

Associates News

Welcome to the **JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QUEENSLAND** Quarterly Newsletter

Celebrating **Winter** — June 2020

(The sisters) must be poor, humble, and consider themselves the least among all religious orders, studying to keep themselves and their lives hidden in God as the life of Saint Joseph was. (Original Rule 1867)

For the past 30 years or so, when a person is applying for work or a position on an advisory board, self-promotion has become the norm. This is exactly opposite to what we know of the life of Saint Joseph.

How does this impact on our lives as Josephite Associates? It is essential that we regularly reflect on how our lives meet our Prayer, Friendship and Service pillars, in the Josephite tradition, as a means to praise God, in the hidden way of life of Saint Joseph. Looking inward, there is no problem with this.

However, to continue to grow our Associate movement to a sustainable entity, we also need to ensure that there is appropriate knowledge, within our parishes, of the work being undertaken by us.



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FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SEASONAL NEWS PLEASE EMAIL:
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How can we do this? Individually, we need to do the “hard yakka”, but when publicising the Associates, we need to make sure that our acts are not seen as a specific person’s achievement and that we are supporting each other in the many activities that we are involved in.

To continue the work of our founders, Saint Mary of the Cross and Father Julian Woods, it is important that our presence as a part of the church is as well recognised as the role of religious within our parishes, not as a competition, but as complimentary.

Are we up to the challenge? Yes, as long as when we ‘see the needs’, we continue to ‘do something about it’.

Ken Theodore (Townsville Associate)

PRAYER

21 May is the anniversary of the death of Sister Irene McCormack.

Let us remember her and the four men who died with her:

Ruben, Augustine, Pedro and Alfredo.

They lived and worked with the poor and vulnerable,

they gave their lives so that they may live to the full:

They were just doing what they knew was right.

We remember especially our Sister Irene,

living ‘on mission to her last breath’.

God, Advocate of the poor,

As we remember the death of Irene and her companions,

Give us an appreciation of a life well lived.

Support our Josephite longing

To Act with Justice

To Love with Compassion

And to Walk Humbly with God.

We make this prayer through the crucified Christ,

And the Spirit of Mission. Amen.



Message from the Josephite Associate Leadership Team (Qld)

Greetings All.

As we finish our second Newsletter for 2020 life has changed many times since our last contact, we have been isolated, quarantined and now the first signs of normality begins. It has been a challenging time for all, remembering those that have lost their lives and their families. Our prayers and thanks also go to the health workers, cleaners and essential workers especially in the countries where the virus has had a much larger effect than it has in Australia. They have kept us safe, healthy and fed.

I would like to ask for your prayers for **Rosa Davila**, an Associate and Covenant in Peru, she is extremely ill at this time. Rosa and her family have been involved in the lives of the sisters in Peru since the beginning. They have worked tirelessly in ministry alongside the Sisters with the poor and most vulnerable.

The leadership team would like to welcome **Anne Child** as our newest member. Anne joins us as we farewell **Marie Sellin**. Anne will bring a new dynamic to the team and we all look forward to working with her over the next few years. The team would also like to thank all the members for your ongoing support and all that you do in your local area to maintain and nurture the Josephite Charism.

We hope that in June some time we will be able to hold small prayer groups again. With this in mind the leadership team thought it good timing to send out a template for the annual report from groups. This template is meant to assist you in sending us information that can assist us in assessing how best to help each group as well as the Associate Movement in Qld. We are sending the template now but we do not require it returned until October 2020. This gives us time for things to return to 'normal' but also gives you time to fill it in and get it back.

Pauline McGuire, Chair

Taking care of your mental health during COVID-19



**Stay
connected**

Keep in touch with friends and family via email, social media, video conferencing or telephone



**Maintain
a healthy
lifestyle**

- Establish a regular daily routine
- Get plenty of sleep and eat nutritious meals
- Engage in exercise and physical activities that you like



**Stay
positive**

Remember that this period of self-isolation or quarantine is temporary and follows expert advice to help contain the virus



**Stay
informed**

Obtain accurate information from reliable sources like the Australian Government and the World Health Organization



Seek support

Mental health services are available if you're feel anxious, worried or overwhelmed



healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-and-wellbeing

healthdirect

QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE VISITATION

Early in March **Beverley Badcock**, a member of the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT), visited some Associate groups in Queensland to present some of the new guidelines that are being prepared by the Team in preparation for the Conference to be held in Adelaide in July 2020.

Townsville in North Queensland was the first stop and the small group of Associates who attended were enthusiastic to learn about the forthcoming changes. We welcomed **Sister Lyn rsj**, Regional Leadership Team, and **Sister Carmel rsj** to the meeting. Points presented:

- Work of IJALT? IJALT Newsletter
- Administration Handbook to include Policies, Guidelines for Leaders
- Discernment Handbook for New Members
- New Logo/Badge
- Discussion of the Four Pathways for involvement with Sisters of Saint Joseph Associates
- Conference to be held in Adelaide in July
- Charism of Mary MacKillop.



