



WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES' Newsletter



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter for 2017. We have come to the end of another wonderful year, a year full of wonder and surprises. All the events of our Sesquicentenary Year have been shared and enjoyed immensely. We thank all who have been involved and thanks to all who celebrated this special year, it has been a wonderful year of experiences.

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



2016 ... Sesquicentenary Year in Reflection ...

2016 has been a momentous year for the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the Associates and friends. Throughout Western Australia events have been organised to recognise the Sesquicentenary of the founding of the Order and all of these drew large attendances. The Celebratory Mass took place in St Columba's Church in South Perth and was filled to capacity by Sisters, Associates, teachers and school children. The choir was superb and a liturgical dance by a group of young ladies from La Salle College in Midland added to the ceremony.

On the anniversary of Sister Irene McCormack's death, a Mass celebrating her life drew another large congregation. This was followed by a gathering in a nearby hall. The crowd was entertained with 'Peter and Friends' band playing lively music. There was singing and dancing, a colourful performance by a Peruvian dance group and a specially composed song: 'Saying Goodbye with Just a Prayer' – a tribute from Peter. The atmosphere was one of joy and thanksgiving for Irene's life. She would have loved it.

In June there was the Annual Outreach Gathering in Esperance which was reported in the Spring Newsletter. This event drew Sisters, Associates and friends from the city, Dardanup and the South West and was highly successful. Another highlight was Louise Moore's inspirational talk on her life and her experience of St Mary MacKillop. Masses of celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury and La Salle College in Midland drew large crowds too. Also at La Salle a large appreciative group attended a presentation by Dr Michelle Connolly rsj on 'The Mission of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark'. Sister Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader and Sister Margaret Cleary, CentreWest Regional Leader were present also.

The organisers of these and other events are to be congratulated. The time, effort and energy they expended produced remarkable results and a true celebration of 150 years of dedication as the Sisters worked and continue to work in the spirit of St Mary MacKillop, to make this world a better place.

Meg Phelan – privileged to be a Josephite Associate



Three Women Continuing on their Josephite Journey

We had a beautiful Ritual here on September 27.



All the WA Sisters who could, were present in the South Perth Chapel celebrating the discernment journeys of three women at various stages of listening to God's call.

As I participated in this very moving ritual my thoughts reverted to my own commitment in pre-Vatican 11 days and I realised anew what Religious Life Leaders have recently reiterated - "Religious Life as we have lived it no longer exists."

At my Profession, all was very Church centred. It happened during Mass. The Bishop received our vows on behalf of the Church. Canon Law controlled the main structures of our life style and we were very conscious that we were front line troops in the Mission of the Church.

But here on this lovely Spring morning I was conscious of three women who were being led by God to enter into companionship with like-minded women who are seeking to deepen their Baptismal commitment to live in Christ, in communion with each other according to the charism of our Founders.

There was a strong sense of mutual support, of welcoming warmth, of openness and joy as well as an awareness of courage and yearning full of hope.

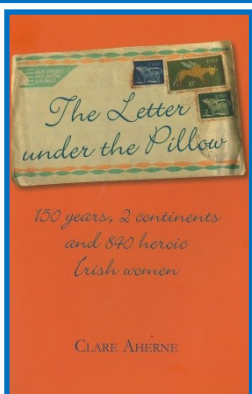
The commitments of these women were warmly received by CentreWest Regional leader, Margaret Cleary rsj. There were no Clerics at this ritual.

At the end of the ceremony I heard a Sister say "Hasn't Religious Life changed"!

This left me musing – are we beginning to see what God is calling us to now? Is the new thing God is doing beginning to emerge in our own minds? Is the UISG (International Union Superiors General) call to wholeness, oneness, beginning to take root as we let go of our old images and image a possible future? It is just as Jack Mahoney sj describes it in his book, "Christianity in Evolution: an exploration", where he invites us all to join in a discussion of the new understanding of Christianity that the evolutionary reality we live in opens up to us.

- Sr Mary Engelbrecht rsj

Two Great Books - Two Josephite Authors!



