



Josephite Associates

• FRIENDSHIP • PRAYER • SERVICE

Josephite Associates NSW (Inc.) PO Box 184, Croydon NSW 2132 (Letters only) • 34 Liverpool Rd, Croydon NSW 2132 (Parcels)

Phone 02 9747 4199

NEWSLETTER • November 2014

Dear Josephite Associates,

'Whether we search in earth, or sky, or sea, we are everywhere met by the vision of the illimitable God' Rev Julian Tenison Woods 1882. This quote appears in the Josephite Calendar, October 2014. The 7th October 2014 marks the 125th Anniversary of Julian Tenison Woods death, a time to remember the Co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. A Mass was celebrated in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel North Sydney, on Saturday 11th October 2014 to mark this memorial.

Welcome to warmer weather following a very cold winter. I especially welcome the twenty eight applicants who filled in our new application form to become Josephite Associate members this year.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Marian Court, Margaret Street, Strathfield on Saturday 13th September 2014. This day was one of celebration with a Dedication Ceremony, a ritual of prayer and song, welcoming twenty four Josephite Associates, who responded to the invitation in the July 2014 Newsletter to formalise their commitment, to live the Charism of St Mary MacKillop by their lives of friendship, prayer and service.

The ritual commenced with the singing of the hymn 'St Mary's Call to life' followed by prayer, dedication, presentation of certificates and prayers of intercession. Thirty three names were proclaimed, remembering those Associates who have been called to eternal life since our last AGM. Our final hymn to the tune of 'You raise me up' was accompanied on the piano by Sister Tess Formosa rsj (words used were written at Lochinvar and the verses were adapted to include Julian Tenison Woods and St Mary MacKillop).

Our guest speaker Sister Margaret Ng rsj spoke of her work in 'Trafficking of Women'. This ministry for Margaret is 'a call within a call', since she has such unique gifts to enable her to respond to the needs of the people. (Refer to an article on Margaret's ministry in this newsletter). An inspiring presentation and a confronting DVD enlightened us on the abuse of women in our society. We extend a special thank you Margaret.

The emphasis this year at the AGM was on members celebrating friendship with one another, praying together and sharing a delicious lunch. Lucky door prizes were distributed to conclude the day.

To the Strathfield Associates Group for hosting the AGM and to all who assisted we extend a special thank you.

The following are some highlights of the work of the Governance Group during 2014:

- Jan Lang (Northern NSW representative) and Mullumbimby Group Leader held a street stall and raised \$1,893 for East Timor.
- Carol Badewitz (Southern NSW representative) and Bombala Group Leader forwarded her inspiring prayer reflections for sharing by email to all Associates on our email list and Sisters of St Joseph.
- A request from the Boambee Group for a Junior Joey's Certificate – Sister Joan Goodwin rsj responded and designed a certificate. A copy is now available from the office. Any group wishing to present certificates to Junior Joey's please contact the office.
- Dedication Ceremony packages and certificates were prepared and mailed to various groups.
- Four Governance Group members attended a prayer day in Bathurst – Presenter Dr Marie Crowley.
- Joined in the Fusion Ceremony of the Federation Sisters at Bathurst with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart on the 3rd

May 2014.

- Beverley Badcock presented 'Spirituality of St Mary MacKillop' to teachers from St Paul of the Apostle, Winston Hills.
- Following an invitation from the Western Sydney Deanery to address twenty Priests/Deacons on the History of Josephite Associates, an article was prepared, together with a package of enrolment brochures, for distribution in Western Sydney parishes. This presentation was given at Carnes Hill on the 22nd July 2014.
- Thirty holding crosses from East Timor have been purchased and are held in the office, with the view of forwarding a cross to an Associate who is seriously ill. Seven crosses have been distributed and gratefully received.
- The Sisters of St Joseph invited Associates to Feast Day Mass Celebrations for the Feasts of St Joseph in March (84 attended), St Mary of the Cross in August (85 attended) and to the 125th Anniversary of Julian Tenison Woods death in October (50 attended).
- The fusion of the Federation Sisters of St Joseph in Goulburn and Bathurst, with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, has now involved discussion, as to the fusion of Josephite Associates from these two areas with Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc. Please pray for the success of this initiative.

