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Autumn 2014



A New Way for SA by Mary Hemmings

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014.

As we look to the year ahead, we are aware that we are in a time of change. Every six years the Sisters of St Joseph have a Chapter, which is a time to reflect on the past six years and to look ahead and plan into the future. As part of the Chapter, new leadership teams have been named across both the Congregation and the Regions. From South Australia we farewell and thank Srs Marion Gambin and Loreto O'Connor. Sr Marion will be a part of the leadership team at the Congregational level, together with another South Australian, Sr Maryellen Thomas, while Sr Loreto takes up a new role at Penola, a significant place in the Josephite story. Sr Margaret Cleary will lead the CentreWest Region, made up of WA, SA and NT and East Timor, together with Srs Mary Cresp, Kenise Neill, Alma Cabassi and Emilie Cattalini.

As well as change for the Sisters, our Associates' team has decided to make 2014 a time of new possibilities. For many years in Adelaide we have gathered several times a year at Kensington where we have had reflection days or guest speakers or social gatherings for special events. We have had one group, based at Hectorville, which has met monthly for eleven years. In our country areas groups have met periodically at Jamestown, Murray Bridge, Port Lincoln and in the South East and when possible, we have tried to have some of our Leadership Team visit these groups, usually about once every two years.

Last year at Kensington the “**Mary MacKillop Centre**” was established. Comprising *St Joseph's Chapel, the Mary MacKillop Exhibition Centre and Bethany (Conference) Centre* together they form a “hub” of spirituality, education and hospitality. Many different programmes, which are open to all, are being offered through this Centre. These include day, evening and weekend gatherings. Some sessions will occur on a regular basis, such as the “Mary MacKillop Mondays” (1.00 pm – 3.00 pm on the third Monday each month.) Others will be ‘one-off’ presentations. Presenters include both local and interstate Josephite Sisters, Covenant Josephites and others. Through the Centre there are also a range of retreats being co-ordinated. All of these will provide opportunities to become involved in this “spiritual oasis” here in Adelaide. On the last page of this newsletter are some of the offerings during April, May and June while further details are available at www.marymackillopadelaide.org.au

In light of all of these wonderful offerings, we feel that it is now time for us as Associates to provide different opportunities. In **Adelaide** we are proposing co-ordinating small hub groups, as has operated in Hectorville, where Associates (and others) gather in homes or parish centres, in different suburbs, on a monthly/bi-monthly basis. We will provide input/reflections that can be used. For our **country Associates** we are planning to have

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some of our Leadership team visit during the year and we will also co-ordinate to have some presenters visit to provide input and support.

In Adelaide possible groups to be established include Fulham Gardens and Kingswood, with an Italian speaking group at Stepney/Norwood. Please telephone me on 8355 5365 if you are interested in being a

part of one of these groups or you would like to establish another one.

For the Feast of Mary MacKillop we will organise a gathering at Kensington and know that our country groups will also celebrate this in their places. Through these proposals we hope to explore new pathways for our Associates to gather and share their faith and life experiences.



L-R: Srs Loreto O'Connor,
Marion Gambin and Majella O'Sullivan

*"Let us remember we have been
called by God and God has a
right to our perfect service."
MMK, 1899*



To these 2014 Jubilarians

60 Years Professed

Sr Mary Preston

40 Years Professed

Sr Pauline Dundon, Sr Josephine Dubiel and
Sr Majella O'Sullivan

RIP Josephites

We remember with love and gratitude:

Sr Patricia Flinn who entered eternal life on 22nd September, 2013



Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your/their need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the monthly Masses on the 8th.

If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to telephone Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au or let one of the Committee members know.

**Pre-order your new
2014/2015 Entertainment Book
now... and support the
Mary MacKillop Foundation**

The 2014/2015 Entertainment Book will soon be available to purchase through the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

The 2014 | 2015
**Entertainment™
Memberships are
coming soon...**



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The Entertainment Digital Membership

The brand new Entertainment Digital Membership puts all of the value of the Entertainment Book into your smartphone. With *near me* technology and the ability to show and save using a phone, this is perfect for the person on the go, with no card or voucher to present.

