



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends ...

Once again we have come to that very special time of Christmas.

Welcome to our Summer, Advent, Christmas Newsletter.

Thanks to all who have given their time and help to keep our Associates alive in all our country and city areas. Many thanks for the donations we have received and the friendship we all enjoyed from each other during 2014.

Mary MacKillop to her Sisters ...

'The more closely you strive to follow Christ, the more will the Cross be present in your life – in the way of extra renunciation.'

She walked the way of love and forgiveness.

An Italian Cardinal, who may know very little about Mary MacKillop, in fact described her perfectly when he wrote:

The faithful adult Christian can be described as the person who allows himself or herself to be stretched to the fullest in the exercise of charity. It is only this perfect expansion of charity which provides the complete image of the Christian adult ... The New Testament says ... 'Be imitators of God as his children, full of love, goodness,

meekness, esteem for one another and centered and supported by charity.'

People will differ as to where they see true holiness in Mary MacKillop. It might be in her deep faith, her trust in God, her persevering courage, or her compassionate concern for the poor, especially the children. Certainly all of these things go to make up the total picture of the sanctity that was hers. For me the most striking manifestation of true holiness is to be found in her beautiful and heroic response to unfair and unjust treatment that she received. I marvel at the serenity, the sweet charity, the total respect for priesthood and her belief in the goodness of the motives of those who treated her so unfairly."

Mary MacKillop: A Spiritual Model for All by E J Cuskelly MSC



*Best wishes for all the blessings of Summer ...
from Sr Denise, and the Central Committee -
Dot, Meg, Fay, Margaret, Maureen and Mary and
all the Associate Committee members -
Annette, Dardanup and Helen, Esperance*

Southwest Annual Retreat

18 September 2014

presented by Sr Wendy Lailey rsj



Change: God's Transformative Love was the theme of our Josephite Associate retreat day held in Dardanup, where 23 people from Bunbury, Busselton, Australind, Eaton, Manjimup, Dardanup, Brunswick and Sr Denise from Perth gathered to participate in this uplifting, spiritual and sometimes challenging time together with Sr Wendy.



The day began with singing of Marty Haugen's Morning Intercession Prayer, and a meditation on Psalm 141, where we were invited to allow the words to speak to us, followed by a section of Jeremiah 18:6 which relates to Yahweh being the Potter who shapes and forms who we are.



Prayer and quiet time followed for meditation on how we may be called by our God to 'change', perhaps what we need to change in ourselves to be closer to God, to do the will of God in our lives. Sr Wendy spoke of how St Mary of the Cross responded to the will of God in her life and relationships, in order to be faithful to her conscience and the will of her 'good God.'

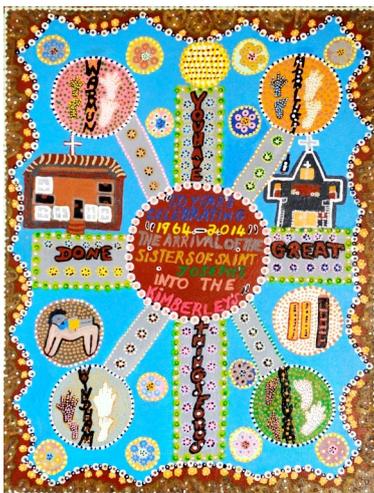
Included in our time together, was sharing in small and large groups: discussion on the many subjects raised over this most appreciated time with Sr Wendy.

Sincere thanks was conveyed on our behalf to Sr Wendy by Johanna Hynes JA.

- Annette Morellini JA



Special Painting Recognises the Sisters' Work in the Kimberley



The recent celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of St Joseph's Catholic School in Wyndham was a special occasion for the school, wider Wyndham community and the Sisters of St Joseph who have special links with the Kimberley. At the commemoration, Marjorie Hunter, a local artist and good friend of the Sisters, presented them with a wonderful painting reflecting the story of their ministry in the Kimberley over the last 50 years. In this vibrant art work Marjorie has illustrated the work of the Sisters in the Kimberley highlighting Warmun, Mirrilingki, Wyndham and Kununurra.

Marjorie wrote a dedication on the back of the painting that reads:

"To the Sisters of St Joseph

This painting tells the story of your wonderful loving and dedicated work teaching the faith and educating the Kimberley children and also with their families and friends.

May you be blessed for all you have done and what you continue doing elsewhere. Have an enjoyable celebration with all on the 8/8/2014. Fond love and thanks, Marjorie Hunter."

At present the painting is on display in the Garden Room, a casual meeting room at the South Perth Convent, where it is a great source of conversation and is regularly admired.

This special painting is treasured by the Sisters and a wonderful recognition of the ongoing ministry of the Sisters in the Kimberley.

- Sue Sondaolini, WA Archivist; Photo of Painting, Denise Casey

Mary MacKillop Centre South Perth Update



The year continues to 'bee' busy, life giving and rewarding. Working with students and teachers continues to bring joy and inspiration. The student's responses, insights and joyful participation are a constant source of inspiration.

In addition to our usual programme we were honoured to host the AJASS - Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools 2 day Conference at the centre where Principals came from far and wide to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Charism and what it means in 2014. They were amazed at the West Australian Josephite Journey since 1897.