Last year in the November 2013 Newsletter a request was made for anyone coming up to retirement with skills in MYOB who would be willing as a volunteer to assist in the office. This invitation is still open and we are continuing to pray for others to come and assist with the management of the Josephite Associates Office at Croydon.

The quote from the pen of Mary MacKillop 'Have courage and pray earnestly' has been chosen especially in these troubled times of unspeakable violence in the Middle East and threats in our country. Please continue to pray for peace in our country and throughout the world.

I wish you every blessing, peace and joy for Christmas and the New Year.

St Mary of the Cross – pray with us. St Joseph – pray with us.

Leonie Bell – President.

*From the pen of
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop:*



"Have courage and pray earnestly!"

15.11.1853

Pilgrimage to Penola I

Students and staff from Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows (in Melbourne's North-West) made a pilgrimage to Penola for the blessing and re-opening of the historic Mary MacKillop Stable School Park on 29th June 2014.

Our students were included and brought into the rich web of the Josephite Story alongside those (including Sisters formerly in teaching and parish ministries and also historians) who had brought members of staff into the same story when they were their age. In their reflections, the students wrote about the great pride they felt walking in Mary and Julian's footsteps, seeing the landscape, the Father Woods Tree, the sites within Penola (such as the church and Woods-MacKillop School House) and independently made connections between this experience and their place back at school, the former St Joseph's Babies' Home, founded by Mary MacKillop in 1901.

The students were alive with questions and excitement on the day and also on the journey to and from Penola. It was the first time they had been included in a gathering of a large number of Josephite Sisters whose visible presence in their teal scarves made a big impression! The events of the day provided



many opportunities to reflect in new ways on the qualities of the Founders, Mary and Julian, and the important work they initiated in Penola. In their reflections, students shared that they enjoyed

the Eucharist, so joyfully celebrated by Father Paul Gardiner SJ, the beautiful images and the distinctive use of music and prayers used in the ritual of blessing, and taking 'selfies' with the delightful 'cut-out' characters in the Park representing the different personalities of the first Stable School. Staff members were inspired by the Prayer Stations with the words of wisdom from Mary MacKillop and felt they could incorporate a similar feature into their lessons back at school.

One of our year nine students, Stavro Marogi, who had been in a Mary MacKillop group in his primary school and this year founded the group at Penola College, wrote in his journal that morning: 'I'm looking forward to reading today and feel very proud to have a part in the ritual which is an important day to remember what happened here in Penola and for us all from Penola College'. When asked what he took away from the day, how he would go home 'different', Stavro shared, 'new inspiration' – which spoke for many of the pilgrims.

As a newly-formed Mary MacKillop group and as representative members of the Penola College Community, the

NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR BY EMAIL

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pilgrimage to Penola for the Stable School Park event was an important time to connect with each other, with our part in the Josephite story and to reflect upon how we will take up the story in new ways, continuing to weave it in our unique time and place.

The Mary MacKillop group at Penola Catholic College strives to live by the four MacKillop values (the same used in the MacKillop Campus of Aotearoa New Zealand):

- Make Room for All – 'There shall be no distinctions among us' (MMK)
- Do Your Bit – 'Never see a need without doing something about it' (MMK)
- Listen to God's Call – 'Listen to the whisperings of God to your own heart' (MMK)
- An Attitude of Gratitude – 'Gratitude is the memory of the heart' (MMK)

*Sally Neaves – Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows
Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)*

Pilgrimage to Penola II



One of the loveliest pieces of mail to come across my desk this year was an invitation from the Sisters of St Joseph, Centre West Region, to the Blessing and Opening of Stage 2 of the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park Upgrade, on Sunday 29th June 2014.

Our school, Christ the King Catholic Primary School at Bass Hill (a suburb of Sydney), was started in 1957 by the Sisters of St Joseph. Sister Patricia O'Brien rsj was the first principal.

Since long before Mary MacKillop was proclaimed a saint we have tried to enrich the lives of our students, staff and parents through immersing them in the Josephite charism. We have done this through inviting 'the sisters to speak to our students, the Sisters Travelling Road Show, celebration of Mary MacKillop's feast day, quotes in our newsletters, green and gold days and fundraising for the Stable Park'.

