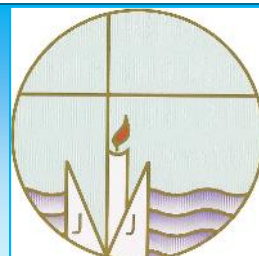




Josephite Associates, Victoria~Tasmania WINTER 2018



WINTER—season of hope of new life

Dear Associates,

The short days of **Winter** are with us and we may find the nights long, but I am sure there are many things you can do to while away the time.

My last meeting with the **Hawthorn East group** was filled with mixed emotions for me. They are a group of women from all over Melbourne who have really formed a community of Associates who care about each other and pray with each other. And I shall miss meeting with them.

Many of you are in your later years and like all of us will have to either prepare our funeral mass or have someone else prepare it. Often at this Mass **symbols** are placed on the coffin representing that person's life. Have you considered having your Associate badge placed there at that time? If you wish that, make sure someone knows or it is written down. Being an Associate is a very important influence in your life and is worth recognition.

An Associate at the last **Conversations with Mary** thought

it would be a good outing for an Associate Group one month. We provide a light lunch after and there is parking at the back of the Centre. Plus it is easily accessible by tram. Think about it!

Also note the information about the **Catholic Heritage Pilgrimage** also a good outing for a group or yourself. All within walking distance of the Heritage Centre.

During June we celebrate the **Feast of the Sacred Heart**. At Masses on this day many parishes collect food items for the Poor to give to Vinnies. The Prayer sheet looks at this attitude of **generosity to the needy**. As well as responding to this need, maybe we could look at the needs of those who are lonely, can no longer drive, cannot shop for themselves, are in need of our prayerful support.

Our **Regional Days** have been most enjoyable for the Associates and those of us who lead the sessions. It is a time which is life-giving for all, a space for ourselves to reflect on who we are. The last two days are at Orbost and Sunbury.

Several people have begun the **Introductory Program** to become Associates, so keep them in your prayer. If there is someone preparing to join your group make sure to give them support and any help they may need. A group of eight have begun the program at Melton.

Dianne Bau from Traralgon has been **enrolled** and will be part of the Morwell group. It would be great if every group brought along at least one new member this year.

With the changes in the Associates

structure etc in the near future, a **national database** is to be set up. Please read the notice in the newsletter and **RESPOND** if you need to.

The groups will have received a copy of a booklet by Fr Noel Connelly, **Pope Francis, Inspiring Vision**. This is a good follow-up to the Regional days when we look at a paragraph in Pope Francis Exhortation **The Joy of the Gospel**. Please make good use of it. Anyone else who would like to get a copy contact info@columban.org.au or ph 9375 9475 about \$5 each

Donations of face washers, knickers, toiletries and handbags are still accepted and if you bring them to the Regional Days I can pass them on. You may even have a local organisation who would have contact with women suffering domestic violence and pass on filled handbags to them. **Sharing with Dignity** website has details.

Wishing you every blessing especially during this month of the Feast of the Sacred Heart, whose example of love we endeavour to imitate. We will look at this devotion of St Mary MacKillop at the next Conversations with Mary.

Mary Fermio rsj

Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Reflection
- 3 Events/National Database
4. The Heritage Centre /Pilgrimage
5. Report from Liberia, Days for Girls
6. Regional Days
7. Around the Traps
St Joseph's by the Sea
8. Bulletin Board
Enclosures:
1. Prayer Sheet: Winter
2. National Database Form



Friendship Prayer Service

WINTER REFLECTION

From Evangelii Gaudium—The Joy of the Gospel Par 6 Pope Francis

“There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.

I realise of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.

I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress:

***” My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is...but this I call to mind,
And therefore have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.
Great is your faithfulness...it is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord” (Lam 3:17, 21-23, 26”***

“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction”

Benedict XVI

For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others. Pope Francis

***Spend some time reflecting on the above. Relish any word or phrase that stands out
Where have I encountered God in my life? Re-live that encounter.***

What brings joy into my life? Thank God for that

Where can I recognise Joy which brings peace even in my grief?

How do I share God's love with others?



To conclude this reflection:

- you may like to play some joyful or special music,
- sing a happy song, have a snooze.
- List God's gifts that give you joy or peace,
- read a poem that gives you joy.
- And/or pray the words below.

