



Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania Summer Newsletter 2013



LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

My dear Associates,

During the last few months our world has experienced strong gales, damaging winds and extreme bushfires. We keep all these people in our prayers knowing that the Australian spirit is strong and like the new growth on blackened trees it springs up and renews itself.

For me some exciting events have happened. The St Mary's Church Bairnsdale celebrated 100 years since the foundation stone of this the third Church was laid. It was a lovely opportunity to recall the part this Church has had in my life and to meet up with old friends.

As well our Congregation has expanded and our Chapter has taken place This can be an exciting time as we welcome new leaders who will take over their office in

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Enclosure:

1. Prayer Sheet:

March 2014. Sr Monica Cavanagh has been elected as our new Congregational Leader. Some of you enjoyed Monica's presentation on the Mission of Associates at Morwell and Melbourne. With a new team of four Sisters our CLT face the challenges for the next six years. Please keep all of them and the Sisters in your prayers as we move forward to new challenges and missions.

Travelling from Swan Hill to Bairnsdale in the same week gave me the opportunity to meet Associates and to picture a State with crops flourishing and a countryside of fifty shades of green!

The Sunshine group has gone into recession and I met up with them for a coffee. Sadly, the Numurkah group will be in recession for a few months. Maybe we could all make an effort to invite one person to consider living Josephite life.

During November a couple from Scotland, who are Associates, came with Srs Audrey and Therese for lunch. We had a lovely day and I introduced them to lamingtons, a good Aussie favourite.

New Associates have been welcomed this year and others have shown interest and begun the Introductory Program. By witnessing to our Josephite Charism we can encourage others to deepen their relationship with God by being Josephite. During December I will be enrolling two more Associates at Inverloch and Koo Wee Rup. Inviting an

Associate to speak at Mass about what it means for her/him could be a good way of encouraging new membership. Think about it!

What a wonderful time was had by all at the Associates Mass. We were happy with the number who attended and those Sisters who shared the time with us. Having time to meet each other is valuable and as usual at Josephite gatherings, the noise level of happy chatter never fluctuates.

We will be looking forward to meeting some of you again at our Leaders' Day in March.

We thank Fr Michael Kalka for taking the time to be with us and for Anne Marie who organised the music and Mass books for us.

I hope the Advent prayer sheet will give you something to focus on during the weeks of Advent when sometimes we become overwhelmed with all the superficial paraphernalia that goes with Christmas.

Next year I am going to make a valiant attempt to meet up with Associates, where groups are not active and have a coffee with them.

Wishing you every joy and blessing for a Christmas filled with the peace only God can give. May Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian watch over you.

Mary Fermio R SJ



Friendship Prayer Service

...a new commitment to the poor to be at the heart of Christianity's role in the world.

God...is a God of mercy and compassion, whose capacity to forgive and to let sinners start anew is infinite

Taken from
**TEN THINGS
POPE FRANCIS
WANTS YOU TO
KNOW**

John Allen JR

Stay close to the people. Meet people where they are and connect with their doubts and their frustrations.

If Christianity is going to preach love, concern for the poor and a passion for justice to the world, its leaders must be seen to embrace those values in their own

HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR!

..a smile rather than a frown is likely to be a more winning missionary strategy ...

Never yield to pessimism... Let us be quite certain that the Holy Spirit bestows upon the Church with his powerful breath the courage to persevere...so as to bring the gospel to the uttermost ends of the earth.

MARY'S BROTHER—FR DONALD MACKILLOP SJ

Melbourne's population had swelled to over 220,000, three times what it had been when Lexie MacKillop was born two years earlier. Work was commencing on the Melbourne Cricket Ground when Donald MacKillop was born, seventh child of Alexander and Flora, on an autumn day, April 27, 1853.

Mary was 11 years old and she became Donald's "little mother". She said once "There could never be too many Donalds", recalling her grandfather, who drowned when she was five years old.

Donald's childhood existed at a time when the family's income was very low. Despite this Alexander made two unsuccessful attempts to enter Parliament. From what we can gather, the family was living with Flora's brother, Donald, at *The Plenty*, an area north of Melbourne near the Plenty Ranges.

