



WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

Welcome to the New Year, I wish you all the blessings for 2016, and that the Lord will be with you during this coming year.

"The Year of Mercy". 'Jesus is waiting to embrace you, to pardon you. Do not be afraid: he is waiting for you. Take heart, have courage to enter through the 'The Door of Mercy' in your church.

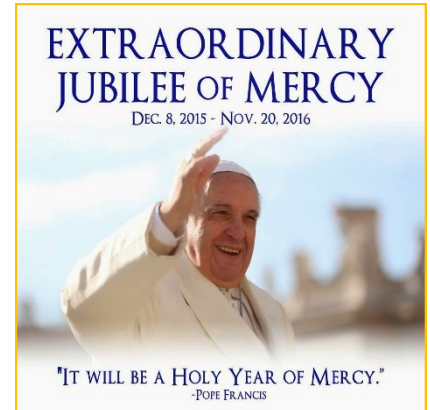
I would like to thank each one for giving so much of their time helping each other where there it is a need, and for your contribution to what the Associates are about, Friendship, Love and Service. Many thanks for the donations received which are used to help those in need and help the Associates' Administration.

Best wishes for the coming year – "The year of Mercy" for all the blessings of Autumn ...



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.



"THE FRANCIS EFFECT 11"

"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother son, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

Pope Francis' new Encyclical, 'Laudato Si' as I read it I was overtaken by the profound relief that in the midst, of the global crisis of life we face, Francis is offering inspiring leadership not just in the Church, but also to the world. I felt hope springing up in my own heart, a hope that we humans might pull together for the good of the community of life on our planet. There is deep joy in the vision that Francis puts before us all. I experienced a renewed challenge to see my life as an ecological vocation, radically committed to earth and all creatures.

Pope Francis prophetically engages political leaders in dialogue, asking them to accept responsibility protecting the environment and calling them to support international agreements aimed at lifting people out of poverty, limiting carbon emissions and protecting biodiversity.

Like Pope John Paul 11 before him, Pope Francis calls us all to an ongoing ecological conversation, to a spirituality of love and respect for other animals, and the habitats of the land, the seas, the rivers, in the one community of life on earth. All of this is celebrated on our Sundays, in the Sabbath rest, and in the Eucharist that embraces all creation and is a source of light and motivation for our commitment to our common home and all its creatures.



- from *HOPE for our Common Home*,
Professor Denis Edwards

Jubilee Jubilation!



With joy and gratitude our Diamond Jubilarians Sisters Rita Kelly, Gemma Scott, Denise Casey, Kathleen Dawe, Margaret Keane; and Golden Jubilarians Emilie Cattalini and Margaret Cleary met at Holy Family Church Como on 23 January 2016 for the Eucharist of Thanksgiving concelebrated by the Bishop of Geraldton, Justin Bianchini, and Fr Steve Casey, nephew of Sr Denise Casey.

Sr Edith Prince another Diamond Jubilarian was unable to be present because of ill health. However, her Profession candle and Papal Blessing had a place of honour near the lectern. Sadly missing from the group was Sr Patricia Carr who had died just a few weeks before the celebration. RIP.

In the presence of so many relatives and friends and Sisters, the Jubilarians renewed their Religious Vows and each one was presented with the Papal Blessing.

At the end of Mass Sr Kath Dawe gave a vote of thanks to those who had been involved in the preparation of the liturgy. She invited all those

present to Afternoon Tea in St Joseph's Convent Garden, York Street. The garden, arranged in the Jubilarians' family groups was a joy to behold. The cutting of the Jubilee cake, baked and artistically decorated by Sr Margaret Culhane, added to the festive atmosphere of the afternoon.

Afternoon tea, beautifully and tastefully presented, was served by the Sisters and volunteers.

As the day drew to a close an air of appreciation and thanksgiving was evident. Praise God for our Jubilarians!

– Sr Joan Luff rsj



The Sisters' Sesquicentenary

Welcome to 2016, a year which promises more exciting events on our journey as Josephite Associates. As we celebrate the **Sesquicentenary Year** - 150 years since the foundation of the Josephite order ... the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart - we would back the beginning of this great Organisation - which has contributed so much over the years, and still does today.



The Catholic Education System as we know it began with an idea of Julian Tenison Woods and Mary McKillop as they reached out to children deprived of the possibility of Education.

The Sisters also administered to the suffering and needy in many ways, as they do today.

