



FRIENDSHIP
PRAYER
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NSW JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

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NEWSLETTER • November 2022

Reflection for NSW Josephite Companions

Dear Josephite Companions

We have come to the end of another year. This year we have much to be grateful for. Covid restrictions have been lifted and though we might need to be aware that it is still present among us, we can plan to start our regular meetings and gatherings. Covid has taught us many lessons I feel. It has taught us the need of community and friendship; it has taught us to quiet down and not rush into life, and also it has taught us to find time to reflect and create a relationship with our God. It taught us to be grateful for everything that we have, for the gift of life above all.

We had the final sessions of the Plenary Council where the Church in Australia, in the words of Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, tried to “reimagine the Church in Australia through a missionary lens.” He said, “There will be no renewal of the Church if we put ourselves above Christ or in some perverse way push him to the margins.” We, as Josephite Companions have the responsibility to care for Earth. We need to be aware that everything we own is a gift from God to us and we must care for it because it is precious. We are to care for those on the margins, those who are neglected and abandoned, those who do not share our opinions and ideals and those who feel left out of our communities. We have to be witnesses of an inclusive church. This was Mary MacKillop’s and Julian’s aim when they instituted the Congregation. Christ was the centre of their life and of everything they did.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred heart also celebrated 150 years of service since they came to NSW. You will read more about this in the article in this Newsletter. This was not just a celebration involving the Sisters but everyone who in some way helped the Sisters to settle here. It was also a celebration of all of us involved in the life of the Sisters now.

The Sisters marked this occasion with the celebration of the Mass in Bathurst. It was a lovely gathering. Lunch was served to all those present, who made the day memorable sharing stories and making new acquaintances.

As we end this year let us be grateful for all that we have received. Let us thank our God for always being there for us even when we think that we are travelling through life circumstances alone. Let us be thankful that Jesus came to be one like us, sharing in our humanity so we are able to share in his divinity.

We wish you and all your families the joy and blessing of a wonderful Christmas season. May the birth of the Child Jesus teach us humility and may God grant us to always have grateful hearts.

- Antoinette Mangion

Let us give thanks to God



**‘Do not any of you get discouraged.
Be humble, patient and charitable.’**

Mary MacKillop 17. 12. 1883

**‘The beauty upon which we look
and which we admire
is but the echo of something
which God had implanted in our souls.’**

Fr Julian Tenison Woods 27.07.1880



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Celebrating 150 years of Josephite service in NSW



Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart celebrating 150 years of service in NSW.

Celebrating 150 years of the arrival of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in NSW was a blessed event indeed.

The actual date was 16 July 1872 when Teresa McDonald, Hyacinth Quinlan, Joseph Dwyer and Ada Braham arrived in Perthville, near the NSW town of Bathurst.

Their memory was cherished as about 80 sisters from across the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart and Sisters

of St Joseph Lochinvar congregations arrived for the Mass in the Cathedral of St Michael and St John in Bathurst on the same day – 16 July 2022.

A rousing and evocative Welcome to Country preceded the entry into the Cathedral, already graced with the presence of many friends, supporters and past pupils. The current Bishop of Bathurst Michael McKenna and the Parish Priest Paul Devitt were joined by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, a past pupil of the Perthville school. Many priests of the diocese and further afield concelebrated with them. The liturgy was strong, brisk and all-embracing, later described as one of the best liturgies experienced for a long time.

The welcome post-Mass refreshments were happily prepared and served by the Country Women's Association, who said they loved being part of it all. The hall was alive with talk among old friends and new acquaintances, memories were unearthed, and the cake was cut.

It was then off to Perthville for the launch of the Heritage Centre App that provides entry into the vivid history of the Josephite convent and the school. The Heritage Centre itself is a jewel of archival access and interest and many availed themselves of its treasures. More food, more talk, more laughter, more memories.

It was a joy to be at Perthville for this special event. The sense of community between the sisters and the community was palpable, a communion embedded deep in the history of the place and its people, and still strong. Past boarders shared happy memories, ex-sisters proudly talked of their links, priests and bishops mingled and laughed, and current

employees and volunteers were happily part of the mix.

The community at Perthville, the Founders and Followers Committee and the Perthville Heritage Committee are to be congratulated for providing such an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate this important occasion. The organisation was excellent, allowing for a real experience of the Josephiteness that exists both in the sisters and the people.

The whole event had the element of 'ordinariness' and hospitality that expresses who we are and who we serve. Once again, we felt our roots.

- Sisters Susan Connelly, Josephine Mitchell and Jan Barnett.