At the age of 13, Donald had ridden from Portland to be with Mary at Penola. There he studied Latin under the supervision of Fr Woods. His ride had been secretly assisted by his brother John, about to return to New Zealand and it wasn't until Donald had arrived safely that John let the secret out.

Donald continued his education with the Jesuit priests at St Aloysius's College, Sevenhills, in the Clare Valley of South Australia. He joined their order on June 7, 1872 and Alexander wrote of his joy at his son thinking of becoming a priest.

After teaching for five years at Sevenhills, he studied at Innsbruck in the Austrian Tyrol and was ordained a priest in North Wales on September 20, 1855. To Mary Donald had promised his first priestly blessing which he gave her on paper:

"You have your long-cherished wish. I am a priest of the Society of Jesus. What a fine cry you will have over this!"

On his return to Australia in 1886, Fr Donald MacKillop was appointed to Rapid Creek station near Palmerston (renamed Darwin in 1911) on the Daly River in the Northern Territory. This very difficult mission affected his health. He studied Mulluck Mulluck dialect of the indigenous tribes and his paper "*Anthropological Notes on the Aboriginal Tribes of the Daly River, North Australia*" was published by the Royal Society of South Australia.

Donald had great sympathy for the disadvantaged and under-privileged and worked tirelessly to help those on his mission. Like his father, he spoke out against injustice and his writings reveal his sensitive appreciation of the human dignity of the Aborigines and his search for truth in his understanding of their culture.

He returned to Adelaide in 1897 worn out and ill and could only work when his health allowed.

Donald and Mary were very close and she revealed in her letters to him much of the hurt and anguish she experienced over the years. He supported her greatly and urged her "Bear up, dear...our Blessed Lord has great joys in store for you, even here in this vale of tears...he who gave you your generous nature will give that abundance of grace which is necessary. Half measures will never give you peace. Our Lord will not take from you."

When their mother died Mary wrote to Donald: "My dearest brother. How can I write. You must ere this have heard from Adelaide of our sad, our terrible loss. Everything was too bewildering at first, then the efforts to recover the dear remains, the funeral and then came the reaction. Between all, you, for whom my heart ached, have been seemingly neglected by me. But

don't think so, dear Donald. Our darling unselfish Mother true to her character to the last, has gone to receive her well-earned reward".

When Mary became ill in 1909 and was near her death he wrote to her, "if you do go to God soon, I shall be disappointed if you do not manage to come to me, cure me and send me back to do some more years of work."

Mary died when Donald was offering Mass in Port Augusta convent chapel and by careful calculation he realized that Mary had died between the Memento of the Living and the Memento of the Dead. He said "So she had the benefit of both"

Fr Donald MacKillop died at Norwood, SA on February 24, 1924 fifteen years after Mary's death, so it seems his request may have been answered. He is buried in West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide

An extraordinary Australian—Paul Gardiner sj
Main source: *MacKillop Family* Philomena McGuigan rsj (rip)
Photo: Trustees of Sisters of St Joseph Used with Permission



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS From ...



Left to right: Christine Nicholls-van Order, Mary Fermio rsj;
Colleen Nazareth, Anne Marie Wilkinson,
Bill O'Brien and Noreen McLeish

May the blessings of Christmas be yours.
May Peace, love and joy fill your homes.
May the year to come bring you closer to
the God who calls you as Josephite



*IN FRONT OF ALMA COTTAGE
AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE*

L to R:
Bill O'Brien (Eaglehawk)
Colleen Nazareth (Cranbourne Parish)
Christine Nicholls-Van Order, Woodend
Kathy Cuthbertson, Launceston
Christine Edwards, Hobart
Anne Marie Wilkinson, Bittern

ADVENT REFLECTION SESSIONS

With Sr Colleen O'Dwyer

EVERY WEDNESDAY 12.30 p.m.—1 p.m.

FROM 27th Nov to 18th Dec.

