



SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS

AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE NEWS UPDATE

JULY 2018

Dear Sisters,

As all your contributions to this letter indicate, the month of June was certainly very eventful. Towards the end of May we were in communion with all our Sisters around the world as we celebrated our special feasts of Pentecost, Trinity and the Visitation. However, our joy was tinged with some sadness as we farewelled Maria Sen (Melbourne), Thuy and Giang (Perth), who had been with us for 18 months as they improved their English in preparation for Davao. We are thinking of them and praying for them during this special time of preparation for their Final Vows.

At this time a significant event in the life of the Australian Church is the launching of the process leading up to the 2020 Synod. At a special Eucharistic celebration in St Mary's Cathedral on the eve of Trinity Sunday. I received a large candle on behalf of you all - a prayer focus leading up to the Synod. It will go on "pilgrimage" around our communities.

You would have received by now a copy of the process being used to gather responses, to the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?". We can participate in any group discussion or form a group ourselves. Responses will be collated and form the basis for the two sessions of the Synod.

From June 18th-21st, I participated in the Annual National Conference of Religious Leaders held in Brisbane, the theme of which was: "Religious Life, Australia - Evolving with Hope". The keynote speakers were Sr Gail Worcelo who, along with Fr Thomas Berry, Passionist, founded the "Green Mountain Monastery in Greenboro, Vermont, USA, and Fr Michael Whelan, Marist from Sydney who studied with me at the Institute of Formative Spirituality, Duesquesne, Pittsburgh. He is the Executive Director of Catalyst for Renewal Spirituality in the Pub is one of its forums for transformation. There are still 15 groups in the East that meet regularly. Both Gail and Michael offered us plenty of food for reflection and provocative table conversations as we considered some of the issues facing religious life in Australia today.

Two of the many issues we discussed were our concern over the Federal Government's recent legislation regarding Migrants and Refugees. A statement was sent to Mr Turnbull and Ministers on behalf of Religious Australia emphasising our concerns. (Andrea has sent a copy to each community). The other issue was the Redress Scheme - for victims of sexual abuse, which as been accepted by both Victoria and West Australian Governments. Religious will participate but how they would join the scheme is still under discussion.

I am encouraged and inspired by the many and diverse ways you all continue to be involved in mission, so I pray that the realization that "We are held in the Communion of love at the heart of the Trinity" (Const.) will continue to be the driving force of our energy for mission and our communion with each other.

With love,

Marie Thésire

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ROCKINGHAM, WA

On 31st May, 2018 Star of the Sea Catholic Primary school Rockingham, WA celebrated 45 years since its foundation. As I was the founding Principal I was invited to attend together with Maureen Belleville, second Principal, Helena Brabender, third Principal and Patricia Keogh, a staff member. Unfortunately, due to a broken hip Maureen Belleville was unable to attend.

The celebrations began with a Mass in the parish church at 9am. The liturgy was most impressive and especially the school choir and band which led the singing. There was maximum participation of staff and students.

Ms Deborah Addison, Deputy Principal, former student, welcomed everyone especially the sisters, former staff and parishioners who were parents of the original students 45 years ago!

She announced that, "*The 45th anniversary was combined with the Inaugural Feast Day Celebration, Feast of the Visitation, to celebrate our historic connection to our founding Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions*".



*Ms Deborah Addison.
Deputy Principal and former pupil.*

Following Mass morning tea was served in the parish hall and it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with so many, including teachers I employed in the early days, some of whom are still involved. We also met parents of children in the 70's who are now grandparents of current students!!



Photo of former teachers, parents and parishioners.

One of our long term staff members. Therese Safe, passed away just a week before the celebration. However, we were able to attend her Requiem Mass and remember her wonderful contribution to Star of the Sea and RNDM as an associate.

The school included a special prayer of the faithful to remember and honour Therese.

Mr Steve Dowie, principal, has had a long association with our sisters, formerly in Broome with Helena and then in Derby with Margaret Scott. He is very keen to develop a partnership with Southern Sudan. Therefore on Wednesday 30th May I shared a Power point on the work of our sisters and Solidarity with Southern Sudan, to the whole school, now 750 students! Steve has committed to raise \$5,000 in 2019 for scholarships for children in Southern Sudan!