The visit to Penola was an experience of a lifetime. The cold weather and the rain didn't dampen the warm spirit of everyone involved and even produced a number of rainbows.

Because of concerns about the inclement weather, most of the blessing ritual was held in the hall of Mary MacKillop Memorial School, after a beautiful 10.30 a.m. Mass. Fortunately, the weather permitted us to make our way to the MMK Stable School Park for the final part of the ritual. A beautiful country style lunch was then served back at the hall.

It was a privilege to be able to attend and share in the blessing of the park, but it was also a joy to share in the warmth, hospitality and the community of sisters who continue the great work of their founder.

*Maureen Jones, Principal
– Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Bass Hill*

The magic of the moment



The 18th July 1984 is etched in my memory forever, for on that day I (Fr Ross O'Brien), met Pope John Paul II. Thirty years ago the Armidale Diocese hosted a visit from the Apostolic Delegate. There was the threat of a pilots strike so Bishop Harry Kennedy

asked me to drive the Delegate to Sydney.

I mentioned that I was planning to go overseas with my mother and two sisters. The Delegate asked me to write giving the dates when I would be in Rome, and in gratitude he would furnish me with a letter to the Vatican requesting tickets for a Papal audience. The letter subsequently arrived and I presented it to the relevant authorities in the Vatican when I arrived in Rome.

We arrived at the Piazza in the morning the Pope was to arrive at 10 o'clock. The photographer came to us and said that there was a possibility that the Pope might personally come and meet us. We were full of expectation.

At 10 o'clock the Papal helicopter could be seen in the sky. The Pope had been skiing in the Alps. He spoke to the huge crowd in different languages. After this he came down towards us.

I had been reflecting in my mind what I would say to him. That very day 18th July was the twenty third anniversary of my ordination. I would tell him that and ask for his blessing. He took my hand, our eyes met and I froze. I was lost for words, such was the magic of the moment.

I introduced my mother to him. He said: 'God bless the mother of a Priest'. She asked him for his autograph. One of his aides gave her a card which was autographed. Then he moved to my sister Kathie. He asked her where she was from; she was overwhelmed with delight. When he came to my other sister Norma she presented him with a holy card of Mary MacKillop and asked that he raise Mary MacKillop to sainthood soon. He placed his hand on her shoulder, a moment she has never forgotten.

The Pope then moved on. The event was all over in a short space of time but it will be ever present to the O'Briens. There is truth in the saying: 'the Song is ended but the melody lingers on.'

My mother, Mrs Dalis O'Brien nee Kennedy, attended St Joseph's School, West Tamworth on the first day it opened in 1919. Her six children went to St Joseph's School as did ten of her grandchildren. One grandchild teaches music at St Joseph's and another one is a teacher at St Joseph's Wee Waa. Three of her grandchildren are Josephite Associates, Kathie, Elaine and Norma.

*Father Ross O'Brien and Norma O'Brien
Extract from Catholic Viewpoint Winter Edition 2014*

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to all Josephite Associates recorded in our Birthday Book who celebrate their birthdays in November, December 2014, January, February 2015

Living in closeness to God

On the 8th August the Church around the world celebrates Mary MacKillop's feast day. The memory of the Canonisation is still with us. This year we reflect on the impact Mary's life is having on us and on the world around us.

Pope Francis sees a world at 'the turning point of history'. Others see that too. In the world of the poet and playwright, Christopher Fry, 'Thank God our time is now... The enterprise is exploration into God'. Mary MacKillop found a way to God by being still in the midst of turmoil in her life and times. Pope Francis sees a world 'lacking a respect for others, where violence is on the rise and inequality becoming increasingly evident'. Perhaps Mary would see that too if she were alive today.

The challenge for us is to ignite something of Mary's spirit in the hearts of others; a spirit that will permeate the world for future generations. Many Josephites can no longer lead active lives and often need care ourselves... 'for the snow is on our hair'. But there is a rich spirit of prayer and compassion for the needy and we are aware of the injustices in our times. One of the things we can do is have a heightened sensitivity to the beauty in our world; the beauty of each human soul and our connectedness to all things.

