

# Josephite Associates

\* Friendship \* Prayer \* Service

## Spring Newsletter

Josephite Associates Qld,  
P.O. Box 243,  
Taigum. Q. 4018.



### From the pen of Mary MacKillop

When I could not see my way God kept  
my heart full of trust to make all come  
right.

October, 2013

Dear Associates,

Spring blessings to each of you, with all the beautiful blossoms and flowers to delight our eyes. Spring is a time of new growth and new beginnings. I hope each of you enjoys every moment of this spring season. A personal thank you is extended for the donations received this year. Any money received has been a great help with Associate Administration. Recently I have attended meetings and Retreats at Allora, Pittsworth and Caboolture. Your hospitality and service in being an Associate is truly remarkable.

After many years on the Core Group, Linda Schostakowski, has decided to step down from this role. I thank Linda for all she has done and thank her too for her generosity of time, her creativeness and her real love and commitment as to what it means to be a true and faithful Josephite Associate.

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for your commitment and love of what it means to live as an Associate. After 26 years, working with the Associates since 1987, I have decided to take some time off for renewal next year. I will be stepping down from my role as the Associate Co-ordinator at the end of October. I have thoroughly loved working with you all and I will carry the memories in my heart forever.

With much love,

*Joan Finucane*

Sister Joan Finucane (for the Core Group)

### Do you have an EMAIL Address?

Please let Catherine Finlay know if  
you would like to receive  
correspondence by email:

[cfinlay@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cfinlay@bne.catholic.edu.au)



### DONATIONS TOWARD EXPENSES

Please forward your 2013 donation to  
the following address or direct debit  
account:

Josephite Associates Qld,  
P.O. Box 243,  
TAIGUM QLD 4018  
OR  
BSB: 064-163  
Acc No: 1019 5041

*Thank's*



## The Josephite Associates' Conference

The second International Josephite Associates' Conference was held at Mary MacKillop Place, in Sydney, in July this year. The conference was organised by the International Josephite Leadership Team (IJALT). Delegates from as far away as Ireland, Peru and Timor Leste (East Timor) attended. Four Josephite Associates represented Queensland at the Conference. They were Pauline McGuire (Townsville), Janette Dobson (Rockhampton), Maree Sellin (Core Group), and Catherine Finlay (Core Group). Our Queensland Josephite Associate Network (JAN) were also represented by Poppy Masselos and Guido de Glas,

Sister Angela Grant opened the Conference by describing the beginning of the Associates' Movement, as far back as 1983. Against the backdrop of the Josephite Associates' birthing story, groups from different Australian states and countries presented creative accounts of happenings and events in their local areas. These accounts described the hospitality, service and spiritual riches that Associates bring to their local communities.

Associate Leaders explored the future of the Associate Movement. Many questions were asked around the sustainability of formation programmes, forms of governance, relationship with the Sisters into the future, Covenant Josephites, reconnecting with former students, new membership, networking, resourcing, Congregational ministries carrying on Mary MacKillop's legacy today and how Associates can be supported in these ministries.

Sisters Christina Neunzerling, Katrina Brill and Michelle Connolly led the delegates through insights of the MacKillop Charism, its culture and the different pathways that are now available to women and men for sharing the charism.

Speakers from some Josephite Congregational Ministries also presented at the conference. These ministries include the Mary MacKillop Foundation who provide funding sources for small projects, Mary MacKillop International (MMI) who work in Peru and Timor Leste, Sister Margaret and the Sydney Detention Centre for helping trafficked refugees and the Josephite Rural Community Services who work with Aboriginal communities. The service that these ministries provide reflects strongly how St. Mary MacKillop helped the poor.

Delegates discussed the fact that change is already upon the Associate Movement and that there needs to be an openness to change. Change needs time to take place. There are challenges about education and the support required for transition to be successful.

The Conference concluded that the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) needs further development as a central contact for all Associate groups around the world. Among the aspirations are the following: to strengthen our appreciation of the Josephite charism; to keep close connection 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!

## MOVING FORWARD

The Josephite Associate Movement began in 1986 after it had been endorsed by the General Chapter of the Sisters of St Joseph. In Queensland, it has become a successful organisation of over 500 members with the Sisters of St Joseph and Associates working together to spread their influence throughout the State.

The call to the Associates to move into self- governance has been in action since the last General Chapter in 2007 and in particular in Queensland over the last three years. The Movement is now one which is gathering momentum from the Associates themselves.

In Queensland this action has taken many forms: articles in the Associate Newsletters, the gathering of group leaders from around the State in Brisbane in April last year and then the July gathering in Sydney of Associates from all regions of the congregation.

One of the major outcomes of these meetings has been the decision to have the Sisters of St Joseph take on a more mentoring role and allow the Associates to develop their own future.