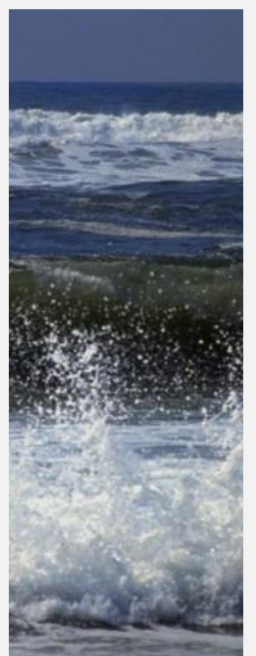
SIMPLE GIFTS from More Australian Prayers, B Prewer
(Aust. Lutheran Church, used with permission)

The smell of the bush after some rain,
The desert in flower on a red plain,
The coming of sleep after much pain:
For gifts simple and profound, we thank you loving Friend.

The sound of the waves along the shore,
The children's laughter as they explore,
The promise of grace for ever more.
For gifts simple and profound, we thank you loving Friend

The scent of green grass from the cut lawn
The pure-white blossom on a rough thorn
The return of hope with a new dawn;
For gifts simple and profound we thank you loving Friend

Add your own: eg fragrance of bread, cup of tea, ...



TIME: 9.30 arrive for 10 am start
Finish approx. 3 p.m.

18th August SUNBURY Western Group:
Bacchus Marsh, Sunbury,
Sebastopol, Woodend, Hamilton
6th October ORBOST
East Gippsland: Bairnsdale, Sale,
Orbost, Lakes Entrance, Maffra, Stratford

BYO LUNCH Donation \$5

NB:
ANNUAL MASS: 10th November 2018

ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION
MOUNT ST JOSEPH'S GIRLS COLLEGE
133 MAIDSTONE ST, ALTONA WEST

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST 2018
COMMENCING 7 P.M.
BYO DRINKS

Drinks and Nibbles before three course meal.
Bookings Essential
Contact: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
Phone 9926 9300
Email: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Catholic Heritage, East Melb./Fitzroy

Some of you, either as an individual or as a group, may like to visit the places on this very interesting pilgrimage within walking distance of the Heritage Centre. A new brochure outlines the places connected with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Goold Catholic Museum, Mary Glowrey Museum, Cathedral Hall and Australian Catholic University especially the St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Chapel. The chapel at ACU contains the iron cross which adorned the original gravesite of Mary MacKillop and had been kept by her good friend Joanna Barr-Smith. The altar contains relics of Blessed John Newman, St Francis Xavier and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. A brochure outlining what can be seen and the days and times open, Tram stop details etc, is available from Heritage Centre or if you ring Sr Mary Fermio she will post one to you. A brochure may also be obtained from Mary Glowrey Museum Ph 9416 4674 or info@maryglowreymuseum.info or view www.maryglowreymuseum.info



St Mary of the Cross Chapel
A.C.U.

NATIONAL DATABASE *Please read*

During the last couple of years the IJALT (International Josephite Associates Leadership Team) have been meeting, discussing the process of independence of the Associates from the Sisters of St Joseph. It has been deemed necessary to set up a National Database of Josephite Associates to include all Regions of Australia, New Zealand, Peru, East Timor, and Scotland. I know some of you on our mailing/email list and who receive the newsletter, are not enrolled Associates but still like to receive the newsletter. And we are happy with that.

If you wish to complete the Introductory Program by mail and become enrolled that can easily be arranged at your request.

So if you have **never been enrolled** as an Associate, and **do not wish to go on the National Database**, would you please let me know within the next month. If I do not hear from you, your details will be automatically included with the Database so that communications may be sent to you from the International Team. We can assure you your details will never be passed on to another organisation. You may respond by email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au phone 5367 2078 or send the form included with the newsletter.

Those of you **who have been enrolled** as Josephite Associates, at any time between 1983 and now, do not have to respond. Those completing the Introductory program also do not have to respond.

Please ring me if you have any queries about this notice or the enclosed form. Evening is best.

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

2018 CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY THE DEVOTIONS AND SPIRITUALITY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS

"God will take care of us all"

11 am—12 noon followed by light lunch

JUNE	Friday 15 th	Sacred Heart
JULY	Monday 16 th	John the Baptist
AUGUST	Wednesday 15 th	Our Lady
SEPTEMBER	Monday 17 th	The Cross
OCTOBER	Monday 15 th	Influence of Fr Woods
NOVEMBER	Thursday 15 th	The Will of God

Facilitator: Sr Mary Fermio rsj

VENUE:

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St East Melbourne
Please contact us for acceptances to
help us with catering.

