



Sisters of Charity
of Australia

Keep in Touch

KIT
MAGAZINE

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Inside this month

Welcome to the September 2018 edition of *Keep in Touch*, where the attention, following the Congregational Gathering, is on our Sisters, and their current ministries, as well as our history.

Among our stories, we remember the lives of two of our Sisters, Geraldine McGowan and Marita Sweeney, both beautiful women whose lives were dedicated to God and the people of God.

As well, eight Sisters celebrate diamond and golden jubilees this month.

And we hope you enjoy the headshots of the Sisters, taken by Tim Bauer at the Congregational Gathering.



Focus on the Gathering and our Sisters

There is much activity to share with you in this edition of *Keep In Touch*. Two of our Sisters – Annette Cunliffe and Colleen Jackson – have been to Conferences in Rome which respectively focused on child protection and human trafficking. Sister Colleen had the excitement of meeting Pope Francis!

From the Archives comes a story for us to ponder... August was full of Jubilees to celebrate; and mixed with the joy came the sorrow of losing Sr Marita Sweeney and Sr Geraldine McGowan. Their lives were celebrated through the Vigil and Mass of Christian Burial and the words of farewell you will also find in KIT. These women suffered much and had so much to teach us about life, dying and death.

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Focus on the Gathering and our Sisters

From page 1

At the end of June, our Congregational Gathering was held at Baulkham Hills NSW. It was held at the St Joseph's Centre – a perfect venue with space and beauty. We had serious things to talk about together with implications for our future. This was done with great enthusiasm.

I was touched by the joy of the group photograph and the positive comments from the Sisters themselves at the close of the Gathering. One of the strong messages of the Gathering was about "communion" – the mysterious work that God enacts in our lives through a wholehearted response of love. The power of communion amongst us is a call to be one with God and neighbour without distinction. We are a people of encounter.

There were four presentations prepared by the Sisters which incorporated our Chapter mandate. The presentations were Ecological Conversion, Margins Crossing Thresholds, Celebrating Life and Living as Religious Women today, and the Constitutions for Review. These presentations were rich and pointed us to new directions. There is no doubt the Holy Spirit was in our midst.

Our guest speakers were Sr Elizabeth Dowling rsm who spoke of God seeding the universe with promise and Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. who helped us to see how religious respond to the poor and marginalised in our society. The prayer rituals throughout the days were inspirational. We have such creativity amongst our Sisters.

Enjoy this edition of KIT. Thank you to all who contributed.

Sr Clare Nolan
Congregational Leader

Covering the Gathering



More than half the Congregation attended the Gathering, but around 40 Sisters remained at home. To include them in the event, it was live-streamed during four days to Smart TVs and hand held devices.

As well, having so many Sisters in one place offered an opportunity for new head shots – something which amused Sr Maryanne!



Top, left to right: Sr Maryanne Confoy.
Middle: The congregation. Bottom: The live-streaming control centre.

Ministry of Love

When the Sisters of Charity were planning the latest book on their ministries, the challenge to the author was what to leave out. Sr Clare spoke at the launch on the Congregation's Patronal Feast Day on August 15 in Sydney.



It is my pleasure to be here today for the launching of our new book *Ministry of Love: The Story of the Sisters of Charity* (pictured right).

We pay tribute to its author, Danielle Achikian, Sr Suzette Clarke rsc, the Chair of the Committee, and the Committee members Sr Moira O'Sullivan, Sr Genevieve Walsh rsc, and Jennifer Forest, who supported Danielle.

The Congregational Leader and Council – Srs Margaret Beirne, Suzette Clark, Cate O'Brien, and me – we feel so proud and yet humbled to launch this book today.