The mystics tell us that the body, mind and soul are as one when we are closer to God. To find this balance we need to clear the mind of distractions, relax the body from tension and the Spirit will be free. There is a yearning in every human being to find the spiritual. Some people try drugs to alter their consciousness, others attempt thrill-seeking, etc. We do not need to look far for inspiration from Mary. She found spiritual connectedness to God by being still.

Despite travelling to Europe, all over Australia and New Zealand as the Order expanded she maintained her centre, which was living in a closeness to God. Her life was committed to God's will. In our day we speak of discernment to discover God's will for ourselves. That requires daily efforts to be in touch with our own journey in faith. Mary found a measure of stillness which she described in the letter written in the garden at Alma Cottage. In 1884 she wrote of 'little birds singing around us, their singing and the ticking of the clocks being the only sounds'.

When Mary died her dream of education for children was a reality in Australia and New Zealand. In the silence of her heart she never wavered despite difficulties. Now her spirit inspires us to recognise God's will.

In Mary's letter to her mother, Flora, she wrote, 'Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart' (1868). These words are relevant to us today in the stillness.

*Sister Helen Barnes rsj
Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)*

Newsletter Editorial

Editor: Christine Sivewright
Members: Beverley Badcock, Leonie Bell,
Design and Print: Paul McMahon

Old windows return to Penola church



Three 155-year-old stained glass windows from the first St Joseph's Church built by Father Julian Tenison Woods in Penola are being restored by a relative of its original salvage contractors.

The unique Gothic-styled windows will form part of an \$80,000 porch redevelopment of St Joseph's Church which sits on the site of the original Church commissioned and opened by Father Julian Tenison Woods on April 24, 1859.

Father Woods and St Mary MacKillop established Australia's first order of nuns, the Sisters of St Joseph, in Penola in 1866. Mary MacKillop would have frequented the church, of which Father Woods was parish priest, when she was teaching in Penola.

Father Woods had 13 custom-made stained glass windows for the church imported from the United Kingdom, with one of them bearing the Ave sign, later worn on the habits of Mary MacKillop's Josephite Sisters.

For close to 40 years the windows sat partially immersed in water in a disused quarry on a property on the outskirts of Penola. 'It really is a miracle the windows have survived,' said Penola parishioner Maureen Black.

Penola stained glass artisan and wine maker Barry Mulligan has volunteered to restore three of the windows for the Church's porch redevelopment, including the one etched with the Ave sign.

'I think I would die in regret if the windows weren't refurbished because they are such an important part of the history of Penola,' said Mr Mulligan.

The windows will take about 12 months to restore and he is aiming to use as much of the original glass pieces and frames as possible. Mr Mulligan is the grand-nephew of Phyl and Charles Lynch, who were contracted to demolish the original church in December 1923. Part of the contract included salvage rights of the demolished material, including roof slates, timbers and the windows, which the brothers stored for decades on their farm on the outskirts of Penola.

It's not the first time Mr Mulligan, from St Mary's Wines, has donated his craftsmanship to the history of Mary. In 2000 he restored one of the 13 windows for display at the Mary MacKillop Penola Centre.

The window on display was donated by Tony and Kathy Doherty, also descendants of the Lynch family. The Dohertys gave the windows to the Centre after retrieving them from a disused quarry on the family property.

Tony's sister, Mrs Black (nee Doherty), recalls the windows were moved from the family's car shed to the quarry after a child cut themselves on the glass.

'My father and uncle took the windows and stored them in the quarry a few metres from the house; one side of the quarry would fill with water, and this was where the windows were sitting,' said Mrs Black. She said they lay there idle for almost 40 years.

Penola Parish Church Porch Committee member Claire Larkin said, 'the windows were a wonderful connection to the pioneering times of Father Woods and St Mary MacKillop in Penola and deserved pride of place in the porch redevelopment'.

'A new porch is needed to provide ease of entry and disabled access to the church and also gives us the opportunity to reuse the historic windows which will bring back the early history of the church, which is of great interest to the local people and the visitors who pray there.'

The church is adjacent to the Mary MacKillop Penola Centre which attracts thousands of pilgrims from across Australia and the world each year.