P. 03 9926 9300

admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au



St Francis Church
Melbourne

OPEN DAYS

2018

The following Saturdays 10am-4pm

4th August

17th November

- *Take a tour of the Museum*
- *Visit the gift Shop for Christmas gift ideas and cards*
- *Mary MacKillop walking tour of the sites where Mary Lived and worked from 11 a.m.*
- *Enjoy light refreshments*
- *Pray in the chapel*

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

362 Albert St East Melbourne

Ph 9926 9300

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Melb, South Aust., New South Wales

Visiting the sites related to

St Mary MacKillop and her family

24th October—3rd November

For further information and details

Contact MMHC 03 9926 9300

Or mmp.nationalpilgrimage@sosj.org.au

In an article in Catholic Life, Sale Diocese, Pat Gray of Maffra writes: "The whole trip was superbly put together, best quality accommodation, coach, meals and flights. I can thoroughly recommend it as both spiritually and physically rewarding. The pilgrimage included a booklet or readings, prayers and reflections for each place visited."

PRAYER REQUESTS

Visitors to the Chapel at MMHC are welcome to write in the folder provided, their prayer requests through the intercession of St Mary of the Cross. Each week the pages containing the prayer requests are forwarded to North Sydney and placed near the tomb of St Mary MacKillop in the Chapel at Mary MacKillop Place.



THE AUSSIE CAMINO

**From Portland to Penola beginning
with Mass at East Melbourne**

Signing of Register of Pilgrims then travel to Portland

10 days of walking through spectacular country

For further information

Call MMHC 03 9926 9300 or

Email Luke Mills at lukej.mills@bigpond.com

A great way to spend the school holidays!

REPORT FROM LIBERIA Days for Girls

Report from Robyn Suttie

I was asked by a friend to accompany herself and another Lady to an orphanage in Monrovia. Liberia. The orphanage is run by the Asst. Pastor of a local Church and his wife, who have taken on the responsibility of raising 20 Ebola orphans, who live with a cook in a house owned by the Church. Liberia is recovering from years of war and the people are weary. My role would be to set up two sewing centres in two separate locations and to teach the women to sew DFG kits which they could sell at the markets and earn much needed income.

We arrived in Monrovia at 4.00 a.m. to be overwhelmed with low lying smog, pollution and petrol fumes and the back of my throat experienced a slight burning sensation. We were picked up at 6.30 am and driven to our guest house on the foreshore of the Atlantic Ocean. What a blessing it was each evening to return here and have some respite from the heat, humidity, poverty and pollution by going for a swim, paddle or stroll along the beach even though it was littered with rubbish.

Our first week of 4 days began! Group One was already organised with a group of about 12 young women attending Future Foundation Skills Training School and were already learning hairdressing, soap making and tie- dying. A tailor had already taught them basic hand sewing stitches and there were two treadle sewing machines. Because of the short attention span of the girls, hand sewing it was. The container had not arrived with much needed sewing machines and flannelette, but we did have 2 ms of PUL and \$'s to buy fabric. There were no tables, so a tarpaulin was laid on the floor and the cutting out of shields began. We changed the size of the bag to a larger backpack design to suit the girls' needs. Second hand flannelette pillow-cases were obtained. DFG quality control went flying out the window! Further donated \$'s enabled us to purchase four tables to be shared between the two groups, so no more crawling around the floor!

The second group, also about 12 women had only one treadle machine used by a Church member who volunteered his time for the week, along with a young man who wanted to be part of it. This was a more challenging group with limited sewing skills or non-existent skills and little or no English. We bought vinyl to cover the dirt floor, fabric, tables, scissors and thread. So with donated flannelette (a holey piece as sample) and pillow cases we started on hand sewing the liners. The tailor and the young man happily made the bags.



Once again a huge potential to become a micro enterprise once all the quality control and other criteria is met. Finances are so limited that these groups need to get up and running, even with just bags and pods (one shield and liner) to give them immediate income both for personal living expenses and to enable them to replace the fabric.



