

Josephite Associates

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Friendship
Prayer
Service



Summer 2012



SEVENHILL REFLECTION DAY

On Saturday 27 October, 26 Associates travelled to Sevenhill for a reflection day led by Sr Mary Cresp rsj.

The perfect spring day and the tranquil location made the perfect setting for a reflection on the Year of Grace – Moments of Grace.

On arrival there was a lovely morning tea which had been set up for us by the volunteers at Sevenhill.

We then started with the first session entitled “Experience of Grace – What is Grace”.

One way of describing the Year of Grace is “God has sent me to proclaim the year of God’s favour”.

Grace can be described in many ways eg graceful, graced, gratitude, gracious, gratis,

grazie and gracias. It can cover a number of situations including movement, beauty of form, something that captures the eye or the grace of new life. Grace is a gift.

Graceful moments can also occur in death.



Mary MacKillop said at the time of her excommunication: *“I really felt like one in a dream. I seemed not to realise the presence of the Bishop and priests. I know I did not see them; but I felt, oh, such a love for their office, a love, a sort of reverence for the very sentence which I then knew was being in full force passed upon me. I do not know how to describe the feeling, but I was intensely happy and felt nearer to God than I had ever felt before. The sensation of the calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.”*

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The Associate Leadership Team would like to wish all Associates a safe and peace-filled Christmas and a wonderful 2013.

Thank you for your support throughout 2012.



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The following are some questions that Mary put to us and maybe you would like to consider them also:

- ***When have I been held in admiration by beauty of form (grace)?***
- ***When have I been caught in the wonder and awe of the gift (grace)?***
- ***When have I been struck by the something beyond in nature?***

A relationship is a gift and grace is a gift.

- ***Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure.*** [Sira 6:14]
- ***Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth.*** [Sira 6:15]

We then discussed the fruits of grace.
Grace: undeserved free gift, undeserved favour, undeserved love.

Catechism of the Catholic Church
2003 **Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us.**

'Justifies' = puts us in right relationship with God.
'Sanctifies' = bestows gift of divine life. ('makes holy')

After a lovely lunch which was prepared by the volunteers. Mary led another session entitled "Why the Year of Grace".

The Bishops went to Rome and advised the Pope that Australia is a secular country. **"The people think that faith and the experiences of living in the Church**

are irrelevant to their lives."

During the Year of Grace people are invited to: "....

- **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".**

Archbishop Philip Wilson has said:

"So often in our lives we need to relearn 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."

Thank you so much to Mary Cresp for presenting this wonderful reflection for us. I think we all came away feeling nourished and inspired.

The following is the final question we were asked to ponder and maybe you would like to do the same:

"What can I do to increase my being open to the love of Jesus?"

Anne Slattery



Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us

In October this year the Church proclaimed the “**Year of Faith**”. In the light of this, as we begin our 2013 year of Associate activities, we would like to reflect on the many Josephite women of faith who have gone before us, leaving a legacy that we as Associates share in today.

An Evening Reflection with Sr Catherine Clark on Friday 8th February 2013

Where: Sisters of St Joseph’s Cemetery, Blythewood Road, Mitcham.

The entrance gates are opposite MacKillop Court. A picture of the entrance gates is below.

Time: Gather at the cemetery at 7:00pm

You may like to meet at Bethany at 6:30pm and car pool and travel together to the Mitcham Cemetery. (Phone Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 if you would like to do this.)

Bring a folding chair if you can.

If it is extremely hot or wet we will have our Reflection at Bethany or in the Chapel.

The Sisters’ cemetery at Mitcham has been recently upgraded and a memorial wall has been constructed from bricks that came from the convent that was once located on the land. It is a beautifully spiritual place to be as the setting sun echoes the end of the day. What a perfect location to share some stories relating to some of the Sisters who have gone before us.



Left
A map showing the
entrance gates to
the cemetery



Entrance gates

Celebrating the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

On the 12th of August Josephite Associates and friends and many Sisters gathered for a high tea celebration. Guest speaker Carlton Lang, who works for Crisis Accommodation Services and is Manager for SA Aboriginal Family Support Services spoke to us. These are non-government organisations and while some money comes from the government, extra money is always needed and as such they are a worthy beneficiary of money raised by the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

Everyone who attended brought a plate of food so by the time all food was placed on the table we thought we were feeding 5000! This is typical of the generosity that is a Josephite tradition. Some left overs were able to be sent home with Carlton for the children to enjoy.