Rebecca DiGirolamo

*Extract from the Southern Cross News, Adelaide, South Australia
(used with permission)*

News from Sister Bridie O'Connell rsj

Dear Associates,

As many of you are already aware, my life has changed considerably. I've been diagnosed with a cancer of the tongue which has spread to glands in my neck as well as the lungs. Sadly it's inoperable and untreatable. Eventually I'll need to be connected to a Palliative Care Specialist but meanwhile I'm continuing my life here at Croydon. My address at present is 10 Patterson Place, Croydon 2132. I've felt very supported by many expressions of prayer and love from the Sisters and Associates. For this I am deeply grateful. May I ask you to continue your prayer and remember especially my family in Ireland, who are shocked by this news. I know how faith-filled you are. My life is now truly in God's loving hands. I will hold all of you close in my prayer too with much love, Bridie.

The train of life

Mary MacKillop says, 'Remember we are but travellers here.'

Life is like a journey on a train... with its stations... with changes or routes...and with accidents!

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant, i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realise that they vacated their seats!

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers...requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is:

- We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down.
- So, we must live in the best way – love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.
- It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty – we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.
- I wish you a joyful journey for the coming year on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love.
- More importantly, thank God for the journey!
- Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

Thirrour Josephite Associates



Today, 8th of August 2014, we were privileged to share in a Celebration Mass for Mary MacKillop's Feast Day with the school children from St Michael's School in Thirrour, along with parents and parishioners. What a joyful occasion it was! Father Ken Cafe gave a wonderful homily, bringing home the love and spirit of Mary and impressing on the children how important it is to face and accept similar challenges today to those facing Mary all those years ago.

Last year at our quarterly meeting, which begins with Mass, celebrated by Josephite Associate, Father Vincent Whiteman, followed

by the sharing of a meal, an idea was suggested by Claudia Smith to present the children with a lasting memory of Mary MacKillop, something tangible to take home and create a talking point within their families. Claudia's idea was spontaneously accepted as a great idea and so began a project to be completed by Mary's Feast Day this year.

It was decided that Mary's image was to be printed onto a wooden circle, along with six different sayings that Mary used as encouragement to her sisters. Different quotes were used in the hope that the children would read each other's magnet. After many ups and downs, including applying for the copyright to use the image of Mary's photograph and her sayings, the project came together with the help of a willing band of Associates and the expertise of a local woodturner, who cut over six hundred circles. Brian and Pat Hazel's daughter, Belinda, was able to create the layout of photograph and different wordings to fit the circle, and so a magnet was born. Working bees were organised to glue magnets onto circles and then these were bundled into class numbers to be presented to class representatives at Mass today.

At the conclusion of Mass, the children and congregation were told about the Josephite Associates and our aim to carry on the memory of Mary MacKillop through prayer and action. Those gathered were given some very interesting history of the foundation of St Michael's School nearly seventy five years ago by Sister Alphonsa Jones and Sister Thecla, and made possible by Mary MacKillop's love and devotion to education, especially for the poor.

Sufficient magnets were made for St Joseph's School at Bulli and a similar presentation was made to those children today. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience to be involved in sharing Mary MacKillop with the communities of Thirrour and Bulli.

Paul Tuckerman JA, Group Leader Thirrour

Sisters of St Joseph receive the medal of the Order of Timor-Leste



The President of the Republic of Timor-Leste, Taur Matan Ruak, officially bestowed 'Ordem de Timor' Medals on twenty-six non-Timorese people and groups who fought for Timor-Leste's independence.

The ceremony was held in Dili on August 30th 2014, the 15th Anniversary of the Referendum through which the Timorese people finally gained their freedom.

Sisters Josephine Mitchell rsj and Susan Connelly rsj accepted the Medal on behalf of all those who had worked in the Mary MacKillop Institute for East Timor's struggle in the 1990s.

The Award recognised the solidarity of the Sisters of St Joseph, Religious of other Congregations and Colleagues who had the privilege of working and praying together for justice and freedom for East Timor.

Others receiving recognition included the journalists known as the Balibo Five, whose posthumous awards were received by family members.

Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)

News from North Sydney Associates

The cold winter days of June did not deter the North Sydney Josephite Associates from gathering for their monthly meeting. We met at the residence of one of our early members, Mrs Pat Smith, who resides at MacKillop Grange, Mosman. Our group usually meets in the Molloy Room at Mount Street, North Sydney, but on this occasion it was decided to hold the meeting at Pat's residence due to failing health of some of our members.

This popular gathering place proved that there were insufficient chairs for all who attended. To overcome this, we borrowed a chair from the front foyer. What a surprise at the end of our meeting to discover a note on the wall requesting the chair be returned! A member of the church hierarchy who resides in the same complex had detected a missing chair! We replaced the chair and removed the typed note.

We had a prayer reflection and discussion and this was also a great occasion to catch up socially. Pat was able to exchange news with her friends who have been North Sydney Associates for many years.

A shared lunch was enjoyed by all, as those who attended brought a plate of delicious food. The variety of dishes was greater than any restaurant could offer and we were able to use Pat's beautiful English crockery.

The younger members enjoyed the friendship and wisdom of our senior members and this gathering gave Pat much pleasure to have the meeting in the comfort of her home. We look forward to being together at this peaceful location again, showing friendship, engaging in prayer and sharing our culinary skills. A suggestion has been put forward that we could celebrate our Christmas Party at Pat's place and this idea was received with great enthusiasm by all. We look forward to Christmas.

North Sydney JAs



Ministry of Sister Margaret Ngrsj

Sister Margaret, during her sabbatical, had the opportunity, in Norway, to make a directed retreat in the Cistercian Monastery, Tautra Mariakioster, under Sister Rosemary, the former prioress of the Community.

The current Prioress, Sister Gilchrist, asked Sister Margaret to speak to the community about her ministry. This ministry is to trafficked people and includes an outreach to women who have been brought to Australia as part of sex trafficking rings and then end up in Villawood Detention Centre and other places waiting for deportation.

There are many asylum seekers also in the detention centre and Margaret, many times, walks the hard and unjust journey with these people. By the end of the retreat Margaret realised that the frustration that had built up after nine years of this ministry had dropped away and she understood that, as her director suggested, this was for her, 'a call within a call,' since she has such unique gifts to enable her to respond to the needs of the people. The community in Norway promised to continue to pray for Margaret and her ministry and the trafficked people.

Margaret had initially commenced this ministry to those involved in sex trafficking in 2004 in response to an open request to the Congregation from Sister Katrina Brill, Congregational Leader, for a Sister to work in this area. At that time, Margaret was working in Perth in an Archdiocesan Pastoral Care role for migrants, particularly for the Chinese Catholic Community. Margaret is of Malaysian Chinese background, coming to Australia as an adult, a background which is invaluable working with many of the people she helps. In the NSW Region she has the support of Sisters, from other ethnic backgrounds, who can assist her in the ministry with language and culture issues.

Sister Rosemary (Norway) has already proved how closely she is watching over Margaret and researching anything written with reference to her area of ministry. Rosemary initially emailed Margaret the Pope's brief report in August that announced the 'Pope's message for World Day of Peace will focus on fighting modern slavery' and stated:

'Pope Francis has repeatedly asked the international community to put an end to human trafficking. Now the Vatican has announced the theme of his message for the next World Day of Peace. It's: Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters.'

Sister Rosemary continued her work of ensuring Margaret was kept in touch with the wider Church as she followed her earlier email with information about how: this ongoing challenge of Pope Francis was echoed in an intervention made September 12, 2014 by Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi at the United Nations during the XXVII Ordinary Session of the Council of Human Rights on the theme 'to combat contemporary forms of slavery'.

Margaret herself on arriving home re-established her links

with ACRATH which is the group endorsed by the Religious Congregations to work together to eliminate human trafficking. Margaret with other representatives is en route to Canberra for an intensive week of meetings with a range of politicians and this year the focus of their meeting is to discuss the following:

- Improvement in services for women and men trafficked into Australia.
- Comprehensive financial compensation for such people.
- Slavery in the supply chain of goods being imported into Australia.

Sister Pat Malone rsj

Extract from sosj enews (used with permission)

Loving Greetings

I have a list of people I know, all written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a look
And that is when I realise that these names are a part
Not of the book they're written in but of my very heart.

