



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates NSW (Inc.) PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 34 Liverpool Rd, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

Phone 02 9747 4199

NEWSLETTER • JULY 2012

Dear Josephite Associates,
Welcome to the Josephite Associates in the newly formed groups of Berala and Padstow, and welcome to the new Josephite Associate Prayer Members and additional group members in Boambee and Cooma.

I am sure God and St Mary of the Cross would have been smiling on the faith-filled community I was privileged to join on Good Friday at Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield. The reverence and respect throughout the ceremony and in particular during the Veneration of the Cross, as hundreds processed, was most moving, when the physically handicapped made their way up the aisle (blind, in a wheelchair, and on a walking frame), an outstanding witness of faith. There was no spiritual handicap there. This area in Sydney is reported on the radio as having one of the highest rates of unemployment. I pray that St Mary of the Cross be with this community and other similar areas in our country where families are experiencing their cross.

We have moved on from our Easter Ceremonies and at Pentecost have officially commenced the Year of Grace; may the Prayer for the Year of Grace be a source of spiritual growth for each of you.

Sr Mary Quinlan rsj (NSW Josephite Provincial) has generously provided the Josephite Associates with new office accommodation. In May 2012 we moved to our new location at 34 Liverpool Road, Croydon 2132; phone number 02 9747 4199. All mail to P O Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132. A bonus for volunteer workers and visitors to the office is that we are on bus routes 418, 480 and 483.

The Sisters have outfitted the office with all that we need and how grateful we, the volunteers are, for this new start. After 28 years of being supported by the Sisters of St Joseph we will now manage our own business affairs. This special area we have been given is on a site where the Sisters of St Joseph live, and was formerly St Joseph's Home for Children, then a house of discernment. This property was a gift to the Sisters of Saint Joseph by Mr & Mrs Patterson for the purpose of caring for orphans and for neglected and destitute boys and girls. The orphanage closed in 1980 and since then has been a residence for the Sisters of St Joseph.

The NSW Josephite Associates have been in a period of transition to self-governance during the last three years under the guidance of Sr Clare Noonan rsj. This transition period comes to a conclusion at our AGM on 15th September 2012. An invitation is enclosed to the AGM, which will be held in the Chapel at the Province Centre, 5 Alexandra Avenue, Croydon.

May we continue seeking the intercession of St Mary of the Cross to guide us in Friendship, in Prayer, and in our Service to the poor and suffering.

May we grow in numbers, either as members of a group, or, equally important, as prayer members, who due to personal circumstances are unable to join other Josephite Associates at either monthly or quarterly group meetings.

Leonie Bell President Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF GRACE

Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts,
especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace,
a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of
Jesus your Son,
that we may experience a new wave of grace,
and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly
in our lives.

Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of
your Holy Spirit,
that our Church may be transformed,
our relationships be healed,
and our nation grow in compassion and justice.
With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop,
who showed us new ways of living the Gospel,
we make our prayer
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

*From the pen of
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop:*



"Cares and perplexities form part of my life
but I am learning to look upon them as I
think God wishes and so I am happy."

20.6.1898

Dedication Ceremony -- Cooma

The Cooma Josephite Associate Group was honoured to have Sr Angela Grant rsj at our March meeting. The meeting was held at the Parish Centre Cooma (amidst floods, I might add) and Bombala and Nimmitabel Associates were asked to join us for prayer and reflection. Sr Angela spoke of her time with the Associates and gave an insight into the history of the Associates. The prayer and reflection was based on a section from The Little Brown Book Too (by Sue and Leo Kane, with illustrations by Sr Helen Barnes rsj). Sr Angela reflected on the Prayer of Dedication.

Five new members were dedicated as Josephite Associates by the Cooma Leader, Bev Fitzgerald. Cooma Associates were very proud to welcome Maureen Barron, Maree Dunne, Mary Bennett, Pam Ferguson and Margaret Kellond as Josephite Associates to the Cooma Group. At the conclusion of the ceremony all Associates who were present joined in the renewal of their dedication. Associates enjoyed lunch before embarking on their wet trip home.

