

Valuing...



CREATIVE COURAGE

As participants in SOSJ Works, we accept that the value of Creative Courage will be our badge. It will be, as it was for Mary and Julian, the means of making life better for all in our midst.

As Julian recalled in his memoirs, whilst travelling his vast parish of Penola on horseback he dreamt of having Religious Sisters “who would live poorly and would go into remote parts of the colony and give proper religious instruction to poor scattered children”. When Mary disclosed her desire to be a religious, he saw the potential of this dream becoming a reality.

Mary and Julian shared a vision which required every ounce of creativity and courage to become a reality. The establishment of the first Religious Order in Australia co-founded by an Australian and the use of an abandoned stable to birth their vision, are just some examples of their creative courage. Their words continue to inspire us.

Go on courageously and continue to pray

- JTW 1868

God wants us to take fresh courage

- MM 1874

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In the previous reflection on Vision, some of the “needs of today” were identified. In your role, focus on one of these needs and ask:

- What can I do to bring about a change for the better?
- Whose help do I need to begin this transformation?
- How can I begin the conversation?

While Creative Courage can be a personal challenge, we are called to share our gifts and encourage one another as we uphold the vision of SOSJ Works. In all our deliberations we must not forget we are working for the same cause and so are invited to open the conversation about being creative in our courage.

A conversation that may involve expanding our horizons by letting go of the familiar, as Mary did when she sent Sisters to Aotearoa New Zealand, Brisbane and Bathurst even when there was a shortage of Sisters to do so.

Or it may involve persevering in the face of adversity, as Mary did when confronted with ill health and the opposition of Bishops.

The Creative Courage expected from us must come from our genuine desire to relieve suffering and bring hope. We must be so much a courageous presence that our corner of the planet becomes a better place because we are in it.

PRAYER

Courageous God,
what the world needs from us is courage – inspired, imaginative and innovative.
May we be filled with new confidence as we work together to bring to fruition our daring dreams. In Mary’s words, let us “work with constancy and courage.” Amen.

CREATIVE: inventive, imaginative, inspired, productive, original, innovative

COURAGE: feeling fear yet choosing to act, persevering in the face of adversity, standing up for what is right, facing suffering with dignity and faith



Courage is a way of living in the world. It can be admired from any distance, but you can discover it only through lived experience. Sometimes this has to be achieved in the midst of hardship. It is in the midst of hardship or challenge that courage stirs, rises and comes awake.

- Stephanie Dowrick