Congratulations Mrs Mary Gallagher

We Josephite Companions of NSW acknowledge and congratulate Mrs Mary Gallagher from Peshurst on receiving the Dempsey Quiet Achievers Award in recognition for leading the Josephite Companions/Associates from 2004 to 2020.

The Dempsey Medal is awarded annually by Archbishop of Sydney to members of the Catholic clergy and laity.

The Dempsey Medal seeks to encourage and to recognise outstanding contributions and service by members of the Sydney Archdiocesan Community to the local Catholic Church or the wider society. It is primarily intended to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution in the context of their local parish.

**We would like to thank all
Josephite Companions who
contributed to the membership
and to JCoLT**

Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the
Josephite Mission in Peru

Please send to:
Boxes of Stamps
5 Alexandra Avenue
Croydon NSW 2132

Envelopes and packets to
Stamps, PO Box 184
Croydon NSW 2132

Phone 02 8741 2335

Thank you for all stamps received.

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Have you had a change since your last advice?

If yes, please contact us with your new details at:

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Subject: Email address change

SISTER JEAN CAIN

13 March 1937 – 10 May 2022

Sr Jean Cain devoted many years to the Perthville Josephite Associates and following fusion, to the Josephite Companions. Following a short illness, Sr Jean died peacefully on 10 May 2022.

Jean was born and raised in Cargo and spent her last two years of schooling at St Joseph's College at Perthville where she gained her leaving certificate. On 15 August 1954 Jean entered the Sisters of St Joseph at Perthville and completed her Novitiate and her teacher training.

Following her profession Sr Jean began a long relationship with the Catholic Schools in the Bathurst Diocese. She was a teacher and a principal. She served in Diocesan roles as Education Consultant for Primary Schools, as Acting Director of Education and as Diocesan Religious Education Coordinator. Innovative and professional, Jean will be remembered for her unfailing devotion to Catholic Education in the Bathurst Diocese.

Passionate, forthright, a clear thinker and a woman of faith, Sr



Jean served as the Leader of the Perthville Sisters for five years. Jean was a positive, cheerful and hardworking Josephite who dedicated herself to community life and was deeply embedded in the local parish and town, forming lasting friendships.

Sr Jean played a significant role in the development and ongoing animation of the Perthville Associates and served as their Director for many years. She loved visiting and encouraging the various groups and their coordinators and communicated regularly, producing informative newsletters. Perthville associates will be all too familiar with the photo of Jean at her computer! Jean was instrumental in arranging the annual Wellington Gatherings which were so worthwhile, with over 150 Perthville Associates in attendance from around the diocese. With various guest speakers, interesting sharing sessions, and catching up with sisters and friends, the Associates left the day feeling energised and enthused in the Josephite charism and mission.

Being forward thinking, Sr Jean organised meetings with the coordinators of the Goulburn and the Central Josephite associates. Following the fusion of the Perthville Sisters, and having shared the journey with the associates, Sr Jean instigated the combining of the Perthville Associates with the Central Josephite Associates. She then shared the journey with them as the Associates became the Josephite Companions.

Aged 85 and having served 65 years as a much-loved Josephite sister, Jean passed away on 10 May 2022 and is buried in the sister's cemetery at Perthville. May Sr Jean rejoice eternally in the presence of the God she served so generously throughout her life.

- Sr Therese McGarry rsj



Sr Jean Cain at right, with Perthville Associates.

Josephite Companions Canberra

Article from Pauline Hally-Burton

Seeing a need . . . and doing something about it

We are all familiar with this urging of Julian Tenison Woods from the Original Rule and we wondered what our small group could do in a practical sense to take on this challenge.

Our group

We are a group of 15 women (with our 'token male' as he calls himself who attends when he can) living in Canberra. We meet on the North side at St Joseph's Parish Centre in O'Connor, even though our members are spread in Parishes all over Canberra. We meet on the first Monday of the month for prayer and Scriptural reflection with Sr Colleen rsj who leads our group. We began to think we'd like to do more.

Identifying a need

We became aware of a number of women in our community who were ' doing it tough' and had a need for support. We decided they could become the focal point of our response. Christmas was looming and we thought we could gift these women with something personal and special for themselves. Subsequently, we have had a number of special drives devoted to bathroom needs, laundry goods and pantry supplies. This is what the photo captures - Sr Colleen's vehicle laden with donated goodies !



Group of Canberra Companions with donations for homeless women and children.