L to R Catherine Brabender, Mr Mauricio Da Silva RE Cord., Helena Brabender, Mr Steve Dowie, Principal, Patricia Keogh

We were very proud to see the wonderful growth and development of Catholic Education at Rockingham over the past 45 years and it is a tribute not only to our RNDM sisters who laid the foundations but also to the dedicated staff and Principals who have carried on this great tradition.

Catherine Brabender RNDM

INAUGURAL FEAST DAY CELEBRATION. FEAST OF THE VISITATION

On the 31st May Sisters Marie Therese, Catherine, Helena and Patricia attended the Inaugural Feast Day at Star of the Sea Rockingham. What a wonderful celebration! There were about fifty to seventy children in the choir and they sang like angels, the rest of the children were also very good.

The school has chosen the feast of the Visitation as it is special to the sisters and we began the school many years ago, it is now forty five years since the school began at its present site in Rockingham.

We were welcomed by the Principal Mr Dowie and the past teachers some of them having been there since the school moved to this site. It was like a reunion as we met many past teachers, parents and friends. We enjoyed morning tea, but unfortunately, as it was very wet we were unable to do the tour of the school.



Patricia Keogh

SACRED HEART FEAST DAY

Margaret, Thuy, Nguyet and Shelley attended the whole school feast-day celebrations of Sacred Heart College Sorrento. We were presented with red roses. Sacred Heart Girls' College Oakleigh, Sorrento's sister - college sent representative staff and students. Messages were read out from Principal Peter Bothe on leave in Florence and Sr Marie Therese at the CRA Conference. These were joyfully received. After the wonderful celebration of the Eucharist Mass and delicious morning tea, we visited the enjoyable fund-raising events - all monies raised going for our Vietnam Mission.



Leaders from Sacred Heart Girls' College Oakleigh with teachers Carmel Feeney and Caroline Duckett.



With "Sister Mary" Oakleigh teachers and Sorrento's Rossana Hywood and Srs Thuy and Nguyet

The next day accompanied by Thuy and Nguyet, Shelley led 20 students and staff from Oakleigh and Sorrento on a tour of the original Sacred Heart High School, Highgate. Both groups proudly sang their school anthems in the chapel choir loft. Sacred Heart Primary School Principal Tanya Mc Guire and Deputy Caroline Perlini gave us a wonderful tour of the new Heritage Centre housed at the Mary Street end of the primary school, and former entrance of the first school erected in 1897.



Shelley Barlow

SACRED HEART FEAST DAY

History was made this year when three secondary schools established by our Sisters came together to celebrate their name day - Sacred Heart. Student leaders and College Leaders of staff from Sacred Heart Girls' College Hamilton, New Zealand, Sacred Heart Girls' College Oakleigh in eastern Australia and Sacred Heart College, Sorrento Western Australia.

SHC Sorrento WA and SHGC Hamilton NZ arrived at Oakleigh on Wednesday afternoon and stayed until Sunday morning. The students were billeted with Oakleigh College families and the teachers in a nearby motel. There was joy among the students and the teachers as all discovered how much they had in common: their College name, colours, similar uniforms and crests and above all their RNDM heritage.

On Thursday the students took part in the regular class programs of Year 12 in SHGC Oakleigh while the staff toured the College all the time discussing school programs, ideas for learning, differing creative ways leading in learning etc. A seminar was held for the visiting College staff, Oakleigh Principal and Oakleigh members of the Mission and Ministry team discussing our RNDM spirit and mission and the impact of Euphrasie on College spirituality and philosophy. It was such a rich discussion and a time of deep learning for all involved. We all recognized how much we held in common and the decision was made that such gatherings between Sacred Heart Colleges in Australia and New Zealand need to become regular events.

On Friday - the day chosen to celebrate the feast, there was a full College celebration of Eucharist, and the annual Oakleigh Walkathon to raise funds for the education of Menubo girls in Delesan Kaiwalan Centre, Kulaman Southern Philippines. All of us look forward to further developments in such inter College sharing of RNDM mission in our schools.



Sacred Heart Girls' College, Oakleigh, Vic was opened by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in 1957.