The Letter Under the Pillow by Sr Clare Ahern rsj

150 years, 2 continents and 840 heroic Irish women.

This wonderful book was launched on 30th June in Newmarket, Co Cork., Ireland. It captures the hearts and minds of the many Irish Sisters.

It is a story of exceptional Irish women who left home and country to become Sisters of St Joseph. Readers will be taken on a journey of 150 years from colonial to contemporary times across the breadth and length of Australia and New Zealand and will travel through two World Wars, the Easter Rising and Irish Independence.

Congratulations to the author Clare Ahern rsj who spent over thirty years in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and who now lives in Dublin and is a member of the

Ireland Region of the Sisters of St Joseph. Contact Laura if you'd like to purchase a copy:

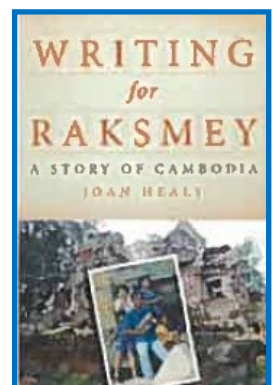
lmccarthy@sosjwa.org.au, 08 9334 0999

'Writing for Raksmei' A Story of Cambodia by Sr Joan Healy rsj

Tells of the lives of six families who fled the aftermath of the Cambodian killing fields, were held in a crowded refugee camp at the border of their country, and then sent back to nation still at war.

Writing for Raksmei is a rare, insider's account of the lived nature of contemporary life in Cambodia

Author, Joan Healy rsj has lived among Cambodians since she began working a refugee camp on Cambodia's border.



To purchase go to www.newsouthbooks.com.au

Inspirational Mary MacKillop Art

Foundress, Mary MacKillop is brought to life in two beautiful and very different pieces of art work.



Sisters Pauline Dundon, Bernadette Hynes and Eileen Johnson admire this striking statue was unveiled at Mary MacKillop College, Busselton in August.



'The Vision', featuring a young Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, by artist Jan Williamson was unveiled in Penola, SA. for Foundation Day March 2016.

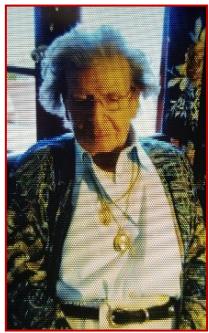
It was commissioned by the Sisters of St Joseph in their Sesquicentenary year (2016). The artwork portrays the young Mary and Julian reflecting on the possibilities of the future to establish a system of Catholic Education for disadvantaged children in rural South Australia. Noticeable is the image of the stable where the dream became a reality, 19th March, 1866

Birthday Celebrations!

Two wonderful women from Esperance reached a magnificent milestone -

100 Birthdays!

Mrs Fox Slater (top left) and Joan Kefford, mother of Helen Johnson (top right)



And two birthdays were celebrated at our gathering in Dardanup - Sister Bernadette Hynes and Maura McNamara. (lovely cake made by Kate Middleton)



Message from Sr Maree regarding Taizé Meditative Prayer

**Please note there will be no Taizé next year (2017)
Taizé will return in 2018 - watch this space!**

WA ASSOCIATES' GATHERINGS



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS 2017

ENQUIRIES/RSVP:

Dot Caughey: 9332 0118 dotlinc1@bigpond.com



CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017

Where: South Perth Convent

When: Thursday 23rd February

Committee to have lunch with Sisters afterwards

Future Meetings:

25th May

24th August

23rd November



GATHERINGS 2017

(organised by the Central Committee)

Where: Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth

When: Sunday 12th March 2017

Bring: A plate of food to share

Future Gatherings:

11th June 2017

10th September 2017

10th December 2017

**All very
welcome !**

SOUTH WEST GATHERINGS 2017

Annette: 9797 1156, aroveta39@gmail.com or Nancy: 9728 1037

AUTUMN/LENTEN GATHERING

When: Wednesday 8th March 2017 **Where:** Dardanup Church

Mass (if available) 9:00am followed by Morning Tea

Presenter: tba **Bring:** Please bring a plate of finger food for a Shared Lunch.