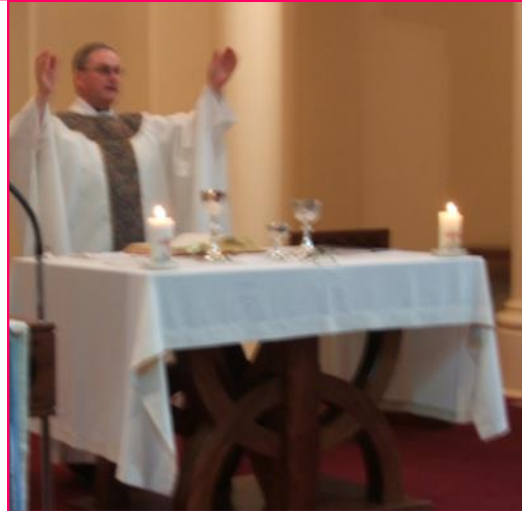
MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

362 ALBERT ST EAST MELBOURNE.

RSVP 9966 9300



JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' MASS



Bill O'Brien and Adrian Commadeur

A happy group of Josephite Associates gathered in St Joseph's Chapel, Hawthorn East, for what we hope was the first of an Annual Mass. They travelled from Hamilton, Ballarat, Eaglehawk, Morwell, Wonthaggi, Sunbury, Broadmeadows, Woodend, and many areas of Melbourne to join with Fr Michael Kalka and many Sisters of St Joseph, to celebrate Josephite living with the Mass of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Two candles with Hobart and Launceston written on them were placed on the altar at the Procession of Gifts, reminding us of the Associates of Tasmania, part of our region. Symbols of Scotland, Peru and East Timor were also part of the celebration.

In his homily Fr Michael threw out a challenge, scary as one Associate put it, to live up to the words of Paul in the reading: *You are a chosen people...you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility. Col:3.12* We were reminded of the situation of many people who attempt to find asylum in Australia and are turned away, because of the decision of our Government to put Australia outside its immigration zone and not allow them to enter.

Before morning tea, Tim, a year 12 student from Padua College, Mornington, spoke of his visit to Timor Leste and how as a result their school now sells handcrafts made by the people in the area supported by their school. Annemarie Wilkinson showed the presentation the Associates from Peru gave at the International Meeting. These Associates seem to work tirelessly to improve the lives of their people. Sr Mary spoke to a presentation by Joan Healy rsj on the situation of refugees in the Footscray area and how they can be helped. (see article on page 10.)

Everyone then enjoyed the delicious afternoon tea and in true Josephite tradition assisted in washing up and clearing everything away. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the wonderful success of the day. We hope to see more of you in 2014.



Tim and Madeleine with some of the handcraft they were selling.



Corrie and Betty from Morwell



Sr Mary Fermio with Noreen (Hamilton)
Jan and Gerardine (Ballarat)

REGIONAL DAYS—Heritage Centre and Murchison

The emphasis at the Heritage Centre regional Day was quality if not quantity. Two Associates came with another lady interested in finding out more. We had a lovely day, the six of us reflecting on Joseph, Jesus and John the Baptist. AnneMarie shared with us her presentation at the International meeting and gave some insights into the gathering at North Sydney.



A group of twelve Associates, two Sisters and an interested gentleman gathered in the beautiful Church at Murchison, part of the Rushworth Parish, for a Regional Day on 9th November. They came from Numurkah, Nagambie, and the Rushworth group from Stanhope, Girgarre, Colbinabbin and Rushworth, who provided the delicious morning tea. The atmosphere of this lovely old Church which had been extended on either side, with windows letting in the lovely sunlight, enabled the group to prayerfully reflect on Joseph, John the Baptist and Jesus. One of the features was a huge Baptism Font made of a piece of polished timber and standing on a large stump. This made a beautiful centre for renewing our Baptismal promises.



**Have you told your face
that you have received
GOOD NEWS
from Jesus Christ!**

**Do others see the
GOOD NEWS
Written on your face,
or haven't you told your face
about it yet**

ST MARY MACKILLOP WAS HERE

Over three days I heard three stories about how Mary MacKillop had visited someone or cured them. I thought you would like to hear them.

The first happened some years ago, when two non-Catholic ladies went to North Sydney to visit her tomb. They were told it was impossible as work was being done there. Disappointed they left the Chapel and greeted a Sister walking in the grounds. The Sister asked them why they were there and told of their disappointment, she said something similar to: Of course you can. Go and tell the Sister there that Sr Mary said you could.

