

Seasonal News



SUMMER EDITION 2016



Welcome to the Josephite Associate Queensland Quarterly Newsletter

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SUMMER EDITORIAL 2016:

FRIENDSHIP

“Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.” These words from the prophet Isaiah were proclaimed by Jesus in the 4th chapter of Luke’s gospel. We’ve heard them many times before but, at the conclusion of this graced Year of Mercy, they take on a special significance for us. We’ve been called to really challenge how we respond, live and love in every facet of our lives.



Pope Francis is acutely aware that our world is desperately in need of this challenge and he continually urges to recognise God’s spirit present and active in our world. Never has there been a more apt time to invoke the Spirit of God to come and refresh our earth. We live in a time of increasing conflict, where open hostility is a fact of life in many countries and yet, this is exactly the time for the Spirit to bring great healing and peace. Every journey begins with the smallest of steps. The quest for true peace and healing demands that each one of us is ready to venture outside ourselves and to reach out to the “other”. Through the Incarnation, Jesus took on our humanity and transformed it. We have already been made holy, been redeemed in the blood of Jesus. We have been loved into fullness of life despite having done nothing to deserve it. God’s love is freely given. How can we not respond to that love?

In reality our world is waiting for our response. Jesus has redeemed our world once and for all. Now it is up to us to be the “light for the nations to see”; to proclaim that God’s spirit is alive and well and that it is freely given to, and for, each and every person. Just when you thought it was okay to relax, unwind, and enjoy Christmas and the wind-down of 2016, there is this urgency to be active as we may never have been active before.

As Josephite Associates our mandate is to foster friendship, prayer and service. We have looked recently at how we grow our prayer life and how we can be of service. Today we explore what that friendship component could mean for us

Our society could be likened to a family of families with the domestic family at its heart. Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation on “Love in the Family (Amoris Laetitia)” writes that “God has given the family the job of ‘domesticating’ the world and helping each person to see fellow human beings as brothers and sisters”. No matter what our current circumstances in life, we all originated from a family. This is where the seed of love experienced by a couple is sown and grown, extending out into ever widening ripples. Children are conceived and born; the family enlarges; the expanded family reaches out to other families; who in turn reach out to others and so it extends. It is within the comparative safety of the family that a person first experiences the power of love. They learn acceptance, tolerance, forgiveness, patience, compassion and justice.



Both St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods practiced a concept of friendship that extended far beyond that of wishing the other person well. Their lives spoke volumes of understanding the great gift of love and mercy they had been given and how important it was to pass on that love. They ministered within the Australian church

at a time when the Irish influence was extremely strong and there was a definite atmosphere of protectionism lest the faithful succumb to undue exterior persuasion. The Irish clergy had battled long and hard to be able to minister to their flock in a foreign and English-influenced atmosphere, so it was only natural that they felt impelled to secure the grounds they had made. Catholics were strongly encouraged to only circulate with fellow Catholics and our current climate of ecumenism since Vatican II would have been extremely foreign to them. In this setting, Mary and Julian broke away from the norm. They associated freely with sections of society that were not considered to be quite appropriate within Church circles and even within wider society. Mary MacKillop, in particular, had close and loyal friends who were of other faiths and professions, including Solomon the Jewish trader and Johanna Barr Smith and her husband who were of the Anglican tradition. She embraced the destitute, prostitutes, orphans, and even accused prisoners, being a source of comfort for Fagan as he approached execution. No one was excluded. Mary recognised the God of mercy in every person she met and she responded lovingly.

