



Josephite Associates, Victoria

Autumn Newsletter 2012



NEW YEAR and NEW CHALLENGES

Once again we come to the months of Autumn when the heat of summer dissipates and the golden colours of Autumn begin to appear reminding us that life is not for ever.

Many of us have enjoyed summer holidays, a break away from the normal routine and have now settled down into the challenging times of a new year.

This year we have fifteen preparing themselves to become Associates by doing the Introductory program at home. This has excited some

who have longed to be an Associate but had no group in their area to which they could belong.

Others who wish to join a group also do the Introductory program at home and can choose to share with members of the established group.

There are still parishes where Sisters have worked and shared the Josephite Charism I wish to contact and maybe establish a group who can share the mission of Friendship, Prayer and Service.

If there are any of you who receive this newsletter and would like me to come to your Parish or meet up with you please contact me by any of the ways listed on the Bulletin Board of this newsletter.

An excellent article in Kairos, the fortnightly magazine of the Melbourne Archdiocese, had a section of a talk given by Bishop Long Van Nguyen OFM bringing home to his listeners that all Australians descend from boat-people. Bishop Long was one of hundreds of boat people from Vietnam who risked their lives to find a home free from oppression, persecution and with hope for a new life for their children. The original convicts were boat people, who worked to establish themselves in this country. The MacKillop and MacDonald families were also boat people who gave us our first Saint. The thousands who came from Ireland during the potato famine, after the World Wars, also came by boat and how

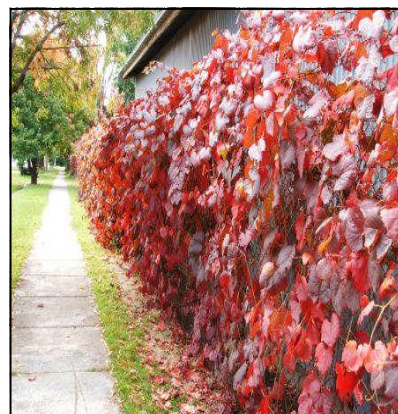
hard they struggled to make our country what it is today. Let us reflect on this and our own attitude towards those still hoping to share our freedom, risking their lives on stormy seas for the sake of their families and the hope of a better life.

We need to keep asking the question: What if that were me?

May this time of Lent bring with it for you a thirst for God, a thirst for justice and a response to the thirst of God for each of us and for all those God loves—especially the boat people!

May Easter enliven the joy of the Resurrection within your heart and bring with it the desire to share the richness of our faith with others. May you have the courage of the Apostles as they stepped out into the unknown to spread the Good News of God's love and God's desire to share our lives. Thank you to Betty Loftus for the enclosed prayer sheet.

Mary Fermio RSV



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AUTUMN REFLECTION

Once again the Season of Grace is with us, a season which is God's gift to us.

The January/February Far East has a very beautiful reflection on Lent by Fr Tom O'Reilly and I would like to quote and paraphrase some sections from his article as this month's reflection.

'We have grown up with the idea that Lent is a time for increased effort on our part—doing more penance, saying more prayers, giving more alms. We see Lent as a time to sort ourselves out and do some spiritual spring cleaning. There is some truth in this, but we often end up with the wrong perspective. We don't save ourselves, no matter how hard we try; the compassionate God saves us, without totting up our good deeds.

During Lent the main focus has to go on what God is doing for us, rather than on what we are doing for God'.

He explained how listening to a Muslim speak about the meaning of the fast of Ramadan, helped him to look on Lent in a new way. The Muslim explained that the physical hunger he feels in fasting turns his attention to the deep hunger and great need for God in his life.

'Penitential practices like fasting can get us in touch with our human fragility, vulnerability and brokenness which hunger for an experience of God' salvation'.

'In coming to the spiritual well we meet the Lord who thirsts for us. To the Samaritan Woman who came to the well, Jesus introduces himself as a thirsty person (Jn4:7) His physical thirst symbolizes his deep desire to give her the water of authentic life. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* we read: "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him."

