



WA Josephite Associates' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

Here we are into the month of August. Thank you all for the time and work you have given to the Associates in the West. There are lots of stories to share about the meeting in Sydney from Meg, Dot, Margaret and Annette. They have a great report to share with all the Associates. Many thanks for the donations received, which are great help to the Associates Administration. Best wishes for all the blessings of Spring.

From Sr Denise, Meg, Fay, Dot, Margaret, Maureen and Mary.

TAKE COURAGE

ADAPTED FROM SIRACH 2:1-6

All-good God,

it is fitting that the word courage comes from the French word for "heart".
May we be of good and strong heart in all things and recall your words.

Those who serve God
must be ready to be tested.

Set your heart in the right direction and be strong.

In times of disaster, do not weaken.

Gold is always tested by fire.

Trust God, and God will help you.

Hold firm to the good, and hope in God.

May our hearts be set in the right direction.

Help us to hold firm and be people of goodness and hope.

"As We Gather, As We Part" - CARL KOCH

REPORT ON ASSOCIATES' CONFERENCE 2013

Being Josephite Associates in an Ever-changing World



Forty Josephite Associates Leaders gathered for our conference at Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney from the 12th to the 14th July 2013. Associate leaders came from every state in Australia as well as from East Timor, New Zealand and Peru. What a

wonderful opportunity it was to meet and share with other Associates in a spirit of Friendship and Prayer!

The Conference began with Sister Angela Grant describing the beginning of the Associates' movement as far back as 1983. At that time Sister Angela and other Sisters of St Joseph realised that many people who were not vowed Sisters, shared the Josephite charism. They explored ways of enabling others to share their spiritual homeland and so our Josephite Associates movement was born!

Against the backdrop of the Associates' birthing story groups from different states or countries



Committee members: Meg Phelan, Margaret Hardingham, Dot Caughey and Annette Morellini



The WA Committee join Congregational Leader Anne Derwin rsj and all the other delegates for dinner

presented creative accounts of what is happening in their local area today. These accounts helped us all to appreciate the variety of activities and the spiritual riches that as Associates we bring to our local communities. The enthusiasm and energy in the groups as we shared our stories was 'contagious and encouraging'!

As Associate Leaders we came to the Conference with many questions. Many of these centred around formation programmes, forms of governance, relationship with the Sisters into the future, Covenant Josephites, new members, connections

with ex-students, networking, resources, Congregational ministries carrying on Mary MacKillop's legacy today and how we can support some of these ministries.

Now we look to the future! We believe we need to develop the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) further as a central contact for all Associate groups here and overseas. We have many dreams of what we hope for in years to come. Among our aspirations are the following: to strengthen our appreciation of the Josephite charism; to keep close to the Sisters; to

open doors for younger members; to promote unity in the Associate movement; to find 'where we hang our hat' with the Congregation's ministries; to spread the Josephite charism through Friendship, Prayer and Service and to hold another conference three years from now!

The Peruvians linked the spirit to a river. Again we saw beautiful images of their country and of Sister Irene McCormack's grave, surrounded by fresh flowers each day and with a large photograph of her smiling face. Her friend Rosa told us that she was always smiling and is still very much loved and missed even though she was killed in 1991. "She rests in her tomb and in our hearts," she said. Theirs is a community of love with St Mary MacKillop illuminating their lives.



Postcard from Esperance



My trip to Esperance was a very rewarding visit. I saw a number of people at the Masses on Saturday and Sunday. It was great to see them again. Sister Angela took me around to meet different families and also to see many scenes around Esperance, especially the Stonehenge, which is about 18 miles from the town.



I met with the Associates on the Tuesday afternoon; it was an excellent time with the ladies and one man. They were all interested with the information I gave them on Mary MacKillop. They are Mary MacKillop people in their own way. "Never see a need without doing something about it." They were out there helping people wherever needed. I was sorry that Helen wasn't there but she was looking after grand children in Perth. Helen does great work with the Associates in Esperance, and I thank her for the interest and the time she spends with Associates during the year. (We say goodbye to our Associate Lorraine Calnon who has moved to the East, we thank her for the time she has been with us in Esperance).



God bless each one. *Love and prayers from Sister Denise*

Visiting the Associates at Dardanup



This was the 8th August a special day - The Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop. I started out for Dardanup about 6:30 in the morning in the pouring rain, it soon came down to just showers.

Associates and school children gathered for Mass for St Mary MacKillop. I met Father Joseph who didn't seem to know what he was going to do on this special day. The Mass was held in the School Hall, which was filled with children, teachers, Associates and many other people from the parish.

I gave a talk on Saint Mary MacKillop. Everyone was interested in her story. After Mass we had a Renewal Commitment for the eleven Associates and Father Joseph joined us. The main part of the commitment was "Our Mission" – The call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop, and "Friendship, Prayer and Service" to make a difference in our local area and so further the Reign of God in our world.

We concluded the commitment by calling on our patron St Joseph.

We continued celebrating with a cuppa in the Prayer House – the head boy and head girl from Our Lady of Lourdes School were invited to morning tea. It was a very pleasant and profitable day, thanks to all who participated in this wonderful Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop.

- Love Sister Denise



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2013

Spring Gathering Sunday 8th September
Advent – Christmas Gathering Sunday 8th December



2013 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

(in the Function Room)

When:

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



WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS AND EVENTS 2013

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SEPTEMBER Retreat Day

Date: 9.00am - 3.00pm Thursday 26th September 2013
Led by: Sr Kathleen Dawe rsj
RSVP: Annette 97971156, Nancy: 97281037

Venue: Dardanup House of Prayer
Cost: A Donation
Morning tea provided

ADVENT / SUMMER GATHERING in NOVEMBER

Date: 9.00am - 3.00pm Wednesday 27th November 2013
Bring: Please bring a plate of finger food to share
Enquiries: Annette 97971156, Nancy: 97281037

Venue: Dardanup House of Prayer
Presenter: Sr Denise Casey rsj

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

Gone

Peg Glendon

Rita Byrne

Ted Jeffreys (husband of Ruth)

Joe McInerney (husband of Judy)

Maureen Rogers (wife of Clive)

to

God



*May they
rest in peace*

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