Both the printed and digital memberships are selling for \$65 again this year. **\$13 from the sale of each book** will help raise much needed funds for the [Mary MacKillop Foundation's small life-changing projects](#).

*Remember ... you only have to use the Entertainment Book a couple of times before June next year and it's paid for itself! **They also make great gifts.***

If you would like to pre-order a copy of the Entertainment Book please contact **Anne Slattery on (08) 8332 8232** or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au.

Once the books are available, Anne will be in contact with you to arrange for collection. When the new Entertainment Books arrive, they will be available for collection and purchase from the Mary MacKillop Exhibition Centre, 19 Phillips Street, Kensington or alternative arrangements can be made. The Mary MacKillop Exhibition Centre is open Monday to Thursday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Thank you for your support.



Donations to East Timor

Mary MacKillop International – East Timor was our fundraising focus last year and will continue until the end of this financial year. Therefore, donations to East Timor can still be made by...

- Post mail to our Treasurer, Julie Langman, 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta, 5052
- Cash directly to our Treasurer or anyone from the Leadership Team
- Online visit www.sosj.org.au and click on the donations icon

However, we ask that any and all donations by post or cash be made by the 30th April at the latest so that funds may be finalized. Thank you for your generosity.

The Pope and the Saint by Julie Langman



'St Mary of the Cross MacKillop' by Peter Serwan
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In February this year many Josephite Associates and the wider community were privileged to listen to Fr Paul Mullins sj speaking in his local parish of Norwood. Fr Paul explored the connection between the Jesuits and the Josephites, highlighting aspects of the life of Pope Francis and his message of hope and linking this with Mary MacKillop who, for many of us, is a great symbol of hope.

The church of St Ignatius in Norwood was a place of significance for Mary MacKillop, especially during the time of her excommunication. There was a period of time when this was the only church in Adelaide where Mary and the Sisters were able to attend Mass.

The Jesuits and Mary MacKillop both had an education focus. From the Governor's son to the poorest of the poor, Mary had

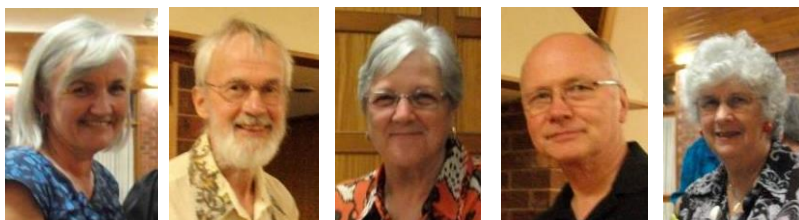
no favourites in her schools – all people were treated equally. Fr Paul highlighted that a significant characteristic of Mary was her sense of worth of all people regardless of social status. This flowed through to the way Mary established equality amongst the Sisters. (Fr Paul explained how traditionally there were always two tiers of nuns in most orders, one tier having a higher status than the other.) The word 'egalitarian' which equates to Mary MacKillop is also the word that resonates with Pope Francis today.

Pope Benedict XVI's gift to the Church was his resignation, so that he could be succeeded by a younger Pope more able to fulfil the role. So who is our new Pope? Fr Paul described Pope Francis as, "theologically conservative and socially radical." At the age of 36, Pope Francis (though not a pope at the time) was appointed as the Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina. Pope Francis freely admits that he was too young for the role and made many mistakes. But as we know, *God works in mysterious ways*, and Pope Francis says that he learnt from his mistakes and is a wiser leader today.

Words Fr Paul associated with Pope Francis are *simplicity, egalitarian, missionary, spirit, community and discipline*. Similarities between Mary MacKillop and Pope Francis were truly evident throughout the address. Pope Francis has already made many personal changes in his new role. He does not live in the Papal Palace, but chooses to live in an adjoining hostel. He carries his own suit case. He wears less ornate vestments and seems to wear them over and over again. There are no red shoes or Pope Mobile. Last Easter he washed the feet of women, lay men, Muslims and prisoners. And to a reporter asking him about gay marriage, Pope Francis said, "If a person is gay and seeks God and God's good will, who am I to judge?"