'It is helpful to recall that prayer is not something we do, but something God does in us. Our part is to tune into the ceaseless prayer of the Spirit in our hearts. (Rom8:26)'

We also offer ourselves to be channels of God's loving outreach to those who are most deprived and broken in our world. Jesus spoke of giving alms and remitting debts as ways of making a heavenly investment which is rock solid. (Lk 12:22-24)

During this Season of Grace let us open ourselves to experience God's salvation, forgiveness and love and to channel this forgiveness and love to others.

Let us pray Ps 42:

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.
My soul is thirsting for God; the God of my life. (Grail Translation)*

Mary Fermio rsj

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATE GATHERINGS 2012

SPECIAL DAYS FOR ALL JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

PRESENTED BY

MONICA CAVANAGH RSJ

The author of Mary MacKillop, Window of Hope

**Monica will spend the day looking at the Mission of Josephite Associates
by reflecting on FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER AND SERVICE
as revealed in the life of St Mary MacKillop**

Monica, who lives in Queensland, presented some of this material at the International Associates Gathering in August 2011 and I can assure you of a highly enjoyable and enlivening presentation.

27th October	St Vincent de Paul Parish Hall, Rowell St MORWELL EAST Contact: Betty Loftus 5134 3862
28th October	Conference Centre, St Joseph's. 13 Havelock Road, HAWTHORN EAST Contact: Mary Fermio rsj 5367 2078 email: associatesvic@sosj.org.au
TIME:	10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donation \$20 BYO Lunch—Morning Tea/Coffee provid

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

OPEN DAYS

Walk in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross
on the following Saturdays:

24th March; 4th August
20th October; 24th November

TIME; 10a.m.—4 p.m.

Entry by donation; light refreshments available.
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St. East Melbourne
For more information:
Ph. 9926 9300 Visit: www.mmhc.org.au



LENTEN REFLECTIONS

A time to reflect together on the graces of this
special season.

Wednesdays: 7th March; 14th March;
21st March; 28th March; 4th April

TIME: 12.15 p.m.—12.45 p.m.

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St East Melbourne.
Tram 109 Collins St.

Alight at Cathedral and walk past Cathedral up
Albert St, to the next block opposite the Fitzroy
Gardens.

SUBSCRIPTION ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER \$20 annually

PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED SLIP with your Subscription to
enable us to keep accurate records. Should you wish to discontinue receiv-
ing the newsletter, please advise the Associates' Office at Bacchus Marsh.
Details on back page.

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2012

Please put this Date in your Diary

DATE SATURDAY

VENUE

TIME 9.45a.m—3 p.m.

28th April

CENTRAL GIPPSLAND—LEONGATHA, MORWELL, WONTHAGGI,
KOO WEE RUP, BUNYIP
St Lawrence's Parish Centre, Ogilvy St. LEONGATHA
Contact: Maureen Casey 5662 3145

19th May

WESTERN GROUP—BACCHUS MARSH, SUNBURY, SEBASTOPOL
WOODEND and any Melbourne Associates
St Bernard's Parish Centre, Lerderderg St, BACCHUS MARSH
Contact: Carmel Shea 5367 2647

16th June

EAST GIPPSLAND: BAIRNSDALE, ORBOST, MAFFRA, LAKES ENTRANCE
St Mary's Parish Hall, Duke St MAFFRA
Contact: Rosemary Wirkin 5147 2041

14th July

MELBOURNE ASSOCIATES: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre 362 Albert St
EAST MELBOURNE Contact: Mary Fermio rsj 5367 2078

18th August

NORTHERN: BENDIGO, EAGLEHAWK, HEATHCOTE
St Liborius Parish Centre, Eaglehawk Road, EAGLEHAWK
Contact: Margaret Tobias 5446 8034

22nd September

NORTH CENTRAL: NUMURKAH, NAGAMBIE, RUSHWORTH, SHEPPARTON
MacKillop Hall, Church St (Behind School) NAGAMBIE
Contact: Julie Baldwin 5794 2230

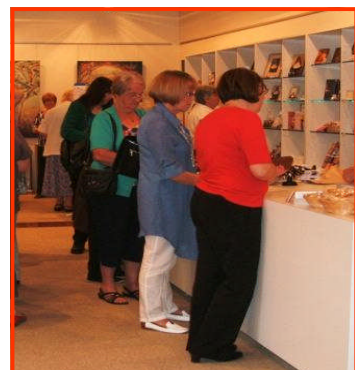
ASSOCIATES IN SWANHILL AND BEECHWORTH/TALLANGATTA
will be contacted re a day with them at a suitable time during the year.

