



WA Josephite Associates' Newsletter

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends ...

Here we are into the month of August - the time is passing very quickly and Spring is almost here. I thank each one for your time and the work you have given to the Associates during the past months. We had our special people from Adelaide and Sydney here recently – Sister Margaret Cleary, Centre West Regional Leader, and Sister Maryellen Thomas from Sydney from the Congregational Leadership Team. They had a quick visit to the South West – Dardanup. The Associates enjoyed their visit.



Many thanks for the donations received; they are a great help to the Associates Administration. I would also like to thank our Associates from the Central Group for their enthusiastic and dedicated support.

May God bestow a special Spring blessing on each of our W.A. Associates.

From Sister Denise on behalf of the Central Committee

- Meg, Fay, Dot, Margaret, Maureen, Mary

and all Associates Committee members in the other areas ...

special thanks to Annette and Helen.

Psalm 40: 4-5, 16-17

In the words of the psalmist, we offer you this prayer, Our God:

Happy those who put their trust in Yahweh.

How many wonders you have done for us.

To all who love your saving power give constant cause to say, "God be glorified"

To me, afflicted and poor, come quickly. My helper, my Savior, my God.

come and do not delay!

We do put our trust in you, our God. Come, do not delay to help us in our need.

Save us from straying from your path.

You are our helper, our savior, and our only God. All praise and thanks to you.

"As we Gather, As we Part" - Carl Koch

Sister Maryellen Thomas, Dardanup



Sr Margaret

On the 9th of July we were privileged to have Sr Margaret Cleary rsj, Centre west Regional Leader, and Sr Maryellen Thomas rsj, Representative for Josephite Associates



Sr Maryellen

on the Central leadership Team in Sydney, with us for this informative time together.

Associates and Future Directions:

Sr Maryellen began her presentation by inviting those present to introduce themselves and share with the group where they came from, some background information on themselves sharing their story.

Where are we going as Josephite Associates?.... We know we are moving towards something...

What is happening in our group? - responses were:

- ✚ Outreach to Parishes where the Sisters had ministered in the past.
- ✚ Journeying together, attending the gatherings
- ✚ Living the Charism in our lives.
- ✚ Commitment

- ✚ Acting on needs of others.
- ✚ A need to feel more part of the Joseph family.
- ✚ Information being gathered on establishing a Prayer group.

Called to the Charism:

* of St Mary of the Cross and Julian tension Woods. The group agreed that the Charism

cannot be defined as of one quality, it can be found in the influence of others, eg through personal contact

with the Sisters, as in school and other experiences of life.

* in special characteristics of the Mission Values.

This time with Sisters Margaret and Maryellen was a wonderful experience for us learning, sharing, good humour, warmth, acceptance and a sense of the Spirit of love with us.

Our sincere thanks to Sr Maryellen for coming to WA despite hardships, to give your wonderful presentation to us, it is greatly appreciated.

With gratitude also to you Sr Margaret, for taking time from your busy schedule to be with our

J.A. Group. Thank you from the J.A group South West. *Annette Morellini JA*

Update from Esperance

Welcome, one and all to our gathering this morning from Esperance – 18th July. A Communion Service led by Sr Angela was attended by a number of Associates. We are

able to share Eucharist, which is important to our Faith. I thank those in attendance for making precious time available to share the gift of Friendship which you all possess. *(Helen Johnson JA)*

“A charism is a continuing force which compels us to participate in the mission of Jesus by addressing contemporary issues”

(Josephite Associates Handbook)

This reflection is taken from The Madonna Magazine concentrating on the Gospel passage of the day.

REFLECTION

“Good news! God is father” – Our Father

Let us rejoice and give thanks for these wonder-filled words. We know what human fatherhood can mean: life, boundless love, a unique relationship. How is my relationship with you Father? Am I still ‘Babbling’ at you, or have I grown up a bit? I fall: you gather me in your arms. You forgive me. You guide me with ‘leading strings of love’. You are near. Your family is mine. You want me to give as you give – daily, generously. You want me to forgive as you forgive. Touch my heart with your love; fill me with your spirit; save me from evil. Thank you, Brother Jesus, for showing us the way to the Father.



Outreach Gathering, Pinjarra 14th June 2015



Approximately thirty five people attended to hear Sister Wendy Lailey's Presentation on *Discipleship*.

Sr Denise Casey, co-ordinator for J.A.'s in W.A. was present along with Srs Rita Kelly and Bernadette Hynes, with Meg Phelan, J.A. of the Central J.A. Team Perth.

The day began with Eucharist which Father Wayne Bendotti celebrated with us welcoming all to the Parish.

Sr Wendy began her Presentation on Discipleship expressing that we become Disciples of Jesus when we are baptised and this commitment is renewed yearly at the Easter Ceremonies, Confirmation deepens that commitment/desire. She said that when people have been in Discipleship for a long time, they can become disillusioned and tired, we need to support and encourage each other along the way, keeping ourselves informed.

We studied the twelve Apostles of Jesus – their character, type, weaknesses and

strengths, the pessimistic and optimistic traits, courage. They came from all walks of life, Bartholomew, the only person of royal blood was an educated man. Some had their own agenda in following Jesus, - humans, akin to life lived today. They were the foundations of the Church today. This is a very short overview of Wendy's presentation which stimulated much animated discussion amongst the group.

She concluded with a delightful study of *"The Joy of the Gospel – Fifty Ways to Live It"* by Pope Francis. It finishes with the following:

'Living the Gospel is a great joy and a great Challenge; one which we undertake day by day, step by step. ***Strength to your journey!!***

Thanks to Sr Wendy for a wonderful Presentation, Fr Wayne for his hospitality, Srs Denise, Bernadette, Rita and J.A. Meg Phelan and **everyone** who came along to make this Day the great success it was.

