



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

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NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2012

Celebrating Josephite Associates Self-Governance

On Saturday 15th September 2012 at the 29th Josephite Associates Annual General Meeting the Josephite Associates celebrated the movement to self-governance. Originally, Sister Elizabeth Murphy rsj on behalf of the Sisters enabled the growth and development of the Associates from a 1983 Chapter directive to 'explore the possibilities of extending the concept of Josephite membership'.

The day began with a Prayer Ritual for Self-Governance, an event which will be carved in Josephite History. Sister Mary Quinlan rsj NSW Provincial led the entrance procession, along with a representation of Sisters, the former leaders of the Associates. The elected Governance Group and other Associates were also represented in the procession.

During the Ritual the Governance Group was called by Sr Mary Quinlan to accept the role of leadership and give witness to the ministry of Jesus in their service to members. The Governance Group responded and accepted the call to leadership according to the Constitution of the Josephite Associates (NSW) Incorporated.

With hands outstretched, those who had gathered for this significant celebration extended a blessing on the Governance Group. The former coordinators of the Associates moved from the centre platform to seat themselves among the gathered assembly. The Governance Group then took their position for all to see. This aspect of the Ritual highlighted the exchange of Leadership and Management.

The final part of the Ritual was the recessional procession, in which Sister Anne Pardy rsj, carrying the lighted candle, handed this candle to an Associate, Geoff Barrett, who continued to lead the Governance Group in procession. The change of Governance was effective from this moment and all within the room knew the truth of Mary MacKillop's words: 'I cannot forget that there is a dear good God watching over us' (Mary MacKillop 1871).

After a short break the business aspect of the Annual General Meeting commenced. Leonie Bell, Chairperson and President, presented a comprehensive report * of the activities over the past year. The Treasurer's report* was delivered by Carmel Fahy (sister of Eileen Stevenson, Treasurer, who was unable to attend). Beverley Badcock gave a brief summary of the International Josephite Associates Leadership Team activities* and Jan Lang, Northern NSW representative, addressed the group about the activities of the North Coast*. Maureen Rayner, Secretary, took the minutes during the meeting.

The President concluded her report with the following words: 'Josephite Associates, as followers of St Mary of the Cross, need to stand and be counted, proclaim who we are, and ensure our membership continues to grow. We need to remain dedicated, being completely available to God, the Spirit and the charism of St Mary of the Cross. Our progress depends on our willingness to continue to make that charism alive in our actions, by building up relationships with one another and the God who loves us.'

May God bless each and every one of you.
Whatever our need, God's Grace is sufficient;
His Power, inexhaustible;
His Love, never-ending.
With God all things are possible.
St Mary of the Cross, pray with us.
St Joseph, pray with us.

* Copies of these reports are available by contacting the office on 02 9747 4199.

- JA Governance Group

Climb 'Til Your Dream Comes True

Often your tasks will be many
And more than you think you can do
Often the road will be rugged
And the hills insurmountable, too.....
But always remember, the hills ahead
Are never as steep as they seem
And with Faith in your heart start upward
And climb 'til you reach your dream
For nothing in life that is worthy
Is ever too hard to achieve
If you have the courage to try it
And you have the Faith to believe.....
For Faith is a force that is greater
Than knowledge or power or skill
And many defeats turn to triumph
If you trust in God's wisdom and will....
For faith is a mover of mountains
There's nothing that God cannot do
So start out today with Faith in your heart
"And Climb 'Til Your Dream Comes True"

Anonymous, shared by Elizabeth Joy Graham JA, Strathfield Group

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



*"It is by love that God has always led me, by
love that God reproves me, by love that God
lets me see love in all."*

15.7.1873

Christmas Island

I used to live on a remote Territory of Australia called Christmas Island. This place is 360 kilometres off the coast of Indonesia in the Indian Ocean. Regularly I met Australians who work there with the asylum seekers who arrive illegally by boat and are then held in detention. Some are teachers, nurses and doctors, police, security, interpreters, cooks, government officers, and many others. All of them are a long way from home and commit to stay there anytime between two weeks and six months.

Living in a remote area is not easy. The friends I make always complain about not having barista coffee, eggs not being fresh, no butcher on the island and newspapers that take three weeks to arrive by ship. Fresh food arrives by plane once each week and is usually frozen. These Australians miss their families and homes and the lifestyle is so different. Even the internet is very slow and not easy to access.

One man I used to see at church each Sunday would confide that the stress of his work made him doubt confidence in himself and he regularly seemed upset. When a priest was not available on Christmas Island, he found it difficult to participate in Communion Services prepared by the lay community. The Jesuits send a priest when they can. My friend would often get a lift to church with a Sister of Mercy who also was a long way from home and living by herself. He missed not attending Mass when Sister was not available to provide transport and he was generally unhappy all the time I knew him.

The picture of St Mary of the Cross just inside the church had always been a comfort to me. I told my friend that St Mary of the Cross was with him as he was working in God's Australian vineyard on Christmas Island. After six months he said goodbye and told me he doubted he would stay in his job as he was too sad to continue. He was going home to his family. When I said goodbye I gave him a small wooden cross with a Mary MacKillop medal on it and told him it had been placed on her tomb in Sydney. I urged him to visit the Mary MacKillop Chapel in Mount Street, North Sydney, and did not expect to see him again. I have always kept him and the other workers on Christmas Island in my prayers and record their names in the petition book when I visit the tomb of St Mary of the Cross.

Six months later my friend arrived back on Christmas Island, happy and smiling. He was looking forward to staying there again and carried with him every day that little wooden cross with Mary's medal on it. He was full of joy, describing how he visited the Chapel with his wife and children and was ready to continue his work in this remote place. He had renewed confidence in himself and has successfully continued to work in other remote locations.

I still smile at the memory of seeing him happy.

Anonymous Josephite Associate

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in November and December 2012; January and February 2013

Many Thanks!

To Josephite Associates who paid their 2012 Membership and for additional donations received.

The AGM on the 15th September 2012 was an historic occasion. Josephite Associates (NSW) Incorporated is now self-governing and manage their own business affairs.

The Sisters of St Joseph have financed the Associates for 29 years. Josephite Associates now stand alone.

The Governance Group seeks your continued financial support. An insert is included in this Newsletter for renewal of membership for the 2013 Year.

*Written for people who suffer and hurt,
lost homes and loved ones.*

Ashes

(by Carol Badewitz March 09)

From the ashes of despair we find hope
From the ashes of darkness we find light
From the ashes in the soil we find growth
From the ashes of suffering we find healing
From the water of our tears we find new life

For the pain in our hearts we turn to Jesus
Please help us in this time of need
As we rebuild our future
Our homes and our lives
As we plant the seeds that one day will grow
To blossom through our pain
To lighten our load
We know the sun will shine again tomorrow.

There are lessons to be learned from disasters
Sometimes they are hard for us to find
But if we stand upon the Mt
Free our minds of all the hurt
Open up our hearts to the Lord
We can gaze beyond the trees
and find the message there
written just for you and for me.

Telling us of new life round the corner
Telling us of kindness from a friend
Telling us the courage of another
Filling us with grace to start again.

*(Grace to me is a filling up of courage, strength & love
to see with new eyes and a new heart)*

News from Nyngan

We have been very fortunate to have had Sisters Pat Duffy rsj and Maureen McDermott rsj here in Nyngan to tell us about journalling and to encourage us 'to give it a go'. Following on with related topics we have had Sue and Leo Kane come to add to the journalling ideas by explaining to us how to reflect and meditate.

When Sisters Pat and Maureen held their day we had 21 participants which was a great roll up from our small group. This first day must have been a great success because when Sue and Leo Kane held their day we had 32 in attendance.

As both days were held during winter, lunch was provided by way of beautiful hot soups prepared by several of the ladies and hot crisp buns provided by our kind Sister Petra rsj. Of course morning teas displayed the cake and slice making skills of the country women.

Those members and friends who came on these two days said that they enjoyed the day and the majority indicated that 'yes they would give it a go'.

Rather than let the ideas of journalling and reflection become another of those things that we will do one day when we have time, we have asked the question 'Should we set aside a special time to encourage us in reflection and journalling and to offer support to each other?' Any gathering would be open to Josephite Associates, other parishioners and friends from other local churches.

A follow-up meeting to discuss the idea of forming a regular Reflection/Meditation/Journalling Group was held at St Joseph's Convent on Thursday 30th August 2012.

Leonie Ward JA, Group Leader, Nyngan

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

Saint Joseph's Day Mass



Inclement weather and grey skies could not dampen the enthusiasm of the Sisters, their relatives and friends who gathered at St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living, Baulkham Hills on Saturday 17th March 2012 for the annual St Joseph's Day celebrations.

The traditional owners of the land were acknowledged with the Aboriginal didgeridoo and other tribal elders.

Participants from many countries took part in the liturgy and the multicultural inclusion added to the solemnity of the occasion. The choir and musicians led the singing of hymns and parts of the Mass in fine voice and the hymn 'Salve Joseph' was a powerful expression of unity.

On this occasion there was great rejoicing among the Sisters, who enjoyed meeting up with friends from far places and times past. Some visitors who attended for the first time were impressed with the beautiful surrounds and the magnificent chapel. The Eucharistic Celebration was a spiritual experience and will be remembered for a long time.