Note change: BYO LUNCH Host group to provide simple morning tea, tea/coffee
DONATION TO BE COLLECTED FOR CORE-TEAM EXPENSES: \$5

The Morning Program will consist of two reflective sessions on the life and spirituality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. After lunch we will look at any practical matters to be considered.

Associates are encouraged to attend a Regional Meeting at least once every two years unless age or disability prevents attendance. As the same program is followed at each venue another venue rather than the one listed may be more convenient. That is your choice.

**Sr Mary will bring The Travelling Shop
and Mobile Library**



DIARY DATES FOR 2012

WONTHAGGI CENTENARY

The Centenary of St Joseph's School will be on **March 24-25, 2012** and happens to be the day when two sisters arrived one hundred years go.

'Back-to' celebrations will be on Saturday afternoon, Parents and Friends Ball that evening and the Sisters' Mass on the Sunday morning followed by picnic style lunch.

Parishioners are looking for photos and memorabilia particularly for the years before the school moved to its present site. Maybe some Associates went to school there, moved away but have some photos etc. if you send them to the school, they will be copied and returned.

St Joseph's School, PO Box 182

Wonthaggi 3995 5672 1052

Email: principal@sjwnthgi.sale.catholic.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE 2012

This year the Australian Pilgrimage will begin in Melbourne, the birthplace of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and end in Sydney where she is buried.

Wednesday **24th October** and finishes on Saturday morning
3rd November 2012.

**The Pilgrimage will leave Melbourne for Adelaide,
via Penola and then on to Sydney**

**For further details please contact
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre 03 9926 9300
email : mmhc@sosj.org.au**

we are but travellers here



HELP WOMEN TRADE OUT OF POVERTY.

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre provides opportunity to help women improve their lives by selling goods from East Timor, Peru and Aboriginal Communities in Australia. Bags, table runners, finger puppets, cot blankets, scarves from Peru, with attractive articles from East Timor.

Bush Rub useful for cuts, rashes, splits in skin, eczema and abrasions and massage oil containing Australian ingredients, are made by women in the Amata community, situated in the far Northwest of South Australia. Check out their website www.bushrub.com Customers state "*nothing has worked on my rheumatism for years until my neighbour gave me this 'green cream'.*" "*Eczema is across all generations of our family, we now have a jar in every house.*" The sale of these goods enables women to find dignity in work and the means to improve their lives

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre—362 Albert St East Melbourne.

Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

and on **Open Days** advertised in this Newsletter. The **109 Tram from Collins St** will take you to St Patrick's Cathedral, and it is a block's walk to the Heritage Centre opposite Fitzroy Gardens.

LEADERSHIP GATHERING FEBRUARY 2012

What this day meant for me! I enjoyed and was encouraged by the good humour, welcome, solidarity of all present. It is good to share such times as mostly the people we travel with do not understand. I am finding the little Brown Book excellent in giving each day a focus outside myself. Somehow the Joey ethos seems to fit me so well. ...I loved the chapel and I think it would be a good place for others of our Catholic community to visit.

Maureen Schroeter, Maffra



After a welcome cuppa, which was especially appreciated by those ladies who had begun their journey at 5.00 am by bus and train, the day opened with Betty Loftus recounting a story of one of the Sisters from her school days and this had everyone in fits of laughter—a great icebreaker!

The session on FRIENDSHIP where we brainstormed words starting with the letters, surprised us at the number of words that came forth.

Mary Fermio rsj then spelt out the Roles of the Coordinators and Associate Members. No doubt this will be well discussed at up-coming meetings, but we now have a clear understand of the roles within the group.

The shopping was very much appreciated as a chance to stock up on personal and group resources.

Did anyone notice the blue finial from the roof of the original Convent in Numurkah—rescued by Sr Madeleine and now displayed in the Museum? Thank you to all who made it a most enjoyable and refreshing day.

Marie Mitchell, Numurkah

The day was one of high camaraderie, friendship, good humour, sharing of ideas and learning. It was evident that we were members of a larger family—the Josephite family. Betty Loftus set the tone with an unforgettable ice-breaker! We even learnt a new word—boosoom!