Pope Francis is trying to simplify the Church through example by his personal modesty and simple lifestyle. Pope Francis wants to preside over a church for the poor. (Does that sound like someone we know?) He has stated, "***It is not the Institution that counts, it's the mission.***" Fr Paul enlightened us so much about our new Jesuit Pope and identified beautifully the connection that exists between our **Saint** and the **Pope**.

Thank you Fr Paul!



Profession of Vows for Dianne Colborne



“Here I am God!” resounded in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in North Sydney as Dianne Colborne walked in procession.

Dianne with Sr Lianella Girardi, her Emmaus Mentor, and the Congregational

Leadership Team processed in to begin the Eucharist in which Dianne was to make her first profession as a Sister of St Joseph.

Sisters and friends who had been significant in Dianne’s discernment journey gathered with her on the 14th December 2013 to celebrate her commitment and witness her joyful profession of the vows as she formally embraced Religious Life.

Sr Genevieve Ryan offered a creative and

thoughtful reflection on the scripture readings. A tangible joy moved the gathering to applause as Dianne proclaimed her vows and received from Sr Anne Derwin, Congregational Leader at the time, the Constitution, emblem and a teal pashmina, symbols of her new identity as a Sister of St Joseph.

At the end of the Eucharist, Dianne thanked everyone for their support and shared an image of her journey of discernment in the last two years as being like an oyster shell gradually being prized open and discovering inside a pearl, herself.

Sr Anne Derwin then missioned Dianne to the CentreWest Region of the Congregation where she will engage in ministry with the Sisters at Halls Creek in the Kimberley, North West Australia. After Eucharist everyone continued celebrating with Dianne at a celebratory dinner.

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The Sisters Still Need **YOUR** Help

Sr Catherine Clark rsj continues to collect the stories of any of the Sisters of St Joseph to add to the collection before they are lost in time. If you are able to help in this way please write your story and send to Sr Catherine:

- by post: 25 Phillips St, Kensington, 5068
- by email: cathclark@bigpond.com

Stamps for the Missions

Stamps which are donated are processed, parcelled up and sold at auction. The money raised goes to *Mary MacKillop International* for the missions in Brazil, East Timor and Peru. Over the last few years thousands of dollars have been raised in this way. Please send your used stamps, leaving a 1cm border, to:

Sr Helen Saunders (stamps)
St Joseph’s Congregational Admin Centre
PO Box 1508, North Sydney, NSW, 2059

“Please put me on the List”

Would you like to receive the Associate Newsletter by email? It can be done very easily. You would be able to see the photographs in colour and it would also be environmentally friendly.

Should you choose to be included on this **secure list** please telephone Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au

The Congregational Leadership Teams – A Reflection

by Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, Congregational Leader

On the 1st March this year, the Sisters of St Joseph participated in a ritual that marked the completion of the term of office of the Congregational Leadership Team of Srs Anne Derwin, Sheila McCreanor, Eileen Lenihan, Ann Gilroy and Annette Arnold (back row in photo) and the taking up of office of a newly elected Congregational Leadership Team (front row in photo). On this occasion we give thanks for the wonderful leadership that this group of Josephite women have given during a significant time in our history when we have witnessed the canonisation of our foundress, St Mary MacKillop.

This group of women have known both the joys and sorrows, the blessings and challenges of being in leadership in this time

in history. They have given wholeheartedly of themselves to this ministry of service and have enabled the Sisters of St Joseph to move to this new moment in our story – a time when everything in our universe is inviting us into a deeper communion with God and with one another. It is a time when the mystery of God continues to unfold in new and challenging ways.

The newly elected Congregational Leadership Team looks forward to walking this next stage of the Josephite journey with the Sisters, our partners in mission, and all those who choose to live the Gospel in a Josephite way.

Let us take up the challenge of Pope Francis to *live the Gospel with joy*.



“Pray that God may direct, and that St Joseph’s humble spirit may guide.” MMK, 1898

Back Row (L-R): Srs Annette Arnold, Ann Gilroy, Anne Derwin, Eileen Lenihan and Sheila McCreanor.

Front Row (L-R): Srs Maryellen Thomas, Catherine Shelton, Monica Cavanagh, Louise Reeves and Marion Gambin.

