



'Journeying With Joseph' Launch Address

Sr Mary Cresp, Kensington, 16 June 2021

The author Patrick Warburton, known by his pen name Lemony Snicket, says this:

"There are those who say life is like a book, with chapters for each event in your life and a limited number of pages on which to spend your time. But I prefer to think that a book is like life, particularly a good one, which is worth staying up all night to finish."

Well, I don't know if you will stay up all night to finish this book, "Journeying with Joseph", but I can imagine people dipping into it to read a chapter on a particular topic here and there for particular occasions or to gain some insight.

It's more like what the Canadian novelist Robertson Davies said:

"The great book for you is the book that has the most to say to you at the moment when you are reading. I do not mean the book that is most instructive, but the book that feeds your spirit. And that depends on your age, your experience, your psychological and spiritual need."

For this reason, I hope you will find "Journeying with Joseph" a great book – one that feeds your soul and invites you to enter a world that goes beyond immediate concerns to introduce you to characters who inspire and fill you with hope.

Thank you, Sister Monica Cavanagh, for launching this book into the community. I appreciate your making it available to our Sisters and your noting the essay themes that show how society today relates to Joseph in different cultures and circumstances in life.

Thank you, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, for giving people here a taste of what they might find in its pages. I particularly appreciate your observation that the essays depict Joseph as a companion on the life journey.

Thank you, Hilary Regan, for daring to suggest that this book be written and for undertaking its publication. You ensure that the word of God is continually expressed in today's language and in different circumstances. Thank you too to your assistant Gabriel Siqueira for attending to the rather monotonous task of indexing.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, look at all the people who are needed to raise a book!



Besides those already named, there are proof-readers at all stages of production – thank you to any of you here tonight. Of course, I'm not the only one to give birth to this book. Those who wrote the articles, including Sr Susan Pollard and Michele Fairbairn, in partnership we have mothered its essence and character – thank you.

I'm mindful of those who make celebrations possible – thank you to Sr Christine Schwerdt who now has meatballs coming out of her ears and little cakes invading her dreams – we are really grateful Chris for you catering this function. There are the people who moved chairs and tables to set up this room and then to decorate it.

There's Sr Maryellen Thomas who has attended to the COVID requirements and has overseen the organisation of tonight. Sisters Chris McArthur and Ann Leesue graciously welcomed you and acted as marshals for our health. I thank you, Sr Brigette Sipa, our Regional Leader, for being MC tonight.

And thank you, friends and guests who have made this gathering a kind of baptism for the book as we send it out to do its thing in our world.

When he set aside this year to honour God's work through St Joseph, Pope Francis expressed the hope that ordinary people would find a friend in St Joseph. He, like most people, lived in the shadows and yet played a critical role in Jesus revealing God's total love in human form.

I'm hoping this book will be an extension of St Joseph – a work that is simple and ordinary and yet contains a word, a message within it that can play a significant part in the life journey of its reader.