

# Seasonal News...

Winter Edition – June 2016



Greetings to you all.

Our Mission as Josephite Associates states that we seek to ...



‘...respond to the call to live the charism of Mary Mac Killop and Julian Tenison Woods in our daily lives in our own unique way. We support one another in this choice by Friendship, Prayer and Service, to make a difference in our local area and so further the Reign of God in our world.’  
Josephite Associates Handbook 2000

This edition we look at the central concept of ‘service’ and some of the wonderful initiatives that have been Associate driven and happening throughout Queensland in our local areas. As part of the Transition Process of the movement into a self-governance for the Queensland Associates, the Transition Team has been busy working on creating structures and frameworks towards the future. Our Vision and Transition Plan for 2017 aims towards the creation of a ‘specific focus for

service to meet the needs of ‘this’ time, a process clearly demonstrated by Mary and Julian, 150 years ago in Penola and throughout their faith journey. In ‘this’ time we find interesting publications such as ***The Tweetable Pope: A Spiritual Revolution in 140 Characters***: by Michael J. O’Loughlin.(2015)Harper Collins .

Most people understand what it means to serve and be of service. Often the notion of ‘service’ speaks to us of proactive response that involves tangible actions to alleviate hardship or assist others in varying degrees of need. We tend to think of ‘service’ in terms of helping, handing out much needed essentials to those who are without, giving a hand up, the sharing of our skills and time, empowering others through educating by information , teaching skills or being there to listen with a compassionate heart.



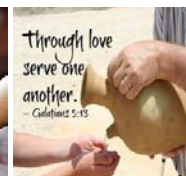
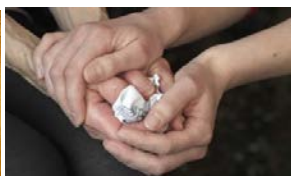
For us as Associates, what it means to serve takes on a deeper meaning, set in commitment and sealed with love. We recall the story of how Jesus gave us an example of **service** as he washed the feet of the disciples (John13:4-10, 12-17) Jesus modelled service and extended an invitation for us to do the same. St Peter reacted to Jesus’ gesture on the night and well might we wonder at what was going through his mind when he later wrote ...



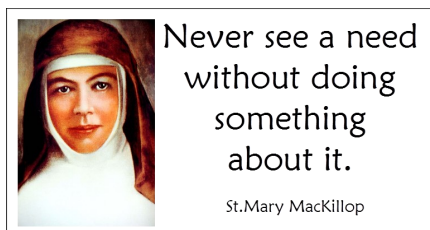
Pope Francis stated on Twitter (May 2013)

Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

1 PETER 4:10-11



It is this call to the service of others that places service at the heart of who we are not just what we do. We are asked to be alert to a service that is always ready in **our minds to 'Listen to the Heartbeat of the World'**, in our hands ,to do work ..



and especially in our hearts where we hold God's Spirit and nurture the call to service.



As we step up to this call to be of service to others let us perhaps always remember to step back and remind ourselves that it is in the simple and consistent acts of service that the seeds to make a difference are sown. Mother Teresa of Calcutta (now Blessed Teresa of Kolkata) , like St Mary of the Cross MacKillop understood the inter-relationship between faith love and service . Their service in action touched the heart and lives of a great number of people.



Faith in action  
is **Love** -  
and  
Love in action  
is **Service**

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

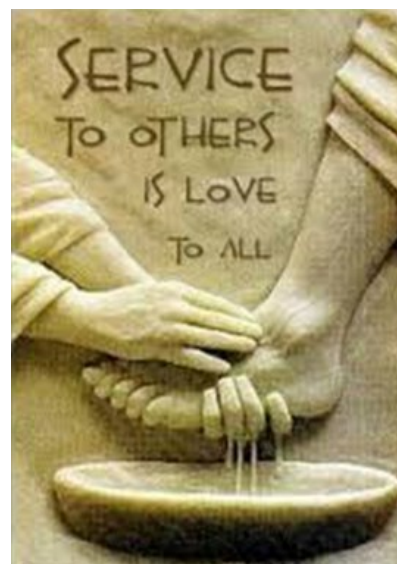
Finally , still in 'party' mode we invite you to consider visiting the Josephite website <http://www.sosj.org.au/> to read about the *Sisters' Sequicentenary Coffee Table* book to be published as part of the celebrations this year.



We are all invited to submit a recipe which we have used in service to others throughout the time and a brief accompanying story of our involvement and connections to the Sisters of St Joseph over the years to date.