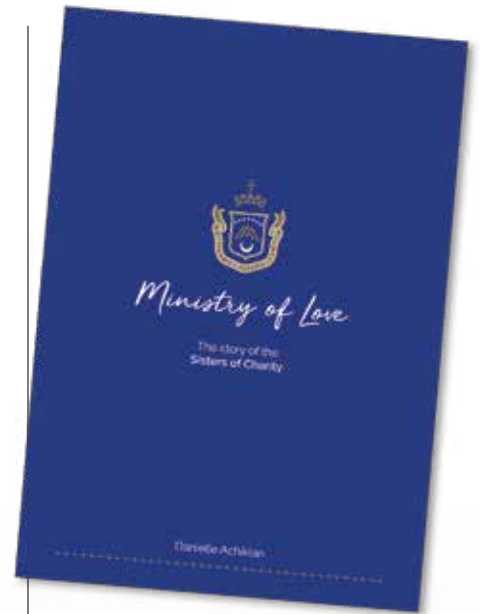
As Providence would have it, this is the 180th year of the Sister's arrival in Australia and this book ensures our story continues.

The last photograph in Margaret Donovan's book, *Apostolate of Love*, is of a tiny Sr Kathleen Doohan looking heavenwards and being overshadowed by a huge hospital building.

The inscription below this striking photograph says *Caritas Christi Urget Nos*.

That book was looking to the future. But who could have known that future as we have it today!

Apostolate of Love has been a constant companion to the Congregation and to many of us individually. The worn pages and markings within those pages bear witness to its use.



I was one who reached for *Apostolate of Love* when preparing for special events.

When preparing for Incorporation and the formation of Board Members, it was *Apostolate of Love* we used to tell our story.

Then as we journeyed on, I shared with Sr Annette Cunliffe the need for a follow-up book to *Apostolate of Love* to continue our story into this new millennium. Annette expressed her desire to do that when she finished her first term as Congregational Leader but sadly there was no time."

And now, here is *Ministry of Love: The Story of the Sisters of Charity!*

Sr Clare Nolan
Congregational Leader



Above: Bumped in at St Joseph's; Srs Dawn and Helen watching on-line in Melbourne.

Some snapshots

from the Congregational Gathering



From top, left to right:
Sr Gaye Reynolds.

Group: Srs Colleen Noonan, Angela Burke,
Jennifer Fahey, Virginia Wilkinson,
Jan O'Grady, Rose Holman, Annette Cunliffe.

Sr Patricia Walker; Sr Anthea Groves;
Sr Colleen Mills.

Group: Srs Jeannie Johnston,
Dorothy Bayliss, Christine Henry.

Sr Helen Clarke;
Sr Margaret Scully; Sr Maria Wheeler.



From top, left to right:
 Sr Jean Montgomery.
 Group: *Front row* Srs Helga Neidhart,
 Maureen Delaney, Elizabeth Costigan
Back row Srs Margaret Sapsford,
 Colleen McDonald, Loretta Bani,
 Cate O'Brien, Joan Stapleton.
 Sr Maureen Walters; Sr Margaret Guy;
 Sr Judith Christy; Sr Anne Turner;
 Sr Leone Wittmack; Sr Libbey Byrne.

Sr Colleen

on the Forum on Human Trafficking in Rome

The headline was shocking: “Anti-trafficking group loses Government funding.” But ACRATH is fighting back and has launched a national fund-raising appeal after the announcement from the Federal Government revealed that it would not be funding the organisation this year.



Sr Colleen Jackson.

ACRATH's \$125,000 one-year grant from the Federal Government ran out on June 30, 2018. Executive Officer Christine Carolan said ACRATH was hopeful of further Government funding in the future, but for now is completely reliant on the generosity of the community to continue working to combat modern day slavery and forced marriage (from *Catholic Outlook*).

The support of ACRATH by the Sisters of Charity of Australia is long standing and continues. And never has there been a greater need, nationally and internationally, for this highly respected organisation.

At the invitation of Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, and representing ACRATH, Sr Colleen Jackson rsc joined 28 other international delegates at the Forum on Human Trafficking in Rome from July 4 to 6.

In February this year, the Vatican Migrants and Refugees Section organised a consultation on Human Trafficking and invited Church leaders, expert practitioners, and scholars to share their concerns, identify challenges, and propose solutions.

