



THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF AUSTRALIA

Keep in Touch

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A newsletter for Sisters of Charity, their families and friends, and supporters of our Congregation

VOLUNTEERS AT ST AMBROSE (VASA) 30 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

A 30 year Anniversary Mass was held at St Ambrose Parish, Concord West on 23rd October. Parishioners were pleased to welcome Sister Annette Cunliffe, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity, as well as Srs Mark Lehmann and Margaret Scully who were the inspiration for the original group of volunteers in 1980.

In December 1980, the Sisters of Charity withdrew from teaching at St Ambrose School. However, the Parish felt it was important to continue the pastoral works of the Sisters. There was already a group of volunteers based at Paddington under the leadership of Sister Mark Lehmann. This group "Volunteer Associates of the Sisters of Charity of Australia", or VASCA for short, supported the work of the Sisters of Charity in the inner-city area. At a Parish meeting held in December 1980, it was decided to start a branch of VASCA here in Concord West with Sister Margaret Scully as Director.

The focus of VASCA was, and still is, to serve any person in need, bringing to each person the love, tenderness and concern of Christ, and seeing Christ in everyone they serve. "Get togethers" in the Parish Hall were organised for the elderly in the area, volunteers provided transport and everyone enjoyed the entertainment and afternoon tea. These get togethers were held regularly for many years. Other activities included visitations to those who were lonely, handicapped and bereaved. This sometimes involved helping with letter writing, shopping and such things as changing a light bulb! Trips to concerts were arranged and monthly bus trips were popular.

An annual Day of Recollection for the Parish and a monthly Time of Quiet Prayer in the Church were held. Women Special Ministers of the Eucharist who take Holy Communion to those who were housebound was another initiative from VASCA.

In June 1997, VASCA was disbanded, as the Sisters of Charity moved their focus to their Outreach Program. A group at St Ambrose decided to continue with a similar name "VASA" -Volunteers at St Ambrose. VASA continues many charitable works including liaising with the Parish Priest in preparation for Mass



Volunteers renew their commitment at the Anniversary Mass which Srs Annette, Mark & Margaret attended.



Some of the happy volunteers

with the Sacrament of the Sick, and caring for anyone in our community who needs help.

VASA continues to work in our Parish, under the motto of the Sisters of Charity, "The love of Christ impels us" - without Him we can do nothing, we are nothing. VASA makes a difference in the lives of the people they assist, taking God's love from the Parish into the local community.

Sisters of Charity Outreach Celebrate 20 Years of “Compassion in Action”



Sister St Jude shares some of her untold stories

On Friday 29th October, Sister Margaret Fitzgerald, the Executive Director, warmly welcomed all Sisters, volunteers, donors, supporters and friends of Outreach to the Annual Cocktail Evening, celebrating 20 years of Compassion in Action.

Highlighting the contribution of our volunteers, the evening began with a panel of three current volunteers, interviewed by Mike Bailey, expressing what being a volunteer with Outreach means to them, the service they provide to their clients, and sharing an ‘untold story’.

Frances Haller, of Liverpool Courts, described the contribution of the Court Volunteers in making the court experience less daunting for individuals and families by being a human presence and a listening ear. Frances also shared an ‘untold story’, putting some humour into the very serious situation of Domestic Violence, through her story of a very unlikely couple.

Michael Foster, a Volunteer driver with Country Care Link, spoke of his love of his work of transporting country people coming to Sydney for medical appointments, from the airport, station, or bus, to their medical appointment or accommodation. Michael spoke of the importance of making their experience less stressful. He shared an experience of an overwhelming sense of trust of a woman who said to him that she had no idea where she was or where she was going, saying ‘I am completely in your hands.’

Nancy Rice, a Volunteer with Darlinghurst Court and the Outreach Shop, spoke of the humour volunteers bring to the Court, and the diversion from serious medical concerns that the Outreach Shop and Volunteers provide to clients of the Clinic.