The College motto is **Semper Superne Nitens** which means '*Always Striving Upwards*'.



Sacred Heart College Sorrento WA was opened by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in 1967.

The College motto is "**Semper Superne Nitens**" meaning "*Always Striving Upwards*" which is expanded as "*To you, our God*"



Sacred Heart Girls College Hamilton New Zealand was opened by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in 1884.

The College motto is '**Age Quod Agis**' translated loosely into "*Whatever you do, do to the best of your ability*".

Madeleine Barlow

YOUNG VINNIES' STUDENTS SHOP FOR CARAD

After school on Tuesday, Monica Asphar (Year 10), Kristen Parrotte (Year 10), Mrs Hywood and myself went to Coles in Hillarys to spend \$220 for an organisation called CARAD.

CARAD is a Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees which helps out with feeding and giving services to these vulnerable people. CARAD has appealed for help to provide food and services for more than 100 people seeking asylum in Perth. In the coming months, changes to eligibility for government services will mean that many of these people will be left without an income. These people may rely on donations from organisations such as CARAD or face going without food.



We bought them some toiletries, lots of food and your everyday necessities using the money that we raised for Vinnies. It felt so good knowing that we were shopping for other kids who may have to go without food

**Cooper Headland
Year 7 Student.**



"This all came about through our wonderful friend, Rossana Hywood, who coordinates the social outreach activities at the College."



Margaret Spain

CANADA - THE LONG ROAD

I was privileged in May to spend three weeks in the Canadian Province and to accompany the Sisters on their retreat reflecting on the Constitutions. It was a very precious, sacred time for me and I did love being with the Sisters there.

While Australia and Canada have much in common - they are of course very different. I loved the wide-open space of the prairies - the big sky - long distances. I loved the emergence of Spring, squirrels, Canadian geese (especially the mother goose sitting on eggs at her annual nesting place!) deer in the grounds, the magnificent Red River flowing fast at the edge of the Retreat property. Above all I loved the Sisters, the warmth of their welcome and their rich RNDM missionary lives.

In Winnipeg I was privileged to go with 3 RNDM missionaries - Thoung from Vietnam, Jacinta from North East India and Helen Nwe Ni from Myanmar - to Sunday Eucharist at the parish of St Katerie - an Indigenous community of many different tribes. The Sisters are Pastoral Workers in the community and the mutual affection between the Indigenous people and the Sisters was moving to see.

In Regina I joined briefly with RNDM Formators who were participating in the reflective course Journeying in the Footsteps of Euphrasie - Papa Win from Myanmar, Hema from South India, Felista from Kenya and Huong from Vietnam. How blessed are these women to be learning from Claire Himbeault and her team of helpers - all experienced missionaries - Marilyn, Beth, Anna Aulie, and Trish Orban. And all the others in the Regina community who fed and housed and welcomed the Sisters with the gift of friendship in the Canadian Province. How I wished that I could have had such an opportunity earlier in my own life and understanding of Euphrasie.



There is so much to be said about Canada and the Sisters there. It was a happy privilege to be with them - even though it was such a short time. On the final night of the Retreat the whole community of the Province took part in a Trinity Dance of Appreciation led by Anne Aulie. I am still deeply moved by that experience.

I left Canada greatly enriched. I am so thankful to Denise, Veronica and Sandy and all the Sisters. If only I knew the gift ...I am still unwrapping it!

Madeleine Barlow

VISIT OF CARDINAL BO TO MELBOURNE

Last Sunday, June 17th we attended 11 am Mass celebrated by Cardinal Bo, Cardinal Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar at St Frances Church, Melbourne.

He was a guest of Catholic Missions whose mission appeal this year is

HEALING A NATION THROUGH EDUCATION in Myanmar

Following the Mass we met with him and he was delighted to meet RNDM's in Melbourne as he has the highest regard for RNDM's in Myanmar!

You may recall a few years ago Margaret Maung was invited to Austria to give the mission appeals during October and she was interviewed on Austrian Television with Cardinal Bo!!

At the 1.30pm Mass Angela Awai was the guest speaker to make the appeal. She spoke very well and we are extremely proud of her.