(The Vatican Migrants and Refugees Section was set up by Pope Francis to give special attention to pastoral responses to challenges which face migrants and refugees). Following the February consultation, the M&R Section drafted a document that will form the basis of new guidelines similar to *Refugees and Migrants: 20 Pastoral Action Points on Refugees*.

At the July Forum, Conferences of Catholic Bishops from around the world were invited to critique the draft Guidelines in preparation for the publication of the final document, due for release in September 2018.

“Human trafficking is not just an issue for countries outside Australia” said Sr Colleen after her Rome visit, which included meeting with Talitha Kum, an International network of networks against Trafficking in Persons founded by the International Union of Superiors General in 2009. Sr Colleen is the Oceania representative on the Talitha Kum International Coordination Committee.

“We have critical issues in Australia and our region ... issues which include, for example, slavery and slavery-like practices in supply chains of goods that Australians use every day, domestic servitude, sexual slavery, and forced marriage. Human trafficking and slavery affect a wide range of people across ages, genders and religions. It is estimated that currently at least 15,000 people in Australia are subject to slavery or slavery-like practices.”

“ACRATH does immense work here in Australia, and is a major force in advocating and campaigning to combat human trafficking, and support victims of human trafficking and forced marriage. It has been a major contributor to the Modern Slavery Bill currently before our Australian Parliament”.



Sr Colleen with Pope Francis.

"This Forum reinforced for me the connection between displacement and human trafficking. And it brought home the enormity of the problem we face now. We Australians must do our part in combatting this evil practice" Sr Colleen said. (Nearly 70 million people are now displaced internationally, fleeing conflicts for example in Syria, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan).



Sr Colleen in Rome.



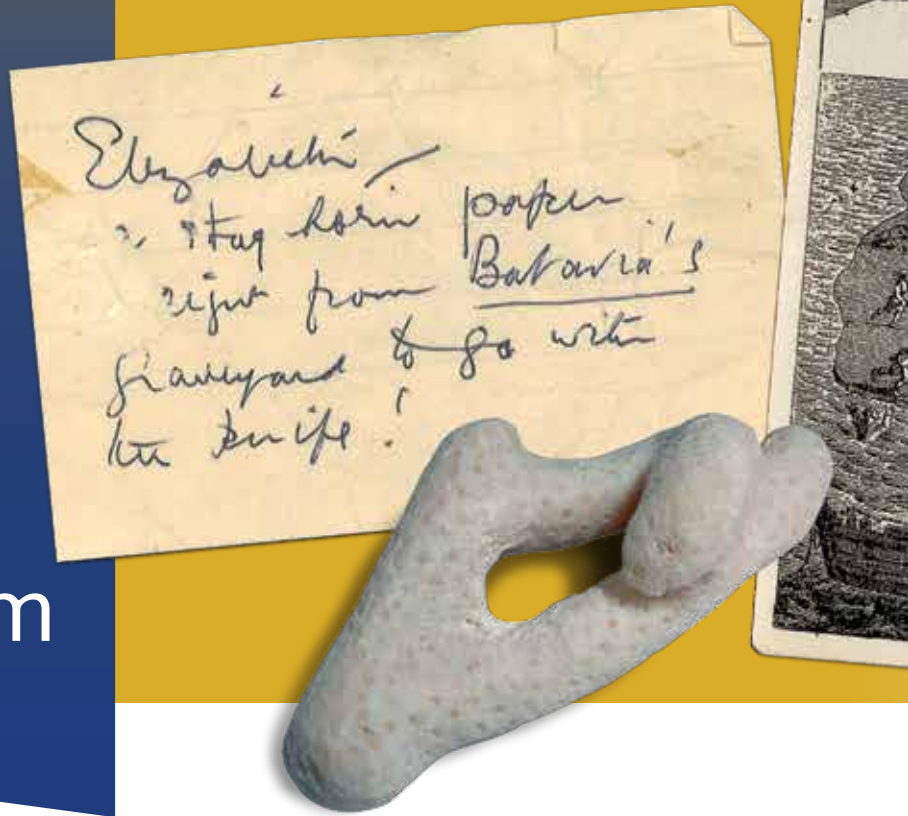
Donations to ACRATH can be made via direct deposit into the ACRATH Public Fund or by post. Cheques payable to ACRATH Public Fund and posted to:

ACRATH National Office
54 Beaconsfield Parade
Albert Park, Vic 3206

Direct Deposit
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
ACRATH Public Fund
BSB 063 111
Account number 10802141

If you make a donation by direct deposit, please send an email to treasurer@acrath.org.au giving your name and contact details so that a receipt can be issued.