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Diary Dates for Associate Gatherings in 2014

🕯 Celebrating Mary’s Feast Day with AGM

Date: Saturday, 9th August

More details in the next newsletter.

🕯 Reflection Day and Musical Afternoon

Date: TBA

In addition, please refer to the last page for some offerings through the Mary MacKillop Centre.

MARY MACKILLOP – LIVING BY THE POWER OF THE CROSS

❖ Introduction

Mary MacKillop of the Cross suffered hardship from others and regular illness in her own life. She experienced the loss of a number of her siblings in their youth and the tragic death of her mother through drowning. Mary felt these crosses deeply and at times felt like giving up. With time to reflect, Mary MacKillop saw suffering as a blessing from God and an invitation to share in the cross of Christ.

❖ Gospel Reading: John 19:17

So they took Jesus and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

❖ From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Mary wrote to her mother about the cross on a few occasions:

My name in religion is Mary of the Cross. 21 – 08 – 1867

The Cross is my portion – it is also my sweet rest and support. With the Cross I am happy, without it I would be lost. The only way I have of trying to show my gratitude to God for all that He has done for those I love, and for us in general, is in the Cross.

26 – 02 – 1872

To the Sisters she wrote in 1890,

Let not your crosses make you unhappy. Look upon them as stepping stones to an eternity of happiness, and value them as the most precious present from a good and loving God.

❖ Reflective Moment

What cross am I experiencing in my life?

Pause to hold in prayer all those suffering hardship and ill health.

❖ Prayer

O God, you suffer with your people in times of hardship. You raised up Mary MacKillop as a woman of faith who lived by the power of the cross. May she inspire us to be strong in faith and hope as we carry our cross each day. Deepen within us that love which leads us through death to life. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

St Mary of the Cross, accepting of the cross in life, pray for us.

❖ Call to Action

Help to lighten someone's burden today.

April, May, June @ the Mary MacKillop Centre

8th of Every Month in St Joseph's Chapel

- Monthly Mass: 10.30 am (except Sunday 8th June)
Followed by morning tea in Bethany
- Reflection Time: 5.45 pm
Unpacking the early Adelaide Josephite story.
Facilitated by Sr Catherine Clark rsj



Handing on the Fire:

Creativity, Enthusiasm and Imagination

- Date: 3rd May
- Time & Place: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm in Bethany
- Cost: \$50 or \$35 concession
An exploration from a Jungian perspective.
Presented by Sr Susan Pollard rsj

Mary MacKillop's Mondays

- Dates: 19th May, 16th June
- Time & Place: 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm in Bethany
- Cost: Donation appreciated
Reflecting on the life, spirituality and practicality of Mary MacKillop and her relevance to OUR lives.
Presented by Val De Brenni and Sr Mary Ryan rsj

From Fractured Witness to Healing:

Wholeness and Unity in Christ

- Date: 3rd June
- Time & Place: 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm in Bethany
- Cost: Donation appreciated
Insights on 'Receptive Ecumenism: receiving the gift of the other, as we take part in the Pentecost Novena, praying with the universal church for Christian Unity.'
Presented by Geraldine Hawkes

Come Away to a Quiet Place ...

- Date: 14th June
- Time & Place: 9.30 am – 3.00 pm in Bethany
- Cost: \$25 or \$10 concession
A gentle day of quiet reflection where we can deepen our relationship with God, through various prayer forms.
Presented by Val De Brenni

6 Day Guided Retreat #1

*Listening to the Universe ...
Living Responsively*

- Date: 27th April – 4th May
- Time: commencing 6.30 pm on the first day with evening meal
- Place: St Joseph's Convent, Largs Bay
- Cost: \$450

Each individual person has the power of participating in the transformation of the whole Earth ... 'the magnitude of the Earth's adventure staggers the human imagination.' Brian Swimme
Facilitated by Srs Kateri Duke rsj and Colleen O'Sullivan rsj

Applications close 17th April

FOR REGISTRATIONS OF EVENTS & RETREATS

Phone:
08 8130 5900
Email:
infos@sosj.org.au

Bethany Centre:
4 High Street, Kensington
Street parking only!

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