Beverley Fitzgerald JA Leader, Cooma Group

JA Corner

August 2012:

Feast Day Celebrations St Mary MacKillop

September 2012:

AGM Saturday 15th September – Province Centre Chapel, Alexandra Avenue, Croydon

October 2012:

National Pilgrimage 24th October – 4th November

Coming Events—Associates

AGM

15th September 2012

Chapel, Province Centre 5 Alexandra Avenue Croydon

See enclosed invitation

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

JA Office on 02 9747 4199

or email associates@sosjns.org.au

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Josephite Associate Moree

Senior Citizen of the Year

The good news from Moree is that one of our members, Sheila Campbell, has been chosen as Moree's Senior Citizen of the Year. Sheila was presented with a lovely clock at a breakfast to celebrate Australia Day. This function was hosted by the Mayor, Mrs Katrina Humphries, at the Moree Plains Shire Banquet Hall as rain prevented the usual celebration on the oval. A large crowd was present, including workers from Gwydir Industries, for whom Stella had done so much work over the years.

Sheila received this award in recognition of volunteering at Fairview Nursing Home for the past 10 to 12 years. Sheila was a founding member of the Gwydir Handicapped School Auxiliary in Moree in 1967, and later she set up the Parents and Friends of the Disabled of Moree in 1992, holding positions both as Secretary and President. Sheila dedicates her time and energy as a parent of a disabled child.

More News from Moree

Norma Meyer has moved to the Fairview Retirement Village. As she was a Special Minister of the Eucharist in the parish, she now gives Holy Communion to three fellow residents on Sundays and reads on occasions at the Wednesday celebration of the Eucharist.

Stella Cusack JA Leader, Moree Group

Junior Josephite Associates Moree

Eleven members of the Moree Junior Josephite Associates met at St Philomena's School in their lunch hour with a senior primary student assistant. These smiling girls come from Years 3 and 4 and it was their second last meeting of the year. They have a beautiful new prayer card to St Mary of the Cross.



Children's Prayer

God who loves us dearly,

we thank you for the life of St Mary MacKillop.
She showed us how to love and care for each other
and how to trust when everything seemed wrong.

We ask her to pray for us at this time.

May Saint Mary MacKillop help us to follow Jesus always.

We ask this through Jesus. Amen.

Sr Margaret Therese Cusack rsj

Report on JA Governance Meeting Baulkham Hills

4th-5th February 2012

The first weekend in February, Rosemary Davis, from the South Lismore JAs, and I travelled to Baulkham Hills for the second meeting of the Governance Group; present were the elected committee, appointed members and 14 JA support members. Sr Clare Noonan rsj, our Transitional Leader, organised the meeting, which was facilitated by another Josephite Sister, Therese Carroll rsj, who did a brilliant job. Sr Mary Quinlan rsj (NSW Provincial) attended, even though she was officially on holidays.

The transitional process that Sr Clare has been leading will conclude at the end of this year. Sr Mary Quinlan will be our Josephite Liaison person when we stand alone and she assured us that we will always be supported by the Congregation and encouraged us to imitate St Mary MacKillop by always keeping a focus on the poor and suffering of the world.

There are currently about 270 vowed Sisters of St Joseph in NSW and about 1400 Josephite Associates. Interestingly the ages are about the same; some in their 90s, most of us aged between 60 and 80, with a sprinkling of youngsters aged under 60. So the constraints that age brings are common to both the vowed Sisters and the Josephite Associates.

At the first Governance Meeting I attended I was unsure of my role as the country contact for the governance group. Each time we meet I learn more about the incorporated organisation.

As I wandered in the garden reflecting on our JA vision for the future, I walked into a spider's web. I love cobwebs and try not to break them, as I consider how the spider has laboured long and hard to construct a work of art. It occurred to me as I disentangled myself from the web that this was symbolic of the JA transitional process. Some of the web clung to me and some fragments couldn't be removed, so I rubbed them between my fingers till they fell away. Other straight, fragile threads floated

away gently into the future. These threads represent our path into the future.

Many issues were discussed over the weekend and policies and procedures are still being worked out:

- Local groups to operate as they are now.
- JA to recruit new members.
- Junior Josephite Associates to continue to be formed in schools.
- Build unity and community with individual prayer members and group members.
- The membership contribution of \$20 will assist office expenses and maintenance.
- Keep in touch by sending articles and news for the newsletters.