FIRST CORE GROUP MEETING 2017

When: February, Monday 20th at 1:00 pm **Where:** Annette's House

RSVP: to Annette or Nancy (for both gatherings)

Southwest Summer / Advent Gathering Dardanup

This 9th November gathering, the last for the Sisters' Sesquicentenary Year, attracted 25 participants to experience Sr Wendy's presentation, *A Love that Heals and Transforms*.

We began with Morning Prayer, a chant - *Inpoured Spirit*, followed by Psalm 139.

Discussion followed a reading and reflection on the Syrophoenician Woman, Mark 7: 24-30 - the Greek mother who begged Jesus to heal her daughter, placing ourselves into the story; discovering what it is today that we desire, acknowledging it and asking God to manifest our desire into our lives.

Judging Others: Mathew 7 which deals with making judgements on others was read and followed again by lively discussion in small groups, Forgiveness: reference was made to Jesus' act of writing something on the ground in the bible story of the Woman accused of adultery.

A Reflection followed asking where might Jesus be calling us now to be a witness to transforming Love ... Love is the most important essence of your life.

The word '*Listen*' came up often in our discussions, we need to *Listen* to what God is saying, to take time *Listen* and contemplate what God is saying to us through our life experiences.

We thank Sisters Denise and Rita who travelled down from Perth and sincere thanks to Sister Wendy for her beautiful presentation. - *Annette Morellini JA*



Gone to God

Our prayers are with each family member and Associates

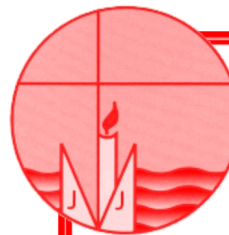
Dorothea Hearne

Denis Woodvine

Patricia Fitzpatrick



*May the joy and peace
of Christmas
be with you today
and throughout the New year*



WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES



OUR PRAYER OF TENDERNESS AND TRUST

The Christmas season allows us to be playful and buoyant. It reminds us that our relationship with God can also be child-like and intimate.

The artist Pablo Picasso once shared an insight which can only have been learned in the Christmas seasons of the spirit. He declared, "it takes a long time for one to become young."

Sometimes it is important to allow ourselves to be re-juvenated by journeying back through the years to remember how we were as a child, as a young version of the adult we now present to the world. The Christmas seasons of our spirit invite us to return to our original innocence. We have all at some time or other been caught in the wide-eyed, candid gaze of an infant – held for a moment in its wordless security.

In spite of the squirming discomfort that might arise in us, this encounter is also an invitation to remove our masks, to clear away the fog and to seek the essential goodness in ourselves.



"Seasons of Grace – Praying with Mary MacKillop"
Genevieve Ryan rsj

Summer 2016 2017

JOSEPHITE SESQUICENTENARY

In 1866 a young woman chose to tread

A different path, and set out to assist

Those suffering poverty and neglect.

In the small town of Penola, South Australia,

She began a journey which diverged

From the roads others had travelled.

The stable school was the first fruits

Of the liaison between Mary MacKillop

And her priestly mentor, Julian Tenison Woods.

Moving to Adelaide, in addition to schools,

An orphanage and a Refuge for women

We're added to the outreach of the early Sisters.

Across the years the ministry of her Sisters

Has endeavoured to meet the needs of the times:

Education, nursing, Motor Missions, visitation,

Ministry to the indigenous people of Australia,

Assistance to the inhabitants of Peru and East Timor,

Serving the peoples of Ireland.

In a letter to her Sisters in 1891, Mary wrote:

"Little did either of us then dream of what was

To spring from so small a beginning."

As you look down on us today, Mary ,

What do you see? Women of prayer;

Women serving the most needy in our world.

Be with us today, Mary, as we move onward.

Be with us Julian, watch over us always.

Challenge us to lives of prayer and devotion.

Dare us to serve the poor and neglected.

Wherever we are, whatever we do, help us

Focus on the continuing call to holiness.

The Sesquicentenary of our beginnings

Calls us to renew our commitment;

To become the image of our God;

To cherish the cosmos in love.

We give thanks for all that has been.

We move forward in trust into what will be.



Mary Jo Wells rsj

March 2016