

Seasonal News...

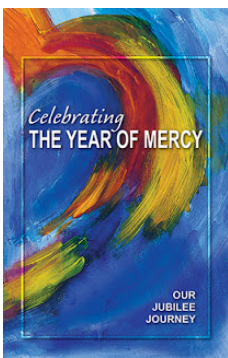
Autumn Edition – March 2016



E DITORIAL

Greetings to all Queensland Associates,

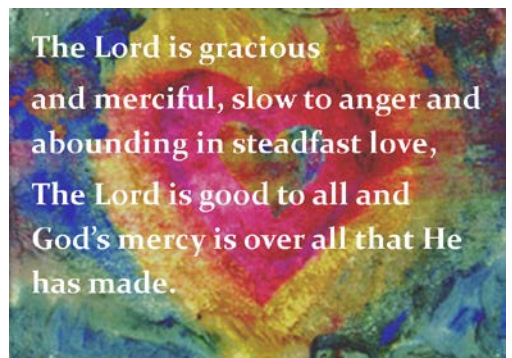
2016 is already shaping up to becoming a special and busy year with cause for much Jubilation.



For the Universal Church and the Josephite family there will be occasions to experience joyful celebration, reflection, change and gratitude from deep within. We recognise that Pope Francis has declared this year to be The Extraordinary (outside the 25 year cycle) Jubilee of Year of Mercy and he has expressed his desire that “the year to come will be steeped in mercy...(MV 5).

The logo and motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about with the underlying themes of grace, charity, love, action, pilgrimage, encounter, justice, harmony and solidarity.

Also, many of you may have already saved the dates for this year’s Sesquicentenary and Centenary Jubilee Celebrations (Qld) as per the details provided in the Summer Seasonal Newsletter, 2015. Details are also outlined in this edition of the newsletter. The theme for celebrating 150 years since the Foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart at Penola is *Listening to the Heartbeat of the World*. It is such a fitting time to be invited to embrace this call to action in conjunction with the central notion in many of the Jubilee resource material - that mercy is indeed “love in action “. We are constantly reminded of God’s love and mercy for us in the Scriptures and one of the most well known Psalms (23) continues to comfort us with the understanding that God’s “goodness and mercy



accompanies us all the days of our life.” In keeping with the motto for this year, Psalm 145: 8-9 also reminds us.

The rich season of Lent has come around quickly this year and this is a time when we embark on a personal pilgrimage that will culminate in the celebration of the Easter Triduum. During Lent, God’s mercy and love is made tangible and visible. Mercy is “what God does for us as much as shows us and gives to us.” (Joan Chittister, 2010, p10. in *God’s Tender Mercy : Reflections on Forgiveness.* , Twenty-Third Publications). Lent is a season that has been traditionally associated with personal growth through “giving up” and denial. Perhaps this is an appropriate year to focus on fixing our vision outwardly -“giving to” and “doing for others, as well.

Love, charity, forgiveness and mercy, it would seem, are not only to be received but also to be embraced - shown and given to others.

Pauline Morgan rsj has produced an excellent article "*Living into Mercy in Our Everyday Lives*" (12 February 2016, <http://www.sosj.org.au/>). We realise that there is always the possibility to accept yet another invitation during this Holy Year when we consider her words as follows:

"As we become ever more conscious of the grace of Mercy, may we be drawn ever more deeply into the new communion that is at the heart of the life".

For us, as Associates committed to living in *Prayer, Friendship and Service*, the closing of the Door of Mercy on 20 November 2016 may mark the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy but certainly not the end of the blessings and our experiences of a God who loves, consoles, forgives, pardons and brings hope.

The invitation to live "mercifully" remains ongoing. At the end of the journey this year we hope to be able to settle in at home with the new graces and blessings of the Holy Year of Mercy and above all with the "hospitality of a God who is always welcoming and at home." As with the psalms, we can take much food for thought from this beautiful poem-*The Door of Mercy*, used here with permission from the poet, Mary Wickham rsm.