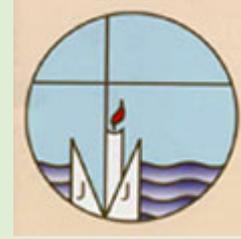
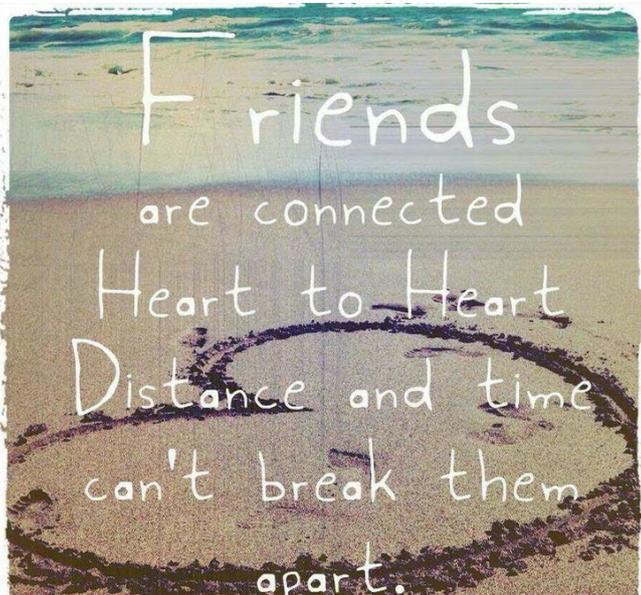


We too are continually being called to respond in love to others. The 2015 Encyclical Letter on Ecology and Climate ‘Laudate Si’ (On Care For Our Common Home) given to us by Pope Francis at Pentecost 2015, urges us to make that response. Although the following passage is a little lengthy, I would urge you to quietly sit with it and allow it to transform your reflection. Francis writes, “The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things, so that throughout the universe we can find any number of constant and secretly interwoven relationships. This leads us not only to marvel at the manifold connections existing among creatures, but also to discover a key to our own fulfilment. The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in



communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way, they make their own that Trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.” (LS240)

Just recently many of us witnessed images of that amazing rescue at Moorooka of several passengers on a Brisbane City Council bus by former Sudanese refugee, Aguek Nyok. By chance he just happened to be at the scene and, when he could not open the exit doors, he frantically and repeatedly used his karate skills to kick in the rear exit panel, thus enabling the traumatised passengers to escape from an horrific and fiery crime scene. Although he rightly received praise for his heroic actions, it is reported that Aguek simply stated he just did “what he would expect his fellow Australians to do in the same situation. It could have been me on that bus. If you don’t do it, you would feel guilty for the rest of your life, so that is your choice.” Aguek has a loving wife and four young children and he would have been conscious of the danger to himself and the subsequent effect on his family if he was injured; however he acted, and performed an ultimate act of friendship to those strangers by undoubtedly saving their lives. Isn’t that just what we are called to imitate; to recognise the God in the other; and to respond in love?



**Josephite Associate Queensland
Groups**

Allora

Cairns

Clermont

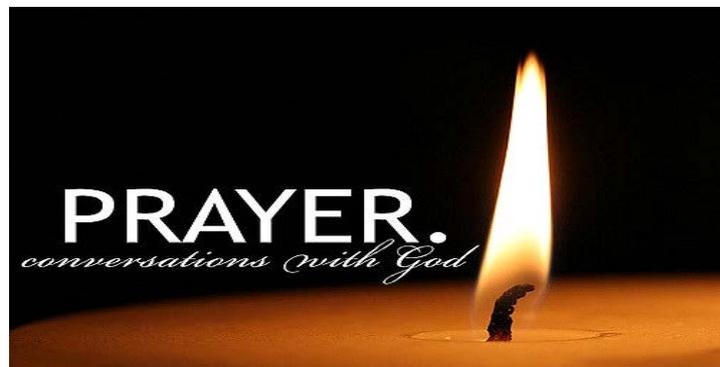
Caboolture

Moorooka

Rockhampton

**Townsville
and places in between**

**We wish you &
yours the special
blessings of
Christmas, peace,
hope and Joy.**



LOVE AND BEING NEIGHBOURLY

'Love..... to all, none are forgotten (Mary MacKillop 1874)-

Reading: Luke 10:30-37

Jesus said 'There was a traveller going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveller was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveller lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveller and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveller and, filled with compassion, approached the traveller and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. The Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, 'Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I'll repay you on the way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbour to the traveller who fell in with the robbers? The answer came, 'The one who showed compassion'. Jesus replied.

For reflection

If you were telling this story now, whom would you put in the Samaritan's place?

