

Josephite Associates

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Friendship
Prayer
Service

Spring 2012



The Australian Bishops have called for what they call a Year of Grace, beginning on Pentecost Sunday, 27 May in the Latin or Western Church and a week later in some Eastern Churches.

As they told the Pope on their Ad Limina visit last year, the bishops decided to do that because the church in Australia faces the challenge of a powerful secular culture 'where people believe it is possible to live a fulfilled life without belief in God.' Archbishop Philip Wilson said, "The people then think that faith and the experiences of living in the Church are irrelevant to them in their lives."

On their visit to Rome last year, the Australian bishops declared the result of their reflection on the questions, 'What are the evils confronting the church in our time?' and 'What would be needed in our time when all, not just Religious, are called to be the face of Christ to our world?'

What is needed, they said, is deep renewal by all members of the church, so that the

face of Christ becomes visible in our society. For this reason they declared a Year of Grace where we will all

- encounter Jesus Christ in prayer
- seek healing and renewal through repentance
- grow as disciples by cultivating the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that the Church in Australia will continue to be transformed by the power of Christ's resurrection.

The idea of the Year of Grace is taken from Jewish law. Every 50 years the Jews were called to conversion in a year set aside to starting again in relationship with God and one another. Jesus quotes it in Luke 4: 19. "God has sent me to proclaim release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of God's favour."

The Bishops have quoted in their letter to Australian Catholics the words of Pope John Paul II in his challenge during the Jubilee year of 2000 to the whole Church to "contemplate the face of Christ."

They have emphasised the importance of prayer – praying with more focus, perhaps; praying with more stillness; spending a little more time in prayer, or praying a little more frequently; perhaps praying in a style that may be new to us.

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They invite us to think about these questions in many contexts – in the public celebration of our liturgies, especially of the Eucharist; in times of recollection, meditation or retreat – in the classroom, the staff room, or with the whole parish community.

And, perhaps especially, in the home. Do we say “Grace Before Meals” at home? If not, this might be the time to start. Or perhaps some moments of prayer together at the end of the meal.

The Bishops encourage us to turn again to the Word of God in the Scriptures. Is it time to find out what that term “lectio divina” means, and to have a go at it? Can we incorporate some words of Scripture in our parish meetings? And not only the words, but some moments to “break them open” together – what are they saying to us now, in this room, as we hear them today or tonight?

There is no one symbol or message that the Year of Grace logo is intended to convey. It is a bright and stylish image which, in looking at it, has many significant symbols and connections that can be drawn:

- The cross
- The sun
- A circle that represents the infinity of God
- The halo incorporating a cross that surrounds the head of Jesus in Eastern iconography
- The host used at Mass
- The monstrance used in Eucharistic adoration
- A link with the artistic tradition of our Indigenous people
- The earthen, ochre colours of Australia
- A diversity of peoples and cultures, gathered into one community
- A star-burst
- Light

There may be other ways in which the logo speaks to people.

Archbishop Wilson, the President of the Australian Bishops’ Conference, has said the big challenge to us is to rediscover the truth and the beauty of what we’ve already learned. “So often in our lives we need to re-learn the beauty of what we’ve been taught about our faith and about our relationship with Jesus, and the life of faith in the Church.” Those who share the spirit of Joseph have the opportunity to play an important part in focussing attention on the heart of what this year is for – to Start Afresh from Christ. Archbishop Wilson reminds us how we find Christ: “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). “If we have truly contemplated the face of Christ’, he says, ‘our pastoral planning will necessarily be inspired by the “new commandment” which He gave us: “Love one another, as I have loved you”. (Jn 13:34)

So let us pray for one another during the coming year of grace, that we will grow in friendship with Christ and through the life given by the Holy Spirit extend the reign of God in our country.



Extract adapted by Anne Slattery from article prepared by Mary Cresp RSJ

“The grace of God and the prayers of Our Lady and St Joseph will enable us to overcome all.”
MMK 30.1.1867



SA Associates Day of Reflection
Sevenhill Retreat Centre
Saturday 27 October 2012
11.00 am to 3.30 pm
(Arrive from 10.30 am for morning tea)



On Saturday 27 October 2012 the **Jesuit Retreat Centre at Sevenhill** has been booked. This will provide a delightful venue in which to gather and find spiritual nourishment.

Mary Cresp rsj will lead the Retreat. We hope that many of our Associates from the city and Mid North (and beyond) may be able to join us.

From Adelaide we are happy to co-ordinate people sharing cars to get to Sevenhill. From other centres you may also like to arrange shared transport.

As this event is being formally catered we need **definite numbers by 12 October**. The cost for the day will be \$20.00 per person and payment may be made on the day.

