

AUTUMN
2013

WA Josephite Associates' Newsletter



We welcome 2013 as we continue to celebrate with Saint Mary MacKillop and St Joseph. I thank each one for your generosity in helping to keep each one in touch with the work of Mary MacKillop. Many thanks for your donations which have been used for the Josephite Associate's expenses, such as photo copying, mailing etc. I tried to visit those who were in need. My journeying for this year is to help and visit those whom I didn't get to visit last year. You are all in my prayers. I hope to go to Esperance in the near future and I would like to thank Helen Johnston for the continued work she does with the group in Esperance.

My thanks to Meg Phelan for her report from the Central Committee and Annette Morellini for her Annual Report from the South West area. If people would like either one of these reports let me know and I will send them to you.

Best wishes for the blessings of Autumn

From Sister Denise and Central Associate Committee – Meg, Fay, Dot, Margaret, Maureen and Mary, and all Associate Committee members from other areas.



Message of the Cross

Mary MacKillop chose to be called "Sister Mary of the Cross." She wrote to her mother: "My name in religion is Mary of the Cross. No name could be dearer to me." She saw the cross as an expression of her commitment to God and her personal relationship to Jesus. She spoke of walking with all those who were struggling and suffering in life and needed hope and encouragement on the way. "Have courage no matter what your crosses are." Mary MacKillop 1890.

Associates

The Associate movement is a widespread phenomenon of our times among different groups of Sisters of St Joseph. This movement provides both a structure which recognises the charism present in those who are not Sisters and a forum for bonding in that spirit. Most Associate groups would identify with the statement of hope expressed in the "Handbook of Josephite Associates" –

"to enter into a spirit of communion between the Associates and Sisters by sharing love, simplicity, homeliness and generosity, with St Joseph as model in his caring for Jesus and Mary and the Universal Church in the modern world."

The aim of the movement is primarily to raise awareness among Associates of the Spirit's gifting so that it is nurtured and strengthened. The charism is lived out in the lay situation- parishes, "workplace, families and friendships". Therefore it is not expected that Associates should work in the specific ministries of the Sisters; instead they interpret the spirit for their own lay lives. Some groups of Sisters of St Joseph do offer a volunteer program for Associates and opportunities to



live for short periods in community with them. But the direction, if it is truly a lay movement, will not be from the Sisters to join them, even as "companions on the journey". Rather it will foster the understanding of the Spirit endowing charisms among the whole of God's people, some of whom will be called to express that charism in Religious Life, but most of whom respond to it in "friendship, prayer, and service" according to their own circumstances in life.

The sharing of spiritual resources by the Sisters continues to be important in this evolution. One Associate explains:

Being an Associate has turned my life around – I am part of a movement that is growing in love. These people are my extended family and we have the support and love of the Sisters.

Another stressed the "ordinariness" she found among the Sisters. Invited to a cup of tea, she was taken to the kitchen "just as I would with my neighbours". From this small incident she and her husband were to respond to the spirit-gift within themselves as Associates to reach out to other families in trouble. Members of the strong Associate movement of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Peru say they feel "lucky" to share the Josephite charism.

The Sisters have taught us a new way of living solidarity with the most disadvantaged people in our country. We enjoy the sense of being part of a big family whose identity becomes stronger through love, courage and the challenge of these hard times.

Mary Cresp RSJ, "*In the Spirit of Joseph*" (P 35)



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, 27th January, the front garden of St Joseph's Convent, South Perth took on the appearance of a Royal Garden Party. The occasion being an al fresco afternoon tea for the guests of the Golden Jubilarians, Frances Maguire, Eileen Lenihan, Bernadette Hynes and Margaret Culhane and the Diamond Jubilarians Mary Jo Wells, Dora Maguire and Joan Luff. Volunteer hostesses were on hand to receive the guests and show them to the designated table.



Diamond Jubilarians (L to R); Srs Joan Luff, Dora Maguire & Mary Jo Wells received their Apostolic Blessings from Bishop Justin Bianchini



Prior to the Garden Party, the Jubilee Mass was celebrated by Bishop Justin Bianchini at the Holy Family Church, Como. Sister Pauline Morgan, WA Province Leader, after welcoming the people, read a short synopsis of each Jubilarian's ministry involvement in the life of the Province. In the homily the Bishop highlighted certain aspects of the Readings that the Jubilarians had chosen (Micah 6:6-8, Colossians 3: 12-17, Matt 6:25-34) and



Golden Jubilarians (L to R): Srs Eileen Lenihan, Frances Maguire, Margaret Culhane & Bernadette Hynes receive their Apostolic Blessings from Bishop Justin Bianchini

applied them in a refreshing personal way to the lives of the Sisters.

Towards the end of the Mass a Papal Blessing was presented to each Jubilarian by the Bishop. This was a moment of clicking cameras!

At the conclusion of her vote of thanks, Sister Mary Jo invited those present to Afternoon Tea in the convent grounds.

Diamond (left) and Golden Jubilarians cut the cakes ...



The guests gather in the leafy South Perth gardens



Sister Jubilarians, Dora (Diamond) and Frances (Golden) celebrate together

SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2013

Lenten – Autumn Gathering Sunday 10th March

2:30pm- 5:30pm Prayer in the Chapel,
followed by Raffle, Bring & Buy and a Cuppa shared in the Function room.

Winter Gathering Sunday 9th June

Spring Gathering Sunday 8th September

Advent – Christmas Gathering Sunday 8th December



2013 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(in the Function Room)



When:

10am Thursday on 23rd May (followed by lunch with the Sisters)

10am Thursday on 22nd August (followed by lunch with the Sisters)

10am Thursday on 21st November (followed by Christmas lunch)

WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS AND EVENTS 2013

MARCH ... Lenten / Autumn Gathering

Date: Wednesday 6th March

Venue: Gathering Area - Church of the Living Vine, Mardo Avenue, Australind.

Mass: 9:00am in Church, 9:30 am morning tea, Presentation - begins 10:00 am - concludes 2:00 pm

Topic: "Women of Hope"

Speaker: Sr Margaret Culhane rsj

Bring: Please bring a plate of finger-food for a shared Lunch.

RSVP: Monday 4th March to Annette: 97971156, Nancy: 97281037

Sr Margaret will speak on her experiences during her time working in Africa as Project Director of an Education Program under the UNHCR in Uganda, and in Kenya where she was counterpart to the education officer with the Lutheran World Federation, more recently she has worked in the Philippines and Timor-leste

APRIL ... Formation / Renewal Program - for all Josephite Associates and others interested in knowing more about the Josephite Associate Movement.

When: 9.30am - 3.00pm Tuesday 16th April 2013

Where: Dardanup House of Prayer

Bring: A plate of finger-food to share

Speaker: Sr Maree Riddler rsj

RSVP: Friday 12th April to Annette: 9797 1156, Nancy: 9728 1037

Cost: \$5.00

We envisage to complete two or three Sessions on the day and those who wish to become Associates and complete the sessions after, in their own time and wish to become Associates, can formerly do so on the St Mary MacKillop Feast Day - 8th August.

AUGUST ...

FEAST DAY ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

on THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST

More information in June Newsletter



EVERYONE IS WELCOME - tell your friends ...

We pray for these people and ask God to give them eternal rest:

*Gone
to
God*

Lil Owens, Josephite Associate - Esperance

Tonka Sime, Josephite Associate - Esperance

Neil Casey, brother to Sr Denise

Tom Keane, nephew to Srs Margaret & Betty

Jayden Zappelli - cousin to Sr Lyn

Mark Deroubaix, husband of June



*May they
rest in peace*