I believe it is important to go with an open mind and willingness to listen and be flexible and sensitive to the culture you are visiting. On reflection I realise I have been left with a tremendous feeling of satisfaction and achievement, a coming together of all I have learnt and experienced since my first visit to Uganda in 2008. like a parcel of ten years of my life neatly tied up with a bright orange bow!

Many, many thanks to the Josephite Associates for their ongoing support and encouragement.

Robyn Suttie

REGIONAL DAYS

RUSHWORTH Sixteen enthusiastic Associates from Rushworth, Nagambie, Murchison, Euroa, Stanhope, Colbinabbin, and Gilgarre gathered at Murchison for our first Regional Day for 2018. Though a hot day we felt comfortable in the lovely St Brigid's Church and all enjoyed the reflection on Missionary Discipleship and the story of Irene McCormack rsj. The result of the day was that two present decided to become Associates and filled in an application form. Thank you to the Rushworth group who provided such a tasty morning tea



LEONGATHA On a lovely Gippsland Autumn day seventeen Associates gathered at Leongatha from Morwell, Wonthaggi and Leongatha to spend the day in reflection on what it meant to be a missionary disciple according to Pope Francis. After the first session of brainstorming they began to understand what a simple concept it was. Reflecting on the work of St Mary MacKillop and the early Sisters helped us realise the hardships they encountered in fulfilling this role. At the end of the day Dianne Bau of Traralgon was enrolled as a member of the Morwell group and all present joined with her in renewing their own commitment as Josephite Associates, which was re-affirmed during the missioning ritual. Thank you to the Leongatha group for their hospitality and morning tea provisions. I think all left feeling refreshed in body and spirit, ready to embrace their call as Associates in the months to come.



Now what word starts with that letter!!!



Dianne Bau signing the Associates Register

PAKENHAM

Seventeen women from Pakenham, and Iona spent a lovely day reflecting on Missionary Discipleship lived out by Mary MacKillop and one of her Sisters, Irene McCormack. Information about the Associates in Peru made us realise the similarities of the Josephite Mission no matter where we live. Five new faces came to the day with some hoping to become Associates in the future. There is a dynamism at work in Pakenham with several new members during the last couple of years. A lovely morning tea, served with loving hospitality, was enjoyed by all.



Waiting patiently for the technology to be ready.



I like your bag Marianne.

AROUND THE TRAPS

MELTON St Dominic's

In May eight men and women commenced the Introductory Program to become Josephite Associates. From both parishes, St Dominic's Melton and St Anthony's, Melton South, they hope to meet for the next four months and then become enrolled as Associates. This we may do at the Regional Gathering at Sunbury in September or at the Annual Mass. when they will have completed the program. This is the first group to be established in Melton and we may have more join as the program continues. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey towards their preparation to join the Josephite family.

CATHOLIC PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

This Council was launched on Pentecost Sunday. Sr Monica Cavanagh gave the Sisters a very informative talk on the Council and that ALL are invited to participate by sending in their thoughts and ideas.

By entering into Google **Plenary Council 2020** you can subscribe and be kept up-dated or read what is on the several links. The website states:

Together we are on a journey of listening to God by listening to one another.

We invite all Australians to engage in an open and inclusive process of listening

Dialogue and discernment about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Your voice is needed—join in!

Either as individuals or as a group you may like to discuss some of the concerns you have for the Church of the future and forward them. The question you can ask, pray about and reflect on is:

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD IS ASKING OF THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA TODAY?

YOU are the Church—YOU have a responsibility—The Bishops are asking YOU!

ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA, 16 ESPLANADE, WILLIAMSTOWN 2018 PROGRAMS **PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS - We Listen to the heartbeat.....**

Each session: 1.30—3 p.m. Repeated 7.30—9p.m. Donation: Subsidised \$10 Cost: \$20

"To listen to the heartbeat of God is to listen both within the vastness of the universe and within the intimacy of our own hearts" John Philip Newell

June 28th Everyone's business Bishop Mark Edwards OMI

**August 23rd Listening to the Heartbeat of those Desiring Recognition and Treaty
Sherry Balcombe and Marianne Zeinstra rsj**

Sept 20th Listening to the Heartbeat of the Rural People. - Lynette Young rsj

Oct 25th Listening to the Heartbeat of those seeking asylum in this country—Rita Malavisi rsj

**Nov 25th A Pilgrimage to the Heart of God through the practice of Centering Prayer
Yvonne Harte rsj**

CRAFT MORNINGS: First Thursday of each month (except July) 10 am—12 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN : Second Thursday of the month (except July) 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

SPIRITUALITY OF ART Therese Quinn rsj 27th Feb; 6th Mar; 13th Mar. 20th Mar

WOMEN IN THE GOSPELS: Thursday 7.30 p.m.—9 p.m.