Our members donate items and also invite contributions from the members of their own Parish groups, through the Parish Bulletin - these have been met with very generous responses. The remarkable thing that has become clear to all of us, is how little effort it takes, to give others the dignity they deserve.

Find happiness in making others happy.

Mary MacKillop 1889

Story of Patricia Josephine Percival (Pat)

Patricia Josephine Percival (née Boller) was born on the 6th of May 1922 at Bimbaya (Birth Certificate showed Tantawanglo the adjoining district on the far south coast of N.S.W. She was the second child of a family of seven, born to James Robert Boller and Magdalena Eggenberger from Fischamend near Vienna, Australia. The family lived a happy contented life on the picturesque dairy farm 6 miles from the nearest town Candelo, in the Bega district.

Pat and her siblings were educated at the nearby state school, Tantawanglo.

In the eighth-year exam at 14 years old she attained excellent results. After spending some time helping at home, she became employed as post office mistress adjacent to Bimbaya Butterfactory. She was soon promoted to the larger Pambula post office and finally to Canberra GPO where she met a fine gentleman, Ken Percival. They were married in the catholic cathedral at Manuka, ACT. Upon Ken being transferred to Sydney GPO they moved to Sydney finally making their home at 234 Saxeville Street Canley Vale making it necessary for Ken to train travel each day to work.

Besides rearing the family of 4 boys and 2 girls they both became very involved in the Sacred Heart Parish of Cabramatta. With her outgoing personality and talents, she soon gained many friends and became involved in the following -
* 52 years as Catechist teacher and team coordinator for state schools for Sacred Heart Parish for which she received in 2011 the Pope John Paul award at Saint Mary's Cathedral. She was a member of the Legion of Mary, member of the Sacred heart sodality – women, 10 years member of Saint Vincent de Paul at Canley Heights and many years managing Piety Stalls at Sacred Heart Church and 26 years as Eucharistic Minister – Saturday mornings to the home bound! Membership at Fairfield for 16 years.

Through receiving information from her sister Beatrice concerning the



Pat and her sister, Sr Beatrice.



Pat, near St Mary's Cathedral holding the Pope John Paul II Award Emblem for 52 years of Catechist service in 2011.

formation of associates of the sisters of Saint Joseph of Goulburn Congregation, Pat became a dedicated associate happy to receive the newsletter and proud to wear the emblem. She has encouraged devotions and prayer to Saint Mary McKillop in her family. She has attended many special Joseph fight celebrations, including the fusion mass in Goulburn Centenary celebrations, Goulburn 1982, Taralga NSW 1984, Cooleman, Wagga Wagga Diocese, New South Wales. She has helped coordinate bus tours from Sacred Heart Parish to Mary McKillop Place and attended meetings with sisters of Burwood.

With deep sorrow Pat accepted with courage and resignation to God's will, the death of her husband Ken, aged 64 years in 1989, her beloved son, Bruce 68 years in 2018 from heart attacks, her eldest daughter Marilyn would have been age 74 in October 2020 followed by that of Marilyn's husband Alan on 26 December 2020 from heart conditions.

Pat continues to live in her home 234 Saxeville Street Canley Vale being lovingly supported by her retired teacher son Michael.

- Sr Beatrice Boller

Pat has passed away since this article was written by her sister, Sr Beatrice Boller. Our deepest condolences go to Sr Beatrice, her family and friends. May God grant her eternal rest.

Tribute to Sister Geraldine Kiss



Sr Geraldine Kiss was appointed the first NSW Coordinator of the Associates after the General Chapter of 1983 had decided to explore ways that the Charism of Mary MacKillop was shared by many people who were not members of the Order. This was a challenging task as ways had to be found to turn an idea into something more concrete. In communication with the Sister Coordinators in other States and the leadership of the Congregation, certain structures emerged...in those early days, a logo and badge based on the logo was designed. Then came Certificates of Membership with a record of those who joined the new Movement. Quarterly Newsletters began, based on the four seasons of the year so members began to look forward to communication and prayer suggestions for Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

In NSW, Sr Geraldine worked with a core group of interested lay people who used their life experience of association with the Sisters to explore what the Charism might mean in their lives. They wanted their response to be grounded in their daily lives, looking at how they ministered in their family situations and in other ministries, formal and informal. Thus, the key ideas of Friendship, Prayer and Service became the focus.

Sr Geraldine was instrumental in the establishing of the first Parish-based groups which have remained fundamental to the Associates. The first of the Kincumber retreats were held which for many years brought Associates together from across the State.

By the time Sr Geraldine moved on to another ministry, strong foundations had been laid.

