



Josephite Associates

Friendship ♦ Prayer ♦ Service

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012

Dear Associates, Sisters and Friends

Spring Blessings to each of you as we move into this season of new life, new beginning and new growth.

Our world around us reflects the beauty of this season as we rejoice in warmer days, longer evenings, scented flowers, new born animals and we are again joyfully surprised by the treasures hidden from us by the winter season.



In this newsletter we share with you the work that both the Whanganui Affiliate and our Associate Leadership Teams have been focusing on together annually for the past five years. Over the last three years we have dialogued about becoming one group in New Zealand. The outcome has been a unanimous and spirit-filled decision to combine. This unified group will be known as...

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

Our journey and new beginnings is outlined below.



Special News Alert from the Combined Meeting of the Central Josephite Associates and the Federation Affiliates...

The Leadership Team of each group met again in early June in Whanganui for a gathering that was facilitated by Mary Jackson Kay rc. As you will be aware through previous newsletters, a decision had been reached at earlier meetings to combine the Associates and Affiliates as one group. During this weekend the focus was of continuing the journey of that decision. There was definitely a unity among the participants and an enthusiasm for moving forward as one group.

We began the journey by acknowledging we were a new group and therefore needed a new name to go forward. Our discernment process resulted in a unanimous decision to call ourselves...

Josephite Companions Aotearoa

We felt this new name connected strongly with journeying together, hospitality, breaking bread and Eucharist.

After this we realized that the next step was to formulate a "Vision Statement". We were affirmed by the common thread of all the contributions from the group which truly reflected our Josephite Spirituality.

As part of our next steps we are planning to ensure that the history of our Associates and Affiliates since the mid 1980s to the present is acknowledged and recorded. We wish to include the background to our present decision, as we think that this will be very important to the understanding of many people connected to us.

There are still a number of practical things to be worked out for our future together and we plan to meet again to discuss these issues in October of this year.

In the Spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

(paraphrased from the letter written to the Congregational and Provincial Leaders by Gayle Dodunski, Josephite Associates Leadership Team and Sister Marie Skidmore, Josephite Affiliates Leadership Team)

Excerpt from the response received from Sister Catherine Shelton rsj – Sisters of St Joseph Whanganui...

“...Your vision statement is inspiring and alive and will surely be attractive to those who resonate with the essentially Josephite spirituality it beautifully reflects. We congratulate you on this prophetic step so in tune with the wider Josephite family in its current process of strengthening unity among all Sisters of St Joseph.

Our best wishes and blessings as you continue to unfold the practical implications of the unity you have embraced...”



“Excerpt from the response received from Sister Colleen Keeble rsj – Sisters of St Joseph New Zealand...”

“...A change such as this brings with it great hope for the future Josephite Companions Aotearoa. Your initiative mirrors much of what is happening within our Congregations as we all discern the way forward in keeping alive the Mission of God. Your vision statement speaks of women truly dedicated to living out the spirit of Mary and Julian and reflects the

deep and lasting values of the Gospel. I look forward to seeing the unfolding of this journey into new and exciting opportunities of being Josephite...”

A NEW NAME!

Renaming is the first step in unifying the groups of Josephite Associates and Josephite Affiliates. We talked, reflected and discerned what this new name could be, that would reflect our common spirit of who we are and what we’re on about.

Then through a process of sharing words, meanings, and connections, we arrived peacefully at the name:

Josephite Companions Aotearoa

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|---------------|---|
| Josephites | - we all share in the charism of the Josephite spirituality |
| Com (with) | - we walk alongside, we journey with, we travel with |
| Panis (bread) | - we break bread together (Eucharist and hospitality) |
| | - we nourish and nurture our own and others spirituality |
| Aotearoa | - our country |

Our intention is to also invite our Maori Community to offer a Maori name that embodies Josephite Companions Aotearoa.



As we journey forward, we will grow into this new name together!

Josephite Companions Aotearoa VISION STATEMENT

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions, Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:



- ❖ Living simply and prayerfully
- ❖ Acting justly with integrity
- ❖ Responding to the needs of our time
- ❖ Being thankful for God's love
- ❖ Providing inclusive hospitality
- ❖ And down to earth practicality

In the spirit of Aroha

Please contact any of the Associate Leadership Team if you would like more information or to discuss this news further. Our Team will be meeting in October to work through a number of practical issues. Our intention is to keep you informed each step of the journey as we walk forward together in the spirit of Mary and Julian.

Celebrations around the Country for the FEAST of ST. MARY of the CROSS MacKillop - Wednesday August 8th 2012

Approximately 45 parishioners attended the 10 am Mass in the chapel, reflecting the love and appreciation we have for the Sisters of St Joseph and their great founder, Mary MacKillop.

During Mass, Father Matt told us briefly of Mary's life and the high esteem the Holy Father holds for Mary and her work.

Following Mass most of us went along to the Parish Centre for morning tea. It was particularly nice to see several of our very senior parishioners there and they obviously enjoyed the small celebration.

Sister Joan gave a little speech, her eyes teary with happiness and love for her founder. St Mary of the Cross and her Sisters certainly have a great legacy in Gisborne as St Mary's School goes from strength to strength.

Breda Bernstein

RSJ Associate, Gisborne



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Feast Day was celebrated at the home of Trish Clark, leader of the St Joseph Associates in Dunedin. Father Merv McGettigan assisted by Father Kevin Morton celebrated Mass with the readings from St Mary's Feast Day. Mass concluded with Mary's hymn, "A Cross of Stars".

Trish then shared her video, "The Toile". In 1992 Australian artist, Pamela Griffith, was commissioned by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart to create a toile representing the life of St Mary in time for her beatification. Members who have a piece of toile passed theirs around for others to enjoy.



We then had our usual raffles to raise funds for "The House of Bethany" in Auckland, which raised \$85. Trish thanked everyone for being so generous. This was followed by a lovely afternoon tea which was shared by all, and, before we knew, it was a quarter to five! Where had the afternoon gone?

Time flies when we enjoy the Josephite charism. Yes, St Mary's spirit was truly with us.

Denise Mitchell

RSJ Associate, Otago and Southland

A Loving Tribute

The Thames Associates gathered at the home of Mary Kedzlie to say goodbye to Sister Helen Winter who is leaving Thames to take up residence in Auckland.

Sister Helen will be missed greatly for her sterling work in the parish and throughout the Thames community.

She has been much loved.

The Sisters of St Joseph came to Thames just over one hundred years ago and have educated many hundreds of children in this area. Their valiant efforts will always be remembered.

Mary Kedzlie

RSJ Associate Thames



News from the International Josephite Associates Leadership Team (IJALT)

Associate Group Leaders from each of the New Zealand and Australian Provinces are being asked to complete surveys relating to resources and the Associates Handbook as we look at ways to review what we are currently using within our groups.

The 2 surveys will be available as a hard copy in this mailout for the group leaders to distribute to members for completion or to complete together at a meeting.

The Survey of Resources is seeking input on current resources being used, resources required, accessibility of resources and centralizing of resources.

The Survey of the Handbook is seeking input on current content of the handbook, needs and elements required for today and inclusivity of all provinces and regions.

This work is a result of the Terms of Reference set by the Associate Province Leaders who attended the 2011 Associates Leadership Conference in Sydney.

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond - we know that contributions will be valuable and will help us to take the next steps in providing effective resources and support and guidance for all Josephite Associates.

JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2013

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Total Cost of order @ \$7 each _____
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