Sr Joan Harrison rsj was our minute-taker and showed us how to navigate our way around the websites for resources. On the Saint Mary MacKillop site you can leave a prayer request, which can be followed up with free counselling if requested. Both sites contain prayer resources which can be downloaded copyright free. Fr Kevin Walsh celebrated Mass for us on Saturday evening, and the liturgy prepared by Sr Annie Bond rsj was simply beautiful.

The web addresses are www.sosj.org.au www.saintmarymackillop.org.au and www.realhomilies.com

St Joseph's Baulkham Hills is a wonderful venue in all respects; the Sisters who assist us are fantastic; the prayer rituals are amazing; and it's great to get to know some of the JAs from the other groups. With everything else going on in our busy lives, it's easy to say no to these invitations, but at the end of the day Rosemary and I came home, grateful and thankful that we had had the opportunity to go.

Jan Lang JA - Leader, Mullumbimby Group

Congratulations!

As we turn the page each month on our 2012 Josephite Calendars and appreciate the beautiful pictures therein, congratulations go to the Josephite Associates whose photographs were chosen for publication: Lois Newcombe, Pam Lang, Kath Downing, Margaret Battam and Margaret Brownsey.

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



www.marymackillop.org.au

Mullumbimby/Byron Bay/Bangalow JA's

The Josephite Associates from the North Coast of NSW raised \$1,820 at a recent street stall for the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission. Well done our best effort to date

Music Recitals in the Memorial Chapel 2012

Take time out of your busy day to visit the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel
7 Mount Street, North Sydney
on the first Thursday of each month from
February 2012

between 1 p.m. and 1.30 p.m.
Great musicians will provide reflective music to enhance your time of prayer in St Mary's Chapel.

No bookings necessary

Josephite Sisters and Priest Honoured on Australia Day

Two Josephite religious sisters and the priest who acted as Postulator for the Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop were among Australians honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours.

Sister Maria Casey rsj was honoured for service to the community as Postulator for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop, and to the Catholic Church in Australia, while Sister Margaret Anne Culhane rsj was recognised for service to the international community, particularly refugees from Asia and Africa, to women, and as an educator.

Father Paul Gardiner SJ received the medal for service to the community in the fields of education and religion, as

Postulator for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop, and to the Catholic Church in Australia.

Father Gardiner told ABC that his achievements pale in comparison to Mary MacKillop's. "You can say Mary MacKillop should have been awarded a medal or something, but I've just happened to be a cog in a machine," he said.

"I worked at it for a long time and did work that needed to be done but I wasn't the only one of course because people who worked before me were very silent and distant contributors to what they were hoping might come about in the future."

Edited Extract

CathNews 31st January 2012

Junior Josephite Associates Lithgow

Primary School students living in Lithgow are taking inspiration on how to be good in their daily lives from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. About 30 students at St Patrick's School are members of the Junior Josephite Associates.

Through Junior Josephite groups, a number of schools across Australia are encouraging students to see Mary MacKillop as a role model in their own lives. As an Australian Saint, and as a person who lived in a similar time to our own, Mary provides young people with a real example of how to live a good life.

The group at Lithgow was established in 2005 by Josephite Sister Anne Houston, parish associate for St Patrick's parish. Sister Anne leads the monthly meeting which includes a reflection on Saint Mary MacKillop's life, a reading and prayers.

The group takes their motto from St Mary of the Cross, "There where you are, you will find God".

St Patrick's school community has a deep Josephite tradition, with Saint MacKillop founding the school and Mary visiting Lithgow during her lifetime.

MacKillop's famous saying, 'Never see a need without doing something about it', is inspiration for the Junior Josephites' charity efforts which involve collecting postage stamps as a fund raiser for the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru.

Their teacher, Ms Rizzo, said the students take their commitment seriously and you really see them trying to be better people and striving in little ways to live like Mary.