Sr Geraldine brought special qualities to her ministry with the Associates, a friendly openness to people, a deep love of prayer and desire to assist others grow their spiritual lives and years of experience in administration. We in NSW owe her a deep debt of gratitude. May her gentle soul Rest In Peace.

- Sr Angela Grant, rsj

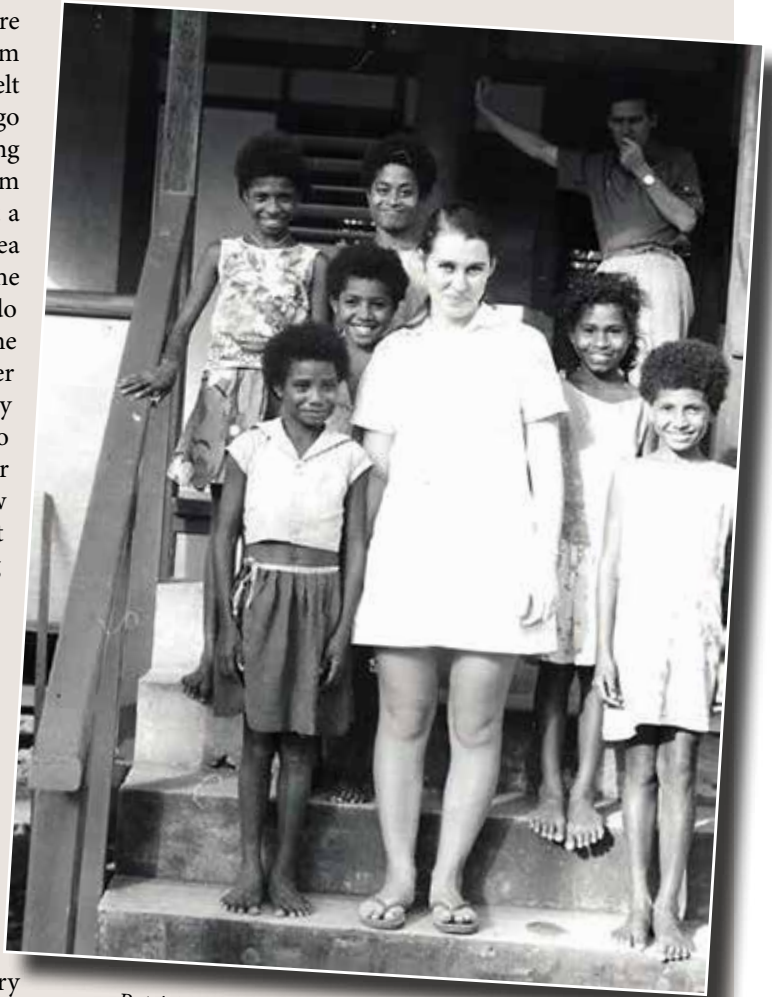
BEING CALLED

During our last Josephite Companions meeting, we were discussing the Josephite Companions Discovery Program and the question was: 'When in your life have you been felt 'called' to something?' I mentioned that I had felt called to go to the Missions in Papua New Guinea when I was finishing school. My parents were not all impressed and Mum insisted that I do a Secretarial Course and that I then get a job so that I had experience, probably hoping that the idea would go away. After I finished TAFE and had a job in the Commonwealth Bank for a year, I decided to now train to do something I felt was worthwhile and would be useful in the Missions and so did a Mothercraft Nursing Diploma. After completing this, I applied to PALMS which was the Society that recruited missionaries. However, I only wanted to go for a year and they stipulated that you had to commit for 3 years. So, I then wrote to every Bishop in Papua New Guinea. Most Bishops wrote back immediately saying that they would love to have me work in their schools teaching typing and office practice, but I wanted to do nursing.

The Diocese of Milne Bay covers 14,345 km² of land and 252,990 km² of sea, within the Diocese there are more than 600 islands. The Bishop said he needed a Mothercraft Nurse, so off I went to get my vaccinations. However, about 6 weeks before I was due to leave, he wrote to say that the Diocese couldn't afford to pay my fare, so I would have to pay myself. I knew my parents would not give me the money, as they were very unhappy about it. I had used up the money I had saved while working in the bank during my 18 months of live in training where we were getting \$6 per week plus board. I was working as a house mother in the orphanage at the time. I prayed very hard, that if God really wanted me to go, he would help me to get the money. A couple of days later, one of the nuns at the orphanage came down to ask if I would be interested in working at the Mater Hospital for the next 6 weeks as one of the nurses was sick, and perhaps I could use the money as I was going to the Missions. God had answered my prayer.