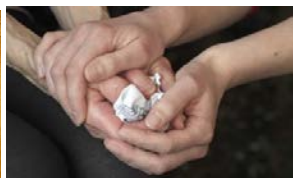


As it is winter now, soup, stew, and ragout recipes are out in full force. All recipes are most welcome for submission as hospitality has and continues to be such a significant part of many Associates and their Josephite connections.



Warm and prayerful wishes,

The Associate Transition Team.





# P RAYER

## INTRODUCTION:

In our last Seasonal News, Sr Moya encouraged us to reflect upon Pope Francis' call to each of us to enter into this Jubilee Year of Mercy and so become agents of mercy in our world. At this point in time, we are approximately halfway through this special year. Can it really be six months ago? How are we accepting the challenge of this twelve months of Jubilee. Will we immerse ourselves and allow God to transform us?

Pope Francis offers us some very practical ways to live well in this year of grace. "Do not judge or condemn but forgive and give, avoiding gossip, envy and jealousy; have a heart open to the fringes of society and bring consolation, mercy and solidarity to people who live in precarious situations; take up the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy with joy. Let us be renewed by God's mercy." We have the example of Jesus as our guide. He healed, he comforted, and he understood; he gave hope; he welcomed; and he revealed to us the presence of the God who cares for each and every one of us.



## REFLECTION:

Are we able to continue Jesus' vision for our world? It is the same dream that Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods followed during their lifetimes. Are we able to continue to listen to that heartbeat of the world and to respond to God's invitation?



## PRAYER:

God of Mercy, fill us with your love. Open our eyes to the wonder and goodness in all people and make us courageous in accepting challenge. Renew our spirit and form us as agents for change in our world. We ask this through Christ, our wisdom, our guide and the source of all mercy.

# E DUCATION

## SERVICE:

Mary MacKillop showed by her life that she firmly respected the dignity of each and every person regardless of their circumstances in life. This was obvious in her actions and in the way she approached each person with genuine compassion. We can recall some of the stories where Mary interacted with people. There was the prisoner Fagan who showed genuine remorse; the tiny orphan boy at Kincumber who asked Mary to be with him as he died; Mary's long and difficult journey to be present to the sister who was dying of burns caused from the exploding kerosene lamp; or the woman whom Mary sat beside in the gutter when she recognised that lack of education was her main problem. We could all think of many other circumstances in Mary's life where her compassion led her to act in a way that revealed the love of God to the other

person. Mary led by example. Her love of God and her acceptance of God's love for her compelled her to act likewise.

As Josephite Associates we are called to Prayer, Friendship and Service in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Most of us would readily agree that we do well with the friendship and prayer components of our call, but maybe we have to assess how well we take up the call to service. We could use the image of a windmill. It stands tall on three strong legs and pumps water from below ground to the surface. If one of the legs is a bit wonky, then the structure will not stand tall and be effective. It cannot pump life-giving water efficiently. So too, if we perform well in Prayer and Friendship, but are a bit wobbly or lacking in the Service aspect, then we only have two of our three legs working. We will not be able to stand tall and will not be fully efficient in our role as Associates.

On page 12 of our Associate Handbook there are some concrete examples of how we might be able to serve others eg

Caring for the needy, the poor and the lonely in a sensitive way

Participating in social justice activities

Taking affirmative action on justice on behalf of others

Supporting the work of the Sisters' mission

Ministering to others in our everyday life and activities



There are many and varied ways that we can be of service today just in the context of our everyday lives. We can all recognise the benefit of a kind word or action when things may be a bit tough; a visit to someone who is confined to their home; being as active and engaged in our parish liturgies as we are able; joining with others to create change through education or through attitudes; or by supporting the work of the Mary MacKillop Foundation, which provides assistance for sustainable projects within Australia, or Mary MacKillop International which works with communities in our wider world to promote the value and goodness of individuals through education, training, or life-changing projects for communities. If we can be more conscious of this service aspect of our lives as Josephite associates, then we will truly become more effective in our ministry, and follow Mary's example of "never seeing a need without doing something about it".

## ACTION IN LOCAL AREAS

### Moorooka Associates

Sr Moya was able to attend a gathering of the Moorooka Associates recently and to share some of the vision of the Associate Planning Committee with the members. This was a very positive experience and the members provided some comments and suggestions. These are included here for your consideration also.

