

OUR MISSION

*We are a ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.
We strive for positive transformative relationships with Earth and her people.
We work in collaboration as partners in mission to create opportunities for
generational change.*

Our participation in SOSJ Works is our joining in God's mission. God's mission is for all creation. The Church is responding in God's mission. The SOSJ Works are contributing to God's mission along with many other groups. Together we all participate in God's mission.

In Luke's gospel Jesus aligned his mission with God's mission through the prophet Isaiah's proclamation.

“ *The Spirit of our God is upon me
because the Most High has anointed me
to bring Good News to those who are poor.
God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those
held captive, recovery of sight to the blind,
and release to those in prison -
to proclaim the year of our God's favour.* ”

Luke 4:18-19 - *The Inclusive Bible*

Just as Jesus was anointed for mission in his ministry of healing and outreach, we too in our participation at SOSJ Works are called to uphold the Josephite face of God's mission in the world today. The hallmarks of this mission are rooted in our founding charism and manifested in our works of outreach:

- To seek the poorest and most neglected parts of God's kin-dom
- To see education as the door to opportunity – building capacity
- To give priority to those in isolated and rural situations
- To be the face of God's compassionate love by reverencing the dignity of all through Conscious Compassion, Mutual Respect, Creative Courage and Intentional Inclusivity

- To live among the people in our common home Earth reverencing the whole of creation
- To be with people in the human and spiritual moments of life
- To embrace emerging possibilities.

We uphold these hallmarks not as individuals but as a collective community that strives with the same purpose. Akin to the disciples being anointed and sent on mission by the Spirit at Pentecost, and the subsequent missionary foundations of Christianity in Antioch, our participation in SOSJ Works gives a focus for our involvement. Like Jesus who was persecuted before them, the early Christians were led by the Spirit for the sake of God's mission. Even in the face of their own persecution and suffering they took opportunities to keep the gospel moving forward.

Similarly, in the lives of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, the Spirit of God emanated a particular way of living the gospel which wasn't without its challenges in the face of opposition. They pioneered a new model of religious life in Australia where the Sisters went out and lived amongst the people in their poverty, seeking to bring about the kingdom of God.

At SOSJ Works, it is through our engagement with God's mission, inspired by Mary and Julian's example, that transformative relationships with people and earth are made possible. God's mission implores us to live the gospel in new ways, responding to the challenges of our day.

FRAMEWORK FOR REFLECTION

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

Individual Reflection

In my role:

- How do I understand God's mission?
- Which hallmark of SOSJ Works mission do I resonate with most?
- Which hallmark calls forth growth in me?

Group Reflection

In our ministry context:

- How are we called to build up transformative relationships with people and earth?
- Where might the Spirit be calling our focus today?

Blessing

*Spirit of God,
as you inspired the prophet John the Baptist,
Joseph our patron,
Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and the Sisters
to respond to God's mission in their times,
give us the humility, foresight and courage we need to
participate in the SOSJ Works today.
Encourage us to attend to the needs of our Work
in ways that promote community,
and recognise our belonging in your mission of kinship.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.*

Amen