Historic object from Batavia shipwreck site returned to WA museum



The process of preparing to relocate to the new Congregational Archives and Heritage Centre has afforded the staff of the Archives the opportunity to examine some of the lesser-known items held in the collection.

One such item, one of the more unusual objects which forms a part of the museum collection, is a piece of white coral. As is the case with most museum objects, the significance and value of the object lies in its history and provenance.

This piece of coral was collected from the coral reef surrounding the shipwreck site of the *Batavia*, Australia's second oldest known shipwreck and one of the most infamous and gruesome stories in global maritime history.

The Dutch ship *Batavia* was shipwrecked on the Morning coral reef in the Wallaby group of islands, a part of the larger Abrolhos group of islands which sit approximately 90 kilometres off the coast of Geraldton, Western Australia.

The ship was wrecked in 1629. However the drownings, abandonment, mutiny, and murders that followed were some of the most violent events in maritime history, and are remembered as a harrowing experience for some of the earliest European visitors to what is now Australian territory.

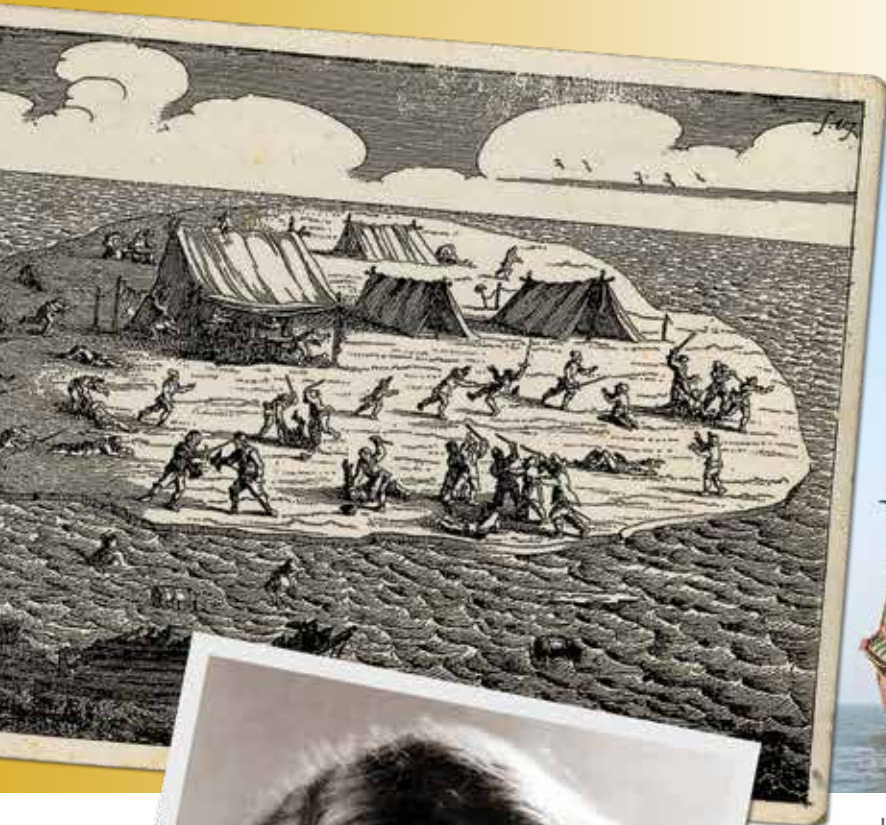
While today the shipwreck of the *Batavia* is a well-known and well-documented marine archaeological site, this was not always the case.

The discovery of the site came more than 300 years after the ship sank in 1629. The eventual discovery of the site was the result of decades of tireless research by historians and authors, among whom was Henrietta Drake-Brockman.