On returning the other Sister was puzzled as no Sr Mary lived on the grounds and after they described her they realised it was Mary MacKillop in her later years. Needless to say they were able to visit the tomb!

The second was a phone call telling me that one of our Associates, for whom a Novena had been prayed as she had a very serious case of colon cancer, with major surgery to come, had been told by her Doctor that he couldn't find any cancer. So a Novena in Thanks giving is being made.

The third happened in a country town and was related by an acquaintance, about a woman in her nineties who lived in a unit connected to an Aged Care. This woman had lost fingers through Diabetes and had suffered with facial cancer. She fell in her unit and was unable to reach the emergency button or get herself up. She reminded God that Mary MacKillop was our own Australian Saint and she needed help. Instantly she found herself upright and was aware of Mary's presence for about an hour.

HAVE YOU ANY STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE.



Those of you who know Sr Audrey Thomson may not have heard that she has been hospitalised for some weeks with a fractured pelvis after a fall down a steep drop.

As it happened the second day of the National Pilgrimage she had to miss out on that worthwhile journey.

I am sure she would be glad of your prayers for a full recovery.



BROADMEADOWS

Our Associates Meeting on 10th September was delighted to welcome back to Australia Sr Audrey Thomson as our guest speaker. Sr Audrey had been posted to Fort William in Scotland with Sr Therese from New Zealand to make known the Charism of Mary MacKillop. This had been requested by the local Bishop from the area from which her parents had emigrated..

This posting lasted six years. In that time as Sr Audrey endeared herself to the people, in return they had implanted an indelible love in her heart. She found the people so kind, caring and genuine, delighted to show her all the significant places of interest in the stories of the family in the highlands.

Two more Sisters are now continuing this mission, Srs Diane Moore (Vic) and June Hickland (NZ)



AROUND THE TRAPS

SWAN HILL

Chris van Order, Woodend and Sr Mary Fermio visited Swan Hill Associates on 17th October and enrolled Emilia Caccaviello. The group had organised one of their knit-in days for knitting squares for rugs to be sent world-wide through the Wrap with Love program. About 20 were busily knitting and were joined by Fr Peter, the curate who comes from India, who was learning to knit. A raffle of many draws—mostly red tickets!! - provides some funds which go to Peru. A tasty lunch and cuppa is provided by the busy Associates. It was a lovely morning and we were very impressed with the simplicity of the day and the chatter that didn't stop, providing a great social outing as well.



LAUNCESTON

On 4th October, Anne Moore was enrolled as a Josephite Associate. The Launceston Associates and Srs Val Burns, Margaret Cousins and Jill Dance gathered at the Emmanuel Centre for a small ceremony followed by morning tea. Anne has been attending the monthly meetings and it was great to formally welcome here as a new Associate. Anne was educated by the Sisters of St Joseph at St Thomas More's School and has been a friend of the Sisters for many years. She will bring a quiet, prayerful wisdom to the group.

Kathy Cuthbertson



L to R: Anne Moore, Jill Dance rsj



Back Row: Bernadette Bloxham, Lily Flanagan and Margaret Marshall
Front: Matilde Andueza and Lauren Boulton

WARBURTON

On 1st November the Warburton group welcomed Matilde Andueza who was enrolled as an Associate. Though a very small group they have been involved in fundraising for the services now being conducted in the building which had been the Josephite Convent. Having no resident priest they are much involved in being "Church" in Warburton. This reminds us of the work of the early Sisters who had no priest but kept the parish community together with their involvement.

This situation is calling forth Associates in many places to step forward and keep their parish alive by their participation and leadership.

JOSEPHITE MINISTRIES

HOSPITALITY AT FOOTSCRAY

FOLLOWING AN ARTICLE PRINTED ON OUR WEBSITE a poster was emailed to Associates challenging them to find some way of helping the people Margaret Malady, Cathy Dean and Joan Healy are working with. The following is from that poster:

The new arrivals they work among have many problems; added to the fear of being deported, those on "bridging visas" are not permitted to work, spend much of their inadequate allowances on rent and skimp on food. Joan calls it 'forced destitution'.

