alice and Queen Streets AUBURN

Contact:

Vicki Vartuli Phone: (02) 9874 8694

Helen Bache Phone: (02) 8741 2334

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Cuppa provided **Please BYO lunch**

Living Treasures of Bangalow/Byron Bay/Mullumbimby JAs

Two of our group recently celebrated very significant birthdays: Marge Buckley turned 95 on 5th June and Peggy Finch turned 94 on 16th June. Both ladies were able to attend our July meeting and it gave us much pleasure to have the opportunity to spoil them both with flowers and cake. Both these ladies are “living treasures” and a wonderful inspiration to the rest of our group. Marge proudly told us about her great aunt, Joanna Murphy, who entered the convent in the time of Mary MacKillop, taking the religious name of Sr de Chantal. Marge has memories of her parents going to Mount Street and Hunters Hill to visit Sr de Chantal shortly before her death, around 1928. Marge has other memories of her great uncle Timothy Buckley, who often drove Mary MacKillop around the countryside in his horse and buggy. Marge is a foundation member of the Bangalow Josephite Associates group, which began approximately 20 years ago. Marge has lived in the Bangalow area all of her life and has strong connections with the Parish. When the Parish decided to build self-care units for the over 55s in the grounds of St Kevin’s Church, Marge was the first to put her name down and the first to move in. The Parish asked for suggestions as to what the units should be named. It was the year of Mary MacKillop’s beatification so Marge suggested MacKillop Place, and so it came to be. That was almost 20 years ago and Marge still has her home there. A few years ago Marge acquired a statue of Mary MacKillop and the residents had it blessed and installed in an open grotto, surrounded by fragrant shrubs, at the top of the drive way, just outside her unit.



Peggy also has strong connections to the Sisters of St Joseph. Her mother’s sister, Olive Mary Scullin, who was born in 1888, joined the Sisters in the time of Mary MacKillop and took the name Sr Mary Delphine. She was a music teacher and Peggy remembers her being at convents in Warialda, Clovelly, Glen Innes, Fairfield and Camperdown. Visits to Aunt Olive were always most enjoyable occasions for all the family. Mary MacKillop was often part of the conversation around the home during Peggy’s childhood. Peggy remembers one particular Christmas when Sr Mary Delphine arrived at the family gathering at her grandparents’ home in Auburn, where she delighted Peggy and her brothers when out from under her voluminous sleeves came a doll for Peggy and cricket bats and balls for the boys! Peggy has a photo of herself when she was only two months old with Sr Mary Delphine and her mother. Peggy’s parents were living in Inverell at that time and her mother took her the 42 miles by bus to Glen Innes to introduce the new baby to Aunt Olive. Another connection between Peggy’s family and the Sisters of St Joseph, which continues on from those early days, is a music bursary for underprivileged children, created when Peggy’s uncle John (Jack) Scullin left his estate to the Sisters. They called it the Delphine bursary, in honour of Sr Mary Delphine. It is Peggy’s understanding that this bursary still exists today. Peggy’s father worked for the Post Office and the family moved from place to place. Five years of her education was with the Sisters of St Joseph. Having lived in Sydney as a child and as a married woman, Peggy has had the opportunity to visit the tomb of Mary MacKillop on many occasions.

Jan Lang JA
Bangalow/Byron Bay/Mullumbimby Group

News from the Mullumbimby/Byron Bay/ Bangalow JAs

The Mullumbimby/Byron Bay/Bangalow JAs are a group of 20 women who meet four times a year for prayer and fellowship, as well as gathering together for an end-of-year Christmas Party. Members keep the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop alive in their daily lives through their interaction with their families, community and Parishes. The Sisters of St Joseph had schools in all three towns, so those of us who are local, were all educated at Josephite schools.

As part of the Josephite family, our group offers financial assistance to the Mission of the Sisters of St Joseph in three ways: by buying and selling calendars; by collecting used stamps from parishioners and local businesses, which we send to Mount Street to be sold for the Mission in Peru; and once a year we hold a Street Stall in Bangalow, the proceeds of which go to the Sisters’ Mission in East Timor, providing educational resources to the Timorese children.

This year was the fifth year we have conducted the Street Stall. Despite a very wet day, the JAs and their friends stacked the tables with all manner of crafts, mouth-watering home cooking, locally grown produce, pickles, relish, jewellery, second hand books and pot plants. Members also contributed grocery items for a huge raffle. Dot Gill, Frances Raisch, Jill Stobbart-McIntosh, Marie Cook, Rita Harriott and Jan Lang “manned” the stall from 7.30 am till 1 pm. At the end of the day, a cheque for \$1,359.65 was forwarded to “Head Office”. A wonderful result!

Each time we meet, we try to broaden our knowledge of St Mary of the Cross by reading about her life and having a discussion, to share our insights and thoughts about what we have read. Last year we read through the book *Mary MacKillop: An Inspiration for Today*, edited by Pauline Wicks rsj, and this year we are reading through *God Will Take Care of Us All* by Pauline Wicks rsj.

Jan Lang JA
Bangalow/Byron Bay/Mullumbimby Group

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

Helping Hand

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother,
Hold it firmly lest I fall.
I am nervous when I’m walking,
So today I humbly call.

Guide me over every crossing,
Watch me when I’m on the stairs,
Help me with my undertakings,
Lessen many of my cares.

When the evening falls around me,
And I fear to be alone,
Take my hand, O Blessed Mother,
Once again and lead me home.

Ancient Irish Prayer

Celebrating Father John Alt's 50 Years of Priestly Ordination

On the morning of 12th August 2011, Josephite Associates from Lidcombe and fellow parishioners of St Joachim's Parish attended a special Mass for Fr John Alt's Golden Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. Fr Tibebe, who spent some time with Fr John at Lidcombe, concelebrated Eucharist with Father John.

The readings were taken from Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Feast Day, which was celebrated earlier in the week. Fr John spoke of the courage that Saint Mary had always shown when faced with the many trials that occurred within her own family and from senior members of the Church. Saint Mary was not one to fain away from such difficulties. Rather she saw these challenges as being God's will and firmly believed God would always be there to assist her.

After Mass, Frs John and Tibebe, along with the local Parish Priest, Fr Eduardo, joined the Associates and parishioners for lunch at Dooley's Catholic Club, Lidcombe. This was a great opportunity to congratulate Father John and to thank him for his friendship and spiritual support to the Associates in his time as Parish Priest of St Joachim's.



Fr John, a Josephite Associate, attended all the monthly prayer gatherings and the various social activities that the group had organised. He was truly a friend and great support to us all. It was also fitting to welcome Fr Tibebe back to Lidcombe as he, too, was a regular presence at our monthly gatherings during his time at Lidcombe.

Geoff Barrett JA
Lidcombe Group

Coming Events

Mary MacKillop Place 7 Mount Street North Sydney

Wednesdays with Saint Mary MacKillop

10.30am – 12.30pm

February 29th	"Beginning the Dream" – Childhood and Family
March 28th	"Youthful Dreams" – The young woman
April 25th	"The Dream Realised" – Penola, Adelaide and Expansion
May 30th	"The Dream Darkens" – Excommunication Reinstatement and Beginning again
June 27th	"The Dream Acknowledged" – Approbation from Rome
July 25th	"The Dream Divided" – The Separation
August 29th	"A Troubled Dream" – Difficulties with Bishops and help from Supporters
September 26th	"Refocussing the Dream" – Challenging Times and New Beginnings
October 31st	"Entering the Dream" – Vulnerability, Ageing and Death
November 28th	"Dream into the Future – The Challenge of Mary's legacy

For further information phone

Sr Monica Barlow rsj

02 8912 4818

or email: mackillop@sosj.org.au

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Requiescant in Pace

Keith Boidin, husband of Beryl Boidin (Lalor Park);
Sr Norma Campbell rsj;
Sr Therese Carroll rsm; sister of Sr Catherine rsj, aunt of Sr Therese rsj;
Patrick Causer, student at Tahmoor, aged 17;
May Coughlan (Moree);
Sr Elizabeth Daley rsj;
Neita Edgton (Dulwich Hill);
Alan Gooley, brother of Sr Margaret rsj;
Nola Hehir (Fisher ACT)
Tim Keane, brother of Srs Margaret, Ellen, Mary and Teresa rsj;
Sr Betty McDonald rsj;
Margaret (Peg) McDonald (Cooma);
Joan McGuire, sister in Law of Srs Marie and Leonie rsj;
Ted O'Driscoll, brother of Sr Mary rsj;
Sr Margaret Press rsj;
Hazel Shallala, sister of Dawn Fitzpatrick (Lidcombe);
Sr Mary White rsj;
Ron Williams, brother of Monica Brown (Lalor Park).