Seasons for Growth Companion Training

Of course the Josephite calendars have been a great hit as usual and wonderful value for \$6.00. The highlight for this part of the year for the Mary MacKillop Promotions area has been the new Josephite Prayer Book Praying in the Josephite Spirit called **Act - Love - Walk**. This Prayer Book was particularly written for Associates, friends and all those on a spiritual journey. The themes are relevant the language inclusive. Many schools have purchased multiple copies for staff prayer and personal spiritual growth.

The books are available through the centre Associates Special price \$15.00 See order form if you wish to purchase a copy or two.

Pope Francis has been encouraging us to be joy filled people....

He says "If we live the faith in our daily life, then our work too becomes a chance to spread the joy of being a Christian". My work at the MCC brings me great joy!

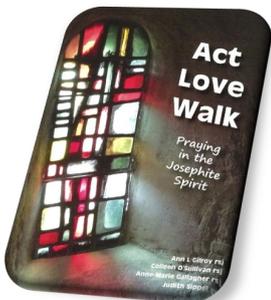
May you all experience Peace and Joy this Christmas Season

... with Blessings Maree Riddler rsj

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!! AVAILABLE NOW FROM SR MAREE

ACT LOVE WALK

Praying in the Josephite Spirit



Book of prayers in the Josephite Spirit designed for use for all!

Divided into four sections, firstly ... Journeying through the year – followed by three sections based on the proclamations of Micah: **ACT** Justly **LOVE** Tenderly **WALK** Humbly
The book is richly illustrated and will make a beautiful gift and would be a welcome addition to any library.

Associates' price: \$15 (+ \$10 postage).

Regular price: \$20 (+ \$10 postage).

Available Now at 16 York Street, South Perth

Contact Sr Maree: 0414 683 926, mriddler@sosjwa.org.au

*This is what the Living God asks of you:
Only this, to act justly; to love tenderly;
To walk humble with your God.
Micah 6:8*

Prayer Day at South Perth

DECEMBER: Thursday 4th (10.00 am – 3.30 pm)
Focus: "My Lord and my God!" John 20:28
Presenter: Sr Wendy Lailey rsj



Where: **MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE** at 16 York Street, South Perth
Cost: Donation [Morning tea, served at 9.30am, and a light lunch provided]
Registration: Laura: 9334 0999, lmccarthy@sosjwa.org.au (PLEASE REGISTER to allow for CATERING)

PLEASE CONTACT LAURA REGARDING LOCATION & DATES FOR 2015 PRAYER DAYS!

Gone to God

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



Tong Mapson (Husband of Jessie JA)
Lorraine Dundon (Sister In-law of Sr Pauline)
Bradley Colum (Son of Pam JA)
Barbara Robison (Sister In-law to Frankie Clancy JA)
Ashiel Vermzgrsh (Husband of Susanne JA)



May they rest in peace

SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2014 - 2015

Christmas 2014

Autumn 2015

Winter 2015

Spring 2015

Christmas 2015

Sun 14th Dec 2014

Sun 8th March 2015

Sun 14th June 2015

Sun 13th Sept 2015

Sun 13th Dec 2015

All very welcome !

WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2015

Autumn / Lenten Gathering

When: 9.30am - 2.30pm Wednesday 4th March 2015
Where: Dardanup Prayer House
Presenter: TBA
Bring: A plate of finger food for a shared lunch please
Enquiries: Annette ph. 9797 1156 Nancy ph. 9728 1037



All very welcome !

Please Note - First Core Group Meeting for 2015

9am - 1pm Monday 9th February

2015 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(in the Function Room)

Thurs 19 Feb 2015

Thurs 21 May 2015

Thurs 20 Aug 2015

Thurs 19 Nov 2015



Prayer Request ... for Peta Somma Josephite Associate from Busselton, who is having treatment for cancer.

Reflection

*Gracious God, we praise you and thank you
for the gift of Mary MacKillop to our world.*

*May her life inspire us to reach out
to those who are suffering hardship and injustice.*

*Fill us with joy as we celebrate
her genuine goodness and heroic holiness.
We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

(Mary MacKillop - A Window of Hope, Monica Cavanagh rsj)





WA Josephite Associates

OUR TIME OF EPIPHANY

For Mary MacKillop and for each one of us there are Epiphany seasons in our lives. These are the times when we experience God-with-us in a new and wondrous way. We have an awakening and we enjoy a sense of God's presence in the ordinary human reality that we are called to live in a normal way and yet to seek ideas which soar above the powers of our mind and sweep even beyond our dreams.

Seasons of Grace, Praying with Mary MacKillop
Genevieve Ryan rsj



Many people with hearts of courage have had Epiphanies that led them to pathways of light. What is your Epiphany? Where is your sky all shining with stars? And which stars are calling you?

*Creator of the Stars
God of Epiphanies
You are the great Star
You have marked my path with light
You have filled my sky with stars
naming each star
guiding it
until it shines into my heart
awakening me to deeper seeing
new revelations
and brighter epiphanies.*

*O Infinite Star Giver
I now ask for wisdom and courage
to follow these stars
for their names are many
and my heart is fearful.*





They shine on me wherever I go:

The star of Hope

The Star of Mercy and

Compassion

The star of Justice and Peace

The Star of Tenderness and Love

The Star of Suffering

The star of Joy

And every time I feel the shine

I am called

to follow it

to sing it

to live it

all the way to the cross

and beyond

O Creator of the Stars

You have become within me

an unending Epiphany

Seasons of Your Heart - Macrina Wiederkehr



May you have

The Spirit of Christmas

... Which is Peace

The Gladness of Christmas

... Which is Hope

The Heart of Christmas

... Which is love

