

THE EVOLVING STORY



BRING ME WHAT YOU HAVE

Sisters of Saint Joseph – 27th General Chapter – October 2019

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive

This Maori Proverb encourages each of us to bring what we have – words which echo the focus of the 27th General Chapter.

Around the time of Mary's canonisation, Fr James Fitzpatrick – an Oblate Priest – wrote to the Sisters calling them “heirs of Mary” and as such, they did not just share her heritage or her memory, but in truth they are her heritage and her memory.

In this evolving story, the Sisters are inviting us – the Staff and Board Members who minister in SOSJ Works – to take on this mantle. The Sisters are inviting us to learn from Mary and Julian, so that we can emulate them in our lives. This is our time.

As active participants in the Josephite Story we are called to respond joyfully and generously as Mary and Julian did in meeting the needs that challenge our specific ministry.

We, along with the Sisters, are working to bring justice, hope and dignity for all.

Through ministries supporting:

- First Nations People (Australia) and People of the Land (New Zealand)
- Care of the Earth
- Reconciliation
- Counter-Trafficking
- History and Heritage
- Spirituality and Contemplation
- Care and Well-Being
- Education in its broadest sense

- Children and Young Adults with all abilities
- Rural and Isolated Communities
- Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Those rendered voiceless in our society
- The people of Peru, Timor-Leste, Brazil

Our manner of living and working, our mission and ministry must breathe and embody the spirit and charism of our founders.

Just as Mary and Julian were open to the needs and challenges of their day, so we are called to be attentive to the changing needs of our time. We are challenged to ensure that our ministries flourish, exemplify contemporary best practice, and crucially remain faithful to our charism.

Each of us is summoned to play a part in this story – this evolving story as it thrives into the future.

The “basket” of gifts each of us brings to share, will ensure that the Josephite Story begun in 1866 will have a secure and certain future. A future that is immeasurably more than we could hope or imagine.

As we continue to learn from our past, live into our present and create space for a future that is filled with promise, we say -

**FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN – THANKS.
FOR ALL THAT SHALL BE – YES.**

*(Dag Hammarskjöld
former Secretary General of the United Nations)*

FRAMEWORK FOR REFLECTION

Take a moment in quiet contemplation to engage with the reflection questions below. You are then invited to pray the blessing.

Individual Reflection

- What is one aspect of Mary and / or Julian's life, that you could model in your ministry?
- What gifts do you bring in your "basket"?

Group Reflection

- What would you like your ministry to look like in ten years time?
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Blessing

May we be open to the possibilities and promises that each day offers.

*May we have the wisdom to read time clearly and to know
when the seed of change will flourish.*

*May we look to the future with joyful anticipation bearing in mind the
words of Mary MacKillop written in 1907:
"God will provide for the future".*

Amen

