



Josephite Companions Aotearoa

Nga hoa pumau o Hato Hohepa ki Aotearoa

Friendship # Prayer # Service

March 2020

Greetings everyone. Lots of news this month about the Sisters that I thought you would all like to read as well as a report from Pauline McGuire's visit around the Companions groups in November that missed the last newsletter.

If you receive this newsletter by post you will find the IJALT newsletter and the flyer about the Associates Conference in your envelope. If you receive this by email you will have received the IJALT newsletter and Conference flyer direct from Carrollanne O'Brien in Sydney who manages our data base and does the distribution of material.

The Associates Conference is being held in Adelaide from 5-7th July 2020. The theme is "Be Courageous and Full of Hope". Read more about it in the IJALT newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE SISTERS!

Jubilarians Aotearoa NZ 2020.

- 80th Louise O'Kane
- 75th Philomena Turney
- 70th Doreen Hannan
Molly Thompson
Benedict Tolich
- 60th Colette Forde
Margaret O'Neill
Catherine Woodcock
- 50th Jeanette Conheeny
Winifred Fouhy
- 40th Eugenia Helsham
Liz Hickey
Helen Caughley

As you see, we have 13 sisters this year in Aotearoa NZ celebrating a Jubilee, with Louise O'Kane and Philomena Turney topping the list, celebrating 80 & 75 years respectively – both amazing women.

For many years, the traditional date for most Sisters making their Josephite Commitment was the 6 January, so Jubilee commemorations are usually round this time. This year, as several of our Jubilarians were living at Mission Bay, they were duly honoured at the Eucharist on that day, followed by a special morning tea! We congratulate them all, as they celebrate another milestone of their Josephite Journey.



GROUPS OF SISTERS GATHERED IN SYDNEY FOR THEIR CELEBRATION DAYS

Jubilees are special times of 'giving thanks' of reconnecting with those original moments of 'inspiration and call' that drew us to setting out on the journey leading to a Religious Commitment. So, for those who celebrate Jubilees, it is often a time when we recall and note more clearly the '*faithfulness of our God.*' A God who loves unconditionally - in spite of our ups and downs, the low points and highs of our lives, - is always there. So, Jubilees are graced time of giving thanks.

In the Josephite tradition, the opportunity is given to sisters celebrating, to reconnect (in Sydney) with their peers who trained with them, were professed with them, often becoming life-long friends. This is a time of great joy, fun, laughter and tears, as firstly recognition takes place, when one sees beyond the now greying hair, the wrinkles, for some the walking frame of mates not seen for many years! Sadness too, as the absence of faces known and loved are remembered, for them, the journey completed. In no time though, all the years fall away....and they are young again! This reconnecting, sharing, hearing, listening to the life experiences of one another, have an amazing impact, not only does it renew that initial commitment, but invariably fires and enthuses again as they return once more to the day-to-day living out of mission.

Rita Cahill rsj

MORE NEWS FROM PAULINE'S TRIP AROUND THE SOUTH ISLAND

Pauline McGuire had a wonderful trip seeing our country and meeting many people along the way. She was amazed by all our groups who gathered as she went down the country.

She wrote:

The visitation and discussions with the groups were extremely beneficial, even the small and elderly groups provided inspiration through their passion and love of the Josephite Charism. Their deep faith and love of Mary MacKillop shines through their stories of the companions and the sisters over the years. I feel capturing these stories is an important part of the movement moving forward. Their stories will help us to maintain a connection to our history while inspiring us to move forward with the same passion, and connection to the Josephite Charism.



The fortnight was a very busy, tiring but exciting journey. I left New Zealand feeling inspired by these members. Seeing the groups in their areas helped me to understand where the movement is, where there are strengths and where we as IJALT could assist in growing the movement. I finished the journey hopeful and feeling that we are on the correct path.

CHRISTCHURCH GROUP



DUNEDIN COMPANIONS

ARROWTOWN GATHERING



FILM REVIEW: THE TWO POPES

This film picks up the story of Pope Benedict and Francis before the election of the former.

It is written by Andrew McCarten a New Plymouth man who was educated at Francis Douglas College. He has won Oscars previously for screen plays and was nominated again for this film.

The stars are Anthony Hopkins (Benedict) and Johnathan Pryce (nominated for an Oscar for his role as Francis)

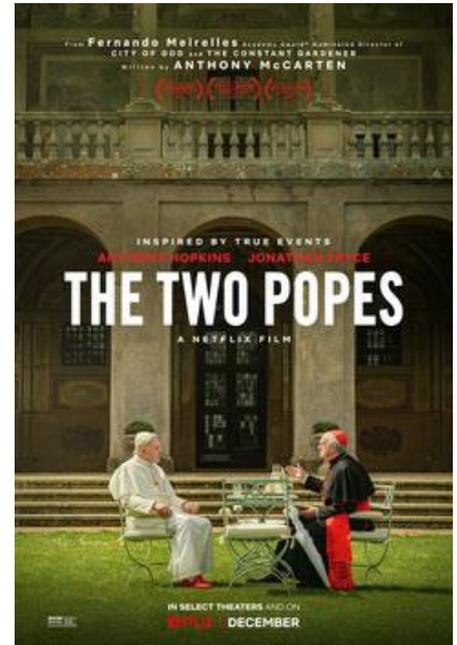
The film, purporting to be based on true events, reveals the struggles between self doubt and looming abuse scandals facing Benedict, who refuses to accept the resignation of Francis, the then Cardinal Bergoglio. It explores the background of Cardinal Bergoglio,.. his call to the priesthood and his difficulties in accepting liberation theology, leading to alienation within the Jesuit order.