The day was centered around the three pronged trident of Prayer, Friendship and Service.

..Especially for new groups as my own, Woodend, the sharing of ideas re Service was both beneficial and thought provoking. ...

The self tour of the chapel and museum was interesting. The Heritage Shop resources were extensive and the discount was warmly welcomed. The meal was lovely—food for the body on top of food for the soul! A thank you to all the organizers, helpers and participants. We went home with much to ponder and implement.

*Christine Nicholls-Van Order
Woodend*



REFLECTION ON LEADERSHIP DAY JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES VICTORIA

The day started on Saturday February 18 looking grey and very uninviting. However as the Josephite Associates from all over Victoria came to gather at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre for the Leaders In-Service day, commencing at 10 a.m., the sun began to sparkle and a beautiful day evolved. The type of day you should be home enjoying the fruits of the sun. However Josephite Associates came together in OPENNESS, FRIENDSHIP AND SERVICE.

I am not what you would call a full blooded Josephite Associate, although I have been to State, regional and East Hawthorn Meetings on and off for the past three years. East Hawthorn is a little unique as it gathers people from all over Melbourne for a bi-monthly meeting, so we usually do not see each other in-between times, unless living near one another. The three present from East Hawthorn spent time together in the breaks and started the process of getting to know one another and began the journey of friendship, openness and discussion on what our group may be able to achieve.

After a hymn and prayer, a reflection from page 83 "The Little Brown Book Too" by Sue and Leo Kane was used to model a way of using prayer at group meetings. Sr Mary Ryan gave us encouragement on openness with extracts from "Mary MacKillop – A Window of Hope" by Monica Cavanagh rsj concluding with this extract:

"Mary MacKillop's genuine openness to all invites us to treat with respect all whom we meet; to keep our hearts open to those in need, to those with different viewpoints, to those with different religious beliefs and to the joys and sorrows of Christ present in our world today"

Morning tea break came and the beginning of talking to others and in particular, the three from East Hawthorn started the friendship and bonding experience and a discussion on openness and how life experiences can make you apprehensive on being open and only time brings trust and true friendship.

We then went on to review and understand friendship with the following scriptural references:

Proverbs 18:24

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin

Some friends play at friendship

But a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin.

Sirach 6:14-16

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;

Whoever finds one has found a treasure.

Faithful friends are beyond price;

No amount can balance their worth.

Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;

And those who fear the Lord will find them

From New Revised Standard Version – Collins Publishers

A break for a delightful lunch, a roam through the Mary MacKillop Museum and bookstore and further discussions on friendship and how in our group we could form friendships when we are wide distances apart.

Finally a brainstorming and sharing session on Josephite Service in the Home, Parish, Local Community and Wider community with many wonderful ideas.

During the day a very comprehensive list of resources that can be used for Prayer at meetings or for personal use, as well as a sheet with a description of suggested Roles for Co-ordinator and members of groups were presented.

The day was very powerful, spiritually uplifting with a vision that can help all of us in our meeting groups. Finally I sum up with the words of Mary MacKillop (1886

"Work on with the means placed at your disposal"

Little Brown Book page 46.

Patricia Anderson



JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES 1650?

This may sound amazing—but there is a history of married or widowed laywomen who worked with the Sisters of St Joseph in Ministry.

Mary Cresp rsj, in her book *In the Spirit of Joseph*, relates the origins of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. In the 1640's a young Jesuit, Jean Pierre Medaille, was assigned to giving missions in the region around Le Puy, France. While doing this he met groups of village women who wished to become nuns but were not eligible to do so. In those days women had to provide a dowry and only women of the higher classes could hope to become nuns. All their work eg teaching or caring for orphans was done behind the convent walls.

Jean Pierre gathered those he believed to have a vocation to religious life at Le Puy. The Bishop was glad to have such a group to run the House of Charity for orphans. They were given a rule which enabled them to live without cloister viz work outside their houses.

Their whole reason for being was to come into union with the uncreated Trinity through living in union with the created trinity of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in service of the "dear neighbour" P. 15

The group conformed to the social structures of the time. They wore the dress of widows as they were the only group of women who could legally arrange their own affairs. They lived in small unnoticeable groups and accompanied each other wherever they visited or worked to avoid scandal.