Rockhampton Associates enjoy meeting and sharing a meal and the home-baked food was very enjoyable. **Sister Margaret Smith rsj**, who works in the local area, was present at the meeting. A positive, caring spirit was evident among this aging group. They have a Prayer Circle and also keep in contact by phone with those who are sick as well as providing a meal for those who may not be able to care for themselves. Most of those present were invited to become Associates at the request of the Sisters. They will pray for new members to join and learn about Mary MacKillop.

Clermont is situated about 400 kilometres from Rockhampton and again the enthusiasm was evident. **Sister Helen rsj** assists with the meetings and prayer services. Many of these Associates are very active in parish work and were supportive of the launching of the new resources and hope they receive a



copy. They were keen to inform me about the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph at Copperfield and my sister and I took a visit to locate the memorial erected in memory of Saint Mary MacKillop.



I was privileged to attend the **Queensland Associate Leadership Team** face-to-face meeting in Brisbane and hear of their plans for the coming year, Congratulations to this dedicated group. I really

learnt many new strategies to assist with the planning for groups elsewhere.

Whilst in Brisbane I met with the **Yeronga** Associates and again the welcoming spirit and dedication of an aging group was evident. The group liked the vibrant colors of the new logo and were keen to learn about the Four Pathways. They



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SPOTLIGHT ON AN ASSOCIATE – Taya Bortignon



My name is Taya Bortignon, I was inducted into the Josephite Associates in August 2018. I am 32 years old and live in sunny Townsville in Northern Queensland. My Associate journey began when I started my role as Assistant Principal Religious Education at St Joseph's Catholic School in 2016. I was invited to attend the Associates' monthly prayer, Praying with Mary, and at that time in my life I felt drawn to being part of a small prayer group who found comfort, inspiration, spiritual growth and purpose from Mary MacKillop.

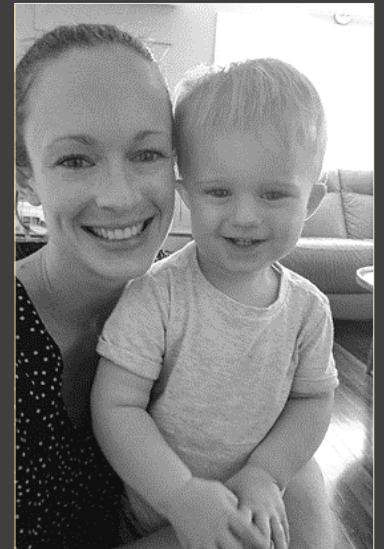


My reasons for being drawn to the Josephite Associates stemmed from a few different facets of my life; my role as an educator, striving to remain faithful during trying times and the desire to be and do more. I remember learning about Mary MacKillop in primary school and feeling such a sense of alignment with her purpose and faith. Since becoming a teacher in 2009 my admiration for Mary MacKillop and the inspiration I drew from her in my everyday life strengthened within me.

Another reason I felt drawn to go to that first prayer group was because I was struggling to remain positive and have faith on my journey to conceive a child. Mary MacKillop's complete trust in God was an inspiration to me. I

changed the way I prayed; from asking God for the blessing of a child to being comfortable in knowing that God's will would be done and my time to be a mother would come. After six years of trying to conceive, enduring many tests and doctors' visits, we welcomed our incredible baby boy, Remi, into the world in October 2018, and yes, I cry every time I think about it.

The final reason I became a Josephite Associate was my need to be and do more. Our Associates have a number of ways in which we are of service to others in our community, one of which is the MacKillop Bag Ministry. It provides people who are newly released from prison or youth detention with a blue bag containing essential items such as toiletries and phone, food and clothes vouchers, which aims to give them a sense of dignity and a hand-up during a time which can be uncertain for many. While in my role at St Joseph's I was able to raise awareness of the ministry as well as collect donations and pack the blue bags.



Life with a toddler and the recent COVID-19 has changed my involvement in the Josephite Associates, but only temporarily. In times of change and distance, our group prayer still happens via email each month. I feel blessed and incredibly honoured to be part of a community of faith-filled people whose mission is to keep the Josephite Charism and spirit which Mary MacKillop inspired alive and flourishing in the world today.

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QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE VISITATION

expressed concern that they could not be actively involved but the Prayer Circle is very strong. **Sister Genevieve rsj** was present at the meeting and sharing the morning tea provided time to catch up with each other's news.

The meeting at **Nundah** had to be cancelled because of lockdown, the beginning of many new ways people have to manage living in uncertain times.

The Queensland Visitation gave me renewed hope that the Spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods will continue to be present in the Josephite Associates in Queensland.



DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER/S:

AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE)

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$.....

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO:

QUEENSLAND JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP TEAM
VILLA MARIA CONVENT
123 WARREN STREET
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

EMAIL: qldassociates@sosj.org.au

CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

OR PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT:

COMMONWEALTH BANK
ACCOUNT NAME: JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD
BSB: 064163
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10429581
REFERENCE: SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

Thank you for your donation!