To book your place and for further information please email us on sa.associates@sosj.org.au or telephone Anne Slattery on 8332 8232. We ask for this to be done by **12 October at the latest**. We will follow up with further details with those who will be attending.

Subscriptions for 2012—2013

Membership for the **next financial year** (2012—2013) is now due. Please complete your details below and post, together with your payment of \$15.00 which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer, Gerald Hinton. Alternatively, you can see anyone from the Committee who will be more than happy to pass it on.

Josephite Associates SA
Annual Subscription (\$15.00)
1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013

Miss Ms Mrs Mr _____ (other)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (home) _____

(mobile) _____

Post to: Mr Gerald Hinton
25 Chapel Street
CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

Mary MacKillop Foundation High Tea

On Sunday the 20th May 2012 a large crowd including 3 tables of Associates and friends gathered at the Hilton for a fundraising event for the Mary MacKillop Foundation. The philosophy and basis of their work is “supporting small life changing projects” such as The Travelling Sisters Roadshow (previous newsletter). These projects aim to help recipient individuals to change their lives by “opening a door”.

The Master of Ceremonies was Olivia Stratton and she introduced a host of informative speakers. These included His Excellency Rear Admiral Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, The HON. Jay Weatherill MP Premier of South Australia, Ms Amanda Vanstone, Dr Lynn Arnold AO, Helen Glanville (Executive Director Prison fellowship in SA) and grant recipients.

All of the speakers were very informative and spoke of their previous and present involvement in justice, respect and dignity of all people.

Dr Lynn Arnold who until recently had been Angicare’s Chief Executive Officer informed us that he had wanted to be prime minister from the age of 6. As far as his political career went he felt he did 1/3 good, 1/3 bad and 1/3 terrible. But it could have been worse!! During his childhood he attended 8 primary schools in 4 countries and particularly remembers New Zealand where poor children wore no shoes to school. So the headmaster made all the children wear no shoes 1 day a week. Imagine doing that today!

While he was in politics Lynn had a meeting with some Russian diplomats and in trying to impress them thought he would speak a few words of Russian. Unfortunately the words he was instructed

to speak were actually Polish so everyone was confused! His humbling activities as a politician included letter box drops where he met various people and was able to offer a message of hope like Mary MacKillop.

Amanda Vanstone reflected on her political career which included 11 years as Minister of Indigenous Affairs and said that experience teaches responsibility and educates but added that community and church groups are much more efficient than welfare groups in Canberra. Her tips for life include:

1. Happiness isn’t a God given expectation – it takes effort; decide you are going to be happy.
2. Be yourself – authenticity is a most valuable commodity
3. Do your best – the only advertisement you have got.
4. Don’t play the victim.
5. Put the boot on the other foot.
6. You have 2 ears and 1 mouth – use these in proportion.
7. Every problem is an opportunity
8. When life keeps giving you lemons set up a lemonade stall.



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Despite the fact that Amanda states she has no religious belief they could all be seen as the way Mary MacKillop took on life's challenges!

Helen Glanville and her husband formed Prison fellowship in SA in 1994 after a career in public relations and politics. This is a worldwide organisation in 110 countries which journeys with inmates in prisons and provides valuable relationships and support after their release. Work with the children seeks to break the circle of crime. Helen worked as a volunteer for 6 years and was then appointed to her present position. This involves a passion for prison reform and for ministry to the children of prisoners – the innocent victims of crime. Some of the initiatives under this program include 'The Way' which is a happy birthday present from the Christian Motorcycle Group, Camp for Kids 11 and Teen camps, Port Power football match for 100 people, National Youth week at Mylor Adventure Camping, visiting prisoners, and other activities. Their values are:

- Christian
- Commitment to crime prevention through changed lives
- Restorative justice and second chances
- Responsive to the needs of prisoners and their families
- Recognise the needs of the victims
- Belief in prison reform
- Commitment to good stewardship.

There is a shop called Second Chances at 397 Diagonal Road Sturt which helps raise funds for this ministry. A 30 second TV commercial will be showing soon.

We were then entertained beautifully by Catherine on guitar and Sarah as vocalist from Mary MacKillop College. They are Josephite girls who are involved in fundraising activities for the Foundation

and sang "Hands" and "What a Wonderful World". Thank you girls!

More entertainment followed with an auction conducted by Bernard Booth with about \$5,000 being raised from this. There was also a raffle conducted throughout the proceedings with the chance to have lunch with Peter Goers.

While all these activities were proceeding we munched on lovely food, wine and coffee delivered to our tables courtesy of the staff at the Hilton. Being there with other people with the same values and knowing that we were present to help raise funds for the ongoing work of the Mary MacKillop Foundation made the day very enjoyable.