Edited extract

Australian Catholics Summer 2012

Boambee Josephite Associate Group

Our group is situated in Sawtell on the Mid North Coast of NSW. It consists of 40 members from the parishes of Sawtell and Coffs Harbour and has been under the direction of Sr Fidelis rsj since its inception in 1995.

In November 2011, we moved toward self-governance and a committee of four was elected. Thankfully, Sr Fidelis remains a very active and supportive member of the group. The committee consists of Mary McNamara, Carmel Martin, Frank Kennedy and John Davoren. These members will hold office for two years.

One of the major objectives for our group this year will be the installation of a Task Force Book, in which Associates will volunteer to assist with meals, shopping, hospital visits etc. to anyone in need of some assistance in times of illness, bereavement etc. We are intent on following St Mary MacKillop's motto: "Never see a need without doing something about it."

We will also be supporting a stall in late July, selling Peruvian goods, with all proceeds going towards the Josephite Peru Mission. In August 2012, our Associates will arrange and coordinate a celebration for the two parishes to tie in with the Year of Grace and the feast day of St Mary MacKillop. Later in the year we are lucky enough to have Sr Christina Neunzerling rsj with us for a Reflection Day and we have also arranged for Mrs Kath Evans to attend our final meeting for the year and speak to us of her personal experience in receiving the miracle of healing from cancer through the intercession of St Mary.

Our first meeting under the guidance of this new committee was held in March and we were delighted to have the privilege of enrolling six new members in our group. A photograph of our members is attached. Two more members, Trish Plunkett and Edna Mackintosh, will be enrolled at our next meeting in June.

We look forward, with great enthusiasm, to the year ahead.

Mary McNamara JA

Leader, Boambee Associates

New DVD

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Canonisation

Rome 17/10/2010

Produced by Catholic Communications

Archdiocese of Sydney

for the Mary MacKillop Canonisation

Available from

Mary MacKillop Place

7 Mount Street, North Sydney 2060

02 8912 4894 (phone) 02 8912 4835 (fax)

mmp.shop@sosj.org.au

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Many Thanks!

Thank you for your Associates
Members Annual Contributions and
Donations received.

Thank you for your wonderful
prayerful response to the recent
survey.

Josephite Associates Symbols Featured at Funeral

Tess Geary was one of the original Josephite Associates when the movement began in 1984. Tess led the group at Campsie till ill health required her to go into care, and is remembered as being a great contributor to discussions at general gatherings and as starting an original ring-around in the days before emails became a popular mode of communication. Tess organised the Newsletter mail-outs for some years. Her leadership qualities were outstanding, to the point that when she had to move on, the group was able to continue the good work she had begun. Tess died on 28th January 2012 at the St Mary MacKillop Care facility for the aged at Surry Hills, Sydney.

Her funeral Mass, at St Mel's Campsie, celebrated her membership of the Associates more than at any other Associates' funeral I have attended, and sadly that is a large number. The Campsie group through their leader, Filippa Palazzato, arranged for the local

Josephite Associates banner to be hung on the lectern. Flowers and a picture of St Mary MacKillop were placed in front of the lectern. Standing nearby, most prominently, was a huge wreath with a ribbon across it saying JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES CAMPSIE. Filippa had also arranged for information and application forms about the Associates to be available in the Church.

The family of Tess asked me to say a few words about her membership of the Associates, as they knew how much it had meant to her. I was honoured to do this, especially in the light of the effort made by the Campsie group to acknowledge Tess, their much-loved leader. They had been faithful visitors to her in the Nursing Home even though the travel there was not easy to arrange. I tell this story to acknowledge Tess and also to encourage others to celebrate the life of our Associate members in such a public way.