Sincere thanks To Anna Cox J.A. and her **great team** of helpers, for your assistance in bringing this day together.

With gratitude from J.A. South West, *Annette Morellini, J.A.*

ANNOUNCING A FIVE DAY PILGRIMAGE BACK TO THE GOLDFIELDS

OF WA WHERE THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF THE SACRED HEART BEGAN MINISTERING TO THE PEOPLE OF BOULDER 1897 – 2006 AND KALGOORLIE IN 1937-2006



The Pilgrimage will be led by Sisters Leonie Mayne and Kathleen Dawe and it will leave from 16 York St, South Perth on October 12 (am) and return to Perth Friday 16 October (pm). En-route to the Goldfields we will celebrate and give thanks for the Sisters who served in many towns along the Great Eastern Highway.

Exact time of departure and return and other necessary information will be issued to you with your ticket.

The Bus Company we are travelling with is CASEY AUSTRALIAN TOURS . Cost pp. \$1240

If you would like a booking form please contact Laura McCarthy ((08) 9334 0999, laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au or contact Sr Kathleen Dawe for more information: 0409 296 909

All very welcome!

SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2015

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER!



WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2015

Annual Retreat - Reminder

When: Thursday 24th September

9.00am Mass, followed by morning tea, retreat begins at 10am

Where: House of Prayer, Dardanup

Theme: *Saints as everyday role models, Australia's Mary MacKillop (and discerning your own)*

Presenter: Sr Wendy Lailey rsj

Cost: Donation

Please bring a plate of finger food to share for lunch

Advent/Summer/Christmas Gathering

When: Wednesday 4th November

9am Mass (if available), morning tea at 9.30am, presentation begins at 10am.

Where: House of Prayer, Dardanup

Please bring a plate of finger food to share for lunch

All South West enquiries:

Jan: 0408 909 532. Nancy: 9728 1037 Annette: 9797 1156

All very welcome!



2015 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thurs 19 Nov 2015

September Prayer Day (Como Venue!)

Please register!

When: 10th September (9.30am to 3.30pm)

Theme: *The New Universe Story - Creation and Incarnation*

Presenter: Sr Wendy Lailey rsj



Where: COMO/KENSINGTON PARISH HALL at 45 Thelma Street, Como (same block as the Church)

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 note that the Prayer Days which are published for October 14 and December 10 ARE NOW CANCELLED



Reflection

Through our brokenness
Streams the healing light

'From the Wilds of the Heart' by Noel Davis

Mary MacKillop Prayer

God of Vision

We thank you for Mary MacKillop and

Julian Tenison Woods

who loved this land and its peoples.

As we struggle to realize our hopes

for a more just country.

May we witness to the meaning of

fair play for people and land.

May we value the wisdom of the indigenous peoples.

May we act to halt more damage to Earth.

May we live simply, love tenderly and walk humbly.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen



WA Josephite Associates

Mary MacKillop and the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*“When storms rage,
when persecutions or dangers threaten,
I quietly creep into (the Sacred Heart’s) dark abyss;
and securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace,
though my body is tossed upon the stormy waves
of a cold and selfish world”.*

Mary MacKillop, Feast of the Sacred Heart, Letter to Sisters (1907)

She is inspired by the generous love of Jesus who seeks out the sick, the outcaste, and the poor, holding them close to his heart.



Jesus welcomes those who seem lost, those who no-one else cares for, and eats with the sinners. This compassion of Jesus for others calls forth the compassion within Mary MacKillop.

By befriending the outcasts, being open to people of all faiths and backgrounds, and living her life in service of others, Mary tries to express in all that she is, the compassionate love of Jesus.

How do I respond to God’s compassionate love?

Mary MacKillop Prayers and Reflections, Valerie De Brenni

Spring 2015

PERSEVERANCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Mary MacKillop's endurance of suffering seems to have been an intimate part of her experience as she had more than her fair share of hardship. This included many tragic deaths within her family, a life-long battle with ill-health, an estrangement from Fr Woods and many challenges from both within and beyond the Church as she set about doing God's will. She trusted that through all these circumstances God's love would suffice. She showed great courage and tenacity in facing the many hardships she endured.

At her Religious Profession she added the title 'of the Cross' to her name. The cross remained central throughout her life. This was reflected in her ability to 'hang in there' when life was tough as in the Josephites' Queensland experience. Worn down by her constant struggle with Bishop James Quinn and by what she



"God is good and brought light and help when all was very dark."

Mary MacKillop 1899

considered a betrayal by Fr Woods in Queensland, she wrote to one of the Sisters in 1875,

"If I dared, I would complain; for my heart is literally crushed with sorrow. The stand-off coldness of Father Director, the inconsistency of his letters, at one time telling me he cheerfully accepted the decision of Rome, and at another writing in the reverse strain, misunderstanding me grossly and even avoiding me as he does. I tell you Sister these things have crushed me to the heart, and I have even dared to envy the dead."

In spite of these deep feelings Mary did not give up. She remained in the struggle. It was with great distress that she finally took the Sisters from Queensland. At the farewell for the Sisters, Mary broke down and cried as she felt the pain of the people.

Mary faced many trying and difficult situations with courage, tenacity and resilience. Her response to her excommunication reflects this. At the time of the Commission of Enquiry in Adelaide in 1883 she urged the Sisters to '*trust that all will be well*' in this trying and difficult time.

Mary of the Cross invites us to trust that God will carry us safely through every struggle and difficulty that comes our way.