The Opening of the Door of Mercy at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters on Friday 12, Feb. The Church has been designated as one of the pilgrimage sites in the Diocese during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*" The God of Mercy, whose door it is, is always home.
... You only have to knock once and you only have to knock gently.
The Door of mercy rests on the threshold of need.
Its single key is kindness, which is always in the lock
Faithfulness is its lintel
hope and healing the strong jambs either side."*

- The Door of Mercy,

<http://marywickhamrsm.org.au/poem/the-door-of-mercy/>



May each of us then, experience "something special, something meaningful, something energising, something transformational, something sacred" and something holy as we journey together this year. May we recall often the words of Pope Francis that "in mercy, we find proof of how God loves us."

Warm and prayerful wishes,

-The Associate Transition Team.

P RAYER

INTRODUCTION:

This Year is the Jubilee Year of Mercy and Bernadette Roche has written beautifully and inspiringly in her Editorial about our understanding of Mercy so our prayer for this season will be centred on the logo for the Year of Mercy.

This logo represents an image quite important to the early Church - that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul. The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches humanity and does so with the love that has the power to change one's life. The logo also demonstrates that Christ sees with the eye of humanity and humanity with the eye of Christ. The three concentric ovals suggest the movement of Christ as he invites us to move from the darkness into the love of the Father.



READING: from Misericordia Vultus P 13 by Pope Frances

Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realized that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (Mt9:36). On the basis of this compassionate love he healed the sick who were presented to him (Mt 14:14), and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd (Mt15:37). What moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need.

REFLECTION

Perhaps, the following might provide some words to reflect upon in this Year of Mercy

SONG: Open my eyes, Lord

PRAYER:

God of Mercy hear our prayer and listen to our hopes. Free us from the urge to judge and condemn others and give us accepting, merciful and humble hearts. We ask this through Christ, friend of sinners and the Spirit of Mercy.



E DUCATION

WHAT IS IJALT?

This Newsletter seems an effective way to talk to you about IJALT - International Josephite Associate Leadership Team. This team was appointed after the meeting of Associate Representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Peru which was held in 2013. Team members include Peta Lindstrom, Mary Hemmings, Beverley Badcock, Annemarie Wilkinson and Mary Ellen rsj (CLT). They were commissioned at the 2013 Conference and again at the 2015 Conference to work towards establishing a sustainable organization for the Associates into the

future. This they continue to do and the meeting in January 2016 was a significant one. I was asked to facilitate this meeting so that a Practical Vision and Actions from this Vision could be put in place to continue the journey in establishing a sustainable future. These four women work in a voluntary capacity.

With this Newsletter, we have attached a copy of the Practical Vision of IJALT which was worked out at the February meeting in Sydney this year. This gives you some understanding of the areas that IJALT are working on for the next few years.

ACTION IN LOCAL AREAS

Southside meeting

I was fortunate again to be invited to the Southside meeting of Associates and was delighted that I could attend. Like many Associate groups, they are a very active group in meetings and in living prayer, friendship and service.

Rockhampton meeting

I am hoping to visit the groups this year and will start with the Rockhampton group. It would be helpful if I had the dates for the places where the Associates meet as a group. Please send dates to Sr Moya Campbell at moya.campbell@sosj.org.au or let me know by phone 0408 455 768

CELEBRATIONS

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH SESQUICENTENARY

Please note for those able to attend that this celebration on the 19 March 2016 in Brisbane is now at the Cathedral of St Stephen and will be followed by morning tea in the grounds.



The Sisters of St Joseph
warmly invite you to
celebrate 150 Years of the Foundation of the
Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
on Saturday 19 March 2016
10:30am Mass, Cathedral of St Stephen,
249 Elizabeth St, Brisbane
Morning Tea to follow
Francis Rush Centre
Cathedral grounds

We look forward to celebrating with all
who have supported and shared our
Josephite life over many years.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by the
1 March 2016

P: 07 3370 2699

E: transpacificoqld@sosj.org.au

PO Box 818, Nundah Qld 4012.

EVENTS

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

On the 26 February 2016, the Transition Committee met to do some planning for this year and the next 3 years. Our meeting was here at Nundah beginning on the Friday evening and finishing with lunch on Sunday.

Topics discussed included

- i) Information from the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) and its impact on Queensland Associates

- ii) New Formation and Induction Programs have been developed. A Manual will be sent soon to all local groups
- iii) Budget for 2016 will be considered
- iv) Communication with Congregation, with members, with IJALT

We thank the members of this committee for their ongoing commitment to furthering the future of the Associate Movement. As always it was a very worthwhile time and much was accomplished.