Jesus identifies himself with these people and invites us to remember His words: "When I was hungry you gave me to eat"...As Josephites we have a long tradition of feeding those who came to our door. Can we continue this tradition in other ways in today's society!

I asked Joan could the Associates help with any donations etc to support these people.

Food is a vital gift which could be given. Through their partnerships the Sisters at Footscray have ways of ensuring that people can be quietly supplied with enough for a meal without any loss of dignity. Mary MacKillop would do it this way today.

So I challenge you and your groups to find some way of helping this year.

Food is appreciated more than any other gift.

Firstly: by a donation of money which could be sent to me (and I will do the shopping for you) or to
Sr Joan Healy 36 Essex St Footscray 3011.

OR by donating any of the following goods and getting them to me or to the above address.

Depending on the distance I could pick them up. Colleen has offered to collect any Gippsland donations. Your generosity would be greatly rewarded by our generous God.

Foods required are the following:

**WHITE RICE, PLAIN FLOUR,
TINNED OR DRY CHICK PEAS,
LENTILS, SALT
PLAIN TINNED TOMATOES,
SUGAR,
COOKING OIL, TINNED FISH.**



As you can see their needs are simple.

NO BAKED BEANS OR TINNED SOUPS etc

MARY MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES

A new project was initiated this year called GRANT A WISH to provide children and young people in their care to have a wish granted that directly impacts on their ability to succeed in life.

Matthew was one person who benefitted from this program. One of their more difficult clients with a history of challenging behaviours, staff found themselves worn out from dealing with incidents he was involved in. They realized he liked driving so an agreement was made that if he stopped misbehaving for six months. they would pay for him to have driving lessons with a view to gaining his driving licence.

On the morning his six months were up, Matthew was ready for his driving lessons. Over this time his behavior and attitudes had been completely transformed. For the first time in many years he had something to look forward to and that people believed in him.

In the lead up to his birthday Matthew started saving for a car so the Services helped him with the balance. So on returning from his driving test for a birthday celebration Matthew found his car, tied up with pink ribbon, waiting for him. He could not stop grinning and saying thank you!

A young girl, Kate with a passion for horses was granted a wish to take regular riding lessons. She has gained a part-time job and been accepted for enrolment into a Stablehand Course at TAFE. Kate's self-esteem has grown immensely.

Tim requested an iPad to assist with his social learning and life skills and increase his independence.

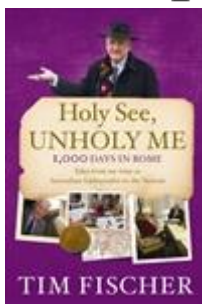
MAYBE YOU OR YOUR GROUP WOULD LIKE TO HELP **GRANT A WISH** to someone this Christmas. Contact: enquiry@mackillop.org.au
Or Mary MacKillop Family Services
Reply Paid 77250
South Melbourne Vic 3205

***The first Heritage Display of its kind in Victoria is now open to the Public at the former St Vincent's Boys orphanage site in South Melbourne. Between 1854 and 1997 more than 100,000 children spent time in the founding agencies homes.
To arrange a visit ring: 03 9699 9177***



HOLY SEE, UNHOLY ME

By Tim Fischer
Review by
Christine Nicholls Van Order



This title reflects the author's humour, humility and love of his Ambassadorial placement for 3 years as the first resident Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.

The chapter on the achievements and canonization of Mary MacKillop is of particular interest to us Josephite Associates. Fischer calls her "The Great Aussie Battler" and expresses admiration for her faith, courage and persistence against many obstacles.

Tim Fisher played an important background role in her cause for canonization. He calls her a "determined, graceful and courageous hero...who brought faith and secular education to the rural poor and who helped women play a wider role in Australian Catholic life.

An interesting book, written in an engaging style, making it a thoroughly good read. Available from Heritage Centre and most book stores.

MIXED BLESSINGS by Deborah Lee

I found this beautiful book in our local library. From the time she was four Deborah wanted a baby. After marrying Cedric and finding she was unable to have children of her own, over the years they adopted three children and fostered scores of children, many so called "difficult cases".