When I arrived at the Mission, the Bishop said that he had 2 Mothercraft nurses, but needed a Secretary, so I became his Secretary. I figured that God had got me here so I may as well do what was needed to be done cheerfully. I ran a Bank Agency, a Trade store, worked the wireless where we called in each Island at a different time of the day in case, they had any emergencies and did the Budgets for all the Outstations. I also did all the bookkeeping for the Diocese and was his personal secretary. Each Outstation had a different manner of raising money. One caught crocodile, and sold their skins, another grew Copra. On our island we had a large chook yard which sold eggs to all the Europeans on the different islands and a sawmill where we used the timber to build boats which were commissioned by government or other private people. All these funds were then used to run a Vocational School for girls, teaching them how to cook and clean and for boys they taught them electrical, carpentry, etc. We also had a Primary School and small hospital. Most of the outstations had a school and hospital. Everywhere we went we had to travel by boat.

- Patricia Quinn – Josephite Companions, Blacktown Group



Patricia Quinn with some of the Primary children on the office steps.



Fr. Chow Kurada on Bonaventure with Leonard and Brian and Patricia Quinn.

Pope at Angelus: See and have compassion like the Good Samaritan

By Lisa Zengarini, 13 July 2022



At the Angelus prayer on Sunday 10 July, Pope Francis calls on the faithful to follow the example of attentiveness and compassion of the Good Samaritan and, therefore, to be “disciples of the Way” pointed by Jesus.

Ahead of the traditional mid-day prayer of the Angelus on Sunday, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel of the day on the Parable of the Good Samaritan which, he said, teaches us to be aware of others and to have compassion.

Disciples of the Way

He noted that in his account of the parable (Lk 10: 25-37), St Luke “is keen to point out that [the Good Samaritan] was traveling”. However, he said, “the Samaritan, despite having his plans and being directed to a distant destination, does not seek excuses and allows himself to be questioned by what happens along the way”.

This, Pope Francis pointed out, is exactly what the Lord teaches Christians to do as his disciples: “to look far ahead, to the final goal, while paying close attention to the steps to be taken, here and now, to get there”.

Like the Samaritan, the Pope continued, the disciple of Christ walks following Jesus, and thus becomes a “disciple of the Way”. He goes after the Lord, “who is not sedentary”, but “always on the road” to meet people, heal the sick, and visit villages and cities.

The Gospel teaches us to have compassion

By walking in the footsteps of Christ, Christians become “travellers ” and learn to “understand reality correctly, overcoming preconceptions”, to have compassion and intervene, and not “to pass by” as the priest and the Levite did.

“The Gospel educates us to see: it guides each of us to understand reality correctly, overcoming preconceptions and dogmatism day after day. And then following Jesus teaches us to have compassion: to be aware of others, especially those who suffer, those who need it most. And to intervene like the Samaritan.”

Overcoming selfish indifference

Bringing his reflection to a close, Pope Francis called upon the faithful to ask God to be freed from “selfish indifference” and to be put on His Way, noting that recognizing our own faults is not sufficient.

“Let us ask the Lord to see and have compassion towards those we meet along the way, especially those who suffer and are in need, to draw near and do what we can to lend a hand.”

“May the Virgin Mary accompany us on this journey of growth. May she, who ‘shows us the Way’, that is Jesus, also help us to become more and more ‘disciples of the Way’”, the Pope concluded.

We pray for the souls of our departed Companion brothers and sisters

Irene Marie	Allport	Sefton
Carmen	Baker	Coonabarabran
Kevin	Barry	Sth Tacoma
Marie	Breen	West Ryde
Janette	Brown	Tamworth
Sr Jean	Cain,rsj	Perthville
John	Estens	Coonabarabran
Zelma	Farragher	Gilgandra
Therese	Franks	Auburn
Henrietta	Hatton	Thirroul
Sr Margaret	Jennings, olsh	Kensington
Sr Geraldine	Kiss, rsj	Sydney
Carmel	Martin	Kingscliff
Margaret	McCafferty	Kingsgrove
Margaret	Miller	Bateau Bay
Robert	Morrissey	Coonabarabran
Helen	O'Brien	Blacktown
Maria	Pagano	Auburn
Patricia	Percival	Canley Vale
Phyllis	Pyrke	Tamworth
Eileen	Walker	Lane Cove
Colleen	Watson	Coonabarabran
Monica	Wood	Eden



O Sweet Child of Bethlehem

O sweet Child of Bethlehem grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them.

Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.

Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

— Pope John XXIII