Carlton gave a very interesting and somewhat disturbing talk regarding the work that he does and the population that these services assist.

Community care housing has been evolving for many years. They are popular in Europe with house parents and support workers during busy times. There are some community care houses in Perth. Ideally family based care is the best. Initially Carlton did voluntary work and then gained employment in the sector. There are two houses under Carlton's jurisdiction, one in the northern and one in the south-west suburbs.

40% of the children in care in South Australia are Aboriginal despite being only 2% of the population. Every year there are 300 more children in care ranging from 0 to 15 years. Self harm is a major problem with these children. At the time of the talk the youngest child in care was a 3 month old baby.

Carlton reflected that people of small groups such as ours are faithful and that charitable people provide hope. The money donated by the Foundation assisted with landscaping and curtains which improved and enhanced the housing facilities.

Their business of course booms in economic downturns and a background of unemployment leads to a cycle of unemployment and child benefits. Carlton and his staff are to be congratulated in the care and respect that they show to all people in their care and are certainly following the Josephite philosophy of supporting the indigenous community. Thank you, Carlton.

Bridgette Barrett



ASSOCIATES IN PENOLA

On the weekend of November 3/4th Lucia Ciocca and I travelled to the birthplace of the Josephites, namely Penola. We had been asked to come and be a part of a group of women in the South East who want to begin a Josephite Associates' group.

We gathered in the new Josephite Convent. This is situated next to the park which is the site of the original stable school that Mary taught in in Penola. Six women from Millicent and Mt Gambier, together with Sr Chris Symonds from Penola, gathered. We shared about the need in our Church to find ways of growing spiritually and nurturing this important aspect of our lives. As women who have contributed much to family, Church and the wider community there is a yearning from them to make connections between the action in their lives and finding Christ in it all. We reflected on what it means to share in the "charism" or spirit of Mary MacKillop and the Josephites. This charism can be

defined as ***"a Gift of the Spirit which is given to persons and taken up by a group to carry out the Mission of Jesus"***. (Sr Christina Neurzerling)

These women plan to meet several times throughout the year to share reflections, discuss and pray and so nurture their spirit so that they can continue Jesus' mission through "friendship, prayer and service". We welcome them as they continue their journey of faith as people inspired by the story and spirit of Mary MacKillop.

Mary Hemmings



The new convent at Penola

Jamestown Visit

On Saturday 28 July Pat Sandretti and Paul Murphy travelled to Jamestown where they attended 11.00 am Mass. Following this they went to St James School Hall and had a session with several local Josephite Associates. A number of apologies were noted. The group had a short lunch break with food prepared by the locals. Then another get together.

The theme was "Grace" and how this was shown in the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

On the way home Colleen Stewart showed the visitors a garden near the old convent in Caltowie. Josephite Associate, Pat Manley maintains this in honour of beloved Saint Mary.



Colleen Stewart

INTERNATIONAL JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES LEADERSHIP TEAM (IJALT)

In August 2011 there was a gathering of Josephite Associates in Sydney. This was an opportunity for Associate leaders from provinces across Australia and New Zealand to come together to reflect on where the Associate movement was at that point in time. Also present were two Josephite Sisters from Scotland and two women from Tasmania who were connected with the Tasmanian Josephite Sisters.

At the end of our time together four of us offered to form a committee, or working party, that would continue the work begun at the gathering. These were Peta Lindstrom from New Zealand, Anne- Marie Wilkinson from Victoria, Beverley Badcock from NSW and myself. Sr Eileen from the Congregational Leadership Team is our co-ordinator. We have named the group the **International Josephite Associates Leadership Team [IJALT]** because we represent Associates from Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Ireland and Scotland. We have managed to meet several times, firstly by Skype and more recently by another process called Adobe Connect. The wonders of social media have enabled us to become quite proficient at having these online conversations. One of the biggest challenges is managing our time zone differences!