Although the numbers are diminishing, the Charism is still alive and the Associates are enthusiastic as they endeavour to support the Sisters through prayer and in practical ways.

We in turn have their Love and Support and wait to hear how we can help celebrate 150 dedicated and fruitful years...

- Meg Phelan



SESQUICENTENARY INVITATIONS / DATE SAVERS

Fri March 18

10.00am Mass at St Columba's Church South Perth – St Columba's Students, Sisters, Associates, Parents & Friends (morning tea in Convent Garden 16 York St, South Perth). **RSVP appreciated to laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au, 9334 0999 before 9 March**

Sun March 20

Taizé, see below

Sat May 21

9.30am Mass at St Columba's Church, South Perth to mark the 25th Anniversary of the death of Sr Irene McCormack. Followed by refreshments in the Convent Gardens, 16 York St, South Perth **RSVP appreciated to laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au, 9334 0999 before 21 April**

Sun August 7

10.00am Mass of Thanksgiving at St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury. Followed by refreshments and entertainment. **RSVP details TBA**

Sat August 13

10.00am - 3.00pm At La Salle College, Muriel St, Viveash, facilitator, Sr Michele Connolly rsj (Michele lectures at the Catholic Institute Sydney) Morning tea and lunch provided. **RSVP details TBA**



Taizé Meditative Prayer

SUNDAY 20th MARCH 2016

Commemorating the

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart Sesquicentenary (150 years) Anniversary, 1866 - 2016

You are invited to join the South Perth Taizé praying community to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. We give thanks and Praise for the founding of the Josephites in Penola SA in 1866 – 2016 by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian T Woods.

Where: St Joseph's Convent Chapel, Mary MacKillop Centre, 16 York St, South Perth

Time: 7pm - 8pm, Chapel doors open 6:30pm

Enquiries: Sr Maree Riddler rsj, P: 0414 683 926, E: mriddler@sosjwa.org.au

Bring a small torch, a plate to share for the celebration supper and invite a friend!



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS FOR 2016

13TH MARCH 2016 12TH JUNE 2016 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016 11TH DECEMBER 2016

WA ASSOCIATES SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2016

Autumn/Lenten Gathering

When: Wednesday 9th March 2016

Mass at 9.00am, **Morning tea** at 9.30am

Where: Dardanup Prayer House

Presenter: Fr Tony Chiera (topic TBA)

Followed by a shared lunch ...Please bring a plate of finger food to share

All very welcome !

South West **CORE GROUP** Meetings

(held at 19 Barnes Avenue, Australind)

February Monday 29th at 1pm

May Monday 9th at 1pm

June Monday 27th at 1pm

October Monday 24th at 1pm

All South West enquiries:

Annette: 9797 1156 Nancy: 9728 1037



2016 Central Committee Meetings

25TH FEBRUARY

26TH MAY

25TH AUGUST

24TH NOVEMBER



Gone to God

Sr Patrica Carr rsj

Jennifer Beament

James Morellini

Nigel Bernard Haines

Denis Larkins (Brother to Phillip)

Our prayers are with each family

Reflection

The flame of faith ignited within Mary MacKillop, as the window of her soul opened to the light of God's grace. It was to bring many blessings to those entrusted to her care. She kept this light burning brightly within her as she walked this land and encountered its people bringing to all the message of their human dignity. One sees the growth of Mary's faith journey reflected in her writings and in her responses to many challenges and decisions that she faced each day, as she moves through the different stages of her life, the richness of her spirituality is revealed.



"Every disciple of Jesus is first called to an encounter with God and then sent by the Spirit to bring hope and restore meaning to other people's lives."

(Mary MacKillop - A Window of Hope)



WA Josephite Associates



YEAR OF MERCY

“Doors of Mercy”

During the Holy Year of Mercy doors are to be opened,
doors of mercy.

First of all, the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica, then follows the Holy Doors of the other three major papal basilicas in Rome. Then the holy door of every diocesan cathedral and the doors of our local churches.

But what does it mean to walk through a *Door of Mercy*?

What is it like?