Other 'small life changing projects' that the Foundation is involved in include Tertiary scholarships for Indigenous children, Breaking down barriers: the friends of Sammy (children who are extremely photo sensitive to light), Re Connect (Direct relief to residents who experience mental illness and disabilities), 2012 Teen camps for prison fellowship, Rapid TLC program for sick and isolated Kids and Empowering women through education (asylum seekers). More information can be found on their website.

Bridgette Barrett



The Premier, Jay Weatherill

SA Josephite Associates
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the period
1st July 2011 to the 30th June 2012

1st July 2011 Opening Balance \$3,796.64

Plus Income -

Subscriptions 1 st July 2010 to 30 th June 2011	\$	105.00
1 st July 2011 to 30 th June 2012	\$	1,235.00
1 st July 2012 to 30 th June 2013	\$	675.00

General Donations	\$	110.00
Donations for Ain Karim	\$	402.05
Luncheon Fees	\$	165.00
Clare Retreat Fees	\$	600.00
Raffle Proceeds Mary MacKillop Foundation	\$	212.10
Bank Interest	\$	46.86

Income for the period \$3,551.01

Total Income Available \$7,347.65

Less Expenditure -

Newsletter Printing & Postage	\$	666.55
Ain Karim Donation	\$	542.05
Presentations Aim Karim Function	\$	90.25
Mary's Feast Day Barbeque	\$	107.09
Associates Retreat Sevenhill	\$	380.00
Presentation Gifts Associate's Retreat	\$	95.74
Photocopying	\$	28.00
3 Airfares Province Associates Meeting Sydney	\$	840.09

Total Expenditure for the period \$2,749.77

Funds available at the 30th June 2012
as per the reconciled Bank Statement-
Represented by funds in BankSA **\$4,597.88**

Gerald Hinton
Treasurer
29th July 2012

DIARY DATES FOR 2012

◆ **St Mary MacKillop's Monthly Mass and Reflection**

Date: 8th of each month
Time: 10.30 am (Mass) and 5.45 (Reflection)
Place: Kensington Chapel
286 Portrush Road, Kensington



◆ **Day of Reflection**

led by Mary Cresp rsj

Date: Saturday 27 October 2012
Place: Jesuit Retreat Centre, Sevenhill
Refer to page 3

◆ **A Musical Evening**

led by Majella O'Sullivan rsj

Date: Monday 17 December 2012
Time: 7.00 pm
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre
4 High Street, Kensington

We remember with love and gratitude Kevin O'Sullivan, Terry McDonald and Pina Arcangeli who have died recently. Kevin, Terry and Pina have given generously to Friendship, Prayer and Service as Josephite Associates for many years.

We also remember Sr Elizabeth Murphy who died on 20 July. Sr Elizabeth was Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph from 1977 until 1989.

We also pray for:

- Angela Mastrangelo;
- Imelda Bates;
- John Quirke; and
- David Cassidy

who are in ill health at the moment.

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our Prayer Requests, please let us know. Please feel free to phone Anne Slattery on 8332 8232 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au. Alternatively you may let one of the Committee members know.



A Woman with a Compassionate Heart



From the Pen of Mary:

God will take care of us all. (1871)

Scripture:

Moved with pity Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.
Mark 1:41

Reflection:

Mary MacKillop had a heart big enough to enclose the troubles of all those who sought her assistance. No-one was excluded. She knew how to stand in the shoes of another. Sr Annette recalls: 'She had the greatest compassion and love for the poor girls and the poor orphans'. There was no wound that she did not reach out to. It was in the environment of her home life that the seeds of compassion were sown. Mary wrote to Monsignor Kirby: 'My home when I had one was a most unhappy one'.

Story from the Life of Mary MacKillop:

Mary MacKillop loved to visit the orphanage at Kincumber. This sometimes meant that she travelled by boat in stormy weather. On one occasion she travelled to Kincumber in a boat through a violent storm because a young orphan boy had requested her presence as he lay dying. Mary stayed with him until he died and then led the funeral service because no priest was available.

Pause for Reflection:

Take a moment to recall a person who has shown you the compassionate face of God. Give thanks for this person.

Prayer:

Compassionate God, fill our hearts with love deep enough to walk in the shoes of those who have known hardship in their lives. Like Mary MacKillop, may we reach out to those who are struggling in our community. Saint Mary of the Cross, serving with compassion, pray for us.

Action:

Take time today to extend the hand of friendship to someone who is sick or experiencing loss in their lives or who is a newcomer to our country. *From: Praying From the Heart – used with permission.*