Following our 2011 gathering two of the tasks that were named for the working party

included reviewing the **Associates' Handbook** and exploring ways that we might be able to **share Resources** across provinces. Earlier this year we contacted Associate leaders and surveyed them about these. Regarding the Handbook we have discovered that this is used by some groups and not by others. There is material in it that needs updating and we need to work further on what we make into a book/pamphlet and what we may be able to access online.

Similarly we need to further explore what resources such as prayer sheets and sessions for group gatherings that can be made more widely available to different Associate groups, within the boundaries of copyright.

In October this year our committee met in Sydney for three days to plan another Associates' Gathering for next year. As the General Chapter of the Sisters occurs in the latter part of 2013 it seemed appropriate for us to gather before the Chapter, in July, so that we could provide some input into the Chapter. This time together would enable us to form a picture of what is happening across all our groups as we continue to live the gospel in the spirit of Mary MacKillop across our "international" scene. I look forward to sharing with you details from our IJALT as we continue our discussions into next year.

Mary Hemmings

AN ADVENT BLESSING

May ...
the spirit of Christmas which is *Peace*...
the gladness of Christmas which is *Hope*...
the adoration of Christmas which is *Joy*...
and the heart of Christmas which is *Love*...
be yours now and tomorrow.



DIARY DATES FOR 2012/2013

◆ 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

◆ 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

◆ Launch of the Year of Faith

Date: Friday 8 February 2013
Time: 7.00 pm onwards
Place: Josephite Cemetery
Blythewood Road, Mitcham

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◆ Stations of the Cross

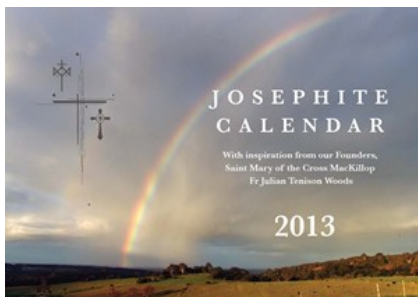
Date: Thursday 21 March 2013
Time: 7.30 pm
Place: Bethany Hall, Province Centre
4 High Street, Kensington

◆ Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Details coming soon



2013 Josephite Calendars



The 2013 Josephite calendars are available from the Mary MacKillop Centre, 19 Phillips Street, Kensington for \$6.50.

The Centre is open Monday to Thursday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The Centre will also be open for a short while following the 10.30 am Mass on **Saturday 8 December 2012**.

Christmas is less than two months away and this year you may like to consider spreading a little knowledge about St Mary MacKillop. Why not give a Christmas gift which will provide the receiver with something to think about? Our assorted items would make an ideal all year round gift and are not expensive. Why not drop in to see the wide range of items available at various prices?

Sr Pat Keane

Mary MacKillop—Model for pilgrims seeking Christ

Introduction

Even though Mary MacKillop lived a full and active life, she made sure that she spent time each day in prayer and meditation—often late at night. With her focus on Christ she was able to live a holy and exemplary life and she inspires us to do the same. In September, 1873 Mary was invited by Fr Christie SJ to go on the great pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial in honour of the Sacred Heart.

Gospel Reading—John 14:6

I am the way, the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except through me.

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Mary to the Sisters on 25 March, 1873,

I am going to Rome, to the feet of the Holy Father, there to implore his sanction for our Holy Rule, and I go full of hope, relying for the success of the undertaking upon the prayers, good observance and charitable dispositions of each and every one of my much loved Sisters...I will not conceal from you the many perils, many crosses and contradictions which attend this undertaking—many things which might discourage, were it not for a certain sense of God's watchful love which wonderfully strengthens me and which will also, I trust, give you all great courage.

Reflective Moment

In what ways am I presently seeking Christ in my life?

Pause to hold in prayer all those undertaking pilgrimages

Prayer

O God of the pilgrim, Mary MacKillop trusted your guidance in her journey of life.

We pray that we may grow in the fullness of your love
and the depth of your mystery as she did, so that like her,
we may reach our eternal homeland.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Mary of the Cross, pilgrim on life's way, pray for us.

Call to Action

Take a reflective walk today, being mindful of God's goodness in your life.

From: A Novena of Prayer and Reflection by Monica Cavanagh rsj – used with permission.