It has been a tradition of Outreach since 2004 to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our long-serving volunteers. That tradition was continued on the night. Nine volunteers were acknowledged for their 10 years of service and dedication to the Outreach Mission, and each was presented with a special badge and certificate to commemorate the occasion. This year, these Volunteers represented Liverpool Courts, Country Care Link and Parent Support Program.

We recalled our beginnings and launched a little booklet, “Sister St Jude’s Memoirs: Untold Stories 1987-1997”. The text was taken from Jude’s own notebook, as explained by Mr Jim Baillie, who was the first Chairman of

the Outreach Committee. This little booklet begins with the dream expressed in 1987 by Sister Mary Maguire, the Superior General of the time:

“I need my religious women to respond to new needs, to keep time to a different rhythm...”

Sister St Jude spoke briefly of the early days of Outreach and acknowledged that it would work because *“we had God, the Sisters of Charity and the volunteers.”*

Never before have we had new volunteers graduating at a Cocktail Evening, but celebrating 20 years provided the occasion for a new format for the graduation of 30 new volunteers. Each one received their certificate and name badge from a current volunteer, therefore being introduced to the Outreach volunteer family.

The formalities concluded with the launching of the Annual Review by Mr Michael Thornber, Chairman of the Outreach Committee.



Mike Bailey hosted “untold stories of Outreach”. From left: Frances Haller, Mike Bailey, Michael Foster and Nancy Rice



2010 Volunteer Graduation ceremony for Sisters of Charity Outreach, Darlinghurst

COMMEMORATIVE WINDOW

St Vincent’s Hospital Lismore

Under the care of the Sisters of Charity
from 1921 - 1980

In St Carthage’s Cathedral Lismore, a Dedication of the St Vincent’s Hospital Commemorative Window took place in September.

Planning for the beautiful Window, crafted by stained glass artist Kevin Little of Sydney, was begun by the Friends of St Vincent’s Volunteer Service two years ago. Features of the Sisters of Charity in the window include;

Mary Aikenhead; the original St Vincent’s Hospital, Tarmons which became the Nurses’ home in 1932; Crest of the Sisters of Charity; a Ward scene with a Sister of Charity, patient and nursing sister; and the new building of St Vincent’s Hospital, 1932.

Sisters Nola Riley and Karan Varker represented Sister Annette Cunliffe on this special occasion and were proud of the acknowledgement given to the Sisters of Charity.

“The Window commemorates the place of St Vincent’s Hospital, Lismore within the great tradition of the Church’s care of the Sick.”



Commemorative window in St Carthage’s Cathedral of Lismore

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF SISTER MARY LEO JONES *rsc*

From Eulogy given by Sister Leone Wittmack *rsc*



Sister Mary Leo Jones *rsc*

Leone reflected that her connections with Sister Leo stretched back to her birth when Sister Leo nursed her mother back to life in the months following her birth. She dedicated Leone to Our Lady at that time and told her mother that one day she would be a Sister of Charity.

Sister Leo met Leone at the airport when she arrived in Sydney to enter the Novitiate in 1970 and continued to support Leone with prayer and encouragement during all the many phases of her ministry.

“Behold the Handmaid of the Lord” was Sister Leo’s motto. She certainly took her motto to heart and lived by it throughout her religious life as a Sister of Charity, for she willingly and faithfully said “Yes” to whatever she was asked to do. This also flowed into her personal and family life as she accepted and coped with illness and with the sad events that she and her family have had to face.

Community life was also important to Sister Leo and she did her best to accept the many changes that have challenged us, and always endeavoured to be a positive influence with whoever was in community with her.

She had a great devotion to Our Lady and the Rosary and she tried to live her life in openness and trust, as Mary did.

Sister Leo was born in 1914 to Fredrick John Jones and Mary Marcella (neé Blewitt). She was named Mary Dorothy. She was the only girl among many brothers, Henry, Albert, Walter, Reginald, Lloyd, Benedict and Leslie. The family lived in the Concord-Burwood district where Sister Leo also went to school. She attended St. Mary’s, Concord and St. Joseph’s, Burwood.

Sister Leo had a very strong, determined side to her nature. Her face and eyes would always tell you how she was feeling and you knew if she wasn’t really pleased. Perhaps being born as the youngest into a family of boys would bring out one’s determined side. This strong, determined spirit stayed with her until the moment of her death and in the last weeks she certainly made sure that she had everything sorted (as she put it) while she waited patiently, but with a touch of frustration at times, to go to her God.

Family was extremely important to Sister Leo or Aunty Sue as she was lovingly known to her family. As the last surviving member of her generation she was the matriarch of the Jones family. She was a wonderful companion to each and every member, someone that they could always confide and trust in as she offered them her wise advice.

As we all know she was also a good talker and was never short of a story. She had a good sense of humour and she always managed to have a gently assertive way of getting people to do whatever she wanted. How could you possibly say “No!”!

Sister Leo was 30 years old when she entered the convent and in those days that was regarded as a “late” vocation. The other women who would have entered with her at that time would have been much younger. Sister Leo had initially decided to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph. However, with a little nudge and a few questions from our Sisters at the time, she changed her mind.

Having gained her General Nursing Certificate prior to entering, Sister Leo spent all her ministry in our Health Service. Her ministry saw her working at: Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst, St Vincent’s Hospitals, Toowoomba, Bathurst, Lismore, Darlinghurst, Fitzroy and Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew.

Sister Leo held many positions of responsibility during her ministry. She would fondly speak of the time she spent at Caritas Christi, Kew. The care of the dying and their families held a special place in her heart. Her capacity to listen and BE with people led her to establish the first Pastoral Care department at St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst with Fr. Reg Keating. This was quite an initiative in Healthcare at the time. When we look at the development of Pastoral Services today it is obvious that the small seed that she planted has now grown into a very strong tree.

She moved to St. Joseph’s Village in 1995 and, although retired, continued to be a listening presence to the residents.

She was thrilled on her birthday in September this year when all the family, from the youngest to the oldest, and many of the extended family came to see her. She mentioned to Leone that she could now die happy, knowing

that she had seen everyone, had a wonderful time and in her way, had said goodbye.

For the last 38 years, on the 10th of November, the Feast of Leo the Great, Sister Leo and Sister Leone celebrated their Feast Day together. Leone said that she was sure that Sister Leo would now be celebrating to the fullest on this Feast Day, 10th November, 2010, as the valiant woman, this handmaid of the Lord, experiencing the ultimate gift of Eternal Life.

She will be missed by us all, but her spirit will live on in many. We will always be grateful for the gift she has been and given to so many people and with St. Paul we can pray:

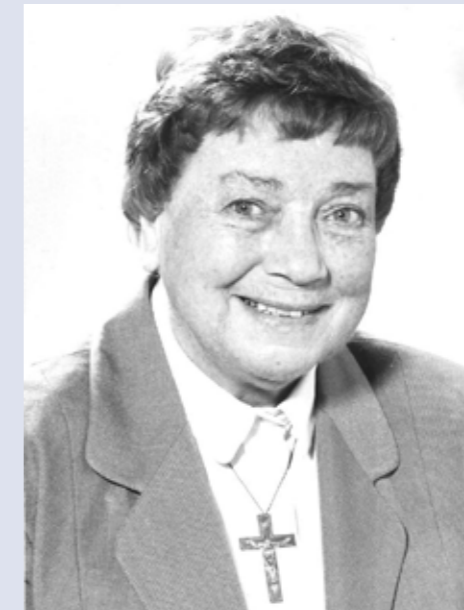
“I thank my God each time I think of you and when I pray for you I pray with joy.”

In conclusion Leone thanked the many staff, doctors, nurses, carers at St Joseph’s Village and St. Joseph’s Hospital who lovingly cared for Sister Leo since 1995 and especially more recently, the Sisters of Charity and her family who have accompanied her especially during these last weeks.

Their care of Sister Leo and indeed the care they give to all of our Sisters and residents certainly shows us the compassionate face of God in our midst.

SISTER CATHERINE O’CARRIGAN – EULOGY

Adapted from John O’Carrigan’s (brother of Catherine) eulogy



Sister Catherine O’Carrigan *rsc*

A few weeks ago, the O’Carrigan family, close relatives and several Sisters of Charity, gathered at Stella Maris Aged Facility Cronulla, to celebrate Sister Catherine’s 70 years of religious profession as a Sister of Charity at her wonderful age of 91. Today we gather for her funeral in St John’s Church Auburn.

Three cornerstones of Catherine’s life appear to have been: Love of God, foremost, Love of Life and Love of Historical people, events and achievements.

Love of God

The strength of her faith was based on the loving Providence of God. She saw life, her vocation, her work, people, all of life’s fortunes in the whole range of high to low experiences through a prism, so to speak, that reflected in degrees of light and colour God’s presence in her life. Bad humour towards God was never part of Catherine’s life.

Love of Life

Her love of life began when she was born Kathleen in 1919 on the north coast of Country Antrim, Ireland. She was educated by two different Orders of nuns in Ireland,

and when the family moved to Australia in 1927, she was educated by the Josephite sisters at Woy Woy and the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Glebe Point. However, after a short teaching period in 1937 with the Sisters of Charity at Cabramatta and then at Bethlehem, Catherine entered the Sisters of Charity in 1938.

Why the Sisters of Charity? It may have been because each Sister of Charity seemed to Catherine to have maintained her individuality and it was an Order that had stemmed from Ireland. History and literature were her great passions throughout her years as a teacher and her whole life. Her commitment to accurate research and history of the Congregation and early Catholic faith in Australia, was invaluable.

Love of People of History

She was always able to highlight the best in people, especially when they were able to reach for the stars and achieve their potential. Her last article published in *The Catholic Weekly* on July 18 2010, was how Catholicism was born in the Rocks. She highlighted instances of Fr JJ Therry and William Davis, convicts themselves and the generous deeds they did to build up the faith in early Australian settlement.

Catherine, we can all admire you for your lifelong devotion to God, for your outstanding membership of the Sisters of Charity, for your enthusiasm for bringing people and events of colonial Australia into our homes.

That is the past. It is now your turn to rest in peace.

TWENTY YEARS OF ROTA IN VICTORIA

What is ROTA you may ask? It is a group of Religious, Sisters, Brothers and Priests who gather regularly for social activities, spiritual input and simply for companionship and support. The full title is Religious of the Third Age! Our motto is NEW GROWTH AND JOY.

ROTA was born almost twenty years ago in Melbourne following a meeting initiated by the Major Superiors in Victoria to encourage socialisation of semi and fully retired Religious, who may be at home alone during the day. It has been a wonderful success and continues to thrive.

ROTA has a president, Secretary, Treasurer that changes at the time of the second yearly General Meeting. We do have committees such as Social committee, Spiritual Committee, Communications group and of course a Co-ordinating committee. We operate at several venues, e.g. Caritas Christi Centre at Kew, Corpus Christi Centre, Clayton and Kildara Centre. Membership is either individual or community and this year we have approximately sixty members with fifteen different Congregations.

Long friendships have resulted from our activities. We support each other in times of illness, death, celebrations for significant birthdays and jubilees. One member who recently died told us each month on the way home that joining ROTA was the best thing he had ever done! What a recommendation!

Each month a Newsletter is printed and mailed to members and even to those thinking about joining. It is full of activities for the month with dates, times, cost, venue etc. Once a month we have a day together at Caritas Christi Centre beginning at 10 a.m., including Eucharist, lunch, exercises and an activity, leaving for home around 2 p.m.; once a month an afternoon with spiritual input at Corpus Christi Centre, Clayton followed by afternoon tea and once a month we alternate an evening meal together at a Club and the alternate month there is a luncheon for those not likely to go out at night.

Our year begins with an evening barbecue at the Boathouse picnic area in Studley Park, Kew and ends with no less than three Christmas celebrations!!! During the year we celebrate a Eucharist to honour our deceased members at Kildara Centre, inviting friends, relatives and communities to be present. We have also been welcome to use the activities at Kildara for some members who meet for extra spiritual input. Every second year we also use Kildara Centre to hold our Bi yearly General meeting.

Some years ago a conversation with an RSC in Sydney ignited the idea of ROTA going over the border. This group, I understand, has progressed but in a slightly different way from Victoria. We have also had contact with a Sister from Ireland looking at the possibility of ROTA being formed.

Those of us in ROTA would encourage more religious to join our ranks and experience the friendships that are so obvious and so precious. There are absolutely no criteria to be concerned about.



Enjoying a picnic lunch



Outing to the bird sanctuary

LIVERPOOL EX-STUDENTS

The best people I know at "keeping in touch" are the wonderful women that made up the last committee of ex-students from All Saints Girls' College, Liverpool (formerly St Mary's High School, Liverpool).

They came in force to Sister Kerry Barrass' Golden Jubilee celebration at Shellharbour in August. Earlier in the year, they had visited St Joseph's Village for afternoon tea in Sister Eileen Brown's unit and then in relays, to see Sister Jean Marie's unit across the campus.

Their parties are exciting 'events'! Last Sunday, they hosted their Christmas get-together at Marilyn Dollimore's beautiful home in the rural Razorback area. Unfortunately, not all the 'faithful 10' or many of the former Liverpool Sisters could be present, but it was a very enjoyable celebration.

These women, who love the many Sisters of Charity they have met in Liverpool, were delighted when four Sisters of Charity moved to the recently built units in St Anne's Place on the subdivided property, which had been Medley Avenue Convent. They subsequently enjoyed afternoon tea at Sister Kate's unit and renewed friendships with the other three Sisters.

These faithful women are remembered in our prayers as we are blessed by their friendship and prayers.



Liverpool Ex-students: Ivy, Marilyn, Gloria (Back row) Sr Jean Marie, Sr Eileen, Dot, Sr Mary Frances, Sr Kate and Joy. Pat Lucchini took the photo.



View from veranda of Marilyn's home, looking towards Douglas Park

NEW LEADLIGHT WINDOWS FOR OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL'S SCHOOL



The seven new leadlight windows at Mt Carmel School's Prayer Room

Within the library of Our Lady of Mt Carmel School Mt Pritchard, is a circular room that was originally designed to be a 'story-telling' room. Its use became varied, from Staff Prayer to small groups of children with special needs, but in 2009, the decision was made to convert the room to an Oratory and Prayer room. The room has seven long, narrow vertical windows and Sister Anne Mayberry was asked to create leadlight windows to enhance the room.

The design of four of the windows came from Sister Dorothy Woodward r.s.j. However, it was recommended to have all seven windows created by the one artist at the same time. So it was up to Sister Anne's skilful imagination to design the other three.

The windows have definitely changed the appearance of the room and greatly enhanced the ambience. It helps create a place of quietness and reflection for Staff and students when groups meet for prayer and or meditation.

The theme for the windows is 'Journey'. Each window represents an aspect of our Christian journey; school children; Baptism; Eucharist; Mary Aikenhead (Sisters of Charity); Mary our Mother (Patroness of the school); A rainbow to remind us of the hope that we draw on along the way; and Produce, representing the Italian community who have generously supported the Parish and school over time.

The project took around 18 months of Sister Anne's 'spare time' to complete, with the work proving to be most challenging.

The school community is most grateful to Sister Anne for these 'works of art' which will give much joy to Staff and students of the school in the years ahead.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, BONNYRIGG NSW



Cutting the celebration "rainbow cake"



John the Baptist Parish church, Bonnyrigg NSW



Sisters Colleen Noonan, Virginia Mahony and Colleen Jackson

On Sunday 29th August, St. John the Baptist Parish Bonnyrigg celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a joyful Mass in the parish church and celebration following at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

Three Sisters of Charity who ministered in the parish were privileged to be part of the celebrations - Virginia Mahony rsc, Colleen Noonan rsc and Colleen Jackson rsc. And what a wonderful parish jubilee celebration! The Sisters of Charity involvement in the parish began in 1985, when Sister Antonita Duthy joined Fr John Langtry in the then semi-rural outskirts of Sydney to found a brand new parish. Almost two years later four RSC's (Sisters Antonita, Virginia, Colleen Jackson and Jenny Downes) moved into a new house amidst market gardens, cow paddocks and newly laid, but unbuilt upon, streets. This wonderful parish, and thousands of homes, grew around us. The parish is now 15,000 strong and has a vibrant multicultural faith community.

The Jubilee celebration was a wonderful celebration of faith and community, and a joyful walk down memory lane! Parish Priest Fr Michael McLean very graciously acknowledged the role of the Sisters of Charity in

the development of the parish, and welcomed and involved us in the celebration. There are events in our lives that are the makings of great memories and this was such a day. As we took part in the Offertory Procession and distribution of Communion we were taken back to those early days of preparing people for the same ministry, and delighted to see all of the parishioner-led ministries. Each is so important to the celebration of the Eucharist.

The ensuing dinner at the Catholic Club was celebrated by over 300 people. Stories and laughter and gratitude for God's generosity to each and to the parish as a whole, was abundant.

We gave thanks to all for the faithful commitment of John the Baptist parishioners. The many and various personal contributions to parish continue to give great encouragement to each other, and such commitment becomes a true witness to God, to faith and to the broader church.

Contributed by Colleen Jackson rsc

NAZARETH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHELLHARBOUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

With a great sense of pride the community of Nazareth Catholic Primary School, Shellharbour City Centre, celebrated its 10 year anniversary on Friday, 12th November, with a host of past and present families, students and staff. Under the Leadership of Sister Anne Taylor rsc, the school began in 2000 in the grounds of Stella Maris Shellharbour and moved to its present site in May 2000. Even though the school has a relatively short history, there was much to celebrate. The highlight of the day was an open air mass at which Fr Bryan Jones P.P. of All Saints Parish, Shellharbour presided.

Special guests included Sister Anne Taylor rsc, the foundation Principal, Mr. Gary Quinn the foundation assistant Principal, Mr Peter Turner, Director of Schools, Diocese of Wollongong and Mr Marty Scroope of the Loyola Institute.

Students joined in a host of activities highlighting the 10 year history of the school and many past families joined with the present community in a communal BBQ picnic lunch. A number of exhibits were on display throughout the classrooms showcasing the multitude of events that encompass the life of Nazareth School.

A most significant moment of the day was the official launch of the Nazareth School Song, a song that captures the essence and vision of the school and one that will no doubt be sung for years to come. A copy of this song, which was written by two staff members, Ms Louise Crawford and Mr. Peter Vaughan-Reid, was presented to each family. Also unveiled on the day was a large school crest occupying pride of place on the external wall of the St Francis Xavier building. Accompanying the crest were significant words from the Ignatian inspired school vision: "Finding God in All Things".

The day was certainly a wonderful celebration of 10 magnificent years of life at Nazareth School. The community of All Saints Parish, Shellharbour City Centre looks forward with much confidence to a future brimming with promise.

Congratulations, Nazareth!

Contributed by Mr. Ken Bryant (Principal)



Two of the students in the Entrance Procession



Sr Anne Taylor and Mr Ken Bryant, Principal, cut the cake.



Nazareth Catholic Primary School, Shellharbour City



The children's choir enhanced the liturgy

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SEPTEMBER 2010

Contributed by Joan McKenna rsc

You know the graphs that the finance man on the ABC likes to show? They provide a good image of what 2010 has been like for me! It started very well with a lovely holiday at Shellharbour; lots of swims and walks, good company and very relaxing. One week into it, everything changed! At least I had a soft landing when the stroke put me into the water. The upside was that Libbey was there to get my head out of the water and the life savers had me out and into the ambulance very quickly. I was looked after very well at Shellharbour Hospital, where I still didn't think anything much had happened. Light began to dawn at St Vincent's in Sydney. I know there were a couple of Sisters who kept watch over me but it is Sesarina I remember. Any atime that I woke during the night, there she would be, just there. It was like having an angel keeping watch. I think the outlook was not rosy at that stage but fortunately, nobody told me, so at Sacred Heart, they set about with a will. From not being able to sit up, I got to taking a few steps on the physio's arm.

When I returned to Melbourne, the rehab team at St George's picked up where Sacred Heart had left off and worked me very hard indeed. They even set up a kitchenette, so I could learn to manoeuvre my frame around to make my own breakfast and lunch. I'm the queen of the toasted sandwiches! So I was ready to go home!

I am most grateful to Mary Gabrielle, Anna and Ha for welcoming me into their community at Balwyn. The house itself is perfect and they are amazing. There, if I need them, but encouraging me to do everything I can. Thanks to the rehab, I can shower and dress but sometimes, the extra layer in Winter defeats me and I yell for help. I am also grateful to Annette and Council for taking the gamble on my going back to a community. One thing I have learned is how much help there is available for someone like myself in the home. Until rehab in the home and the Council Services began, there was post-acute care which provided rehab and home care. The rehab in the Home began and my walking skills and living skills continued to improve. As I am unable to be part of the roster for getting the evening meal, I decided to avail myself of Meals on Wheels which means that the others can go out without worrying. I am very conscious of all that they do to make it possible for me to be as independent as possible. The kitchen is organized so that I can access things easily, and arranged so I can sit at the table for meals. Anna is organizing a garden bed on wheels that I can reach from all sides. I have been grateful too for Liz Reid who has been there at all transitions.



At the Melbourne show with Ha and Srs Mary Gabrielle and Anna



Never give up, never surrender - we can all draw inspiration from Sr Joan

The graph may have ups and downs but the general trend is upward and the prayer, messages of concern and encouragement have been quite overwhelming. The latest little downer has been the broken arm which caused a bit of a pause in the skill-building. I was doing something I had done a dozen times before, but lost concentration for a minute and toppled over. The plaster comes off in 17 days (who's counting?). Then the hard work will begin again. So it is upwards and onwards.

Thank you all again. I don't seem to have prayed much this year, so it must be your prayer which has got me thus far.

ST JOSEPH'S STATUE AT MARY'S GRANGE, TAROONA.



Blessing the statue of St Joseph

On Thursday 28th October Fr Michael Tate P.P. blessed the restored and relocated statue of St. Joseph at 26 Channel Highway, Taroona. A number of the residents participated in the blessing ceremony and, after hearing a short history of the statue, enjoyed a special morning tea.

The bronze statue was imported from Lyon, France by Mother Xavier Williams rsc, and placed over the main entrance door of St Joseph's Orphanage in Harrington St, Hobart in 1879. It remained there until 1970, when the building (which had been renamed Aikenhead House) was sold to the Federal Government.

The sale enabled Sister Catherine Ellis rsc to purchase part of Dr. Boot's property at 26 Channel Highway, Taroona and extended her plan for family group homes.

A Chapel was added to the main building and three cottages erected in the grounds. When the Sisters and children moved in, St Joseph went with them to continue his guardianship role.

When the need for this type of care lessened in the 1980's, Centacare used the facility as a crisis centre until 2000. It was then sold to Mary's Grange for the present Retirement Village. The statue was placed outside the main entrance but unfortunately became a target for vandals, so it has been beautifully restored and relocated to a safer position near the community centre and Grange villas.



Srs Anne, Josephine, Teresita at the blessing with Fr Michael Tate

For our many readers who are enjoying the Annals of Baptist De Lacy, the next instalment will be published in the first edition of KIT in 2011.



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