



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS VIC-TAS

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

*Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime;
it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms.
He gives showers of rain to all people,
and plants of the field to everyone. Zech 10:1*

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Dear Fellow Companions,

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. We Companions have just celebrated the first Companion's Day and reflected on the life of Annie MacKillop. Mother Mary's first and closest companion. Some insights about Annie and a report on the virtual meeting to celebrate the legacy of Annie MacKillop can be found later in the Newsletter.

Recently at our Parish RCIA, the group discussed prayer. We defined prayer as a conversation between God and ourselves. In a conversation there is a back and forth of language. The consensus was that God always responds to our prayers but sometimes the answer is not what we have been expecting.

As a very young person I would often pray to God that my football team, Carlton, would win the Grand Final (Yes, the Blues were in several Grand Finals when I was young). If they won, God had heard my prayer. If they lost God had not heard my prayer. Or so I thought. It never occurred to me that somewhere, someone was also praying for their team to win the flag. Whose prayer did God answer. Both!

To explain this, that same RCIA meeting felt that God gives us what we need, not what we want. Perhaps, I needed to learn that there are others who also have desires and as a young person, I had to learn that we don't always get what we want.

God had indeed heard my prayer, and God knew best!

I will be hoping for a win this year, but I won't be praying for it!

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Pray for Us

Greg

Words of Wisdom from Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian T Woods

***"May God grant you courage and true wisdom in all you do and say."
(Mary MacKillop 12.06.1875)***

***"Keep courage whatever you do.
The best and strongest trees you know are the slowest growing."
(Fr JTW 1875)***

FRIENDSHIP PRAYER SERVICE



JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS DAY

On September 2nd, 2023, via a webinar. Annie MacKillop was recognized as the ‘first’ or ‘original’ Josephite Companion. One year later, Annie was once again brought to the fore front of Companion thought.

On August 31st, 2024, Josephite Companions once again attended a webinar to highlight the important role that Annie MacKillop played in supporting her sister Mary, Fr Julian Tenison Woods and the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

More than thirty participants attended the webinar. They came from as far afield as New Zealand and Perth.

The opening prayer was based on a reading from the Book of Ruth who was also a model companion. Ruth and Orpah, two Moabite women who had married Judean men accompany Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, when she leaves Moab and returns to her native Bethlehem after the death of her own husband.

Anne-Marie Wilkinson then presented an outline of the life of Annie MacKillop. Annie often accompanied Mary on her extensive travels. It was noted how Annie used her ability as a music teacher to financially support her sister and, at times, the Sisters of Saint Joseph. It was noted that Annie, although humble, as is evidenced by her believing that she was not pious enough to become a religious, was also strong willed as she resisted attempts by her mother, her brother Donald, as well as Mary and Fr Julian to enter the Josephite order.

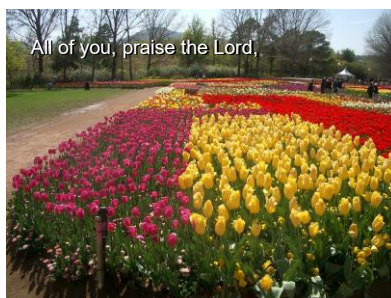
Annie continued to follow Mary and support the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph for most of her life. Her grave is in the St Kilda cemetery.

More information on Annie’s life as the ‘original’ companion can be found on the website below.



Sr Mary Fermio submitted this beautiful reflection and also the Conversations with Mary – Sept edition
Some Companions may have already received a copy.

However, for those Companions who receive a hard copy newsletter, I have included a link.



<https://www.slideserve.com/murray/exuberant-praise-psalm-148-by-bruce-d-prewer>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 17th Anniversary of the Canonization of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Nov 1st All Saints Day
Nov 2nd All Souls Day
Nov 16th **Josephite Companion Mass**

Due to changes at the Heritage Centre in East Melbourne we are unable to use the Chapel on weekends. Sister has kindly organised for us to use the Chapel at the Regional Centre in Hawthorn East, (*where we gathered in the past*) and we are able to use the Conference Room for Afternoon Tea after Mass.