In this book Deb tells her story of many heartaches, and countless little triumphs as Deb and her family share their love, joy and good times with children who may have never been kissed or hugged before.

A letter from one of the mothers of a child she fostered included these words: *You are one of the most kind and warm people I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Your beautiful family is a tribute to your love and generosity*"

Deb realized that her infertility was actually a blessing for her and her family and the many children she loved and cared for. Both Cedric and Deborah have been awarded the Order of Australia. May God bless them both and their family.

Getrudes da Silva Soares makes a commitment as Covenant Josephite in Dili

Wednesday 18 September was a big day for Josephites in Dili, Timor-Leste! A group of Josephite Sisters and Associates joined Getrudes family and other friends at her ritual of commitment as a Covenant Josephite.

The ceremony flowed between Tetum and English. Getrudes began her Josephite journey in 2011 through a program of immersion into the Josephite Charism and deepened her discernment through spiritual direction, reflection and Josephite guidance.

In her commitment Getrudes said, "I choose to journey with the Josephite charism as my inspiration. In accord with the Memorandum of Affiliation I express my personal Covenant with the Sisters of St Joseph. Through prayer and attentiveness to God's Word, I will strive to live in joyful, loving service and to unity with God's desire for justice and communion in our world."

Sisters Ann Gilroy, Rosita Kiss and Irene Macinante present in Dili, welcomed Getrudes on behalf of the Congregation, "With open hearts we promise to share this relationship of communion with you. Our hearts rejoice as together we participate in living the charism for mission."



All gathered and joined in blessing Getrudes

ASSOCIATES' BULLETIN BOARD - SUMMER 2013

FROM THE OFFICE:

Many Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour by email. If you are still receiving it by post and would like it by email, just send an email to the address below. You can view it in colour on the sosj.org.au website, under news and events/newsletters.

Office Address

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Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
Josephite Associates' Office,
PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

OR Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au
OR Fax: 03 5367 2078
For all enquiries related to Associates



Eternal Rest grant to them, O Lord.

In love and prayer, we are mindful of those who mourn the death of family members and friends.

Gerard Coloe, Son of Bernie & Pat, Bairnsdale
Janice Motteram, Ferntree Gully
Carmel Coleman, Maffra

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised thousands of dollars for the Peruvian Mission. Please leave a border of about 1cm around the stamps.

Please forward stamps to:

STAMPS
St Joseph's Province Centre
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805

Thank you
As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost. Thank you to the Maffra Associates who sent two removal boxes of Stamp Albums to Sydney by courtesy of Woodhouse Removalists. Many thanks to Neil Bradbury who donated his wonderful collection.

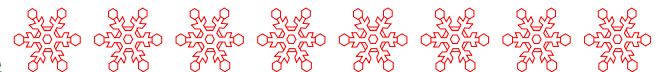
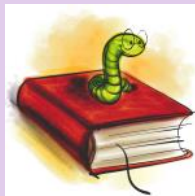


DEATH OF ASSOCIATES ...

We would appreciate being advised of the death of an Associate or a close family member.
Please notify Sr Mary Fermio at the Associates' Office (see above)

Have you read a good book lately and would like to recommend it to others?

Please forward to the Associates' Office by mail or email.

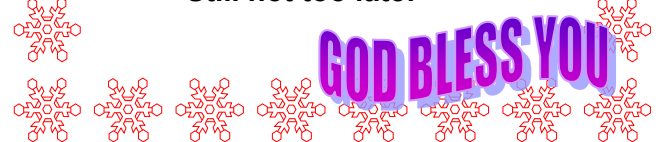


THANK YOU

To all who have so promptly sent in Subscriptions and Donations. These help cover cost of travel, postage, printing and general office expenses.

Still not too late!

GOD BLESS YOU



Catch up on the Josephite News! and Mary MacKillop E-News:

Or catch up on what is happening in our Josephite family on www.sosj.org.au

And for anything about Mary MacKillop on www.marymackillop.org.au

You can subscribe to the email news and it will automatically be sent to you on a regular basis — on the 8th of every month.

AND it's FREE!