God love you all, *Sr Angela Grant rsj*

Requiescant in Pace

Concetta Cataldi, mother of Rosina Rotunno (Lakemba);
Tess Geary, (Campsie);
Steve Gluhak, husband of Faye Gluhak (Canberra);
Fay Hasler, (Lithgow);
Edna Margerson, (Penrith);
Archibald Martinez, brother of Vivien Hall (North Sydney);
Esmeralda Martinez, mother of Vivien Hall (North Sydney);
Bill Curran, brother of Pauline McGlynn (Lidcombe);
Patrick O'Connor, husband of Irene (Padstow);
Frances Pegrem, (Blacktown);
Norma Renshaw, (Lidcombe);
Johnny Smith, formerly Kincumber Orphanage (Kincumber);
Joyce Steenson, (South Lismore);
Mary Toohey, (Blacktown);
Esme White, (Penrith);
Megan Barnett; granddaughter of Daisy Keogh, (Lidcombe);
Marie Williams (Camden)

Ideas for Josephite Service at Home

- Giving of ourselves and our time
- Generously sharing our gifts and talents
- Be loving to all
- Hospitable to friends/family
- Tolerant of teenage grandchildren
- Bring an awareness of Mary MacKillop's charism
- Have responsibility for natural resources etc.
- Take time for prayer
- Lead by example
- Be grateful/thankful/positive
- Being aware of just how important our home life is
- Doing humdrum daily tasks with a joyful attitude
- Read articles and books on Mary MacKillop/spirituality
- Taking time for one's own nurturing
- Wear Josephite Associate Badge always.

These ideas were printed in the Victorian Josephite Associates Newsletter and permission has been granted for use.

Prayers for the Sick

Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Dennis Clarke (Lalor Park);
Vicki Conti (Campsie);
Eve Cummings, mother of Sr Connie rsj;
Kieran Fitzpatrick, son of Des and Dympna Fitzpatrick (Menai);
Shirley Gorrie (Campsie);
Elizabeth Graves (Campsie);
Beryl Haywood (Bass Hill);
Anne Jones (Warialda);
Paul Landrigan (Penrith);
Betty and Mary Lomas (Bombala);
Helen McCreadie, daughter of Joan Claxton (Lidcombe);
Kevin Moore (Warialda);
Ron Moore (Warialda);

Barbara Nelson (Strathfield);
Barbara Northey (Bundarra);
Jim and Jonny O'Connell, brothers of Sr Bridie rsj;
Tony O'Connor, brother of Sr Christina rsj;
Patricia Phillips (Mullumbimby);
Shirley Reed (Bingara);
Christine Riley (Penshurst);
Lillian Stansell (Strathfield);
Gaetano & Josephine Tesoriero (Oatley);
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);
Patricia Weinert (Campsie);
Gwen Witton (Penrith);
Debra Price (Seven Hills).

Read the story behind Saint Mary MacKillop's second miracle...

Kath's Miracle

by Kathleen Evans
and Sarah Minns

*"My hope is that you'll find some comfort or optimism from my story."
(Kath Evans)*

Published by Michael Joseph
Penguin Group (Australia)
Camberwell Vic. 2012

Available from all good bookstores

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

Kincumber Retreat

17th – 19th February 2012

Anticipating a weekend of peace and tranquillity, 14 Josephite Associates arrived at St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre Kincumber South on Friday 17th February to share time in prayer and reflection. We were unable to have a presenter due to the ill health of Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj; however, a decision was made to go ahead with the retreat and provide some time away from the busy pace of work and family commitments in our daily lives.



On Friday evening we watched the DVD of the Canonisation Concert, performed in Rome at the time of Canonisation and presented by the ACU students from Sydney. We were so quiet that Sr Ellen wondered where we had disappeared to, but at about 10 o'clock Sister knew we were still on site, because there was plenty of chatter as we shared our thoughts over tea and coffee before retiring.

Saturday morning after a healthy breakfast we met for prayer about 9.30 and reflected on the Cross in Mary MacKillop's life. This was a special time of sharing in a prayerful way not only the crosses in Mary's life but also how we can gain strength from her example to carry our daily crosses.

After morning tea we met again and were honoured to have Kath Evans speak to us about her cure through the Intercession of Mary MacKillop. Kath spoke of the hardships she endured and also the loving support of family and friends at this difficult time. We were able to hold her relic and the Cross (pictured) which she keeps with her and which is made from the wood of a fence post from Penola. This was a prayerful and reflective time as Kath shared with us about her times of prayer and meditation.

Saturday afternoon we viewed the DVD of Timor Leste We Forget, which gave us an insight into the troubles of this country and also the great work carried out by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Australia and East Timor. They have provided books for the children in their native language and have played a big part in providing education for the children and training teachers.