We had double reason to celebrate as for the Irish Sisters it was St Patrick's Day and they wore their shamrocks with pride. Over a delicious lunch the celebrations continued and we thank the staff for their dedication and hospitality.

It was wonderful to experience the unity and friendship of the Sisters of St Joseph and I pray that the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be present in our daily lives as we continue to spread her charism. Thank you to Sr Mary Quinlan rsj for her generosity and the personal greeting she gave to all present on the day.

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

Coming Events—Associates Associates Office Closure

The Josephite Associates office will be closed from Monday 10th December 2012 and reopens on Monday 28th January 2013.

For further information phone

JA Office on 02 9747 4199

or email associates@sosjnsw.org.au

Reflection on Saint Joseph

Joseph is the man on the outskirts, standing in the shadows, silently waiting, there when wanted and always ready to help. He is the man in whose life God is constantly intervening with warnings and visions. Without a complaint he allows his own plans to be set aside. His life is a succession of prophecies and dream-messages of packing up and moving on. He is the man who dreams of setting up a quiet household, simply leading a home life and going about his affairs, attending to his business and worshipping God and who, instead, is condemned to a life of wandering.

His message is willing obedience. He is the man who serves. It never enters his head to question God's commands. He makes all the necessary preparations and is ready when God's call comes. Willing, unquestioning service is the secret of his life. This is his message for us.

Source unknown



www.marymackillop.org.au

Big Bang by Newly Formed Josephite Associate Group at Padstow

On Sunday 13th May 2012 (Mother's Day) we experienced our first fundraising activity at Bunnings Bankstown. This day entailed a large amount of preparation, such as donation letters, parboiling sausages, cutting onions and purchasing and collecting goods.

Mother's Day was very cold and windy but that didn't stop our small group, along with the help of our children and grandchildren, uniting in a very successful, hardworking and fun-filled day.

Much of the success of our small group must be attributed to Sr Margaret Keane rsj, who has worked hard and guided us by example. Sr Margaret, in her usual smiling manner, greeted and chatted with many people on this cold windy day, as well as helping with the buttering of 80 loaves of bread.

A well-earned profit was counted at the end of the day, which we know will be helpful in many ways for good work, following in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop. \$1,500 was donated to the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

On Pentecost Sunday this group of 13 members was privileged to be installed as Josephite Associates. The dedication was conducted during the 9.30 a.m. parish Mass and we would like to thank Father Stephen DeBono PP of St Therese's Padstow and also Leonie Bell and Beverley Badcock for making this occasion very memorable. Following the dedication ceremony a delicious morning tea was enjoyed by the new members along with their family and friends.

Karen Lovett JA, Padstow Group

News from Oatley

To celebrate the feast day of St Mary MacKillop a number of our Josephite Associates attended the midday Mass at St Joseph's Church Oatley. This was followed by a prayerful meeting for our local Josephite Associates who meet to share in friendship and prayer as we live the charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We prayed for one of our dear members, Dorothy Kernahan, who is ill and can no longer attend our meetings.

We then adjourned to the local coffee shop opposite the Church for a lovely light lunch and great companionship.

A good number of our ladies enjoy cutting and sorting stamps for the Peru Mission. Most of the ladies are involved in many other parish activities.

Annette Rowley JA, Group Leader, Oatley

Kincumber Remembers John Smith (1929 – 2012)

John Smith was born on 11th August 1929, in Cooyong Private Hospital in North Sydney just before the Wall Street crash. His arrival at St Joseph's, Croydon coincided with the worst years of the depression and with the highest rate of unemployment ever seen in this country; many families were eking out a bare existence and were unable to look after their children. They were hard times. Perhaps this is what happened to Johnny's mother; unable to look after him, she did the only thing she could and gave him into the care of the Sisters of St Joseph.

In February 1935, as a young lad, just 5½ years old, Johnny made the long journey to St Joseph's Home for Boys, Kincumber. He was escorted by two Sisters of St Joseph, Sisters Maurice and Justin, and was accompanied by Reggie Kelly and Anthony Pickett; so began Johnny Smith's life-long association with the home and the Sisters of St Joseph. Johnny never really left, for even when he was away his heart carried the image of this place that he always called home.

The loss of his mother and his yearning for her resulted in a lifetime of searching for her. This yearning for his mother found expression for him in acknowledging the Sisters as mothers to him – even those of us younger than him! Every Mother's Day Johnny would bring us flowers and cards and celebrate not so much our love for him – and we did love him – who could not? But rather Johnny celebrated his love for us and we were honoured by that love, as indeed were all the people who became part of Johnny's life. His simple unaffected love surrounded each one of us, because Johnny was a giver to life and to people.