- Promote the work that Josephites are doing now, not what they were doing in the past
- Older people should be left to uphold Mary's spirit prayerfully and in love and kindness.
- Maybe there could be more of a commitment now - not just attending the meeting!
- Continuity
- Same direction for each Associate group (unity throughout the Associates)

- Diversity within the groups, such as prayers, leaders, doers etc
- No exclusion because of disability
- 90% of those gathered were over 80 - the challenge of membership into the future
- Ongoing formation - need for training within the group
- What do we mean by Service?
- Perhaps someone could speak in the parish

### Gate Ministry - Rockhampton Associate Group

We first heard about the Gate Ministry through discussions with Townsville Associates who had recently begun the ministry there. Sr Chris Symonds RSJ visited Rockhampton on 5th March 2016 and spoke with the Associates and our 2 local Josephite primary schools at Wandal and Park Avenue to explain how the Gate Ministry works and to seek help from the schools to collect the various items needed. Since then, we have been looking to widen the scope of our collection base.

The Gate Ministry provides Mary MacKillop Kit Bags to prisoners who, on their release from prison, may have no support in place; no one to meet them; may have been in prison for extended periods of time and have lost contact with friends or relatives; or may have mental health issues. The bags contain basic toiletries to enable a person to survive for 72 hours after release. Statistics suggest that the first 72 hours is the most vulnerable period for a newly released prisoner. The kit bags contain a towel, basic toiletries such as soap, shampoo, dental items, tissues, a comb, and a razor. It also provides a \$20 food voucher for use in Woolworths, Caltex or Big W. 2 stamped envelopes, a biro and a notebook are also included, along with a \$10 Telstra phone card. In metropolitan areas there is also a GO card for transport, but we do not have adequate local transport facilities here. A contact list of organisations who can provide further assistance is also included.

The school communities have been encouraged to collect as many of the required items as possible without having to incur great expense, eg collecting sample soaps and shampoo packs that are available for use in motels etc when travelling. We have now provided our first ten kit bags to the Rockhampton Correctional Centre and their staff were very keen to be involved in this project. Correctional Centre staff assess who would most benefit from the kit bags and they issue them directly. The Associates do not have personal contact with the men, but will be involved in the collection of the goods and assembly of the kits.

Our Associate group is very excited to be able to participate in this expression of service to our community and are keen to continue into the future. We have had no problems fulfilling the prayer and friendship aspects of being Associates and see this as a very positive way that we can now be involved in service.



## CLEMONT GROUP SERVING THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY:

As I indicated in my earlier report, many of our Associates are involved in community groups. Several of them volunteer twice a week at the local Vinnies store and are members of the St. Vincent de Paul committee here in Clermont.

One lady is a long term member of the CWA and has held executive positions within the group. Another is President of the Meal on Wheels committee and on the Hospital Board and several others act as drivers and deliverers on a regular basis.

Many of our members are Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Leaders in our Parish and one of them takes R.E. in the local Primary School.

Two ladies are Sacristans for our church.

We have a Care and Concern group from our church and so catering is organised for local funerals and meals supplied for people in emergency need.

Most of our ladies have been involved in this for many years.

Some of our ladies visit the sick in our local hospital and in their homes and if they are Catholic take Communion to them.

As we have a Mass once a month at the local Aged Care facility there are a number of members who organize and attend these Masses and spend time with the elderly afterwards.

We have just had our local Show this past week and many of the organizing committee and volunteers were also Associates.

Most local events will have some involvement from our members so as you can see we are widely represented in the community.

As ours is a small community it is hard not to be in a service roll at some time or other every year.

Leone Baldock from Clemont

## CELEBRATIONS

### Sesquicentenary (150 years) of the Sisters of St Joseph

March 19, 2016 was a very special time for the many Josephite communities around the world to celebrate the Sesquicentenary of the foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph. It was indeed a time to reflect and to give thanks for the generosity of all those who have lived with a Josephite heart. It would have been beyond Mary and Julian's initial dreams to have envisaged a congregation that is now represented around the world with communities in Australia, New Zealand, East Timor, Ireland, Peru, Brazil and Scotland, not to mention that Mary MacKillop is now recognised as a saint for the universal church and her holiness is increasingly appealing to many people all over the world. In Mary MacKillop's own words "Little did either of us then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning (1891)". The Queensland celebrations were focused at St Stephen's Cathedral, while many smaller communities and associates gathered in their local areas. We hope that you were all able to participate in some form and to thank God for the past 150 years. May we now continue to live out the sesquicentenary motto of "Listening to the Heartbeat of the World" into the years ahead.

You might also like to pray this thanksgiving prayer written for the Sesquicentenary and reflect on it.





We give thanks for God's generosity  
in calling the Sisters of St Joseph into being.  
For Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,  
the first sisters, the children in schools,  
the families around them,  
the friends supporting them.  
For the vision, energy and legacy they left.