Prayers for the Sick

Megan Barnett (Lidcombe);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Dennis Clarke (Lalor Park);
Eve Cummings, mother of Sr Connie rsj;
Joan Harrison rsj;
Beryl Haywood (Bass Hill);
Anne Jones (Warialda);
Paul Landrigan (Penrith);
Helen McRedie (Lidcombe);
Jim and Jonny O'Connell, brothers of Sr Bridie rsj;
Tony O'Connor, brother of Sr Christina rsj;
Shirley Reed (Bingara);
Christine Riley (Penshurst);
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);
Gwen Witton (Penrith)

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the

Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

Stamps

5 Alexandra Avenue

Croydon NSW 2132

Phone 02 8741 2334

Fax 02 8741 2399

New Statue of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop



The first anniversary of the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on the 17th October 2011 greeted travellers to North Sydney with grey clouds and threatening rain. The Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Geoffrey Robinson and during the Mass the new Statue of St Mary of The Cross MacKillop was blessed. As the official party walked towards the Statue for the blessing, four students from St Mary's Primary School North Sydney commenced unveiling the statue with its drapes and ribbons. A huge gust of wind lifted the material high up into the air and a burst of sunshine revealed the beautiful new Statue and remarkably the gamp around the neck looked white even though the statue is bronze. I personally felt this was a real sign from God and Mary and a moment to be treasured. My feelings were also confirmed by the media staff filming this ceremony. We felt we had witnessed and been part of this spiritual encounter. May all who visit the Chapel at North Sydney receive many graces as they find peace and joy as they view the Statue mounted on sandstone, set in landscaped gardens.

Leonie Bell JA North Sydney Group

Many in South Australia know the work of sculptor, Judith Rolevink, especially the statue of Mary MacKillop with two children outside the Cathedral of St Francis Xavier. In 2010 the Congregational Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saint Joseph commissioned Judith to create a new bronze statue of Mary to go in front of the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in North Sydney - the place where Mary is buried.

After months of deep reflection on the person of Mary MacKillop and sheer hard work, Judith has created a wonderful new image of Mary - Mary as the middle aged woman who first came to live in North Sydney - Mary who was renowned for her attentive listening to the Word of God and her amazing capacity for written communication. The right hand of the image reaches out in welcome to all who come. Sister Anne Derwin in her reflection on the statue said, "The sculpture, which depicts Saint Mary offering her right hand, shows that she is continuing to reach out to others. She will be there for generations as a source of inspiration for all."

Judith spent many hours reflecting on Mary MacKillop, who journeyed with her during the creation of the statue. She said, "I felt very intensely about getting her with kind eyes to be the person she was - an extraordinary Australian who was really out there doing things by her own enthusiasm. I wanted to portray her as someone very able." Judith has definitely achieved her desires.

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(October 19, 2011) (edited extract)*

... Not forgetting

Film shot by Max Stahl on Nov 12, 1991 finally woke the world to take notice of what was going on in East Timor. Reports of massacres in previous years had been played down as exaggerations, but here was visual proof. The camera was the eyewitness.

The Dili Massacre (the Santa Cruz Massacre) was a major turning point in the Timorese people's long quest for freedom.

However, many bodies have not yet been discovered and no adequate enquiry has yet been held.

Santa Cruz is the name of the cemetery in Dili, East Timor, where the massacre of hundreds of young Timorese occurred on 12th November 1991. We remember their courage and sacrifice. The following litany was given to us by a young man who was there that day.

Santa Cruz (Holy Cross) Litany

Jesus, by your Holy Cross, have mercy on us.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, be our hope and our life.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, lead us in your way.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, guide us on your path.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, give us faith and courage.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, teach us humility.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, grant us wisdom.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, heal our Spirit.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, help us to bear pain.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, keep us from all evil.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, teach us forgiveness.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, pour your blessings on us.
 Jesus, by your Holy Cross, we give you thanks and praise.

Amen.



The new DVD "Timor Leste We Forget" was launched on Saturday 17th December 2011 at Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney. Using footage from World War II, the 1975 invasion, the 1991 Santa Cruz massacre and the 1999 independence ballot, the story of the Timorese people is told with poignancy and sorrow, and with great admiration. This DVD is available (suitable for use in schools parishes, homes etc.) from Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission, PO Box 299, St Marys NSW 1790. The cost of the DVD is \$20; add \$5 postage/handling, regardless of the number of copies ordered.

This article is an extract from the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission Newsletter

- used with permission.

Support for Survivors of Trafficking

November 04, 2011

Sister Margaret Ng rsj coordinates the Josephite Counter-Trafficking Project and recently presented a paper at the Regional Responses to Labour Trafficking and Refugee Movements in Asia-Pacific International Conference at the University of New England, Armidale.



Margaret's paper looks at Trafficking in Australia and the impact of the trafficking process on survivors of trafficking. It also looks at the Australian government's approach and response to trafficked persons. The response by Religious and NGOs to the needs of survivors of trafficking through the provision of holistic direct services is discussed.

*Printed with permission <http://www.sosj.org.au>
(edited extract)*

Inaugural Anti-Slavery Australia Freedom Awards Announced

November 29, 2011



When the inaugural Anti-Slavery Australia Freedom Awards were announced recently, Sister Margaret Ng rsj, Coordinator of the Josephite Counter-Trafficking Project (JCTP), received an award, presented by the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, Brendan Connor. This award pays tribute to Australian individuals and organisations who are leading the fight against slavery, people trafficking and forced labour.

In presenting the award, the following was said about the JCTP and Sr Margaret:

The JCTP is a Congregational Ministry that responds to the needs of trafficked women. They provide culturally-sensitive mentoring to enable women who have been trafficked to Australia to make informed choices. They continue to develop and maintain grassroots contacts in the Asia-Pacific region so that choices and options for women returning to their country of origin are clearly understood. Margaret works tirelessly in this work and is well respected in many areas of the sector!

*Printed with permission <http://www.sosj.org.au>
(edited extract)*

Remembering Flora at Greencape

June 14, 2011



To mark the 125th Anniversary this year of the death of Flora MacKillop on the Ly-Ee-Moon and to celebrate St Joseph's Day, six Sisters from the Eden Monaro rural ministry joined a parish pilgrimage to Greencape, south of Twofold Bay, Eden. The pilgrimage was organised by Sr Rosemary Hart, John Liston and Anne Maddock, St Joseph's School Principal. People from as far away as Mittagong, as well as locals from the Eden, Merimbula, Pambula and Wyndham areas, boarded the pilgrimage bus; many of them were Josephite Associates.

The route took us on the Chip Mill and Greencape Roads through rough terrain for about 30+ kilometres, until we reached the sandy plain with the clear view of Disaster Bay where many locals lost their lives. We gathered and prayed at the unnamed graves of those lost in the sinking of the Ly-Ee-Moon and then walked to the edge of the lighthouse cliff, where a wreath was tossed into the swirling waters in honour of Flora and all who lost their lives in that disaster.

The ritual prayer that followed on the cliff included the emotional letter from Mary to her brother Donald, informing him of the tragedy and of the loving care of Mrs Power, who took care of Flora's body when it was brought into Eden.

The return trip included a visit to the old church at Kiah, where the local ladies had prepared a very enjoyable afternoon tea.

A highlight of the pilgrimage at Kiah was a short presentation of Flora's life, given by Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan. Everyone was keenly interested, as Sr Bernadette spoke as one who carries Flora in her heart.

All were excited about the news of the near completion of Sr Bernadette's book on the life of Flora MacKillop, the mother of our first saint.

Teresa Keane rsj and Rosemary Hart rsj

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(edited extract)*

Coming Events Associates

Kincumber Retreat

19th to 21st October 2012

'The Year of Grace:

Celebrate with Mary MacKillop'
Led by Colleen O'Sullivan rsj

Cost: \$220

For further information phone
Associates Office on 02 8741 2334
or email associates@sosjns.org.au

I WILL BE THE VINE

*I will be the vine and you will be the branches,
All you who live in me will never, never die.
I will be the sign, I will offer many chances,
So live, oh, live in me, and you shall have new life.*

Remain in me, as I remain in you.
You may ask what you will,
Ask what you will,
And you shall receive. R/

As the Father loved me,
So have I loved you.
Remain in my love,
Remain in my love,
And I will give you life. R/

If you are my friends,
Will you live my commands?
There is no greater love,
No greater love
Than to lay down your life
For your friends. R/



Awesome Grace

Grace, is waking up on a frosty morning
Grace, is to put your feet on holy ground
Grace, is to say good morning to our Lord, Jesus
Grace, is to be able to hear and know the sounds.

Grace, is to see the sunrise on the hilltops
To see the dew form droplets on the flowers
Grace is to see a cobweb made so perfectly
To know it took the spider hours and hours

Grace is to feel the water running over you
Cleansing you for the day ahead
Grace to send you out to greet your neighbour
You will not know to where you might be lead.

Grace is in all our good mornings
In all our happy times shared with friends
Grace is in all our surprises
From days beginning to the days end.

Grace is in the eyes of the children
As they look to us for acceptance and compliments
Grace is here, it's there, it's all around us
If we take the time for a little openness
Grace, is in our living and our dying
Grace, is in our laughter and also in our tears
Grace, is in forgiving and forgetting
Grace, it wipes away all our fears

Grace, is so big and so awesome
It's so hard for us to take it all on board
Grace can be lost if not replenished
So fill our tanks to overflow dear Lord.

(Carol Badewitz))

(The following, in part, is taken from Joyce Rupp's book Out of the Ordinary, with variations to suit our theme)

All: Fill us with your Grace O God
R/1.... that we may be open and receptive to embrace the many ways you choose to visit our lives.

All: Fill us with your Grace O God
R/2... that we may be freed from the clutter of our lives, so that we can enjoy the beauty of life's simple things and relish the gifts we easily take for granted.

All: Fill us with your Grace O God
R/3. ...that we may be brushed free of frantic busyness, to dwell with you in the listening space of solitude and silence.

All: Fill us with your Grace O God
R/4....that we may be cleansed of anxiety and lack of trust, restoring in us an enduring faith in your abiding presence and unconditional love.

All: Fill us with your Grace O God
R/5.... so that washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love, we may move beyond whatever keeps us from union with you.

All: Fill us with you Grace O God. De-clutter our hearts from harsh judgements and negativity. Wash away our resistance to working through difficult relationships. Rinse off our un-loving so the beauty of our hearts can shine forth. Remove whatever keeps us from following in your compassionate footsteps. Amen.

Response: God, fill us with your Grace

- + On those days when life seems too demanding with all its cares, burdens, and concerns....R/
- + When we experience great loneliness deep inside and the pain of separation fills our spirit....R/
- + When we feel the pain of our world and unite in compassion with the Earth's suffering people....R/
- + When we struggle with decision-making and the time comes to make good choices about our lives...R/
- + When we are with others in their physical pain or when we vigil with one who has a terminal illness....R/
- + When we are asked to go the extra mile, to be generous with our time and our presence....R/
- + When we feel weary and worn out, when it seems like all of our energy has been drained away....R/
- + When we experience the effects of aging or extended illness on our bodies or our minds....R/
- + When we feel discouraged, desolate, and depressed and want to withdraw from others....R/
- + When worries and concerns choke our peacefulness and leave us with anxiety and fear....R/
- + When we harbour old wounds and are called to offer or to receive forgiveness...R/

All: Jesus, through our crosses we can grow closer to you. Remind us of your resurrection and help us through your Grace to keep our vision focused on life and growth. Amen.

Carol Badewitz JA
Bombala Group