Women could belong to the Sisters in two different ways:

1. those making simple vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
2. those who were "Agregées" which means 'joined' or 'associated'. These were generally country women who pledged themselves to maintain an attachment to the Congregation and shared in the life in so far as they could. The Sisters also trained Confraternities of Mercy, who were married or single laywomen who worked with them in ministry.

*The Charism is alive
in many hearts!*

Mary's book continues the history of these Sisters where records were available and not destroyed in the trauma of the revolution, when five Sisters were guillotined. She traces the Congregations that left for other parts of the world from Le Puy.

It was these Sisters that Julian Tenison Woods met when on holiday in France in 1853. He found this same spirit in Mary MacKillop. On informing Mary of the existence of these Sisters he considered getting Sisters from France.

Mary wrote to her mother:

'I have such an earnest longing for the Order of St Joseph and know well how hard it will be to get it established here, but everything God blesses will prosper, and surely His blessing attends this Holy Order; none other is so fitted for the wants of this Colony... but unless Sisters come from France it will be long before there are enough of us for the work that is to be done.' (1867) p 15 Mary MacKillop and Flora Sheila McCreanor

But Mary did not have to wait for Sisters from France. The spirit of Mary MacKillop attracted other like-minded women, for whom the requirements of becoming a Sister of St Joseph were easily met.

The Associate movement is now widespread among the different groups of Sisters of St Joseph. The charism is recognized as being present among men and women and they are able to bond with each other and with the Sisters.

One Associate explained:

"Being an Associate has turned my life around—I am part of a movement that is growing in love. These people are my extended family and we have the support and love of the Sisters" P 36 *In the Spirit of Joseph*

Others stress the ordinariness they find among the Sisters who invite them into their kitchens for a cuppa.

This book is a wonderful read and a source of much reflection on the spirit of Joseph, touching into all the Congregations who have links with Le Puy. Mary found the same spirit in all these congregations.

As Fr Joseph Sobb sj says in his review of the book: *'Mary weaves a narrative that is at once enlightening and challenging. The spirit of St Joseph, of the various communities of Josephites along with their Associates, ...emerges to delight, to hearten, and to call our Church in hope to new vision and vitality'.*

AROUND THE TRAPS

LAKES ENTRANCE

A happy group of Associates celebrating the enrolment of Jessie Harbeck (in the middle on the sofa) before gathering for lunch at the local RSL rooms. During February Louise (on Jessie's right) spent time in Cambodia with other building homes.



BUNYIP

At the final meeting in December Dorothea Camilleri and Theresa Ventura were enrolled as Associates joining a very energetic group at Bunyip. Dorothea and Theresa seated in the front row, proudly hold their Associates' Handbook.



BAIRNSDALE

During morning Mass on a Tuesday in December three Associates were enrolled to commence a new group at Bairnsdale where the Josephites had taught for 27 years from 1930 to 1957. They had faithfully completed their introductory program during the year. From left: Helen Biacci, Catherine Ludeman and Pat Coloe



WOODEND

Enrolled as a new group at Woodend during Sunday Mass are new Associates from Left: Catherine Heliard, Bruna Bombig (Sr Marie Hangar rsj) Christine Nicholls-VanOrder, (Mrs Nicholls, mother) Robyn Nicholls-Dunlevy. Sr Marie taught Christine and Robyn at Altona West and joined them for this occasion, followed by lunch at Mt Macedon with family, Sr Mary and Fr Martin Fleming pp



SUNBURY

At the 10.30 a.m. Mass on Sunday 26th February Mary Kloss and Margot Forster were enrolled as Associates. From left: Pat Readman, Mary Kloss, Jenny Coutts, Margot Forster and Mary Wicks. The group celebrated with lunch at the Bowling Club.



→→→

MARY MACKILLOP TRAVELS VICTORIA

BY MARY WICKHAM RSM

Continued from Spring edition:

Mary MacKillop was kind, but she was also, to use the Scots word, canny. She possessed a certain native shrewdness and did not like being taken advantage of, as the following incident makes clear:

Father Costello came to see us off—paid for the cab. Man met us at Wycheproof; drove to the child's home...then drove back to the station. Though I am sure Fr Costello paid for this cab, the man took two shillings from me when I asked him his fare.

It becomes apparent in reading Mary's account of her travels just what solidarity there was amongst the Catholic community of early Victoria. It was a Catholic community with a distinctly Celtic identity, and its strength had grown out of its oppressed circumstances in Ireland and Scotland. In the new colony it had had to call on that strength too, and it had depended on loyalty and sacrifice. Mary MacKillop's diary mentions the various priests and bishops whom she met. She depended on the hospitality of the Loreto Sisters in Ballarat, the Mercies in Sandhurst and the homes of lay people in other towns. There is a sense of comradeship and co-operation in the way she writes of all this.

More particularly, though, it is clear that the Australian-born founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, was the daughter of Scottish highlanders, and that she knew, loved and felt at home with her own kin—there are Camerons, McGregors, McManuses, Mc Culloghs as well as numerous Irish names. It is clear too that to some of these people their guest might well be Mother Mary of the Cross, but in this context she was the eldest child of Flora and Alexander MacKillop. Her meeting with Fr Scanlan in St Arnaud seems to imply this:

Fr Scanlan was sorely puzzled about me for a while, not knowing my secular name, but when he understood it, remembered me well and was most kind all through. He made many enquiries for friends...

Of her visit to Dalyenong, the property of a Mrs Ewen Cameron, she writes:

...the surprise and delight of the old lady were something worth going for. Remained all night and talked much of old times and friends departed.

One senses it was not only the old lady who experienced the delight!

As already indicated, Mary MacKillop was grateful for the kind hospitality offered to her throughout this trip. Such hospitality she cannot repay, but she does respond in practical and meaningful fashion. For

instance, their hostess at Maryborough was a Mrs O'Sullivan, who provided a 'fine dinner'. The diary of several days later reads:

Started at 6.00a.m. for Llannelly and here we broke the journey to see the invalid mother of Mrs O'Sullivan who had been so kind to us at Maryborough.

This was not a planned or necessary or convenient stop; it is the middle of winter, but it is a stop made in kindness to the woman who was no doubt anxious now and then about her mother, too far away to visit frequently.

It may not have been a necessary stopover, but it certainly turns out to be a memorable one, best quoted at length:

Mrs McGregor was delighted and rounded up her husband, a Presbyterian, to see the Scotch nun. Mr Mac and I had a warm discussion upon religion and he promised to study 'Catholic Belief' and not remain one day a Presbyterian if he could only believe as we did. He also sincerely promised to pray for light to know the truth. I am sure he means well and will die a Catholic. His daughter, Ada, played and sang some Scotch music with much spirit. The old man was delighted but surprised to meet a Scotch nun. Miss McGregor accompanied us to Inglewood that afternoon. Her mother gave me 10 shillings regretting it was not more.

To be concluded in next edition.



Errata: concerning Article on Flora MacKillop Winter Newsletter 2011;

"Flora MacKillop (MacDonald) was born in the Ben Nevis Bar in the High Street of Fort William—not in Roy Bridge. The ancestral lands of the MacDonald clan are in the Glen Roy area, the hill country a few miles behind Roy Bridge."

Audrey Thomson rsj

BOOK REVIEW



AWARDS TO SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH AUSTRALIA DAY 2012

Chris Van Order of Woodend offers the following reflection on a book she read during the holidays, *The Josephite Story* by Marie Foale sj.

What a great and sad read at times. For me, I learnt much about the South Australian influence and society, church history and ideas re women religious and male clerical outlook and will make sure that on my next Adelaide visit, that I go to Kensington.

I also even more, wonder at the drive, commitment and resilience of the Sisters. Surely it was a miracle that your Institute began, survived and flourished.

A couple of passages that really struck me "Mary's lasting commitment to the Josephite ideal...that their duty is to do all the good they can, and never see an evil without trying how they may remedy it,...to leave nothing untried, no matter how difficult, provided it may enhance the glory of God, the good of souls and the prevention of sin in the world..." page 192

And regarding the difficulties that the rural, isolated Sisters sometimes felt...

"I trust that you will not leave me another year with Sr Winifred. She is too holy for me to live with...you have no idea what it is like to be in a lonely place with a holy sister. Sometimes I feel as if my heart would break with loneliness..." Very moving and much for reflection. The sheer human demands on women to go out in two's and three's to such isolated areas and to such Spartan living conditions. Amazing and so very Australian. page 164

With Australia Day so near, it made me reflect on how Australian, rather than colonial, Mary was—a true Founding Mother of our country.

Have you read a book lately and would like to share your reflection?

- One from the mobile Library
- Or one of your own.

Please forward to the Associates' Office by mail or email.

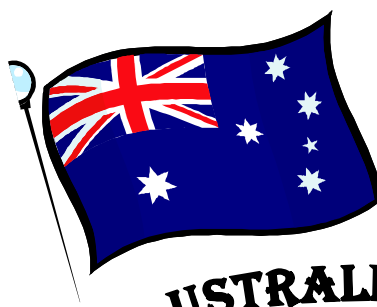
Three Sisters of St Joseph received the Order of Australia Awards on Australia Day this year.

Sr Maria Casey was awarded the Order of Australia for her service to the community as Postulator for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop and to the Catholic Church in Australia. We all remember the picture of Maria kneeling before Pope Benedict at the Canonisation patting his hand and having a conversation with him. Maria took over the work of the Postulator from Fr Paul Gardiner, who had worked tirelessly over many years toward the achievement of the Canonisation.

Sr Mary Leahy received the Order of Australia for her pastoral care as Chaplain of the Stella Maris Apostleship of the Sea in the ports of Sydney. Born in Ireland Mary has a great relationship with the many sailors who spend months at sea away from their families. You can see a photo of Mary on the webpage with some of the sailors she visits.

Sr Margaret Culhane of Western Australia received the same award for her services to the International community, particularly refugees from Asia and Africa. Sr Margaret entered the convent almost fifty years ago after two years as a primary school teacher. She says her decision to enter the convent was "one of those mysterious things" which has given her many opportunities to help out in the community. "I know I would not have had the opportunities if I hadn't chosen to be a Josephite" she said.

Fr Paul Gardiner sj, who spent many years researching the life of Mary MacKillop and wrote the Positio for her Beatification, received the same award for his work.



**AUSTRALIANS ALL
LET US REJOICE**

ASSOCIATES' BULLETIN BOARD - AUTUMN 2012

FROM THE OFFICE:
Many Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour by email. If you are still receiving it by post and would like it by email, just send an email to the address below. You can view it in colour on the sosj.org.au website, under news and events/newsletters.

Office Address

Mary Fermio RSJ,
Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
Josephite Associates' Office,
PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.
Email: associatesvic@sosj.org.au.
OR Fax: 03 5367 2078

For all enquiries related to

Catch up on the News! **Mary MacKillop E-News:**

Sent on 8th of each month

www.sosj.org.au

www.marymackillop.org.au

You can subscribe to the email news and it will automatically be sent to you on a regular basis —
AND it's FREE!

An invitation ...

Individual Associates or groups are invited to volunteer to prepare the Prayer Sheets for our quarterly Newsletters! Please contact Mary Fermio rsj at the Associates' Office. If you don't have access to computer facilities don't let that stop you! Just send your ideas/Scripture/extract/suggestions for songs etc and all will be presented for you.,

We can design the layout!

*Death is not extinguishing the light
But merely putting out the lamp
Because the dawn has come.
Tagore.*

In love and prayer, we are mindful of those who mourn the death of family members and friends.

Sr Dymphna Daynes rsj

Husband of Frances Sweeney, Melton

Ernie, husband of Mary Rosetti, Pakenham

Sr Marie Therese Kennedy rsj

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised thousands of dollars for the Peruvian Mission. Please leave a border of about 1cm around the stamps.

Forward stamps to:

STAMPS

St Joseph's Province Centre

Locked Bag 3031

BURWOOD NSW 1805

Thank you.



THANK YOU LETTER FOR YOUR HELP WITH STAMPS

December 2011

On behalf of Mary MacKillop International Mission Fund Australia, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. During 2011 we raised approx. \$6,200. Our best effort so far!

From 2001 till now our total has exceeded \$30,000.

May God's blessing through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, be yours in abundance.

Helen Saunders rsj

The books "Mary MacKillop, Made in Australia" are missing. Does your group have them?

Let me know please.

Mary Fermio rsj