In Queensland, the Associates have been fortunate that a number of Sisters of St Joseph have organised and been with them on the journey so far. These include Sisters Joan Finucane, Therese Wilson, Maureen Donnelly and other Sisters who founded groups in their local area, presented retreats and supported groups in many suburbs, provincial towns and small country towns throughout the length and breadth of Queensland.



However, it has been Sister Joan Finucane who has been with the Associates on every step along the way. Sometimes this has been alone, sometimes with the assistance of other Sisters and Associates, and over more recent years the Core Group. Joan has now made the decision to step down from her role as Associate Coordinator at the end of October. Joan's commitment and energy in this role has been exceptional. She has formed networks and friendships with most of the 500 Associates and helped to maintain the Associates' involvement in their mission of Prayer, Friendship and Service. The Associates' love of Mary MacKillop and of the Josephite Sisters has kept alive their spirit throughout Queensland.

On behalf of all Associates and the Sisters of St Joseph, I thank Sister Joan for this wonderful work. I know that many will be saddened by this change in the coordination of the Associate Movement.

Many blessings on you, Joan.

Invitations to a function to express your gratitude and best wishes to Sister Joan will be sent out to each Associate in the near future.



Sister Janet McDougall rsj

*CEO of MacKillop Community Services Qld*

## **THE FUTURE**

At this point in time, the administration and management of the Josephite Associate Movement still resides within the company MacKillop Community Services Qld. This will change over the next 12 months. In this period of transition, I would like to allow the ideas that each of you have for the future of the Associates to develop for a while. Eventually, a Working Party will be set up to look at the structure and administration of the Associates in Queensland into the future. If you would like to contact me personally about being a member of this Working Party or anything else about the Associates, my email address is [janet.mcdougall@bigpond.com](mailto:janet.mcdougall@bigpond.com). Phone: 0431 027 367

## **SPECIAL PEOPLE TO REMEMBER**

Please pray for those Associates or family members who have died and who are ill. Please remember in your prayers: Barbara McMillan who passed away on 26 August. For many years, along with other Salisbury Associates, Barbara came across town and took out our Aged Care Residents. Barbara also diligently folded the Associates Newsletter ready for postage for many years. We offer Barbara's family: Keith, Jamie, Peter and their families our deepest sympathy.



### **WEBSITES**

Sisters of Saint Joseph Website:

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

Mary MacKillop Website:

[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

### **Dates for your Diary**

Cairns: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month  
Mater Dei 10.00 am

Pittsworth: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month  
1.30 Presbytery

Rockhampton: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each  
month at 2.00 pm

South of the River: 11<sup>th</sup> November  
9.30am

Townsville: 8<sup>th</sup> of each month 5.30pm  
at Mundinaburra

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATES**



To all our new Associates we say a very big welcome to each of you. If you know of any other people who may wish to become an Associate please welcome them along to a meeting, or let me know and I will get in touch with them.

### **Would you like to include an article in the next Newsletter?**

Just email your article through by the end of January and your article will appear in the next Newsletter. Any articles and photos from your Associate Group would be gratefully appreciated as a way of keeping in touch, both near and far.

Email articles to Catherine Finlay: [cfinlay@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cfinlay@bne.catholic.edu.au)

## **Calendars**

Sister Joan still has around 50 calendars for 2014 to sell. If you haven't put an order in then please email ([joanfin1@bigpond.com](mailto:joanfin1@bigpond.com)) or phone Sister Joan( 0417763572). Be quick or you will miss out for next year!

## ASSOCIATES' RETREAT REFLECTION



There was a change of venue for our Associates Retreat this year. We met on the Southside of Brisbane but despite the change of address we still managed to have 28 keen and eager Associates meet at the Moorooka Hawtree Street Hall for our Annual Retreat. Our hosts for the Retreat, South of the River Associates Group, turned on a fantastic venue. The hall was prepared with so much beauty and the food donated was resplendent of any regal feast.

Our Retreat was organised this year by members of the Core Group: Petra Milaudi, Linda Schostakowski, and Catherine Finlay. From the feedback before, during and after, the Associates did a wonderful job.

The theme for the day was: "Web of Life: Outreaching to the Marginalised." The day began by connecting Mary MacKillop to Jesuit Spirituality and the message of the newly elected Pope Francis I. Mary MacKillop's brother, Donald, was one of the first Jesuit Priests in Australia. Reference was also made to the befriending of the Jesuits, from the Norwood Parish, to Mary MacKillop during her time of excommunication. We shared our common knowledge and then listened to some interesting facts we didn't know about Mary, Donald, the Norwood Parish and Pope Francis I.



The second session of the day saw us reflecting on some relevant issues for the Associate Movement: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going? How will our Charism help to take the Associate Movement forward? This was a fantastic time to reflect and share our thoughts on the future of the Josephite Associates in Queensland. To conclude the session we participated in an activity which saw us throw and unbroken thread of wool to each other and share something from the day. We then laid the wool carefully on the floor. Miraculously we had formed a spider's web. This then formed the centrepiece to our third and final session of the day.