We give thanks for the Josephite spirit in God's  
mission  
for the women who heeded the call  
the people who supported the mission  
the families who welcomed the sisters  
For the love and healing in our parished.

Join with us all who have gone before  
walking the Josephite way  
supporting the Josephite vision  
drawn into Josephite communion.  
Join us in praising God's abounding kindness.



## Nundah Centenary

Banyo/Nundah parish celebrated its centenary on 29th May with Mass at Corpus Christi Church followed by a multi-cultural food festival, historic displays and musical entertainment. This was preceded by a prayerful novena and pilgrimage to St Stephen's Cathedral and the Door of Mercy, during which parishioners were able to reflect on their history and God's blessings throughout the 100 years.

## E VENTS

**Townsville Associate Group Visit:** Sr Moya visited with the Townsville Associates on 27th May while she was attending to some of her state-wide duties in her current ministry role. This is part of the plan set by the Associate Planning Committee to try to visit and meet with most Associate Groups over time. A special reconciliation Dinner was also planned in Townsville at this time, which Sr Moya was able to attend.

**Rural Conference 29/30 September and 1 /2 October:** This will be held in Rockhampton at the Kevin Castles Centre, West and Denham Streets. Friday will be a retreat day and the conference will also feature guest speakers, Madonna King and Geraldine Doogue. This is a wonderful opportunity for those working in regional or remote areas to come together, share experiences, and be refreshed for their ministry. Madonna and Geraldine's sessions will be open to the public and all are welcome, so watch this space for further information as the time draws nearer.



**Regional Day:** The sisters belonging to the TransPacífico Region will gather at Nundah in Brisbane for Regional Day. There has been time set aside during the day's programme for a presentation by the Associate Planning Committee. Janette has volunteered for this role and will be accompanied by Sr Moya. A power point presentation has been developed and we will have the opportunity to inform the Sisters of the work undertaken to date, what is planned for

the future, and how this might be achieved. We will also be able to explain how we are linked to the International Josephite Leadership Team. Because a sustainable Josephite Association will depend on more members and on training future leaders, copies of the recently completed Induction Manual will be available, and we will have the opportunity to explain how we envisage future leaders could be selected and trained. Copies of our brochures and newsletters will also be available for the Sisters.

**Associate Planning Committee:** Following on from our meeting at Nundah in February, the Committee has been working to complete the Induction Manual and our sincere thanks must go to Pauline McGuire for her outstanding work in gathering all our suggestions and putting together the Manual. We recognised from the associate survey which was previously commissioned by the Sisters a few years ago, that a resource needed to be available to all groups so that there could be a standardised process whereby new members were welcomed, given relevant information into what is involved in being a Josephite Associate, deciding to accept the challenge and then requesting to be formally inducted. This ensures that all Associate Groups are able to follow the same process for the formation of new Associates. As we are now active all around the world, and the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team is also conscious of the need for this process worldwide, we developed the Queensland



manual. It includes practical information, prayer suggestions, and a formal process for induction. Manuals will be forwarded to groups shortly. Also on our agenda is a process to recognise and train leaders of groups so we can be sustainable into the future.

## OTHER MATTERS

### Budget Reminder

Thank you to all those who have kindly contributed to the Associate Movement. For the financial sustainability of the Associate Movement we do need financial contribution from members.

As we indicate in the last newsletter, our budget for 2016 includes the following:  
Administration Costs - postage, paper for the Newsletters, Brochures and costs of printing etc  
Teleconferences for the Associates Planning Committee  
Travelling expenses  
Accommodation  
Secretarial Assistance for the Newsletter  
Formation and Induction -Badges, Handbooks, Certificates, Candle

In order to sustain the Association, about \$10 000 a year is needed to cover costs. We now have 250 registered members in Queensland. We did suggest in the autumn newsletter that each member make an annual donation. We also recommended that you decide what your contribution can be from the following:

**\$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.

Please note, that the bank details in the autumn newsletter were incorrect and we apologise for the inconvenience that this caused some of you.

The Donation form on the following page has the updated details.



## 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 QLD 4012

**Direct deposit: Commonwealth Bank**

**BSB No: 06 4163**

**Account No: 1042 9581**

**Account name: Josephite Associates Qld**

**Reference: Your Surname and initial eg: Campbell M**

Cheques and money orders made out to Josephite Associates qld and mail to the above address

Cash can be handed to your local group convenor who will forward it on for you and a receipt will be issues.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH THE ABOVE, PLEASE RING 3370 2699**