



WA  
*Josephite Associates*



GOD CARES

*Never a single day goes by  
when God forgets to care for you,  
never the sun wakes in the sky  
without an answered prayer or two.  
Never we see the old year end  
or welcome in the new,  
without Him there to help, befriend  
in everything we do.  
Never we see the velvet sky  
or watch the evening star alight,*

*without the knowledge, He's close by  
to hold us through the night.  
Never we see the ebbing tide  
or watch the sun depart  
without His love to guard and guide  
and fill each waiting heart.  
Never despair, whate'er you do,  
never forget: God cares for you.*

*Iris Hesselden*



Winter 2012

## *A Winter Blessing*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
dark season of waiting,  
you affirm the dark seasons of our lives  
forecasting the weather of waiting in hope.*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
you faithfully guard a life unseen,  
calling those who listen deeply  
to discover winter rest.*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
frozen and cold on the outside,  
within your silent, nurturing womb  
you warmly welcome all that longs for renewal.*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
your bleak, barren trees  
preach wordless sermons  
about emptiness and solitude.*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
you teach us valuable lessons  
about waiting in darkness  
with hope and trust.*



*Blessed are you, winter,  
season of blood red sunsets  
and star-filled, long, dark nights,  
faithfully you pour out your beauty.*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
when your tiny snowflakes  
flurry through the air,  
you awaken our sleeping souls.*



*Blessed are you, winter,  
with your wild and varied moods,  
so intent on being yourself,  
you refuse to be a people-pleaser.*

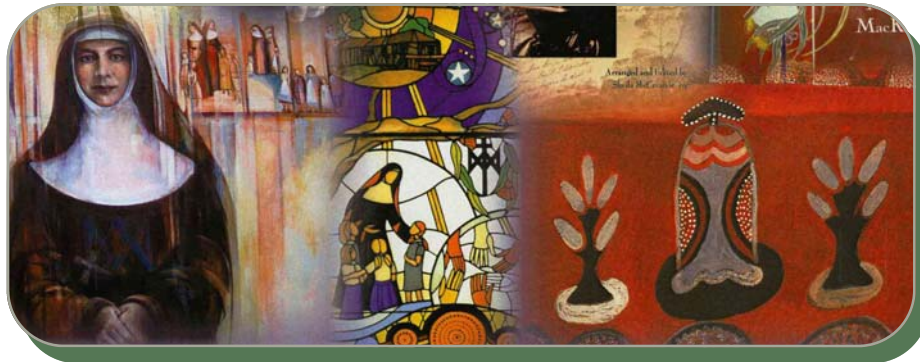
*Blessed are you, winter,  
when ice storms crush our hearts and homes,  
you call forth the good in us  
as we rush to help one another.*

*Blessed are you, winter,  
your inconsistent moods,  
often challenge spring's arrival,  
yet how gracefully you step aside  
when her time has come.*

The Circle of Life  
Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkerhr

"Josephite Associates are women and men living in the spirit of Mary MacKillop through prayer, friendship and service, and form a vital network of support for the development of the Josephite Mission in a way which sustains their daily lives. Today these Associates are being joined by other men and women who live out the charism in a variety of ways."

*Mary MacKillop A Window of Hope, Monica Cavanagh rsj*



There have been moments when the great visionaries gave to the peoples of the world their unique sense of the sacred. For us here in Australia, Mary MacKillop's canonization offers one such moment. It provides Australians with an opportunity for the sacred to break through - to let holiness shine and to discover in this place the meaning of a spiritual dimension of the life within the context of the Australian culture and reality. It is an occasion when Australians can be proud that 'one of us is a saint' and to believe that a good life is still possible.

*Mary MacKillop A Window of Hope , Monica Cavanagh rsj*