It is very impressive as it portrays the struggle between tradition and progress, guilt and forgiveness as these two very different men confront their pasts in order to find common ground and forge a future for the Catholic Church and its followers.

It is uplifting, insightful and heartwarming...

It is available on Netflix and has had only a limited showing in the main centres, because it was funded by Netflix. See if you can watch it somewhere.

Marie Skidmore rsj



RIP Our deepest sympathies and prayers to the families of these people who died recently.

Sister Veronica Keane

David Williams brother of Sisters Mary Therese and Kathleen.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Sister Monica Cavanagh the Congregational leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours 2020 For Service to the Catholic Church of Australia.

At the recent Chapter of the Sisters Sister Monica was re-elected as the leader for a further term of 6 years. To read more about Sister Monica follow this link to the SOSJ website.



<https://www.sosj.org.au/leader-australia-day-award/>

STAMPS STAMPS STAMPS



Don't forget to save your used stamps. These can be transformed into money for Mary MacKillop Today projects.

They can be sent to either

Tui Motu Magazine, PO Box 6404 Dunedin North 9059

or to "Stamps" 30 Holgate Road Kohimarama, Auckland 1071

AUCKLAND EVENT

Celebrating St Joseph. Thursday 19 March, 5.30pm.

A time of prayer to honour Joseph and how his life is an inspiration for us today. A finger food tea will follow this time of prayer.

All are invited. Registrations to : Auckland.MMKC@sosj.org.au



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.



MARCH PRAYER SHEET 2020

JOSEPH THE LOVING PARENT

GATHERING:

Sit quietly and allow the Divine Presence to settle around you. Gaze at the two images on this sheet and allow them to resonate in you. Breathe in the life of the universe ... breathe out love.



This card shows Joseph preparing to place Jesus in the manger while Mary is sleeping nearby. The donkey's saddle and the cargo-basket hang from the cross-beam. In the background we see the mountain trail that Mary and Joseph used on their way to Bethlehem. This card is hand made by the Subanen people of the Southern Philippines. Sales of their cards help them to provide food, education, housing and health care for their families and help them care for their habitat.

Website: www.subencrafts.com

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LISTENING:

What a pity we so often presume that Jesus knew intuitively the best way of relating and acting; that, because he was divine, the human tendency for a child to learn from, and model himself on his parents was somehow suspended in his case. Yet to follow through our belief that Jesus was a genuine human person who “became as we are” is to realize a new perspective on his father, Joseph.

Where did Jesus learn the value of being compassionate, of being single-minded in living out the commitment to his mission, of being fearless in defending the truth, of being gentle and kind of being silently and patient under provocation, of turning naturally to God in prayer? Does it seem unreasonable to assume that, like so many boys before and after him, Jesus observed, admired and copied the behaviour of his father and mother, and gradually absorbed into his own personal life, the values that he saw mirrored in the lives of these two people who walked life with him for so many years.....

from the writings of Sister Mary Dunn rsj

BREAKING OPEN AND SHARING:

What do these art works tell you of Joseph? Joseph was not a person of many words, but a man of action. He left us no recorded words, not even one sentence, but continually showed love in action.

RESPONDING:

Joseph's message, like that of his Son is twofold - *firstly*, what God asks of us is essentially simple - that we walk compassionately, faithfully, trustingly, prayerfully with one another, evoking a smile, awakening a hope, even in a world where smiling and hoping are not easy and where clowns and men with donkeys do not top the gallop polls. *Secondly* what we are asked to do has been done successfully by so many ordinary, everyday people before us, because they have remembered, and have had faith to recognize, that we walk, not only with our contemporaries, but with the risen Jesus and with the two people, who more than any other human beings most share his concern about us - with Joseph and his wife Mary. May we like Joseph, embrace the message of Jesus, to 'Act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God' to bring love, compassion and hope, to our day-to-day encounters.

from the writings of Sister Mary Dunn rsj

Prayer to Joseph

Faithful Joseph:

Teach us to listen and not be afraid to trust as you did in God's promise.

Loving Joseph:

Teach us to love courageously with a heart that is free and just.

Protector Joseph:

Teach us to protect one another and all that belongs to God.

Dreamer Joseph:

Teach us to dream a world where all are neighbors; a vision illuminated by God's light.

Teacher Joseph:

Teach us to keep the Word of God close to our hearts, and to proclaim it in word and action.

Gentle Joseph:

Teach us to be gentle with our power and strong in our tenderness.

Parent Joseph:

Teach us to be for all persons a living lesson of goodness and truth - a blessing for all generations to come. Amen.

**Shared with permission by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet.*



"Jesus & Joseph Sway"

©Artwork Credit: Jane Maisey rsj - designjane.com

Invitation to include other prayers, songs or music that suit your group.

"In Saint Joseph's care I leave you." (Mary MacKillop 1873)



Prepared by the Josephite Companions Aotearoa March 2020