From Pope Francis in Amoris Laetitia par 323

It is a profound spiritual experience to contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God and to see Christ in them. This demands a freedom and openness which enable us to appreciate their dignity. We can be fully present to others only by giving fully of ourselves and forgetting all else. Our loved ones merit our complete attention.

Blessing

Gracious God

*bles us with hearts that expand in generous response
minds that are willing to explore greater justice
hands that are giving to those in need
food that nourishes us body and soul. Amen*



“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Luke 2:14

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRAYER RITUAL

This prayer, prepared by Erin and Pauline (Townsville) was used at our Planning Group’s teleconference. We share it with you for this Christmas Season.

READER

WHEREVER WE ARE...

we are called in this Christmas Season to prepare inwardly in silence and anticipation to bring hope and liberation to celebrate the feast of life.

TRANSFORMING OURSELVES

(Taken in part from ‘The Magic of the Moment’)

We shed many self-images as we walk along on our journey through life

as we grow and mature

as our passions and priorities alter

as our life circumstances change.

Reader

While change can be uncomfortable, it needn’t be so. Change is fundamental to the creation of new life. If trees didn’t shed their leaves and endure the rigours of winter, there would be no need for spring. As a flower fades, its seeds near maturity.

Reader

How much more potential our life will hold when we can meet whatever is before us with an open mind and ask that all the good that awaits us in this new transformation, may be made apparent to us! Anything that is holy radiates higher energies than is normally the case. The more we expose ourselves to these energies, the more those parts of us that are wounded can be healed. The more whole we are, the more wholesome are our relationships with others. What immense possibilities are ours when we can make room for this depth of transformation to occur in our life!

Reader



In recent years we have grown suspicious of strangers and those who are different, regarding them with fear and distrust. The more we build barriers between ourselves and others, the more we cut our selves off from the sacred possibilities that such encounters offer. How magical it is to experience the kindness of strangers how uplifted and optimistic it makes us feel. If we were to suspend our judgement and reach out to a stranger, or seek the good in

someone we don't know or understand, then our actions might just be the beginning of our own transformation.

Reader

WHOEVER WE ARE ... we are called into partnership with the Divine

In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we come to understand that here in this life, all symphonies remain unfinished. Jesus comes to us in the midst of everyday fragments and asks us to create space for him where he has never been before. Joyce Rupp

REFLECTION

Wishing to encourage his progress on the piano, a mother took her little boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seeking the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy found his way through a door marked NO ADMITTANCE. When the hall lights dimmed, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star".



At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear: "Don't stop! Keep playing." Leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. His right hand reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obligato. Together the old master and the

young child transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

We hear the message of God who longs to be in partnership with us, saying to each one of us "Don't stop. Keep playing. Keep loving. Keep creating. Keep transforming. "I have not called you because you are equipped. I equip you because you are called."

TOGETHER:

May the God of Partnership join us on the human journey and surround us with love. Amen.

EDUKATION

We are in a new time. The Associates are no longer in transition but moving towards implementing our planning for the future.



Transition time is an 'in between' time, a time of uncertainty, a time of challenge, a time of reflection, a time of prayer.... We cannot stay in a state of transition forever. It is important that we continue the journey with hope in our hearts, confident that God is with us, open to new possibilities. As St Paul said in 2 Cor 6:2 'Now is the acceptable time.....' It is now time for us to have the courage to implement the decisions that have been made.

ACTION

1. Stamp Collecting



It has been suggested that one action the Associates could be involved in is the collection of Stamps. Christmas is a time when we are likely to receive cards etc and that means stamps. These become a financial resource for ministry. Stamps can be sent to the Associates' Office in Fortitude Valley and we will ensure that the money raised will be forwarded to the Mary MacKillop Foundation for the works of the Congregation.

2. Advent Prayer for Reflection and Forgiveness

As we move towards the season of Advent, here a few thoughts for your reflection.

Advent is a time of waiting in joyful expectation of the birth of the Christ Child - the ultimate expression of the unfathomable love of God for all of creation.

Advent is a time of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is a time to forgive, ourselves first of all and then others, for the times when, through human frailty, we have given unwarranted pain to others; when we have torn down instead of building up.