Drake-Brockman was a Western Australian writer, historian, and playwright who researched the *Batavia* for many years prior to publishing *Voyage to Disaster*, a biography of the commander of the ship, Francisco Pelsaert, in 1963.

Disputes had existed for some time regarding the likely site of the shipwreck. Drake-Brockman undertook significant research on the event, including accessing Dutch archival material on the occurrence as well as visiting and diving at possible wreck sites.

Eight years prior to the discovery of the site in 1963, Drake-Brockman had proposed a probable wreck site, a proposition which was eventually proven correct. The discovery of the site and others in the 1960s also led to the establishment of the Maritime Archaeology and Materials Conservation and Restoration departments at the WA Museum.



Left to right: The *Batavia* coral and note to Elizabeth H; 1647 etching of the *Batavia* shipwreck; Replica of the *Batavia* galleon.



Henrietta Drake-Brockman (courtesy of Brockman Family Tree).

And this is where we return to the piece of coral housed in the Congregational Archives. This coral was collected by Henrietta Drake-Brockman from the shipwreck site of the *Batavia*, presumably when she dived at the site following its discovery in 1963.

According to notes accompanying the object, the coral was given to a woman identified only as Elizabeth H, who had assisted in editing the manuscript for *Voyage to Disaster*.

One of the notes refers to a knife, which was an earlier gift exchanged from a research trip to Indonesia. Elizabeth H later donated the coral to the Congregational Archives, in the hope that it would have a permanent home in an historic collection.

Upon assessing the object, Congregational Archives staff determined that the object would be more suited to a permanent home in a Western Australian collection.

The Western Australian Museum, which includes the WA Maritime Museum, Shipwrecks Museum and Museum of Geraldton, was contacted, and has gratefully accepted the donation of the object from the Sisters of Charity of Australia.



The coral will now be donated to the WA Museum, where it will form a part of the collection as an object of significance not only to the infamous and historic story of the *Batavia*, but to the history of the Museum itself.

Congratulations to our Jubilarians!

Sr Anne Mayberry rsc

Golden Jubilee - 27 August 2018



Welcome address for Sr Anne's jubilee

It is my joy and privilege to be invited by Anne to welcome everyone to her celebration today here at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Mt Pritchard.

Welcome to Anne's beautiful family, her friends, her school colleagues, Community Care colleagues, and all who have walked the journey with Anne in various ways over 50 years as a Sister of Charity.

Anne's Mum and Dad are rejoicing in heaven with us gathered here with Anne today.

Anne, you have lived a varied ministry life since your Profession day in 1968 and always faithful to wherever you were missioned, carrying with you your motto *For Love of Thee*.

Today is a joyful day, like those many beautiful pieces of coloured glass you crafted with such patience and love over many years – light breaking into a myriad of colours from the glass, enabling us to see how good life has been and is, even in its difficult times.

You developed such a passion for people struggling on the land and those living on the margins in country areas. You are such an inspiration, Annie, and it is great to be here with you today.



Fr Kevin Walsh with Sr Anne Mayberry.



Sr Clare, Sr Anne, and the Papal blessing.

You are a true daughter of Mary Aikenhead serving the poor wherever you find them. Your Liturgy today is so beautifully prepared and reflects who you are through Word, song and ritual.

We welcome you, Kevin our dear friend, to celebrate the Eucharist with us.



Sr Genevieve Walsh, Catherine Blake, Sr Anne.

May the joy of this day flood our souls and may we all join with Anne with hearts full of gratitude and proclaim in the Eucharist Amen to 50 years of faithful, loving service as a Sister of Charity. Let the celebration begin!

Clare Nolan rsc
Congregational Leader



Sr Anne with family including her cousin, Sr Margaret Valentine on Anne's right, and her aunt, Sr Josephine Hodges, to her front left.

Sr Margaret Sapsford rsc
Golden Jubilee - 27 August 2018



From Congregational Leader,
Sr Clare Nolan

You chose as your motto:
"In Christ Jesus."

For 50 years, it has guided
your religious life.