Our final session, our Ritual entitled "Web of Life", was extremely symbolic. Various Associates placed on our spider's web things that represent begin a Josephite Associates: the Associates Booklet, a casserole dish, a suitcase, etc. We then recited a prayer written on a bookmark, which Linda had organised.



This was a truly special day. It was well organised, extremely prayerful and a credit to Linda, Petra and Cath who worked well to present a day where we all gained spiritual growth. We enjoyed all the input and the prayerful liturgy at the end of the day.

Thank you Sister Joan for being a part of our day of reflection and thank you also to those who brought food to share during our journey together.

If you are free next year and you live in Brisbane then put the date on your calendar and come along and share a truly wonderful experience.



### Retreat Reflection by Petra Milaudi

A busy time has been had with the South of the River Associates. I arrived early to help set up and was greeted by Clare, Jay and some others who were busily setting up a banquet of treats to keep our tummies satisfied for the day. Amazing and thank you!

Cath, Linda and I facilitated the day, taking a session each and helping each other throughout. We encouraged participation, input and sharing by all. The time of sharing was embraced by all and very meaningful.

Cath, Linda and I (and of course Sister Joan), thoroughly enjoyed bringing the retreat to you and we hope that you got as much out of it as we did.

Remember we are on a journey of friendship, prayer and service and often it's the smallest things we do that make the biggest difference. Believe in yourself and what you are doing to keep Mary MacKillop and Julian's Charisms alive in all you do.

Again on the Southside, I had the privilege of attending the groups meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August. Once more I was greeted by busy ladies in the kitchen preparing lots of delicious food. The sacred space was set up beautifully. I believe Jay has a very artistic flare. I was welcomed as the representative on the Core Group and hope to visit again in the future. There was a cutting of the Happy Feast Day Cake and a rose, with Mary MacKillop card, for all. Thank you again to the South of the River Group for inviting me to attend your meeting. It gave me an opportunity to get to know you better, put faces to names and be a real representative for you. See you in 2014.



I hope to visit my other districts in the future...God Willing!

Peace,  
Petra



## **A message from the Mary MacKillop Foundation**

### **“GOOD DEEDS INITIATIVE”**

The Mary MacKillop Foundation has introduced a new and unique initiative, Aussies will be able to dare one another to do good deeds in their communities, while raising money for community-based charitable projects. The Foundation would love your help in starting the Good Deed momentum. You can choose to challenge yourself to do a good deed, or alternatively you could challenge a friend or family member. It doesn't need to be time consuming. It could be as small or as big as you like: eg helping carry prams up the stairs at a train station, next time you are waiting in a queue/line, let the person behind you go first to be served.

You can register your good deed on the following website (which can also be used on your mobile phone and tablet): <http://www.greenandgoldday.org.au/do-good-deeds-home/>

Below is some further information regarding this initiative:

Even the smallest of good deeds will have a big impact, as all the support each of the 'do gooders' receive will go beyond the initiative to support small community-based charitable groups that are making a big difference.

The challenge works in two ways: either you dare someone to do a good deed, or you dare someone to donate to the good deed you are doing. Once the deeds are nominated, donations can be made online.

Deeds can be as simple as offering to pay for a stranger's coffee, donating books to a children's hospital, washing a friend's car, or helping an elderly person with their grocery shopping. However, it pays to be creative, so participants are encouraged to have fun with the project by thinking outside the box, such as committing to sing at a nursing home. Deeds can also be a little cheeky, already a young girl has "Challenged" her older sister to clean up after the Dog throughout October.

Everyone plays an important part in developing a groundswell of support for 'do gooders' to fulfil their dares - a reflection of the Mary MacKillop Foundation's ongoing work to support life-changing community charity projects across the country.

Any assistance you could give would be greatly appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm Regards,  
**Natalie Sykes**  
*Marketing and Events Manager*  
Mary MacKillop Foundation  
[www.mackillopfoundation.org.au](http://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au)