On Sunday morning we attended the local Parish Church for Mass and it gave us a great sense of witness as Josephite Associates. Reflections from those who attended saw this as a time for strengthening the bond of friendship in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. Our hope for the future is that St Mary's Spirit lives on in our world, especially in the lives of our youth. We look forward to meeting again in October under the direction of Sr Colleen O'Sullivan rsj.

Beverley Badcock, Vice President Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc.

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.

Engaging the Holy Power of the Heart

Our journey into God is marked by the sameness of our common humanity and the difference of each person's unique response to the mystery of God. It is by engaging with such difference that I have been most challenged and inspired in my role as Faith Educator and Spiritual Director. God's creative project is to be loved in many different ways. The journey in and with God is utterly unique -- psychologically, biologically, socio-culturally, and spiritually. Such uniqueness becomes evident in the way each perceives and expresses the movements of the Spirit within his or her life. As companion on people's inner journey, I've been humbled, challenged and inspired. Above all I've been convinced of how utterly attentive God is to the unique human contours of people's lives. Within that context, whatever its difference, God is constantly alluring and seducing the human heart towards a greater, grander life. Speaking of difference in the spiritual journey, Susan Radoczy notes that each human 'is in some respect like all others, like some others and like no others' [1].

As a young religious, my approach to Catechetics relied on the commonly-held assumption that each person was experiencing God, self, the community and the world in the same way. My first reference point was "the set of Truths" which I came to teach. In subsequent years I have taken as my starting point the heart of the believing person. The Biblical image which best captures the process for me is the Pauline reference to the individual as "God's work of art" [2]. As a Spiritual Guide I envisage myself to be a studio assistant to the Master Painter. Most notably in the challenge of Directing Retreats, I gain encouragement in the awareness that the Mystery is already taking shape within each person and I simply prepare the palette of colour and hand up the brushes while the Maestro continues the masterpiece. Time and again I am led to gaze in wonder, at the unfolding gallery paintings, as each comes to recognise and respond to the energy of love that is God.

The Master Painter image identifies for us the foundational truth that each person is already in the God relationship from the moment of creation. Due respect must be given to this reality whenever we attempt to communicate Faith. In the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins: "Christ plays in ten thousand places lovely in limbs and in eyes not his to the Father in the features of men's faces" [3]. From my privileged role has come an expansive image of God, a God who is ever-beckoning, ever-challenging, ever-guiding people to fullness of life.

In describing the God-quest, Karl Rahner emphasises "the Holy power of the heart". He explains how the concept of God is not a grasp of God by which a person masters the mystery, but it is "a letting oneself be grasped by the mystery which is present and yet ever distant". He sketches for us the particular features of the modern Christian, noting how the "little flock" of future Christians "without the sacred flame of family and small groups" would be Christian "only because of their own act of faith attained in a difficult struggle and perpetually achieved anew." In this new context, he predicted that neither institution nor history, nor the solidarity of a social milieu and public opinion, would provide convincing motivation for people to remain committed. Furthermore he contended that even the church itself as a believing institution, would also be "dependent in everything on faith and on the holy power of the heart, for

it [would] no longer be able to draw any strength at all, or very little, from what is purely institutional” [4].

My favourite definition of Faith comes from the moral theologian Vincent Genovesi: ‘the free and personal response which we make to God in recognition of His love for us’ [5]. This is the double axis on which the world of faith must turn, the ever-changing human experience and the never-changing God.

In the enduring call to conversion we become aware that our human faith journey necessarily moves through the darkness of doubt and fear and that it is precisely our incompleteness which points us to God. Within such ambiguity we are challenged to continually search anew for God within the uncharted waters of our hearts. This is not to deny the importance of our need for support from other faith pilgrims and from the tradition and teaching of the Church as Institution. It is however to suggest a new emphasis which engages with the context of the individual’s human experience. Another modern theologian, Aidan Nichols, reminds us that: “Grace modifies the heart and mind, imagination and feelings so that the believing person becomes to some extent a transcription of revelation itself.” [6]

Valuing thus the grace-guided narrative of each person, will lead to the new maturity of faith so critical today for the integration of faith and culture. Only in this way can faith be reborn from the depths of every age and culture. According to Michael Paul Gallagher, this kind of deeper spirituality can counter the most destructive elements of modernisation, “by recovering the sense of self, of truth and of God.” [7] The core of this conversion is surrender -- allowing God to move to the centre of one’s life, to take it over, and direct it. This arena of personal conversion is the holy power of the human heart. The challenge for all who assume roles of spiritual leadership is primarily to enable individuals, to discover the new face of God bent over them in love in the depths of their hearts and lives.