May these words of Pope
Francis inspire and support
you, Margaret:



*"May you come to
realise the message
of Jesus that God
wants to speak to
the world by your
life. Let yourself be
transformed. Let
yourself be renewed
by the Spirit so this
can happen."*

(Gaudete et Exsultate para 24)



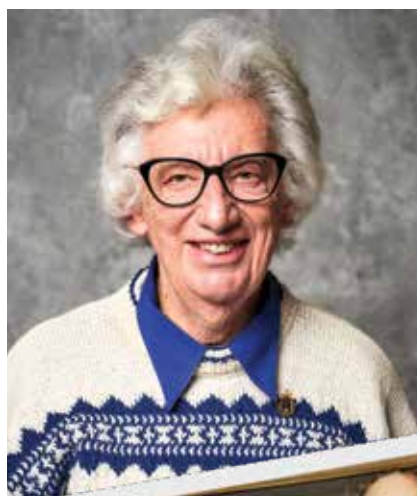
Three Sisters celebrated in Brisbane

Srs Carmel Coyle, Denise Hannebery, and Jan O'Grady met up in Brisbane to celebrate their milestones on a beautiful, late winter's weekend.



Left to right:
Srs Carmel Coyle,
Jan O'Grady and
Denise Hannebery.

Sr Denise Hannebery rsc
Diamond Jubilee - 27 August 2018



From the Congregational Leader,
Sr Clare Nolan

To Sr Denise Hannebery

Your deep faith and genuine
commitment to living the life
of a Sister of Charity for 60 years
is an inspiration to all ... You are
a quiet achiever of love! Thank
you for your love.

Motto: *In amore pro amore,
per amore. (In love, for love,
through love.)*



Above left: Sr Denise Hannebery rsc;
Below left: Sr Denise Hannebery, Bishop Philip Wilson
and Sr Carmel Coyle, after a Catechetics Mass at Wollongong.

Three Sisters celebrated in Brisbane

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Sr Carmel Coyle rsc

Diamond Jubilee - 27 August 2018



From the Congregational Leader,
Sr Clare Nolan

To Sr Carmel Coyle

Pope Francis in his recent exhortation on the call to holiness encourages you "Always ask the Holy Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and every decision you make so as to discern its place in the mission you have received" (Gaudete Et Exsultate) and your motto *To be one with Christ in All Things* will continue to guide you.

Sr Jan O'Grady rsc

Diamond Jubilee - 27 August 2018



To Sr Jan O'Grady

May you be encouraged by these words of Pope Francis:

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and bearing witness in all that we do, wherever we find ourselves" (Gaudete Et Exsultate).

May your motto *All for Jesus through Mary* continue to guide you.



Image above: 1981
Back row, left to right: Visitor, Sr Virginia Wilkinson, Visitor, Sr Carmel Coyle;
Front row, left to right: Sr Rose Holman, Sr Rosalia Puckeridge, Sr Antonita Duthy and Visitor.

Image left: 2008
Left to right: Sr Maureen Delaney, Sr Dorothy Bayliss and Sr Carmel Coyle at Sr Tarcisius' 70th Jubilee held at St Vincent's Hospital Convent, Toowoomba.

A double celebration

for Sr Margaret Case rsc

Diamond Jubilee - 18 August 2018

There was a double celebration at St Catherine's Residential Care, Balwyn on August 18 for Sr Margaret Case, who was celebrating her 80th birthday and 60 years as a Sister of Charity of Australia.

Sr Cate O'Brien had prepared a very beautiful and simple liturgy honouring Margaret, who was surrounded by her Sisters of Charity family and her family members. The Sisters read their Vows with Margaret and then Sr Cate presented Margaret with her Papal Blessing.

Sr Margaret said: "I am so overwhelmed, thank you, thank you, thank you!" The smile on her face told the story.



Sr Patricia Scully and Sr Margaret.



Sr Margaret and Srs Patricia, Cate O'Brien, and Mary Gabrielle Clarke.