What are the situations in my life that need forgiveness?

An Advent prayer:

As we approach the season of Advent, make us watchful in awaiting the coming of Jesus.

We pray for those who are lonely and afraid; for those for whom the coming season, Christmas is a time to be endured - not enjoyed.

*May we be willing
and ready to play
our part in whatever
You call us to do, no
matter how small.*



We humbly pray that we are blessed in our Advent preparations. Prepare all hearts to receive Your word and may it take deep root within each of us.

Amen

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.

— Pope Francis —

Mackillop Gate Ministry Bags

The MacKillop Gate ministry is another area of great expansion, so much so that the associates have been swamped with donations and a local Knights of the Southern Cross have hired us a shipping container to store the donations. We have also used many of the donations for several other purposes including; women's shelter packs, refugee linen requirements and towel wraps for 'Happy Valley' a local indigenous community. The towel wraps were put together with donations from a local laundry and parishioners. The associates made the towels and soap into bonbons with a Christmas message attached. The diocesan Indigenous Catholic Council worker is distributing the wraps to the residents at Happy Valley.

We are hoping that 2017 sees the associates in Townsville and across Australia grow and flourish in the hope of continuing Mary's work where ever it is needed. Wishing you all the best for a safe New Year and a very Merry Christmas.



Towel Wraps for 'Happy Valley'

2017 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE for ASSOCIATES

One of the critical issues facing the Associates at this time is that of Leadership. Hence, IJALT (International Josephite Associate Leadership Team) are planning this Conference around the theme

"The Future is One We are Creating"

It will take place at Baulkham Hills, NSW, Australia from the 7th – 9th of April 2017

Beginning at 5pm on Friday 7th and concluding with lunch on Sunday 9th April

We are offering the opportunity for any Associate who feels called to some form of leadership at the

local, State or National level to be part of this Conference.

We are looking at offering an Airbus from and to the airport at a specific time.

The fee will depend on the numbers who wish to use the service \$33.50 each way for 10 people goes down to \$17.00 for 21 people.

The accommodation will comprise of either a single room \$220, or a shared room price \$195 (per person). This price includes accommodation for 2 nights and all meals.

The cost of journey to and from will be met by each Associate so to summarize what costs each Associate attending the Conference would face:

Travel Costs (including to and from the Airport)

Accommodation (as above)

The Queensland Planning Group have to send names and email addresses in by 30 November 2016 to the organizers. If you are interested, please email the Queensland office on gldassociates@sosj.org.au by the **25 November or phone on Tuesday morning** when Joan is in the office. Phone number is 3833 6119. We then forward names and email addresses to Sydney and IJALT will send a form for you to complete.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Leadership within an organization is a special call where we are asked to use our gifts for the good of the community or the wider membership of the organisation.

If you feel called to this leadership within the Associates, please consider coming to the Conference in 7, 8 & 9 APRIL 2017.

By the 5 December, please indicate your interest by ringing the Office in Fortitude Valley on 3833 6119 on a Tuesday morning (when Joan is there) or emailing qldassociates@sosj.org.au with your expression of interest.



NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

(Please detach and return)

For two years now we have trialled a new form of the Newsletter. It would be helpful to get some comments from each of you.

Do you find the Newsletter informative **YES** **NO** **SOMETIMES**

Do you find the format easy to follow: **YES** **NO**

You may have noticed, there is now Prayer/Reflection in each edition, is this helpful?

YES **NO**

How can we improve the Newsletter?

Send your response to qldassociates@sosj.org.au or post to Qld Associates, Villa Maria, 123 Warren St, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006.



Thank you to those who have made a contribution in 2016

DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE):

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$ _____

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO

ASSOCIATES PLANNING COMMITTEE

123 WARREN STREET

FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006,

PHONE: 3833 6119 & E: QLDASSOCIATES@SOSJ.ORG.AU

CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

DIRECT DEPOSIT

COMMONWEALTH BANK

ACCOUNT NAME: JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

BSB NO: 064163

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10429581

REFERENCE: SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

