



*Josephite Companions Aotearoa*

*Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa*

*Friendship # Prayer # Service*

**NEWSLETTER – June 2017**

## **JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES LEADERS GATHERING**



Thirty-six Josephite Associate Leaders from throughout Australia and New Zealand gathered at Baulkham Hills over the weekend of April 7-9 to consider the theme: 'The future is one we are creating.'

The Josephite spirit was obvious from the very first gathering with a buzz of friendly conversation. Katrina Brill rsj and Christina Neunzerling rsj were the conference facilitators. They were wonderfully inspiring - challenging us in a gentle, good humoured manner.

We began by looking more deeply at the Josephite vision

from the Sisters' most recent General Chapter, focusing on living into mystery and a new consciousness of communion. We reflected on where we find mystery in our lives and contemplated the meaning of communion with all creation. For many of us this involved seeing things in a completely different way.

We then looked at "Friendship, Service and Prayer" from this new perspective, contemplating what these might look like and how they may be experienced differently. Gathering in regional groups, we then planned some practical steps forward to take this new way of living the vision back to our Associate groups.

The IJALT team also shared with us their strategic planning and asked for feedback. Having been nurtured and empowered, the gathering ended with a Missioning liturgy where we were sent out to participate in God's flow of love, transformed to create the future within our local areas.

Helen Dougherty



Designed by Therese  
Quinn rsj  
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## **AOTEAROA /NZ JOSEPHITE COLLOQUIUM 2017**

A Josephite Colloquium is being held at Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay Auckland from 4pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September to 3.30pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. This two day residential experience is offered for people who work and minister in the Josephite tradition. Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods responded to the call of the Gospel with justice and compassion. The Colloquium is a time to reflect, to share and to respond to God's call in our time to live the Gospel with a Josephite heart.

Registration forms with more information including cost will be available at the end of June. There is accommodation for 20 people at the centre. If you are interested in attending contact Catherine Birt at [cbirt@gmail.com](mailto:cbirt@gmail.com) or on phone 09 424 0134.

# SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY FOR TOKOROA COMPANIONS

The group were able to honour Saint Joseph along with the parish school, Bishop Edward Gaines, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

It was a truly joyful occasion and a German student teacher who had been visiting the school, played piano for us during the Mass, helping all of us present to join in singing "The Song of Nazareth"

For the first time, our group were visible to parishioners at the Mass as we wore our canonisation scarves which had been so kindly given to us all and our priest Father Vince Jones, led us in the Companions Prayer after Communion. Several of us were able to enjoy coffee at a local cafe following the Mass.

Earlier in the month we had visited a construction in an empty shop called "The Sensory Experience". It was created by clients of South Waikato Achievement Centre and Alternative Education. It is made totally from re-cycled goods and allows the person to see, smell, listen and feel a huge variety of sensations. There was a small charge for entry and also several



Companions took advantage of buying goods from the adjoining craft shop. We felt this was a way to support another community group.

We ask for prayers from you all for Companions Judy Edgar and her husband Joe, who is an Alzheimer's sufferer and Victoria Cody whose husband Kevin has been receiving cancer treatment.



## JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS AOTEAROA

As we walk in the footsteps of Julian and Mary, we Josephite Companions Aotearoa respond to the Gospel by reverencing the Sacred in ourselves, others and our environment.

We do this in the ordinariness of our everyday lives by:

- Living simply and prayerfully
- Acting justly with integrity
- Responding to the needs of our time
- Being thankful for God's love
- Providing inclusive hospitality and down-to-earth practicality in the spirit of Aroha.



# PARIKINO MACKILLOP KIDS CAMP

I was fortunate to be asked to represent Cullinane College and be a Tuakana at the recent Josephite Camp at Parikino Marae.



It was great to return to Parikino as I had been there for our year 9 entrance camp at Cullinane where the Senior students were our Tuakana. Now it was my turn to be one for those on camp including my younger sister, Trinity.

We set off on Tuesday to set up the camp and activities before the children arrived on the Thursday morning which started with a Powhiri. The camp had around 20 students attending, with a majority from local schools and some from the river.

The programme was based on providing the children with a powerful insight on many moral and spiritual lessons which were taught in interesting, fun sessions which appealed to the children. The Tuakana helped them understand the lesson as the children worked on fun interactive worksheets which was a neat way to help get the message across to them.

