

OUR VISION

*In the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,
'Sisters of Saint Joseph Works' continues God's mission by responding
to the needs of today, offering hope and life in its fullness.*

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*This is what God
asks of you: to act justly
Only this, to love tenderly
to walk humbly
with your God*

- Micah 6:8

&

*I have come that
you may have life
and have it to the full*

- John 10:10

The vision statement of SOSJ Works is emboldened by the words from the prophet Micah and John's gospel. Mary and Julian would have been very familiar with and enthused by both Scripture passages and their works exemplified them. They shared a deeply revolutionary vision for what it is to be involved in mission. They railed against unjust practices on every front.

Living in a largely agricultural part of the country, which was more akin to desolate wasteland, devoid of life in any sort of abundance, outside the governmental centres of power, led Micah to a strong concern for the lowly and less fortunate of society. Micah's accusations against Israel and Judah involved these nations' injustice toward the lowly - unjust business dealings, robbery, mistreatment of women and children and a government that lived in luxury off the hard work of its nation's people.

The words spoken by Jesus and recorded in the gospel of John are part of the Good Shepherd story where Jesus not only describes himself as the shepherd, but also the gate through which the sheep will find protection and love, enabling them to live life without fear of attack from "thieves and bandits."

Jesus proclaims that he will bring them not just life, but life in abundance. If we take these words to heart, Jesus is offering each of us not just life, but life in abundance. Regardless of our circumstances, we live into our best selves with others – within a flock. It is in our engagement and commitment to our flock, that we will experience the fullness of human existence. We want and need the opportunity to become the best of ourselves. Mary's words, written in 1899, are the gift of her reflections on John 10:10 and invite us to form solidarity with all of life in our actions, in our words and in our prayer.

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***God wants us by every means
possible to lead others to life.***

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Micah, Jesus, Mary and Julian placed no boundaries on their mission to revolutionise the world to reflect the beauty and love of God. Theirs was an enduring patience, flamed by a new vision. May we claim the invitation to "continue God's mission by responding to the needs of today, offering hope and life in its fullness."



FRAMEWORK FOR REFLECTION

Take a moment in quiet contemplation as you respond to the reflection questions below.

Individual Reflection

In my role:

- What do I identify as “the needs of today?”
- How do I respond to those needs?
- What does “life in its fullness mean to me?”
- How do I “offer hope?”

Group Reflection

In our ministry context:

- What does Micah's theme offer us as we respond to God's mission today?
- How are we called to respond to Mary MacKillop's invitation to "lead others to life?"

Blessing

May the blessings of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods fire us anew with their spirit of prophetic charity and generous participation in God's mission.

And may the blessings of the prophet Micah encourage us with a heart for mission as we respond to the injustices in our world today.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Good Shepherd and of the Spirit of Mission.

Amen