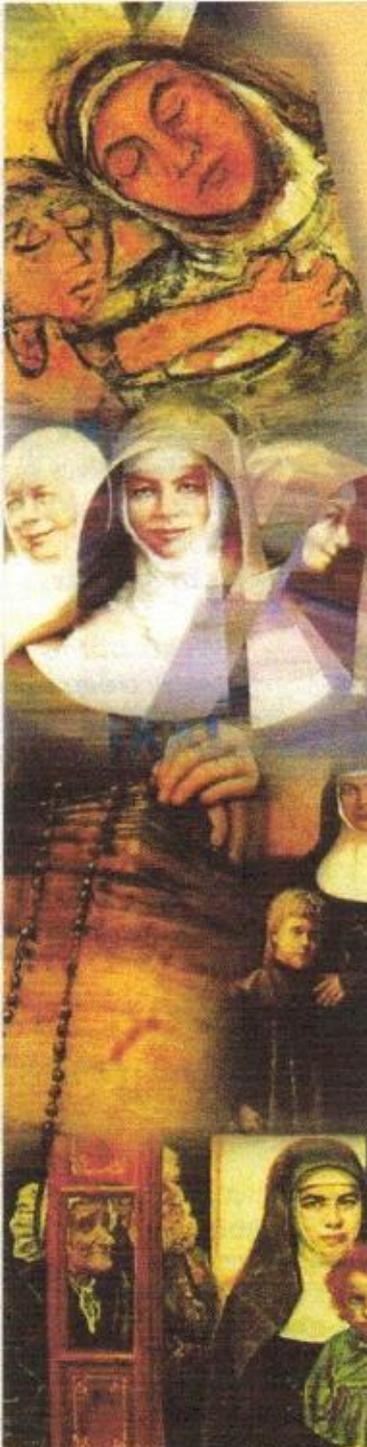
Level 4, 12 Mount Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060

# Spring Reflection

“..and poor enough to serve the poor.”

## Part of Mary’s story: ‘Crushed Spirits’

In 1883, Bishop Reynolds falsely claimed that he had instructions from Rome to investigate the affairs of the Josephites. Quite apart from this deception, he named investigators who were hostile to the sisters. The conclusions they reached were distorted, prejudiced and unproven.



Some choice accusations were raised about Mary and in this same letter, the Bishop ordered Mary out of his diocese claiming, “..you have no longer the confidence of the Sisterhood, nor is it in the interests of good order and of discipline, of peace or religion that you should remain in this Province.”

**Allow a few moments to reflect on the feelings these events probably caused in Mary.**

**What sort of reactions can we expect when a person is treated like this?**

In her writings, Mary gives some glimpses of how those in her circle of relationships heard her response to this dreadful personal experience...Her response is heard:

**by the Heart of Jesus...**

*“When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten, I quietly creep into its deep abyss, and securely shelter there. My soul is in peace, though my body is tossed upon the stormy waves of a cold and selfish world.”*

**by Archbishop Moran...**

At the Archbishop’s request, Mary sent him a statement of what had happened in Adelaide.

*“It has cost me a great deal to write it, for I would rather suffer any blame than reflect in the least on the Bishop of Adelaide. I am confident that he meant everything for the best, and that most extraordinary evidence must have been given against me ere he could write to me as he did.*

*If in my statements I have written anything uncharitable I beg your Grace to believe that it is not so intended. I only tried to tell the truth.”*



**by her Sisters...**

*“I do not enter into any explanations – **I simply deny the charges made against me..** Surely those who know me so well – who were constantly with me or in my confidence, ah, surely they could tell a different tale.. If, I say, you believe these things to be true – say so honestly, but if not, let our poor Bishop know the truth.*

*“Say what you like to the Archbishop if you have to write, but mind, let it be in charity.”*

**by her trusted friends...**

*“Dr Reynolds has made a sad mistake in claiming for himself and special right over the Institute. Dearest Sister, forgive me if I seem to speak bitterly. I am wounded to the heart, and not being well or able for this constant struggle, am so tempted to give up and seek a rest... Your unswerving fidelity and that of a few more like you is about the only thing that makes me keep up.*

*I want you, my dearest Sister, and my Council to thoroughly understand that as far as I can now gather Dr. Reynolds want to break the Sisters in Adelaide off from me entirely, and to form the Institute on a plan of his own. If this be his plan, and that you are faithful and united with your Superior and Mother, don't let yourselves be intimidated.”*

**What impressions do you form as you read Mary's words?  
Is there an image or symbol or story which captures something  
of her response for you?**

If we use a CUP as a symbol of our lives, it might be fair to say that Mary's was surely emptied on many occasions.. and in reflecting on our own life experiences, we, too would probably identify with the times of desolation, sadness, emptiness, etc...

**Recalling many of the stories of Mary MacKillop do you recognise  
how she can be a role model for us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

*We pray...*

Blessed Mary MacKillop, how often you were tested – you knew what it was to be totally emptied – of support, respect, truth...

Teach me to value the times of emptiness in my life's events, times when my full cup seems to be poured out...

Obtain for me, from Jesus who St Paul reminds us: *“emptied himself”* a spirit of strength, peace and acceptance of God's will in the situation.

Help me to see that there are rich blessings to be received when one can be really: ***“poor enough to be for, to serve, God's poor.”***  
Amen.



(Acknowledgement: material and ideas from:  
**We Are But Travellers Here:** Sisters RSJ  
**The Cup of Life:** J. Rupp)