Sr Cate acknowledged the other Sisters in Margaret's batch who were also celebrating in Brisbane and Sydney. Especially remembered were Srs Patricia Carr, Bernadette Culhane and Trish Shinnars, who would have been smiling down from Heaven.

Days like these bring so much joy to those celebrating such an achievement.



Sr Elizabeth Harper rsc

Diamond Jubilee - 18 August 2018

To Sr Elizabeth Harper from Sr Clare

Your motto *He must grow greater. I must grow smaller* has certainly helped you grow and has allowed you to open your heart to receive the ways Jesus may increase his life in you.



Sr Elizabeth celebrates her Diamond Jubilee with friends and her community.



Sr Robyn Wheeler rsc

Diamond Jubilee - 18 August 2018

To Sr Robyn Wheeler from Sr Clare

You chose as your motto *Behold the handmaid of the Lord*. May you be comforted with these words of St Francis:

"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all those who encounter Jesus... with Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

(Evangelii Gaudium)



Sr Robyn with her community, and the CL&C (from left) Pauline Staunton, Cate O'Brien, Deirdre Hickey, Margaret Beirne, Fr Philip Watkins SSS, Congregational Leader, Clare Nolan, Suzette Clark, Jacinta Fong, and Mary Frances Gould.

Words of remembrance

Sr Marita Sweeney rsc

(12 December 1919 - 21 May 2018)



Our beloved Sr Marita was blessed with a long life – being now in her 99th year – but Marita did not cling to age and was ready to make her final journey to Heaven whenever God was ready for her.

When asked by one of the Sisters, what would you like to pray for today?, Marita's response was "that I would trust God more" and on another occasion very recently a Sister offered to pray a decade of the Rosary with her and the Sister asked Marita which mystery would she like to contemplate and she replied "the Annunciation" – Mary's "yes" of trust in God.

Marita's spiritual life and vocation was centred on trust in God, no matter what she was asked to do or accept in her life.

Marita's family was special to her. She loved each one but she especially loved the grandchildren growing up and would bring out the photos sent to her of the children's various activities. It brought her so much joy. She loved her home State of Tasmania and the special connection Tasmania has in the history of our Congregation.

Marita and 10 other women, entered the Sisters of Charity on February 2, 1938 – 100 years since the first five Sisters of Charity arrived from Ireland to begin their ministry in Australia. A very special day for Marita indeed.

Marita is known for her love of children. From her memoirs, written with the assistance of Sr Cathy Meese, Marita says: "After Profession I went to St Vincent's Potts Point as an Infants Teacher. I loved the children and they knew it. After a while I knew that I loved teaching Infants.

"In 1941 I went to St Mary's, Katoomba NSW. And over the years I became more confident and I knew I was born to be a teacher."

One of Marita's very memorable teaching of little ones was in 1972 when she was missioned to the Sisters of Charity community, Bundi, New Guinea. There were 32 Sisters in the community at that time. Marita found it a wonderful experience and so different from what she had left in Australia. The children were a joy to teach, according to Marita.

Who is this woman to us? She was a gentle woman, softly spoken, beautiful with eyes that showed great interest and love to whomever she spoke. Any conversation with Marita always included a "how are you?" and she was interested in whatever the response might be. And being a good listener and woman of integrity, she could allow herself to be a confidante to many. She was trustworthy, sensitive and caring.

Marita was a faith-filled, prayerful woman. In 1985, she went to a place on our Novitiate property called Bethany which was a House of Prayer.

She was Sr Margaret Laffan's Assistant and had a Prayer Ministry there. Marita loved welcoming people for their Retreats and Spiritual Direction. Her role in hospitality was a very special ministry to her. At Wahroonga, she was surrounded by the beauty of the spreading gardens and enjoyed using her cooking ability to create treats for all to share.



Four Sisters, 1942. *Left to right:* Srs M. Mildred Carroll, Elspeth Smith, Remigius O'Brien and Marita Sweeney.



Sr Geraldine McGowan rsc

(18 October 1935 - 23 June 2018)

To love thee, Jesus, and to make thee loved



Marita was a very grateful person throughout her life. She was grateful to all who visited her while she was at Clayton. She was loyal and faithful to those in Leadership positions and she prayed for them daily. She would often comment "it's a thankless ministry!"