And while you may not be aware of any special 'link'
Just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you
think

For once I've met somebody the years cannot erase
The memory of your loving words and kind and friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, and forgotten in between
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you
It's because you are on a list of people I'm indebted to.

For I am but a total of the many people I've met
And you happen to be one of these I prefer not to forget.
And whether I've known you for many years or few
In some way you have had a part of shaping things I do.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew
The best gifts life can offer is meeting friends like you.

Author unknown

Advent Reflection Morning

Theme: Give your Heart a Home

Saturday 22nd November 2014

9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

St Declan's Church Meeting Room

Corner of Forest Road & Penshurst Street, Penshurst

(parking available on site)

RSVP by 16/11/2014

Mary Gallagher 9579 6893

Penshurst Josephite Associates

Josephite Associates (NSW) Inc Governance Group

President: Leonie Bell

Vice President: Beverley Badcock

Treasurer: Eileen Stevenson

Secretary: Maureen Rayner

North Coast Representative: Jan Lang

South Coast Representative: Carol Badewitz

Celebrating Birthdays

Our birthday lets us step out of daily life to discover where we stand every day with the people who are part of our life – we are shown a truth that often gets buried in the business of everyday.

On our birthday, family and friends greet us and wish us well. They affirm our special-ness, they are glad we are here! Rejoicing in our presence, they celebrate the day we were born. They want us to be happy, so they send greetings and/or give gifts. They want us to continue to exist, so they feed us with special food.

They say the first 80 years are the hardest; the next 80 are a succession of birthday parties.

Once you are 80 years old, everyone wants to carry your bags and help you on the steps.

If you forget your own name, an appointment or phone numbers; if you arrange to be in three places at the same time – just mention you are over 80 and no more will be said!

Being 80 is much better than being 70 – at 70, folk get mad at you for just about anything. At 80, you have the perfect excuse no matter what you do!

70 isn't fun. You are expected to retire to the sun or to the coast and complain about your arthritis. But, you get to 80 and everyone is surprised you have lived so long. In fact, they are surprised that you can still talk sensibly – or even get around.

At 80, you can have the time of your life because people will forgive you for just about everything.

Congratulations on reaching 80 years – a significant and memorable milestone in one's life. May I join the many who are remembering you, praying for you and wishing you happy birthday and many happy returns.

To help you reflect on the significance of your 80th birthday, you might bear in mind.....

- Forty is a great number because it signifies Eternity, or everlasting time, or all the time there is.
- Many Eastern Christian Churches have 40 little windows in the circumference of their domes to show that the dome represents the everlasting heavens.
- The Jews reckoned that if you fast for 40 days, you have fasted long enough to atone for your sins.
- Forty days of rain in Noah's time was enough to wipe out everything on earth.
- By staying with us for 40 days after his

Resurrection, Jesus showed us he would be with us forever.

Now, multiplying the number 40 by 2, stresses the primary meaning that much more! So your 80 is highly significant for more reasons than one. Happy birthday and many happy returns!

Anonymous



www.marymackillop.org.au

Prayer of Inspiration

Walking beside you, Jesus,
trying to obey,
walking beside you, Jesus,
in the dark and in the day.
This time, I'm not asking,
to see a miracle,
or to lay out all the things in life,
I'd like to see occur.
I just want to softly
come to you and say,
I will always love you,
in the dark and in the day.

Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you Lord, for your word;
it inspires me,
motivates me,
instructs me,
corrects and comforts me
Your word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
(Psalm 119:105)
Bankstown JAs

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:

Boxes of Stamps
5 Alexandra Avenue
Croydon NSW 2132
Envelopes and packets to
Stamps, Locked Bag 3031
Burwood NSW 1805
Phone 02 8741 2334

Thank you for all stamps received.