7th June; 2nd Aug, 6th Sept. 4th Oct. 1st Nov.

**FOR INFORMATION RE RETREATS LIVE-IN AND LIVE OUT and
USE OF FACILITIES FOR GROUPS**

CONTACT: ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA

03 9397 6012 or

admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au





STAMPS

REQUEST RE SORTING OF STAMPS

Below is a list of how we sort currently. It would be most helpful if **cut** stamps are not put into the same plastic bag with **uncut stamps** as this requires sorting out when it reaches its destination. Sr Helen Sauders

**AUSTRALIAN UNDER \$1 – Excluding
Concession and Excluding 70 cents**
AUSTRALIAN .70 CENTS
AUSTRALIAN CONCESSIONS
AUSTRALIAN \$1
AUSTRALIAN OVER \$1 TO \$20
AUSTRALIAN OFF PAPER ALL VALUES
OVERSEAS (FOREIGN) ON PAPER
OVERSEAS (FOREIGN) OFF PAPER
INTERNATIONAL STAMPS (Blue strip on stamp)
OTHER:
MISCELLANEOUS STAMP ITEMS,
E.G.: FIRST DAY COVERS
COLLECTIONS, STAMP ALBUMS

USED STAMPS

Used postage stamps have raised \$244,000 for the Peruvian Mission. Please leave a border of about **3cm** around the stamps.

Please take note of border to be left

Please forward stamps to:

STAMPS
Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805



BOXES OF STAMPS TO:

5 Alexander Avenue,
Croydon NSW 2132

Thank you

As postage has increased members of the group may like to contribute to the cost.

FROM THE OFFICE:

THANK YOU to all who sent in their subscriptions and donations. You keep us operating.
Check out the sosj.org.au website for interesting articles

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Mary Fermio RSJ,
 Editor—Associates' Newsletter,
 Josephite Associates' Office,
 PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

OR Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au.
Or vic.associates@sosj.org.au

OR Phone/Fax: 03 5367 2078
 For all enquiries related to Associates

BULLETIN BOARD

Death brings

New life.

Gum tree Penola coming alive after storms. Now removed.

We keep in our prayers those who have died
 Carmel O'Kane, Numurkah
 Rosa Lamanna, sister in law of Grace, Margaret,
 and Lyn Berlinger, Lakes Entrance
 Steve Taylor, Son-in-law, of
 Maureen Fowler, Nagambie
 Christine Velthuis, sister of Jose Noy rsj
 Ellen (in England) mother of Patricia Keane,
 Mirboo North
 In England, Mother of Julia Mosley
 Jim Dunlevy, husband of Robyn (Nicholls) and
 brother-in-law of Christine van Order
 Betty Loftus, Morwell, ex Core-team Member
 Alma Church, sister of Audrey Thomson rsj
 Sr Loreto Cuffe rsj

BOOK REVIEW

A FAITH-FILLED FAMILY Judith Geddes rsj
 Mary MacKillop's Sisters and Brothers

Sr Judith has used formerly unknown correspondence between members of Mary MacKillop's immediate family and thus has introduced readers to Mary's parents and siblings.

The story of an ordinary close-knit family in the 19th Century for whom religion was very important, based on letters which "brought news, interest and connection being the primary means of communication between family members".

Available for \$30 from Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

BREAKTHROUGH by Fr Rob Galea, Bendigo

A Journey from Desperation to Hope
 After living a life using drugs, stealing and drinking to help him feel worthwhile, Rob found a way out of his darkness and despair. The words of a youth worker in his home land of Malta started him on a different path where he found that Jesus did listen to him.

I found these words very important: "Christianity is primarily seen by many as a *religion* rather than a *relationship*. Well it isn't. A Christian does not follow a religion, but a person: Jesus Christ. The purpose of the practice of religion (prayer, practice of the sacraments and worship with the believing community) is to serve and deepen our relationship with God, personally and communally." A good gift for a young person as it is written in a conversational style. Available from Pauline Books and Media or www.frrobalea.com @ \$24.95