Marita was so grateful to all who cared for her needs at Corpus Christi Clayton during her many years there. And our own Sisters Mary Gabrielle Clarke, Pam Grime, Regina Millard, Cathy Meese, Virginia Mahoney and Colleen Jackson, and Liz Reid, our Health Care Co-Ordinator, to name a few.

It is now time for us to return this very special woman and much loved Sister of Charity to God, who loaned her to us all. Her work on earth is done. Well done good and faithful servant, receive the place prepared for you.

Marita's personal motto was "Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee."

Marita spent her life loving God in others and finding and loving God within herself.

Marita, may Christ Our Lord who has called you, receive you into His open arms. May the Angels lead you into Paradise and welcome you Home.

Clare Nolan rsc
Congregational Leader

St Peter's Church, 258 Clayton Road,
Clayton Victoria, 28 May 2018

On October 18, 1935 Geraldine Mary McGowan was the first of 10 children born to Catherine and Thomas McGowan. She grew up at Auburn and attended St John's Primary School there, then went on to Bethlehem College at Ashfield for her secondary schooling.

Before joining the Sisters of Charity, Geraldine worked in the Commonwealth Bank for one year.

On July 2, 1952 Geraldine entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity and after two and a half years of preparation, was professed on January 6, 1955. After Profession, Geraldine completed her Teachers Training then taught for a number of years in primary schools, in Sydney, Melbourne, and Tasmania.

She then volunteered for the Motor Mission Ministry in Sydney's south west parishes of Moorebank and Green Valley and Katoomba. This ministry brought Geraldine into contact with not only hundreds of students in State Schools but their parents also.

Geraldine was a people person. She loved people and people loved her. She gave her time unreservedly to everyone. She constantly visited them in their homes, and when any of them were in hospital she visited them there too.

Continued on page 16 →



Srs Mary Marcellina Breen and Geraldine McGowan, St Mary's Convent Hurstville, ca 1957.

Words of remembrance

Sr Geraldine McGowan rsc

From page 15

After her years in the Motor Mission, Geraldine was diagnosed with cancer. This was the beginning of many years of chemotherapy, sickness and pain which she endured with much patience and acceptance but she still wanted to help people so she went to the Sisters of Charity Outreach office at Darlinghurst, and began sending out "thank you" letters to the benefactors of Outreach, as well as being a listening ear for those around her who had problems of any kind.



Sr Geraldine McGowan, Sandy Bay, TAS, 1966.



At this time, too, she was living at the Darlinghurst convent and the time came when she could no longer walk up the path to the Outreach office so Sr Margaret Fitzgerald would pick her up in the car and drive her up – so much was her presence wanted and needed at Outreach.

Finally, Geraldine was in and out of hospital so much and so sick she could not continue her ministry and needed to go into care, but at this particular time beds in Aged Care Facilities were difficult to find. Thankfully, however, she was accepted by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick.

These Sisters cared for Geraldine absolutely lovingly and beautifully. So much so that her health improved greatly and they called her their miracle.

She became very happy there and saw Mt St Joseph's, as it is called, as her home.

While there Geraldine began ministering to the other residents by visiting them in their rooms and also by starting up a Christian meditation group which was comforting to those who attended.

During this year, Geraldine's health deteriorated to the point that it became necessary for her to be confined to her room for most of the day. Being the people person she was, she missed being able to enjoy the company of the other residents and minister to them.

Then as the months went by, she suffered more and more but did not complain. Different staff members told me they looked on Geraldine as a saint.

Then one day, her condition deteriorated greatly until finally at 9.50 that evening she went peacefully to her loving God Whom she had served so well.

We Sisters of Charity are indebted to the Little Sisters of the Poor for the constant care and love they showered upon Geraldine. We thank them most sincerely and pray that their wonderful work for the poor of Christ will be greatly blessed.

Sr Jean Montgomery

Funeral Mass was held at St John of God Church Auburn on 29 July, 2018



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