In all this he always had an eye out for what might benefit us here at St Joseph's – the slightly tired looking seedlings, the fruit and vegies that were a little bruised – how could anyone refuse Johnny? But then, anyone who gave to Johnny received so much more from him – all were the recipients of Johnny's giving. Whatever he had he gave away, often without the recipient knowing who was the giver. He lived in complete simplicity. But most of all he gave the precious gift of loving friendship.

In 2003 he was nominated for the Gosford Citizen of the Year and was among the finalists. He did not win but in typical Johnny style anyone could well have thought he did win, such was his delight!

For all that he gave to the local community his life focus was the parish of Kincumber and at its heart St Joseph's. At his instigation this peninsula was named the Mary MacKillop Peninsula. He spent countless hours working on the Holy Cross Restoration Committee, making, along with his fellow committee members, the little church he so loved a beautiful and fitting place of worship for his God.

His simple but deep faith found its expression in the two great commandments – his love of God and his love of neighbour. It was also his delight to unobtrusively serve his God as altar server, as acolyte, as prayer and liturgy leader, as one who faithfully looked after God's house.

His heart was utterly Josephite – he was the first male Josephite Associate and proudly signed his name John Smith rsj. He loved the Sisters, not just those who looked after him as a boy – but each succeeding generation was welcomed lovingly and drawn into his sense of being part of the Josephite family. He often drove the truck to Sydney taking the Sisters to the markets and abattoirs, bringing back the food that was the only way all could be fed – no easy journey before the building of the F3 and the later extension to Gosford.

Johnny retired to Woodport Retirement Village; he would come back for a cuppa and a chat with his girls – both Sisters and staff. He assisted firstly Sr Joan and Margaret and then Zeena and Bridie with invaluable recollections of life at St Joseph's so that the museum – the John Smith Museum – would more fully represent the life and the stories of the old boys and girls and the Sisters.

Johnny is surely one of those little ones of whom Jesus spoke who would inherit the kingdom of God. I am sure the gates of heaven immediately opened for him, and standing waiting for him like an honour guard were all his friends and all those who were touched by his life, and as he walked through that throng of people there waiting for him with arms outstretched were his parents, the mother he always searched for and the father he never knew and, just behind, his God. Johnny is truly at home.

May you rest, Johnny, in the everlasting delight and joy of your God,

and in the grateful hearts of all of us still here looking forward to the time when your twinkling eyes, infectious grin and open arms welcome us into everlasting life.

Edited extract of the eulogy given by Sister Monica Barlow rsj on 17/3/2012 (used with permission)

I too sent my Son...

A Jewish businessman in New York decided to send his son to Israel to absorb some of the culture of the homeland. When the son returned, the father asked him to tell him about the trip.

The son said, "Pop, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity."

"Oy, vey!" exclaimed the father. "What have I done?"

The father decided to go and ask his friend Jacob what to do.

Jake said, "Funny you should ask. I, too, sent my son to Israel, and he also came back a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi and ask him what we should do." So they went to see the rabbi.

The rabbi said, "Funny you should ask. I, too, sent my son to Israel. He also came back a Christian. What is happening to our young people? Perhaps we should go talk to God and ask him what to do."

The three of them prayed and explained what had happened to their sons and asked God what to do.

Suddenly a voice came loud and clear from Heaven, "Funny you should ask. I, too, sent my Son to Israel..."

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

Celebrations in East Timor

Wednesday 8th August 2012 was celebrated in a special way this year in Dili with the blessing and opening of a new building of the Mary MacKillop Institute, the name by which we are known in East Timor.

The new centre is the first permanent base in East Timor and was made possible because of an agreement with the Diocese of Dili for the Sisters of St Joseph to lease a section of land in the Becora parish for 25 years.

The facilities include a three-bedroomed convent for Sisters, classrooms, offices, music suites, toilets, areas for woodworking and other projects. In line with local tradition, the whole area is a secure area with a guard post at the entry. Sr Julian Langton rsj and her two dogs, Kiwi and Anzac, live permanently on site and other Sisters visit from time to time.

The Feast Day Mass on 8th August was followed by the official ceremonies in which Bishop Ricardo from Dili and Bishop Eugene Hurley from Darwin blessed all buildings before Sister Anne Derwin rsj as Congregational Leader helped to cut the ribbon across the gate leading into the new areas.

Many of the staff and students associated with the Mary MacKillop Institute shared in the festivities along with several Sisters and friends who travelled from Australia for the occasion.

Whilst in Dili, the visitors had an opportunity to visit one of the local parishes, Remixio, which is being assisted by the Mary MacKillop Institute.