Requiescant in Pace

Trudy Besseling (St Mary's Group);
Annie Clark (Boambee Group);
Noelene Coleman (Lidcombe Group);
Peter Fitzpatrick (Central Coast);
Norma Getley (Panania Group);
Ruth Hickey (Melbourne);
Mary Johnston (Canberra Group);
Noelene McNeil (Barraba Group);
Kit Morris (Prayer Member – Peakhurst);
Patricia Powell (Woy Woy Group);
Dominic Scaturchio (Auburn Group);
Patricia Webb (Warilla Group)

Prayers for the Sick

Maureen Blood (Canberra);
Bob Cassidy (Penrith);
Sr Jan Cetta rsj;
Margaret Clapham (Warilla);
Clare Day (Oatley);
Jenny Falvey (Georges Hall);
Jan & William Farrell (Bombala);
Beverley Fitzgerald (Cooma);
Kieran Fitzpatrick (Menai);
Lou Fry (Blacktown);
Alma Halse (Canberra);
Helen Harnett (Peakhurst);
Barbara Irwin (Lalor Park);
Daisy Keogh (Lidcombe);
Maria Kopjar (Menai);
Edna Lay (Prayer Member);
Pat McDonald (Peakhurst);
Jill McKenzie (Canberra);
Margaret Millar (Blacktown);
Lyll Molloy (Bingara);
Gloria Monck (Canberra);
Kevin Moore (Warialda);
Pat O'Brien (Warialda);
Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj;
Ann O'Hara (Lidcombe);
Allan Opferkuch (Moree);
Melva Perkins (Quirindi);
Helen Perrett (Warialda);
Esme Quinn (Warilla);
Pauline Rendell (Peakhurst);
Rosina Rotunno Lakemba);
Kathleen Ryan (Blacktown);
Norma & Ned Steele (Canberra);
Audrey Steinmetz (Belmont);
Kay Tuckerman (Thirroul);
Rex Tulloch (Laurieton);
Anna Vincent (Bombala);
Ritz Wendt (Peakhurst);
Jenice White (Ballina);
Gwen Witton (Penrith)
We remain united in prayer for all our
sick Josephite Associates and Sisters of St
Joseph.

Life's Struggles



One day, a small opening appeared in a cocoon; a man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then, it seems to stop making any progress.

It appeared as if it had struggled as far as it could and it could not go any further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly; he took a pair of scissors and opened the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had withered body it was tiny and had shrivelled wings.

The man continued to watch because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would open, enlarge and expand, to be able to support the butterfly's body and become firm. Neither happened!

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a withered body and shrivelled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and his goodwill did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening, were nature's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes, struggles are exactly what we need in our life.

If we were allowed to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been, would never have been able to fly.

'I asked for strength.....

and I was given difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom.....

and I was given problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity.....

and I was given a brain and brawn to work.

I asked for courage.....

and I was given obstacles to overcome.

I asked for love.....

and I was given troubled people to help.

I asked for favours.....

and I was given opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.....

but I received EVERYTHING I needed.'

Live life without fear, confront all obstacles and know that you can overcome them.

Email Address

Have you had a change since your last advice?
If so, please contact us with your new details at:

associates@sosjns.org.au

Subject: Email address change

MH17

Fallen Petals

Near fields where sunflowers grew

Petals have fallen like the dew

When the plane came down and tore the world apart

This to hundreds will mean a new start.

As we pray for strength and courage in their never ending
tears

The spirit of those loved ones will always be near

The sunflowers have been harvested now I see

And the fields of green and gold cease to be

But seeds in the fields will continue to grow

And change to the living, in love will flow.

Let us pray for peace in this world of ours

No good can come from greed and blame

No good from rocket fire

Shaking hands in peace is what we all desire.

Carol Badewitz – Bombala JA

Let us be joyful and thank God

Mary MacKillop 1874

May our abundant and generous God of life
bless each of you with the goodness of

St Mary MacKillop

on this her feast day.

May she inspire you to be:

advocates for justice;

compassionate hearts for the needy;

participants in the circle of life;

voice for those without voice;

tenacious in times of suffering;

people of joy and hope. Amen

The Congregational Leadership Team to Volunteers 8/8/2014

The website for

Mary MacKillop Place,

Mount Street, North Sydney is

www.marymackillopplace.org.au

for coming events, feast and memorial dates,
pilgrimage information and an invitation to a place of
prayer with our Australian Saint.

The newsletter is now available
on the web, at

www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list_newsletters.cfm