FAREWELL

Unfortunately, Bernadette Roche, for family reasons, is no longer able to continue with us on this committee. I thank Bernadette for her work with the Associates over the past 12 months. The Committee will miss her input and her support through the writing of the Editorials for each Newsletter and the contributions she has made during our meetings. Bernadette has set a very high standard with her Editorials which we'll endeavour to sustain!!

OTHER MATTERS

a) Brochure

Some changes were made to the Draft Brochure forwarded to you with the Summer Newsletter 2015 and the final product will now be sent to the printers and then distributed accordingly. I apologise to Cairns Associates and we will add your name to the list of places where there are active groups and also Caboolture.

b) Financial Sustainability of the Associate Movement

As we are all well aware, the Associate Movement can only be sustained by the following:

- Dedicated Planning Committee to administer the Movement
- Committed members who live inspired by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods
- Financial contribution from members

We have done a budget for 2016 which includes the following:

- i) Administration Costs - postage, paper for the Newsletters, Brochures and costs of printing etc
- ii) Teleconferences for the Associates Planning Committee
- iii) Travelling expenses
- iv) Accommodation
- v) Secretarial Assistance for the Newsletter
- vi) Formation and Induction -Badges, Handbooks, Certificates, Candle

In order to sustain the Association, about \$10 000 a year is needed to cover costs.

Firstly, we would like to thank those who have sent donations towards expenses over the past 12 months and many of you who have supported the Associates over many years.

Last year, we banked \$195.00 in the central fund, which is far less than our annual costs. The Congregation is still financially supporting the Associate Movement and will continue to do so until it is able to sustain itself. Of course, the services of the Planning Committee and myself are given voluntarily.

Where does that leave us? We now have 250 registered members in Queensland. A suggestion was made that we ask each member to make an annual donation. Some are able to contribute

more than others. We suggest that you decide what your contribution can be from the following suggestions:

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 or any other amount would be gratefully received.

This can be done by completing the form below and forwarding to the Nundah address so that we know what you have deposited or are sending. For accounting purposes please use Direct Deposit, Cheque or Money Order. Cash donations will only be accepted through local groups and will be receipted accordingly.

DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT

NAME:

Phone Number:

Amount given (please circle one) \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 or any other amount

Thank you so much for your donation Please forward to:

Associates Planning Committee

P O Box 818

NUNDAH Q 4012

- Direct Deposit: Commonwealth Bank
BSB No: 06 4163
Account No: 06 4163 10195041
Account Name: Society Cheque Account
Reference: Your Surname and initial eg Campbell M
- Cheques and Money Orders made to Sisters of St Joseph
- Cash can be handed to your local group convenor who will forward it on for you and a receipt will be issued.

(If any difficulty with any of the above, please ring 07 3370 2699)

INTERNATIONAL JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP TEAM PRACTICAL VISION - WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016

VISION

By 2020, the Associate Members

- live out the Josephite Charism in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods in their everyday lives
- deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Josephite story
- enable others to share in this Josephite journey
- encourage and invite younger members to be part of the Movement

so that the Associate Movement is sustained into the future to allow the legacy of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods to flourish

GOVERNANCE

By 2020, the Associate Movement

- has a clear, autonomous governance structure operating

so that the Associate Movement is a self governing entity

- walks together with the Sisters of St Joseph, acknowledging their complementarity and distinctiveness

so that God's Mission, in the Josephite tradition, continues to be lived

COMMUNICATION

By 2020, the Associate Movement

- has an effective framework that shows clear lines of communication between Associates and
 - International Josephite Associates Leadership Team (IJALT)
 - The Sisters of St Joseph
 - The Church community
 - The broader community

so that all are appropriately connected and informed

FORMATION

By 2020, the Associate Movement

- has an established formation programme in place that includes
 - Induction programme
 - Commitment Ritual
 - Regular ongoing formation opportunities

so that commitment and understanding of the Josephite charism and the Associates' Mission and Vision deepens

LEADERSHIP

By 2020, the Associate Movement

- has skilled, confident and competent leaders

so that the legacy of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods continues to flourish

RESOURCES

By 2020, the Associate Movement

- has a well developed human, material and financial resource structure

so that the operation and governance of the movement is supported and sustained

SERVICE

By 2020, the Associate Movement

- promotes the active involvement of Associate groups in ministries of service

so that the needs of the community are addressed