Sr Sheila McCreanor rsj

Extract from sosj.org.au, used with permission

Migrant and Refugee Sunday

The scripture readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, present us with choices. At *Shechem*, Joshua, together with the pilgrim people of God, renews the covenant – just before they set foot into the *Promised Land*. They had come out of the experience of oppression – of slavery and the domination of Egypt; they had *wandered through a desert*, had *survived many dangers* and were now about to enter the Land of Freedom. Joshua realises that this is a time of decision, and the decision that they make now will affect their whole future. The pilgrim *People of God* does not yet know what awaits them in this new land. Will they be made welcome? Will they be able to create a home? Will they be able to live in peace? They make a decision to face the future based on their past experience of God's goodness. Clearly the experience of slavery and their Exile in Egypt left a profound imprint on the people of God, as the scriptures refer to the experience many times to remind Israel that, because of it, they have now acquired a new identity: they are a new people.

Most importantly, their experiences of oppression direct within them a more positive and welcoming attitude towards the foreigner. The land of welcoming and hospitality becomes a powerful reminder to create a new society, a mirror of God who loves the poor and the needy; who is an advocate for the orphan and the widow. As those who are migrants or perhaps once refugees will affirm – to enter a new land represents the possibility to a dignified life shaped by justice and peace. The new land becomes a place of welcome and hope, of mercy and empowerment for all.

The mission of the Church follows two fundamental paths that intersect. The *first path* is that **the Church looks at migration from the point of view of the need that emerges from poverty, slavery, oppression and suffering**. The *second path* sees **the Church committed to educate society** that migrants are human beings with immense potentialities and resources that ought to be acknowledged, celebrated, and given the opportunity to flourish. Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees come to us with an abundance of gifts, experiences and wisdom. Thankfully the Church is committed to both pathways.

The vast issues of migration, refugees and asylum seekers give us a tremendous opportunity: to **RECEIVE Christ**, the bread of life; to **RECOGNISE the many gifts** that every person brings; to **RESPOND to the plight** of those asking for the opportunity to live in peace and justice in this land.

Do we recognise Christ's presence among the poor, the weak, the sick and imprisoned, the lonely and the hungry in our society? **OR** do we prefer to remain safe and comfortable by closing our eyes and ears to the needs and demands of all those in need?

The challenge of real faith is to follow Christ and to seek his presence in the needy faces of our neighbour. This is a choice, which can lead us and others to life in abundance.

Mary MacKillop had a heart big enough to embrace all of humanity. In 1875 she wrote;

'Be kind to the poor foreigners. Remember I was a foreigner once, and as such was never laughed at nor unkindly treated.' (1875)

Fr Graeme Malone SSS

Edited extract from the homily for the 21st Sunday (26th August 2012) given at the Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney (printed with permission).

Requiescant in Pace

Clare Attridge (Canberra);
Des Barney, husband of Marcia (North Leichhardt);
Lorraine Bateman (Canberra);
Jack Blood, husband of Maureen Blood (Canberra);
Nuala Bone (Woy Woy);
Molly Cameron, (Barraba);
Kathleen Carter, (North Leichhardt);
Sr Jan Cooney rsj;
Tony Daniels, husband of Jan Daniels (Quirindi);
Elizabeth (Betty) Graves (Campsie);
Beryl Hayward (Sefton/Auburn);
Leila Jackson (Barraba);
Paul Landrigan (Penrith);
Patricia Moore (Prayer Member Peakhurst);
Leslie Nesbitt (formerly Belmore Group; Prayer Member Pennant Hills);
Pat O'Shea (Penrith);
Maureen Pengilley (Quirindi);
Vera Sivewright, mother of Christine Sivewright (Lakemba);
Beverley Faye Smith, (Thirroul);
Sr Mary Smith rsj;
Iris Thuaux (Punchbowl);
Joseph Ulbrich, husband of Bernadette Ulbrich (Lidcombe);
Dulcie Wilcox (Penrith)

Prayers for the Sick

Eileen Carter (Nyngan);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Joan Claxton (Lidcombe);
Marie Crowe (Peakhurst);
Mary Durkin (Warialda);
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);
Maureen Hearne (Lidcombe);
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);
Noelene McNeil (Barraba);
Ron Moore (Warialda);
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);
Helen Perrett (Warialda);
Paula Potter (Nyngan);
Esme Quinn (Warilla);
Glad Rope (Nyngan);
Lillian Stansell (Strathfield);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont)
We remain united in prayer for all our sick Josephite Associates and Sisters of St Joseph.

Trade with Compassion

Sister Suzette Clark rsc introduces the works of the Australian Fair Trade Investment Network and explores Catholic social thought that lies at the core of trade justice, whereby trade rules and practices give special and differential treatment to the poor.

Reflecting on a Christian response to the issue of trade justice, I remember some of the highlights and the turning points of my involvement in the campaign for trade justice over many years now. It was at the International Trade Campaign Conference in Delhi, India, in 2003 that the reality of the injustice caused by free trade was highlighted for me. During that conference graphic stories were told of the injustice experienced by the poor, especially in developing countries. I was deeply moved by a Sri Lankan man, Raahi, who stood before us and pleaded with us to help the people of his country. Water sources were about to be privatised, meaning that the inhabitants of a village would have to pay for the water from their well because the very springs from which that water came had been privatised.

The scriptures and Catholic teaching give a clear priority to the poor, calling for an attitude of compassion and a readiness to use and share power and resources to alleviate and eradicate poverty. Trade, with accompanying debt relief and aid, can contribute to poverty reduction. Trade justice is about applying Gospel values and principles to the current global trading system. Instead of expecting traders in the poorest countries to compete on equal terms with those of the richest, trade rules and practices need to give explicit support and special and differential treatment to the poor.

In Australia, the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network works to raise awareness about the many trade agreements that Australia is currently negotiating, and to advocate for more transparency in these negotiations and the resulting agreements. It is a national network of community organisations and many individuals concerned about trade and investment policy which conducts public education and advocacy on the impact of trade agreements on human rights.

For more information: www.aftnet.org.au

Edited extract from Pathways (from Catholic Religious Australia) June 2012 (used with permission)

Eve Cummings and Sr Connie thank all Josephite Associates sincerely for the support of prayer during Eve's recent illness. Eve has improved considerably.

**Look back and thank God
Look forward and trust God
Look around and serve God
Look within and find God**

Mary MacKillop and Jules Chevalier



What a wonderful month October 2010 was, when we celebrated with the whole world the canonisation of our very own Mary MacKillop. Our screens, radios and newspapers were filled with that scarce commodity – good news – the good news of an extraordinary Australian woman of faith who lived by the power of the cross. On 21st October 2010 our Chevalier Family celebrated the 103rd anniversary of the death of our Founder, Father Jules Chevalier.

Mary and Jules – two saintly people, living in the same era, separated by thousands of miles, and both playing a very important role in our Church, in our world and in our lives – St Mary, our first Australian Saint, and Father Jules Chevalier, our Founder.

I would like to offer you some reflections on the lives of these two saintly Founders who had many beautiful spiritual gifts in common.

Mary MacKillop was born on 15th January 1842, in Melbourne, Australia, and died in North Sydney on 8th August 1909. Cardinal Moran said to the sisters on that day:

“Her death will bring many blessings, not only on yourselves and your Congregation, but on the whole Australian Church.”

I consider I have, this day, assisted at the deathbed of a saint.”

Jules Chevalier was born on 15th March 1824, in Richelieu, France and died in Issoudun, France, on 21st October 1907. These words from the local newspaper, *L’Univers*, 2nd November 1907, tell their own story:

“The faithful of his parish weep for him as for a father, and pray to him as to a saint.”

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The season of Advent heralds the coming of Christmas and we remember the circumstances of the birth of the babe of Bethlehem, our Emmanuel, God-with-us. In one of our carols, we sing: “O King of heaven, from starry throne descending, Thou takest refuge in that wretched cave.”

Mary MacKillop founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1867 in Penola, South Australia. Her work of education began in a disused stable which her brother, John, made habitable for the first pupils. After her death *The Melbourne*

Advocate on 14th August 1909, had this to say:

“The Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph seems to have been marked by St Joseph and the Sacred Heart for their own from the beginning. The Congregation was born in a stable.

St Joseph provided a stable where the Sacred Heart first beat!”

Father Jules Chevalier founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1854, and the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in 1874. In 1855 the first three Missionaries were officially installed and received the name of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Father E. Cuskelly wrote of the event in his book, *Jules Chevalier, Man with a Mission*:

“... they were installed in a barn!

Admittedly the barn had been disguised as a chapel – but their material beginnings were humble indeed.” (p. 25)

In describing the first house of the Missionaries, Father Charles Piperon msc, one of the founding members and Father Chevalier’s biographer, wrote:

“... poor, dilapidated, in no way suited for its purpose. It resembled much more the absolute destitution of Bethlehem than the modest dwelling of Nazareth.”

THE CROSS

“This is the badge of the friends of the Man of Sorrows: the mark of the Cross, faint replica of His...” (J. Powers, Selected Poetry. SICS Publications, Washington, 1999, p. 150)

The life experiences of Mary and Jules were characterised by the sign of the Cross.

St Mary chose as her religious name, Sister Mary of the Cross, and she earned the right to this title as she endured many bitter trials throughout her life – ill health, long arduous journeys across the rugged terrain of Australia, writing of thousands of letters, and the hardships of material poverty where often the necessities of life were only obtained by begging. In a typical Australian manner of speech she wrote in 1884:

“The little crosses are harder to bear than the thumping big ones!”

She experienced, however, many such “thumping big crosses”, the more painful coming from people, and principally from those whom she revered and respected.

In a letter to a friend on 14th February 1866, **Father Jules** wrote:

“Like St Paul, I am making an effort to go further and to find my consolation in the Cross.

I know that all the works of God are founded on Calvary and on suffering. That thought strengthens me.”

While **Jules Chevalier** experienced the cross in his life in many forms he accepted it lovingly and found his inspiration in the pierced Heart of Jesus, of which he wrote:

“... from the Heart of the incarnate Word, pierced on Calvary, I see a new world emerging, the world of those he has chosen.

And this creation, so fertile, so full of grandeur and inspired by love and mercy, is



the Church, the mystical body of Christ, which makes this new creation present on earth until the end of time.” (1900)

THE WILL OF GOD

St Mary of the Cross found in the Will of God the guiding principle of her life. She wrote:

“To me the Will of God is a dear book which I am never tired of reading, which has always some new charm for me. I cannot tell you what a beautiful thing the Will of God seems to me.”

Father Jules instructed his religious companions:

“... [the] life of faith demands of us confidence in God and His divine Providence.

Abandonment to the Will of God will also be a preferred virtue. We shall accept from the hand of God whatever happens to us, pleasant or painful.”

DEVOTION TO SAINT JOSEPH

St Mary of the Cross expressed her deep love for St Joseph when she placed her new religious order under his protection. She wrote in appreciation of him:

“God has chosen us to be placed in this institute under the fostering care of His own dear Foster Father.

Ah, glorious saint, we are indeed favoured, and we have always been favoured.

We have thee as our guide and example in the pursuit of virtue.

Thy humble and hidden life must be our model.”

Father Chevalier also had a deep, trusting love for St Joseph and related to him with homeliness and warmth. When a wall of the original converted barn/chapel collapsed, Father Jules said to St Joseph: *“The damage is on your side. It is up to you to fix it!”*

In one of his Meditations he wrote:

“On earth St Joseph watched over and protected Jesus and Mary.

He is willing and able to protect us. He distributes the treasures of the Heart of Jesus and wishes to enrich us with them. So let us go to him with confidence and ask him for all the help we need. He will give it to us.”

Father Jules celebrated the wonderful bond of love that existed between Jesus and Joseph

by giving us a new invocation:

"St Joseph, Model and Patron of those who love the Sacred Heart, pray for us!"

FORGIVENESS

Both Mary and Jules excelled in this beautiful but difficult virtue.

St Mary's letters to her sisters reveal her deep capacity for forgiveness. She wrote:

"Try at least to excuse what you cannot understand and bear in mind that you only have to answer for your own faults... bear with one another, forgiving and forgetting ... be not hasty in judging one another."

The facts of her unjust excommunication are well known, as is her remarkable acceptance of this distressing event.

Those writing about **Father Founder** tell us that the revenge he took on those who calumniated him "... was to welcome them with kindness and charity. He invited them to meals and treated them even better than his friends. I have seen several of them at table with him who did not have the slightest suspicion that he had in his possession their letters denouncing him.... When reading this famous file, he would say over and over again: 'May the good Lord forgive them!'" (Claude Hériault msc)

In a few short pages it is not possible to do justice to the inspiring lives of these two wonderful people, one canonised by the Church and the other canonised in our minds and hearts. Through their intercession for us with the loving Heart of Jesus, may we grow in knowledge and appreciation of how deeply we are loved and blessed by our God. May we, with Mary as our companion, seek to be ever more lovingly the Heart of Jesus in and to the world.

Sr Ancilla White olsh

This is an edited version of a reflection that first appeared in Ametur, the newsletter of the Associates of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in November 2010.

Bombala Josephite Associates

Reflection on a New Year

(Joyce Rupp)

The beginning of a new year always merits some reflection. It is not so much a time of making new resolutions, but rather, space in which to ponder life and review personal growth. A new year is a good opportunity to look at what guides my thoughts and decisions each day, to look at the person I already am and who I want to become.

As I review the year, I look for what allows my life to receive greater meaning and what resists it. I ponder how and when hope has sung in my days. I wander through the months recalling who and what gave me strength and where enthusiasm ripened or died on the vine. I look for graced moments that I have totally forgotten, those spaces in my days when I am swept off my controlled feet by the grace of a tender God who says, "Don't forget you are in my heart."

When I review my journal from the past year I often see that there's a part of it filled with familiar melodies, some delightful and others quite jarring. My insights and awareness touch again and again on some basic patterns and behaviors. When I see them, I sometimes say with a groan, "I've been here before!" However, I have noticed that almost every time I come around the circle I know it better. I miss more of the off-key notes and disharmony as I get better acquainted with their positions and characteristics, so I feel a sense of hope in spite of the old recurring patterns.

Underneath the circle of my year, I can always spot my life principles-the foundational themes and values that spur me on to live my dreams and rekindle a positive attitude. One year I rediscovered a life principle when I received a Christmas gift that was truly given from the heart. I was at the home of a five-

year-old girl whose shining eyes and bright smile could shake the world awake with joy. As I entered her house she went running to her room and came out beaming, carrying her gift to me on a used Christmas card: nine recently found pennies and two uneaten peanuts! A widow's mite, to be sure. Nothing could have made me happier.

On New Year's Day that year, I rearranged my inner world a bit to make room again for offering little kindnesses to others. I saw my all too familiar pattern of being too busy for even a smile when I am rushed and pressed for time. I renewed my life principle of being a woman of loving kindness. I asked for the grace to give my own nine pennies and two peanuts to each person I met in the coming year.

(How true this is—let us all **MAKE** the time, **GIVE** the time and **TAKE** the time.

May Grace and Peace flow freely on your New Year.

Carol Badewitz JA Group Leader, Bombala

Formation Program

The Governance Group is considering offering a Formation Program in 2013 to Josephite Associates who would be interested in being trained in developing the necessary skills required to conduct prayer days and retreats.

*If this is of interest to you please forward your details to the office at
P O Box 184 Croydon NSW 2132.*

Coming Events

Mary MacKillop Place
7 Mount Street North Sydney

Wednesdays with Saint Mary MacKillop
10.30am – 12.30pm

November 28th
"Dream into the Future – The Challenge of Mary's legacy"

*For further information phone
Sr Monica Barlow rsj*

phone 02 8912 4818
or email:

mackillop@sosj.org.au
www.marymackillopplace.org.au
[au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au)

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

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5 Alexandra Avenue
Croydon NSW 2132
Phone 02 8741 2334
Fax 02 8741 2399

Associates Office

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This New Year

Response: God, surprise us again.

When we miss the beauty and the joy of earth's goodness...R/

When the goodness of others gets lost in the rush...R/

When our frailty outruns our strength...R/

When the hope in our heart fades away...R/

When the call to serve others loses its flavour...R/

When we search for the way home to you...R/

When loneliness pursues us...R/

When it seems the darkness will never give way to the light...R/

When the ache of the world wears our compassion thin...R/

When the troubles of others seem more than we can carry...R/

When even you seem far away from us...R/

God of this new year, we are walking into graced mystery. We face the future not knowing how we will respond. Fill us with your Grace as we journey, to see all of life through your eyes. May we welcome all who come our way. Fill us with hope and trust through all our joys and sorrows. Thank you for the little glimpses of your presence as we walk through our day. God of this new year we praise you. AMEN.

At the beginning of this new year let us pray...

To live deeply, with purpose,
To live freely, with detachment,
To live wisely, with humility,
To live justly, with compassion,
To live lovingly, with fidelity,
To live mindfully, with awareness,
To live gratefully, with generosity,
To live fully, with enthusiasm.

Help us to hold this vision and to daily
renew it in our hearts.

~~~~~

We arise each morning with **amazement** at the  
gentle breath of Christ in the morning air  
with **gratitude** for life around us  
with **hope** that all shall be well within us  
with **courage** to meet difficulties that face us  
with **conviction** to do what is life-giving  
with eyes ever **open** for beauty in others  
with **openness** for greater knowledge of  
God's love for us  
with **desire** to do what is right and just  
with **compassion** for those hurting and  
suffering  
with **respect** for others at all times  
with **determination** to make good choices  
with **happiness**, knowing we are invited  
to live life fully in the love of Christ  
with **love** for Jesus, our companion of our Journey.  
*(In part Joyce Rupp)*

## New Year's Prayer

May the grace of God strengthen and guide us  
during this New Year of 2013.

May our sorrows be turned to joy

Our hurts be washed away.

May God's dreams for us be realised in the little moments  
he loans us.

May our little corner of the world be a better place for our  
being in it.

May we touch someone's life with love and laughter.

May wars cease

And greed become less

May strong people stand their ground against wrong  
doing.

And open our 'wide brown land' to those needing a more  
peaceful place to live.

May innocent prisoners be set free.

We pray for all this  
in this year of Grace.

Dear God,  
please listen to our prayers.

St Mary of the Cross  
Pray with us for  
Our intentions.

St Joseph  
Pray with us  
as protector of all who are lost and need  
shelter

## Hidden Youth

When I look at aged people  
I think of where they've been  
Not in terms of travel  
But things they've done and seen  
Beyond the frailty of body  
There's a story to be told  
Of a time that is long gone  
When they were young and bold  
A tale of love and laughter  
And the many things they've done  
Of dreams and aspirations  
And battles lost and won  
I look beyond the greying hair  
And through the wrinkled skin  
To see the young, vivacious, person  
I know is there within.

*Allan (used with permission)*