[1] Radoczy, Susan, “When Difference Matters”, *The Way Supplement*, 1990

[2] St Paul, *Ephesians 2:10*

[3] Hopkins, Gerard Manley, “As Kingfishers Catch Fire”

[4] Rahner, Karl, *The Christian of the Future*, trans. W. O’Hara, London: Burns & Oates, 1967, 78-80

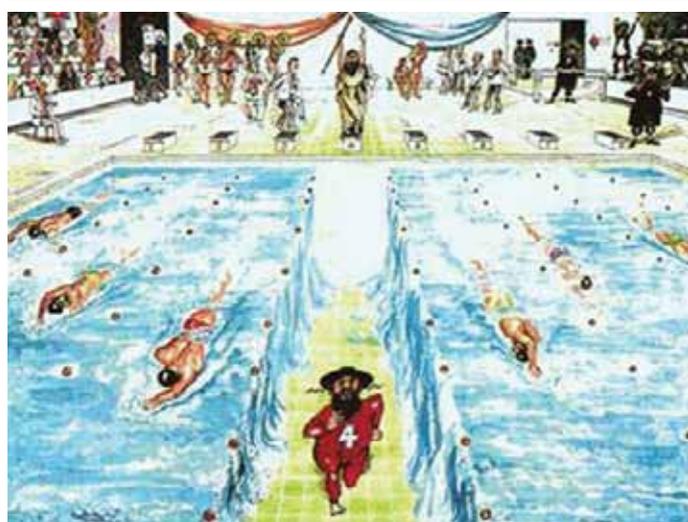
[5] Genovesi, Vincent, *In Pursuit of Love*, Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 1987, 536

[6] Nichols, Aidan, *The Shape of Catholic Theology*, Edinburgh: T&T Clarke, 1991, 246

[7] Gallagher, Michael Paul, *Clashing Symbols*, London: DLT, 136-139

Bridie O’Connell rsj

This is an edited version of an article originally published online in Terra Spiritus.



Jewish Swimmer

Josephite Associates Quirindi

The Quirindi Josephite Associates began in 1996 and are proud of their 48 members. While only a small number of their group are active members, they are involved in a variety of activities.

Our Josephite Associates minister Holy Communion to the sick and shut-ins, and are active in the liturgy, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Catechists in State Schools, St Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Women’s League.

Quirindi Josephite Associates help prepare and serve monthly morning tea after Sunday Mass, pick up and drive people to Mass and help with the healing Mass every two months. This includes the Liturgy, driving the parishioners and providing morning tea. Once a year we are responsible for the pot-luck lunch for the parish. The Rosary is prayed monthly in St Joseph’s Centre (the old Convent) and also recited for 25 minutes every morning prior to Mass. Associates have the opportunity to participate in Lenten, Advent and other reflective gatherings.

Other activities include collecting five cent coins and also conducting a monthly raffle. Proceeds from these fundraising activities have been used to purchase a new stove and dishwasher for the Father Stan Campbell Parish Hall and an urn for the monthly morning teas. Our latest project is to buy new crockery for the hall.

The Quirindi Associates are blessed to have the support of Sr Therese Conroy rsj, who is involved in all our activities and keeps in contact with all the members.

Bernadette Press JA Quirindi Group

Coming Events Mary MacKillop Place

Wednesdays with Saint Mary MacKillop

10.30am – 12.30pm

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

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Josephite Associates South Lismore

*We who have been touched
By the Spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Ask you, God, to help us*

Explore and live out the Josephite Charism in the World

On 16th March 1924, the foundation stone of the present convent in Rhodes Street, South Lismore was blessed and laid by His Lordship Bishop Carroll and work progressed rapidly. History records that the RSJ Sisters arrived soon after the convent was opened on 13th July 1924. It is without question that the Sisters played an important role in providing Catholic Education for the children in the South Lismore Parish and left one very large footprint for others to try and emulate.