The theme of the camp was Ko au te Awa, Ko te awa ko au – 'I am the river and the river is me'. They were taught about respect and to love one another and how to be a good caring Samaritan by being aware of others around us and the environment, since we are all a gift from God. The children loved the learning environment and the creation of new life-time friendships with some of the children now becoming pen-pals with each other. This has proven to have a positive impact on the children and they have taken many life lessons away from this experience.

I enjoyed the camp myself and being able to be an example in leadership as well as helping others with their faith journey.



**Liam Boswell**  
(Year 11, Cullinane College)

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

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If you have any queries regarding 'subscriptions' please phone: Sister Liz Hickey 06 345 6566 or 021 208 0929

**Thanks to Sister Therese McConway for the Mary MacKillop prayer and reflection sheet this month.**

# REFUGEES

For some time the Sisters have been renovating and setting up a house for a large family group of refugees from Kenya. There have been lots of hold ups – medical procedures that had to be carried out, negotiation with the Kenyan Government, difficulties with immigration etc. But finally they have arrived.

## ARRIVAL OF OUR REFUGEE FAMILY by *Therese McConway*

Sorry photos deleted for copyright reasons.

**Therese and Kate with the grandfather Elmi and grandmother Ambaro**

It seemed so appropriate that our Refugee family arrived in Wellington so close to Easter. There was apprehension in the questions –Would it be fourth time lucky? Yes, Yes, Yes.....

How would it be for the family of ten after all the false starts – excitement, loneliness, everything so different, no English language, meeting grandparents for the first time, exhaustion???

For the Mum and Dad who have lived in Wellington for 16 years, the great moment was nearly here. The expectant look on their faces said it all for me.

Then the refugee family members from Kenya appeared! An eruption of joy, tears, hugs but not a lot of words! The precious presence said it all. Three of the younger boys just stood holding onto their grandfather. It was so very moving, and many bystanders stood watching with tears in their eyes.

What a moving experience it was for Kate and me to be able to be part of this. What a cause of pride it was for us that we, the Sisters of St Joseph, were responsible for this family of ten finally being given a chance of a new life – a life filled with hope, love and peace.

May their “resurrection” journey continue among us, and may their hope for life-giving experiences ever increase as they settle into the home provided for them.

A very big “thank you” to Sister Pat Gillard for the incredible amount of work she put into this great venture on our behalf. We can all be so proud.



## *Mary MacKillop*

*Is a woman*

*Who dared to believe in her dream*

*Who dared to trust in her God*

*Who dared to risk to break boundaries*

*To travel down roads that could lead to who knows where*

*She is a woman who dares us.....*

### *Qualities of Mary*

*Grounded in Faith*

*Acceptance of Life's crosses*

*Commitment to discovering and carrying out God's will*

*Trust in God's provident care*

*Forgiving - didn't bare grudges*

*Practical love for others*

*Stood firm under conflict*

*Visionary - could see the big picture*

*Committed to justice*

*Committed to make a difference*

*Genuine openness to others*

*Hospitality to strangers*

*Perseverance in the face of adversity*

*Justice to those unfairly treated*

*Kindness and support to the suffering*

*For a few minutes reflect on*

*What does it tell me about the SPIRIT of Mary MacKillop?*

*In what way does it challenge me*

*Personally?*

*As a S.O.S.J Companion?*

*What practical action will I undertake to respond to this challenge?*

*Mary speaks to us*

*Be full of forgiveness and hope*

*Have courage, no matter what your crosses are*

*Let us always remember that we are but travellers here*

*Try to excuse what we cannot understand and remember that you have  
only to answer to your own faults*

*Gratitude is the memory of the heart*

*Prayer*

*Lord I give my Life to You*

*1. Lord I give my life to you, you are my loving Father,  
Freely I walk the path you lead, trusting in your love.*

*Let your will be my will, let my will be yours.*

*In trust draw me close to you, The Father my soul adores*

*2. Lord I seek to do your work, touching the world with your kindness  
Gladly I share your cross of pain, trusting in your love.*

*Let your will be my will, let my will be yours,*

*In trust draw me close to you, The Saviour my soul adores .*

*3. Lord I long for you alone, you are the treasure I yearn for,  
You are the breath which brings me life, trusting in your love.*

*Let your will be my will, let my will be yours.*

*In trust draw me close to you, The Spirit my soul adores.*

*Peter Rose / Anne Conlon*

*“The Heart must have*

*It's time of snow*

*To rest*

*In silence*

*And then*

*To Grow.....*