Details are as follows:

Saturday 16th November at 1.30pm, Chapel at MacKillop House 13 Havelock Road, Hawthorn East VIC 3123. We hope to see as many of you as possible on this day.

Please RSVP by the 6th November to Anne-Marie by email

at: awilkinson@padua.vic.edu.au or if you can't email, phone 0409 429 463 and leave a message.

USED STAMPS may be sent to:

Josephite Companions
P O Box 184
CROYDON NSW 2132

OR

5 Alexandra Avenue
CROYDON NSW 2132



Please label the package **STAMPS**
and leave a border.

These stamps are used by the Sisters to raise funds for projects in areas such as Peru, the Kimberley Region and Timor Leste

There have been several requests for access to past Newsletters. They can be found at the following website. Newsletters from other areas are also archived in this area and are available to read.

Vic-Tas-Josephite-Companions-Spring-2023-Newsletter.pdf (sosj.org.au)

We continue to pray for deceased Companions and their families

May the Souls of the faithful departed Rest in Peace.

Noelle Grinter (as reported by Maree Stewart, member of the Rushworth Group.)

Maree writes,

One of our beautiful members, Noelle Grinter died on May 24 this year at the age of 83. Her husband Ron Grinter, also a Josephite Companion, gave me permission to send Noelle's name to be reported in the deceased members for next Newsletter.

We keep the Josephite Sisters in our prayers.



If companion groups would like to create a Prayer List for the dearly departed and the sick, I would be pleased to include requests in the Newsletter.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Marian Mueller from Melton sent the following report. I have included it verbatim as an example of how the Holy Spirit and Josephite Companions can get things done,

Greg

Just to fill you in on the happenings of our Melton Group, must admit it was a last minute attempt to contact and assess the potential of our groups capacity to gather, pray and celebrate our beloved St Mary of the Cross' feast day within our group in Melton.

It began with a call/text to each member to discover if they were able to meet. Three of our 7 were a 'yes', sadly 3 of us weren't able to due to ongoing serious health issues and one was busy travelling our beautiful earth. During contact with Lorraine through Messenger she assured she would be commemorating the feast day with daily mass she was being blessed with.

A call to Sister, the foundation of our formation as a Josephite group developed into hours of inspiring conversation around the planning of the following day and potential for the future. Again, due to health reasons it was left open, if Sister was able to, we'd see her in St Anthony's Church, Melton South, at 11am, before the picture of St Mary of the Cross.

It was Brendan and Margaret Richards and I who were able to physically gather. And what a spirit filled prayer time it was as we acknowledged Jesus' words, "Where two or more are gathered, I am there", laughing and thanking God that we (just)made that call.

Being the number in attendance we were we chose to pray the rosary, beginning with the hymn from pg. 26 from the Discovery prog booklet, 'Woman for Today' which was new to us all. We read passages from Pgs 23-24, contemplated and giving thanks for st Mary MacKillop's life offering our personal reflections of the inspiration St Mary of the Cross is to us, the challenges we face as Companions going forward on the Journey, and offered the final decade for the strong foundation laid for us my St Mary of the Cross, Fr. Julian Tenison Woods, the Srs. of St Joseph who have gone, those who continue to live and work fulfilling their vows in the charism of St Mary of the Cross, inspiring and walking with us as we go forward into the unknown, as St Mary so often did, with faith and courage. We prayed too for Veronica and Tony Michael or members who were not bold to gather and were very much in our hearts.

We finished off photographing ourselves before the image of the reason we gathered in prayer, before heading off to appointments and visitation with Anna Sammy, who was not up to leaving the house and was up to a visit and shared lunch.

We all walked away with big smiles and warm hearts, feeling greatly blessed

Must add as I turned up to the church in the morning and saw the school children in the area of the playground in which recently has positioned a statue of St Mary of the Cross, I was so excited thinking they must be celebrating her day. As it turned out they weren't, and they did ! As did our local Catholic the secondary school students.

Just love the statue and seeing evidence that the good works and spirit of our first and only Australian saint lives on. At recent confirmations, one of which I saw Sr Rita, who was there as sponsor, I counted 5 who took on the name of St Mary of the Cross.

May we all stay blessed!

Marian