This valuable contribution to Catholic Education by the Sisters in the South Lismore Parish drew to a close in 1993, but the Motor Mission continued to provide that vital link within the region until 1998 when the last of the congregation (Sr Mary Fagan rsj) left Lismore. Even today when you discuss the history of the parish with residents and past students, reference is without question always made to the contribution, charism and ethos that the RSJ Sisters left us and how very much they all were loved and appreciated.

In order that we were not left without some affiliation and stewardship with the congregation, Sr Shirley suggested that I take responsibility and the role of the facilitator for the Lismore JA Group. Accepting this role and starting out this journey of responsibility was very daunting for me and I have to be honest and say that I was certainly out of my comfort zone. That was twelve years ago and with the support and co-operation of each associate we continue to follow the dream of St Mary of the Cross. Over the years we met many wonderful Sisters from the congregation who travelled to Lismore to support us and provide spiritual discernment and pastoral care.

The question "who are we as a group of Associates?" allows the Lismore JAs the opportunity to stop and discern what St Mary of the Cross wants of us and with total trust in God and with humble humility we endeavour to live by her example.

The 12 ladies who belong to the South Lismore JA Group live in many parishes within our Diocese and we begin our calendar year on the first Sunday in March by gathering together at Our Lady Help of Christians with the South Lismore Parish Community to celebrate the Eucharist. The Parish Priest (Father Peter Karem) acknowledges our presence and welcomes us as the Josephite Associates.

The South Lismore JA Group meets four times a year in a private home for reflection, friendship and a chat, ending with a cup of tea/coffee. This is always a time to share the highs and lows that may have occurred since our last meeting. All the ladies are very caring and compassionate and we regularly visit the members who are sick in hospital or at home.

At Easter and Christmas our Associates buy cards to send to members who are unable to attend our meetings. This is a small gesture on our part and they are sent with our love and prayers. For the last two years (my husband) Rev. Deacon Graeme Davis has presided over a Liturgy of the Word in December, concluding with a special Christmas lunch. At this gathering we contribute food items for a Christmas hamper, which is delivered to the parish for distribution to a local family in need.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Celebration within our parishes of the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on 17th October 2010.

- Giving thanks that one of our members was able to return to her home after nearly four months in hospital and rehabilitation, and we are welcomed at her home for our meetings.
- Living the Gospel by our actions, attending Mass and proclaiming the Good News.

CHALLENGES:

- Being witnesses for the ideals of St Mary of the Cross and active in our communities: "if you see a need do it".
- To make people aware of the Josephite Associates and invite them to explore and live out the Josephite Charism in the world.
- Living the Gospels by attending Mass and proclaiming the Good News, remembering that:

"Christ has no body but ours.
No hands or feet but ours.
We are the eyes through which
Christ's compassion is to look out on earth."
(Teresa of Avila)

Mary faithfully listened and responded to her God. May her example inspire and encourage us to take time and be attentive to God's invitation to us.

Rosemary Davis JA Leader, South Lismore Group

Seeing

Dear God,
I need to see myself as you see me.
My own vision is fragmented.
I try to divide up my life
and reject those parts of me
I consider to be weak.
I waste time and energy
in the battle of self against self
and Lord, I always end up the loser.
Dear God,
help me to see myself as you see me.
I forget that you made me just as I am
and that you delight in your creation.
You do not ask me to be strong;
you simply ask me to be yours.
You do not expect me to reject my weakness,
merely to surrender it to your healing touch.
Dear God,
when can I see myself as you see me,
then I will understand
that this frail, tender, fearful, aching, singing,
half-empty, shining, shadowed person
is a whole being made especially by you
for your love.
*From Aotearoa Psalms – Prayers for a New People (Text by
Joy Cowley)*
Sent by Anne McNally JA Seven Hills Group

Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?
If so, please contact us with your new details at:

associates@sosjns.org.au

Subject: Email address change