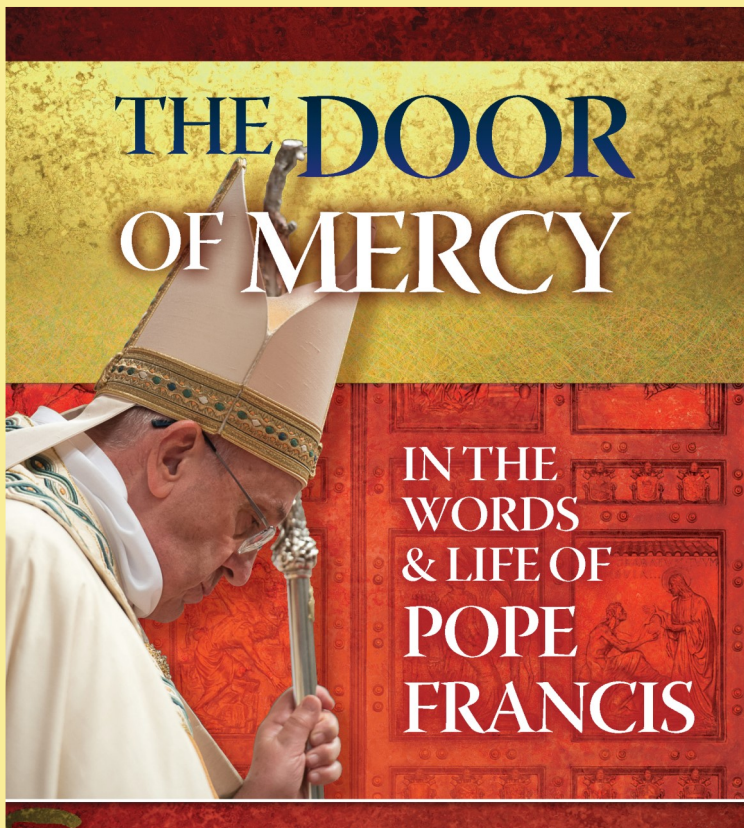
It is like an airport security door scanning all my sins
and sending out alarm sounds

Is it a magical door that somehow has the power to
cleanse me as I walk through?

Are they religious revolving doors that spin me around,
so that in the end I find myself back where I started only
more disorientated ?

Or, perhaps, can something new happen to me during
this *Holy Year of Mercy*?

(The Door of Mercy – Fr Ivano Millico)



The Threshold of Faith

The Door of Mercy are 'holy', said Pope Francis, because they open to us a way forward, a "path of conversion". The opening of the *Door of Mercy* is nothing else but a 'new exodus', the opening of the Red Sea (cf Ex 14), a new path that God himself opens for us, to 'pass-over' from old ways to new life, to be set free from slavery to sin and enter into a Promised Land, to taste new fruits and experience God's unconditional love for us sinners.

Pope Francis comments:

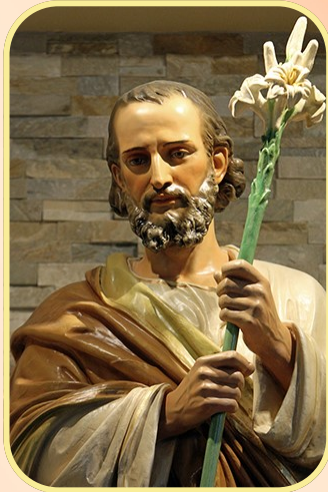
"The image of the door recurs in the Gospel on various occasions and calls to mind the door of the house, of the home, where we find safety, love and warmth. Jesus tells us that there is a door which gives us access to God's family, to the warmth of God's house, of communion with him. This door is Jesus himself (cf Jn 10:9). He is the door. He is the entrance to salvation. He leads us to the Father and the door that is Jesus is never closed. This door is never closed it is always open and to all, without distinction, without exclusion, without privileges. Because, you know, Jesus does not exclude anyone. Some of you, perhaps, might say to me: "But Father. I am certainly excluded because I am a greater sinner: I have done terrible things. I have done lots of them in my life". No, you are not excluded! Precisely for this reason you are the favourite, because Jesus prefers sinners, always, in order to forgive them, to love them. Jesus is waiting for you to embrace you, to pardon you. Do not be afraid: he is waiting for you. Take heart, have the courage to enter through his door. Everyone is invited to cross the threshold of this door, to cross the threshold of faith, to enter into his life and to make him enter our life, so that he may transform it, renew it and give it full and enduring joy."

The Door of Mercy

In the words & Life of Pope Francis by Ivano Millico

"In St Joseph's care I leave you"

Mary MacKillop



HAIL JOSEPH

Hail Joseph, Son of David,

Spouse of Mary,

Foster father of Jesus.

Saint Joseph pray for us

your children

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen