



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

## Celebration of 125 years at Clifton Hill

In 1816, when Mary Aikenhead made her first vows in Ireland and the Sisters of Charity were born, I'm sure she couldn't have imagined that nearly two hundred years people would be gathering on the other side of the world to celebrate and honour the incredible contribution that her followers would make to the work of the Church in far-flung Australia.

And yet, as we look around us today and admire the wonderful facilities that we are about to bless and officially open, that is exactly what we are doing. St John the Baptist Primary School here in Clifton Hill owes so much of what it is and what it has meant to countless young people and their families over the last 125 years to the work, the presence and the faith of the Sisters. It could not be more appropriate that Mary Aikenhead should be honoured in the school through the naming of the new Aikenhead Wing.

Of course, the Sisters did not and do not labour alone. Most of you would know far better than I do just who the people are who have breathed life into this school and parish over such a long period. We are all the beneficiaries of the generosity, the goodness, the selflessness and the foresight of these people of faith.

*Continues page 2*



Sisters joined teachers, students, parishioners and ex-students to celebrate at St John's, Clifton Hill



Four ex-students re-discovering their schooldays at the historical exhibition



Students form a symbolic "125" in the Congregational colours

# Celebration of 125 years at Clifton Hill

From page 1

Today, we also look to the present and the future. The transformation of what had become really a troublesome space for both the parish and the school into what is now this wonderful facility, speaks powerfully of our determination to continue to build on the extraordinary commitment of the Church to education of our young people. This school exists because of our absolute conviction that unless we educate our children about their Catholic faith and within the context and atmosphere of that faith, we are short-changing them, depriving them of something without which their lives will not be fully lived.

The Sisters of Charity, and those who have worked with them, have breathed this conviction into the very walls of this school. The present principal and staff are charged with the responsibility of keeping the spirit alive. All of us who have anything to do with the school – parents, clergy, friends, parishioners, and of course the children themselves, all have our part to play.

The motto of the Sisters – Caritas Christi urget nos – the love of Christ urges us on – should become the rallying cry for us. Let the love of Christ for us make us determined to let our children into the secret of this great reality, which is the only thing, in the end, which can make sense of life.

*An edited version of the speech given by Mr Dino de Propertis, the present principal of St John's.*



St John's principal Mr Dino de Propertis reviews one of the archival displays



Sister Lauren Dixon rsc and Sister Pauline Nicholson rsc. Above the foundation stone, and below a portrait of our Foundress, is a plaque commemorating the opening of the Aikenhead Wing

## Catherine O'Carrigan

The three great loves in Catherine's life appear to be Love of God, love of Life and love of People. The strength of her Faith is based on the loving Providence of God which she accepts as intimately bound up with her life's fortunes through the whole range of high to low experiences. Bad humour towards God has never been part of her life.

After years of teaching in schools in Queensland and New South Wales from 1940 to 1964 she was able to pursue her love of Art and History of early Australia. In 1966 she enrolled in the National Art School for 4 years obtaining her Art Diploma. At the same time she studied Fine Arts at Sydney University. In 1971 she was appointed to write segments of the History of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity. In her spare time Sister Catherine attended Sydney University where she achieved her Master of Arts in 1985. Numerous history articles published in the Catholic Weekly, letters to the press and interviews have mostly centred on the involvement of the Sisters of Charity in the early history of the colony of Sydney.

It is very noticeable in her history writings that her love of people and people events and achievements are on centre stage. What she likes to see, of course, is people reaching for the stars and achieving their potential and so she is always in admiration of people who in the lowly ranks or in the higher eschelons contribute their best to their society either spiritually or materially.

Sister Catherine has done this in her own life. May she continue to keep reaching out and touching others with her love.

*Contributed by John O'Carrigan (brother)*



Sister Catherine attending the University of Sydney, where she studied Fine Arts.

## Marita Sweeney

Marita wished that her Jubilee be a very quiet occasion and this it was. Marita, her Brunswick Street community along with her four relatives, Margaret, Maureen, Gerard and his wife Sandra were present. The community at Mononia, decorated the community room and Chapel with the palest of pink roses. It looked a picture indeed. Fr. Laurie Leonard, SJ. celebrated the Eucharist for Marita and spoke with great reverence of Marita and her place in the Sisters of Charity. Following the prayers of Intercession Patricia Walker rsc presented the Papal Blessing to Marita on behalf of Sister Annette Cunliffe rsc.

We were then invited to a lovely afternoon tea where there was a lot of laughter, memories and mingling with family and Sisters. Marita was most grateful to all who had prepared this day for her and for all the prayers, best wishes and cards that she has received on this special occasion.



Sister Marita, surrounded by her family, is congratulated by Father Laurie

# Golden Jubilees

## Anne Turner



Sister Anne at her celebration in Tasmania

Anne had requested a “community-only” celebration for the occasion, but it was fortunate that Sister Cathy Meese rsc was present, for the monthly Mount Carmel Board meeting and assisted in making it a special day for Anne. Sister Honorata, the third member of the “Tasmania Trio”, is no longer able to leave Mary Potter House to participate in community events.

On Monday, 18th August, having been at Royal Hobart Hospital for radiation treatment, Anne came to Villa 8 for a midday prayer, prepared by Cathy. Seated in a small circle around a beautifully decorated statue of our lady and a Jubilee candle, the community listened to “Be Thou My Vision”, a blessing prayer and a scripture reading. This was followed by a shared reflection of the past fifty years, before Anne renewed her vows. The liturgy concluded the prayer for Anne with the “Deep Peace” Gaelic blessing, and then the community enjoyed a celebratory meal.

Anne’s actual Jubilee was the next day, so it was honoured with a golden flower arrangement, afternoon tea and our prayers for a complete restoration of good health for Anne.

*Contributed by Josephine Cannell rsc*

## Kerry Barrass

It was a joyous celebration at which Kerry was joined by three of the other Sisters from her group. The Church was filled with those who have shared Kerry’s journey, her family, Sisters of Charity and friends of Kerry’s, ranging from those who attended school with her to colleagues and those to whom she has ministered over her fifty years as a Sister of Charity.

In his homily Bishop Peter Ingham emphasised the importance of love, the quality that is more important than any skill or ability that we bring to our relationships with others. Kerry’s sense of humour and her commitment to all those with and for whom she has ministered in schools, in ministry to Catholic children in State schools and in Parishes were also emphasised.

The Parishioners had prepared a generous light lunch that was appreciated by the many people who had joined Kerry for the celebration. A number of people spoke of their appreciation of Kerry and her commitment to others and Kerry thanked those who had prepared for the celebration.

The Eucharist celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Profession of Sr Kerry Barrass was celebrated on Saturday 14th August in All Saints Church, Shellharbour City. Bishop Peter Ingham, the principal Celebrant was joined by nine other priests, including the Parish priest, Fr Bryan Jones.



Sister Kerry joins with Sisters Jeannie, Frances and Aileen to cut her cake.



Sister Aileen seated with her sister-in-law Barbara (on left), (behind) cousin Anne and her husband Neil.

Aileen Thomas’s Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession was marked by a joyful Eucharistic celebration in St. Vincent’s Church, Ashfield on Saturday, 21st August, with Fr Alan Commins cm as celebrant. Fr Commins spoke of the importance of the witness of Religious Life through what Religious do in ministry, but even more so in who they are in their lives. Aileen was presented with a Papal Blessing during the Eucharist.

Sr Aileen completed part of her secondary education at Bethlehem College and remains a valued member of staff there. Under the direction of Mrs. Sally Bowyer, the choir of the College led the singing during the Eucharist. After Sr Aileen publicly renewed her Vows the Veni Sponsa was sung, while a group of Year 7 students joined Sr Aileen and some of her fellow-Jubilarians in enacting the story of the five wise and five foolish virgins. Aileen’s family, her sister-in law, Barbara, cousin Anne and her husband Neil joined her for the celebration, together with a large number of Sisters of Charity, present and former staff members of Bethlehem College and Aileen’s friends.

Afternoon tea was then shared. A cake, decorated with the crest of the Sisters of Charity was cut and the Principal of Bethlehem College, Mrs. Anna Dickinson presented Sr Aileen with a gift from the College. Miss Emma Chau also spoke on behalf of the students of the College who helped to escort guests and to serve afternoon tea.

# Golden Jubilees

Frances Graham. It was fitting that the celebration was held in Sacred Heart Parish, Cabramatta as Frances was born and grew up in Cabramatta and now is working there in Sacred Heart School. The Eucharist was celebrated at 10 a.m. by Fr Patrick McAuliffe (Father Mac), and Fr Liem and was attended by large numbers of Sister Frances’ family, including her mother, many Sisters of Charity and friends and colleagues from the school as well as Parishioners. The wonderful children’s choir led the singing.

Both the Congregation and the Parish presented Sr Frances with a Papal Blessing, and the Parish also presented both Frances and her mother with a lovely floral tribute.

Fr Mac noted the appropriateness of the Feast of the Assumption, and quoted the School Newsletter which said that Sr Frances was the face of God for all with whom she interacts. A wonderful tribute! A lovely lunch was provided in the Hall following the celebration of the Eucharist, prepared and served by embers of the Social Committee and young people of the Parish. Sr Frances cut the special Jubilee cake and thanked all who had contributed to such a joyous celebration.



Sister Frances joined by her mother, Pat (on left) and Sister Annette Cunliffe rsc. Father Mac and Father Liem in background.

*Another Golden Jubilarian, Sister Jeannie Johnson, is recognised on page 11*

# Tribute to John Mitcham



Congratulating Sister Patricia Nunan rsc, former principal of CLC, on her Golden Jubilee



John serving on the CLC Board in 2000



Attending the opening of the Currajeen Centre, Eltham

Mr John Mitcham has recently concluded his time as the Inaugural Chair of Mary Aikenhead Education Ltd. Prior to this, John was a member of the Sisters of Charity Education Service Council, the Implementation Committee for Mary Aikenhead Ministries and Chair of Catholic Ladies' College Board of Directors from 1999-2008. John has had many years of committed association with the Sisters of Charity. This began initially through his wife, Pat, and then the education of his three daughters.

Pat was a student at Catholic Ladies' College East Melbourne and his daughters, Julianne, Maree and Susan were all students at Catholic Ladies' College Eltham throughout the 1980s. From 1980, John was actively involved in the CLC Fathers' Association and held the position of President in both 1985 and 1986.

Initially, John's appointment to the Catholic Ladies' College Board of Directors was through Sr Una McAllister rsc and her ongoing association with Pat Mitcham and the CLC Old Collegians' Association. Soon after John's appointment to the CLC Board he was asked to take on the Chair's position. This coincided with John's retirement as Managing Director of Kodak, Australia, a position he held for 17 years of his 35 plus years with this international company. John was known and appreciated for his shared and empowering leadership style.

John Mitcham came to the position of Board Chair at CLC at a time of great need in Education; there were limited and some unpredictable funding arrangements within the Catholic Sector in Victoria. John, in this role, which coincided with the early years of incorporation in our four Colleges, worked to ensure sound stewardship of his governance responsibilities.

At Board level John introduced a Committee Structure, regular appraisals of the Board, involvement in senior staff formation as well as the development of a comprehensive Directors' Handbook.

John shared his very extensive corporate experience in the role of Chairman; he also made it his business to learn about and understand learning and teaching, student and staff wellbeing and the educational needs of young women in these early years of the 21st century. The provision of exemplary resources and facilities to ensure the best student learning outcomes within the context of the Mission of the Sisters of Charity were always central to John Mitcham's Chairmanship at Catholic Ladies' College.

At the completion of his 11 years at Catholic Ladies' College, John was invited by Sr Elizabeth Dodds rsc to join the Sisters of Charity Education Service Council. Throughout 2008 and 2009, John also contributed to the setting up of Mary Aikenhead Ministries through his membership of and work within the Implementation Team. Towards the end of 2008, with the resignation of the Chair of the Sisters of Charity Education Service Council, John was asked to take on the role of Chairman; as history records, the Education Service Council became Mary Aikenhead Education Ltd from July 2009. John Mitcham continued as Inaugural Chair for the first 12 months of MAE Ltd.

As with all aspects of John Mitcham's work with and for the Sisters of Charity, he has given generously of his time, expertise and integrity. His sound, inclusive people skills and wise, thoughtful ways have enabled each of the Boards and Teams he has led or been part of, to flourish under his leadership.

The Sisters of Charity extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to John for his wise and generous stewardship and wish both John and Pat well in the future.



John at the CLC Centenary Mass



John with his wonderful wife, Pat



Margaret McKenna, principal of CLC, presenting a gift of appreciation to John

# *The Annals of the Sisters of Charity in Australia written by M. John Baptist De Lacy*

*This is the second instalment of Baptist De Lacy's Annals. Part One was published in the July 2010 KIT.*

Two months after our arrival in the colony Miss Marum, a Native of Kilkenny in Ireland, entered the Noviciate.<sup>1</sup>

As the work of God always meets with opposition from the Selfish and worldly minded the SS [Sisters] in their daily visits to the Factory had many obstacles to meet with, but far from feeling discouraged it was to them a stimulus to persevere in the good Work. It was asserted by those who had the Superintendance [sic] and management of the Prisoners that the Sisters of Charity by their daily instruction had not effected any reformation in the kinds of conduct of the women, though numbers were considered by the attending clergyman sufficiently instructed, and evidently in such a state of Reformation as to be permitted to receive Holy Communion monthly, but in a little time our Lord was pleased to remove in some degree the prejudices of those persons, so that the SS were allowed to fulfil their duties in quiet.

On the 15th August, the feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady, Miss Marum was clothed in the Holy Habit receiving the veil from the hands of our revered Bishop, the ceremony was performed in the private Chapel of the convent. In religion she took the name of Sister Mary Augustine.

A few days after the arrival of the Sisters in the colony, they visited the Catholic Orphan School<sup>2</sup> which is under the Guardianship of the Bishop, but as the Factory was the first object to which they wished to direct and devote all their care and attention at that period, they were necessarily obliged to postpone giving any of their time to the arrangement of the Schools. But towards the close of year it was deemed expedient that two of the Sisters should leave Paramatta [sic], and reside in the Neighbourhood of the School, so that they might have an opportunity of giving their undivided labours to the promotion in every particular of what would tend to the benefit of the Institute.

On the 5th of October Miss Mary Gibbons, a native of Ireland, whose family resided in Sydney, entered

the Novitiate.<sup>3</sup>

On the 26th November 1839 the Revd Mother [that is M.M. John Cahill] and Sister Mary Baptist [De Lacy] left Paramatta for Waverley Crescent five miles from Sydney where they occupied a small cottage within 3 minutes walk of the Orphan House. In two months the Schools were perfectly arranged, and in a very short time the greatest improvement was evident in the appearance, minds and manners of the children. They were 75 in number, divided into three schools. The grown boys learned to read, write and cypher. The girls Work, Reading, writing & cyphering. The Infant children were taught Spelling and Reading with the Exercises calculated to realize what the object of an Infant School is. A second Mistress was engaged to teach the Girls and Infant children, who was for sometime under the Instruction of the SS until she acquired a knowledge of the System.<sup>4</sup>

On Sundays the Sisters went to Sydney where they opened a Sunday School after first Mass which was very well attended by a number of young persons who seemed most anxious to receive religious instruction.

At the end of the year Mrs Cahil<sup>5</sup> returned with Sister Mary Baptist to Parramatta. December 18th. The following morning Doctor Polding having celebrated the Mass of the Holy Ghost, and all the community having previously united their prayers to implore our Lord that his Divine Will may be done in all things, his Lordship addressed the Sisters on the object of their meeting, and then admitted to the degree of Formed Sisters,<sup>6</sup> Sister Mary Baptist De Lacy, & Sister Mary Xavier Williams<sup>7</sup> dispensing with the full completion of the time prescribed by the Constitutions, deeming the fervour of their sacrifice in coming on this Mission commensurate to the trial of virtue and number of years specified in the Constitution & that each of the five Sisters who came from Ireland might be equally eligible to offices [that is, positions of responsibility], after which the votes of the SS were presented to the Bishop, and Catharine O'Brien was elected

Head Superior<sup>8</sup> and for her assistants [or advisers] Margaret Cahill and Alicia De Lacy, - Julia Cater to the office of Admonitress [the one who pointed out faults and mistakes to the head superior when necessary].

On the evening of the same day the Sisters who had the superintendance [sic] of the Orphan School returned to Waverley Crescent to complete the good work they had commenced.

Miss Margaret O'Brien entered the Novitiate January 11th 1840.<sup>9</sup>

Towards the latter end of March the Head Superior visited the Sisters at Waverley Crescent and remained with them until their return to Paramatta. She was much pleased with the arrangement of the Schools & improvement of the Children. As the Community had been much inconvenienced from the want of suitable residence, which would facilitate to them the observance of Conventual life,<sup>10</sup> the Bishop determined on purchasing a house which was then for Sale in Paramatta. He did so and having got possession they removed to it April 18th 1840.

On the last day of the same month the Revd Mother [M.De Sales O'Brien] with the two Sisters left Waverley Crescent and joined the Community.<sup>11</sup>

On the 4th May the Feast of St Monica in the Church in Paramatta [sic], Miss Gibbons & Miss O'Brien were clothed in the habit of the SS of Charity, and received the holy veil from the hands of our venerated Bishop. A sermon was preached by the Revered J. Lynch of Maitland, he dwelt much on the vocation to Religious Life 'as Heavens best gift' next to that of an immortal Soul, portraying in simple & affecting language the beauty of those virtues (Humility and Obedience) which will enable us to fulfil our sacred obligations to our Divine Lord, and acquire the true interior spirit of Religious life. His discourse was pious, and replete with the Love of God. The Church was very much crowded, and various were the opinions of our dissenting Brethren on the subject.

*Part Three will be published in the next KIT.*

Footnotes:

1. Bridget Marum had travelled on the Francis Spaight with her priest brother.
2. This was at Waverley, in what was formerly Waverley House, the home of Samuel Levi until his bankruptcy.
3. The different spellings 'noviciate' and 'novitiate' occur in the original. The Gibbons came from Kinsale Co. Cork, where the family's connection with trade is memorialised in the name of Gibbon's Quay.
4. The 'System' of the Sisters of Charity was in a handwritten book which they had brought from Ireland. It evolved in their Dublin schools with help from the Christian Brothers of Edmund Ignatius Rice, who borrowed from the methods of the French Christian Brothers, known in Australia as De La Salle Brothers.
5. The next two lines are scribbled over. They appear to have been: '...resigned the superiority and called for election according to the Constitutions, for which the purpose she...'. Whatever happened was unusual, for the normal time for someone to remain superior was at least three years.
6. This is an expression used to describe those sisters, who, professed at least eight years, have made certain promises, including a solemn one not to relax the strictness of the poverty lived in the Congregation.
7. William's protest is preserved in a letter to her sister in Dublin, written April 1847.
8. With a greater number of members, Archbishop Murrury of Dublin had judged that electing a head superior was not appropriate for his new institute and in 1843 he had Mary Aikenhead declared head superior by Rome for life.
9. Margaret O'Brien was later to head the Congregation as M.M. Joseph.
10. For example, those who were not Sisters of Charity would have access to a few rooms only in the house, such as the chapel or oratory and a formal meeting room or parlour near the front door.
11. Sr M. Magdalen Cater arranged the move into the new place in the absence of the others.

# Golden Jubilee Celebrations at St Aloysius College, Kingston Beach, Tasmania



Sister Eileen Thynne rsc at the St Aloysius Jubilee Mass

Eileen Thynne and I, as the first and second principals of the school, were given the kind of welcome that is typical of the people of the area. From small beginnings the school has developed into a leading Catholic college in Tasmania, and a development of which we can be proud.

The Jubilee Mass, held on Sunday, 25th July, was packed with ex-students and their families, parishioners and many children...who are the assurance that St Aloysius College will flourish for many years to come. The Mass was a celebration of the work of the Sisters of Charity, and a highlight was the baptism of six young students from the school.

After a barbecue lunch we visited the wonderful display set out in the library. We were amazed to see a whole wall given over to our order: The foundation in Ireland, the arrival of the Francis Spaight in Sydney, images of the three Sisters who came to Hobart, and information covering the work of the Congregation right up to this year.

On the Monday morning, the present principal, Elaine Doran, hosted a tour through the modern secondary college. Here, again, the Congregational roots are evident in the stained glass windows of the Chapel. To see a school develop from such difficult and small beginnings gives one great joy and satisfaction. The Spirit of our Foundress has been well and truly kept alive!

I would like to mention that long-time parishioner Noel Fyfe, whose children went to the school, sold apples to raise money to pay the way for Sisters who were able to attend. Such generosity included our accommodation, car rental, and a beautiful meal.

I remembered each Sister who had taught at the school, but not able to attend the celebrations: you were all included in the prayers at Mass.

*Contributed by Virginia Wilkinson*

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations at Kingston Beach



From left: Mrs Christine Direen (First lay principal), Sister Virginia Wilkinson rsc (Second principal), Sister Eileen Thynne rsc (First principal) and Mrs Elaine Doran (Present principal)



From left: Mrs Elaine Doran, Middle School Prefect, Sister Eileen Thynne rsc, Primary Student, Sister Virginia Wilkinson rsc, Youngest Student in School, Frances (nee) Pardow (ex-student) and Maureen (nee) Pardow (ex-student and teacher)

## Golden Jubilees



Jeannie Johnston

On Saturday, 11th September, some 60 people gathered in the Giovanni Chapel of St Vincent's Hospital, Brisbane, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Sr Jeannie Johnston. Relatives, friends, an ex-student and Sisters came from up and down the east coast— from Townsville to Hobart - as well as from northern NSW, Toowoomba Townsville and Roma.

Fr John Maher, PP, with whom Jeannie worked for five years in the Cathedral parish of Toowoomba, travelled from Roma to celebrate the Eucharist. The chapel was tastefully decorated and the liturgy flowed smoothly, with each member of Jeannie's community participating.

Following the Eucharist guests assembled in Lillian Cafe, the hospital's cafeteria, for an enjoyable finger food repast.

The occasion was truly a celebration of a journey of joyful creativity, as Jeannie named it.



Sister Mary Goss celebrates her 90th birthday

On 23rd May the Mt Olivet Community rejoiced with Mary Goss on her 90th birthday which was celebrated with lunch at the famous Pineapple Hotel, a short trip down the road from the Convent. The community was joined by Patricia Scully and also Jan O'Grady. Mary's cousin, a Presentation Sister, also joined the lunch. Everyone commented on the table setting which was beautifully decorated by Chris Henry and featured a cluster of multi-coloured balloons and golden starbursts surrounding a glittering 90! The staff at the hotel could not believe that the sprightly lady ordering her lunch was 90 years old, and wanted to know her secret! At the end of lunch Mary thanked each Sister present for being part of her life and her journey to achieving the milestone of 90 years. We likewise are privileged to have Mary sharing her life's wisdom with us, and are looking forward to celebrating her Platinum Jubilee next year.

# Words of Remembrance

Mary Ellen “Molly” Baptist ...Sister Mary Casimir rsc

Sister M.Casimir Baptist died peacefully on August 26th, 2010, at Mt St Joseph’s Home, Randwick.

*Jesus, sweet name, be the daily music of my soul and the seal of my heart, and when in the sweat and agony of death I give my last look to thee for mercy, may the parting sigh of my soul be “Jesus”.*

*O name of Jesus, thou art my comfort and my strength. Thou art all things to me.*

**Jesus.**

These are the words of one of Casimir’s favourite prayers, words we found typed out and inserted in her office book words, which we prayed frequently with her, especially in her last days of her life. The name of Jesus was indeed the daily music of her soul and the seal upon her heart.

The Congregation gives thanks to God for Sister Casimir’s long and faithful life. Within her family Casimir was known as Molly. She was the beloved daughter of Ellen and Vincent, sister to Patrick and cousin to Daryl and Rhonda Back and Sheelagh Colley.

After entering the Congregation in 1936, Casimir trained as a nurse at St Joseph’s Auburn, before moving into the roles of tutor, midwife and matron. She became a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing, committed always to keeping nursing at the highest standard, with her example and influence living on in hospitals throughout Australia.



Sister Casimir rsc with Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc

A very sociable woman among her friends and within community, Casimir wove her magic through words and handicrafts. We knew her both as poet and wordsmith. She would knit articles of clothing for the children and for our Sisters in Zambia. Our Sisters loved receiving Casimir’s parcels, because, sewn within each article of clothing, they would find a surprise packet of lollies- so hard to get in Zambia!

When I first started to visit her at the Little Sisters, Casimir was experiencing memory loss. I’d tell her my name and that I was a Sister of Charity and that all in our community sent her love – and one day she said to me “Oh I love those Sisters of Charity, they are such beautiful Sisters!” I said “But you are one!” to which she replied “Oh, am I?”. “Yes you are Casimir, through and through.” She smiled with sheer delight.

May our sister, Casimir, a true Sister of Charity, rest in peace and may each of us hold her memory dear. It is the love of Christ that impels us!

*Contributed by Elizabeth Dodds*



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