Catherine Brabender RNDM

COLUMBANS 100TH

On Sunday 24th, Madeleine, Trish and Marie Therese joined several hundred other families, friends and fans of the Columban Fathers for their 100th Anniversary Celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. At the luncheon afterwards we heard many stories from some of these wonderful missionaries. Our great joy, however was to catch up with the O'Neill family - Kate's (Philippines) mother and father, Ruth and John, her sister Jenny and twin Columban brother, Kevin (current Leader of the Columbans) and Peter who is temporarily in Australia after 28 years in Taiwan and known to our Sisters there.

Marie Thérèse

MESSAGE FROM MAUREEN BELLEVILLE

Thank you most sincerely for your prayers, your visits, your concern and your communicating with me with beautiful "Get Well" cards and phone calls. The Sisters in our Melbourne Community have also been very generous in providing transport for appointments, grocery shopping and in recent times in taking me to Mass. It appears that although I am home now there will yet be some time before I have fully recovered.

Once again, thank you and may you be blessed with peace and joy.

Maureen Belleville

PATRICIA BYRNE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

On the 10th June the Vietnamese Catholic Community honoured Sister Patricia Byrne at the Vietnamese Centre, Westminster, for her 90th birthday. It was moving to see the Community's joy, especially of the many older people who had not seen Patricia since she moved to MercyCare. A beautiful Mass with joyful singing, a cutting of the cake and festive lunch, and appreciative speeches. There was a video presentation of Patricia's accompaniment of so many over a period of more than 30 years.

The next day, Patricia's actual birthday, we gathered at Island Market Café, Trigg Beach for her mile-stone celebration.



Shelley Barlow

RECENTLY DECEASED

RIP

Mrs Pauline Belviso (O'Connor) 11/05/18 - Star Music Pupil of Sr M. Joseph Lauder.

Mrs Teresa Safe (Horan) 19/05/18 - Former pupil of Sacred Heart, Highgate and teacher at Star of the Sea, Rockingham and an associate of many years.

Sr Angela Kennedy 25/05/18 - Loreto Sister, Perth.

Olive McAuliffe 29/05/18 - Dear friend, mother of Teresa Egan and long time RNDM associate R.I.P. Marie Thérèse, Veronica, Margaret and Patricia travelled to St Matthew's Church Narrogin to attend the Mass of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Olive's life. Afterwards they joined the throng for her burial and wake.



BIRTHDAYS & FEAST DAYS

August	9 th	Kate O'Neill	(B)
	15 th	M Tarcisius Clifton	(F)
September	11 th	Shelley Barlow	(B)
	14 th	Lorna Brown	(F)



ANNIVERSARIES

August	2 nd	Sr Mary Vianney (Kathleen) Chappel	1981
	3 rd	Sr Mary St Celsus (Elsie) McGrade	1976
	5 th	Sr Mary Lucille (Louisa) Benney	1997
	8 th	Sr Mary St Cyril of Alexandria (Eileen) Byrne	1968
		Sr Winifred (Mary St Arcadius) Murray	1981
	9 th	Sr Mary St Theonilla (Rose) Harvey	1969
	10 th	Sr Margaret Mary (Aileen) Crock	2010
	13 th	Sr Mary Agnes of Montepulciano - Kenny	1966
	14 th	Sr Mary Dulia (Irene) de Mamiel	1982
	19 th	Sr Mary Ethnea (May)	2006

	22 nd	Sr Mary St Fridolin (Honorina) Butterfield	1920
		Sr Mary St Rose of Lima (Mary Cecilia) Kelly	1946
	26 th	Sr Marie St Martina (Anna) Taylor	1950
		Sr Mary Madeleine (Alice) Watts	1956
	27 th	Sr Mary St Finbar (Kate) Long	1939
	29 th	Sr Isabel (Kathleen) Magee	2007
	30 th	Sr Mary Immaculate (Dorothy) Cornell	2010
September	3 rd	Sr Mary St Lydia (Margaret) Harris	1993
	4 th	Sr Mary Kyran (Edith Ellen) Wiese	1995
		Sr Mary Elizabeth (Janet) Stokes	2010
	5 th	Sr Mary Helen (Ellen) Scammell	2002
	6 th	Sr Mary St Modwena (Ivy) Bell	1951
	8 th	Sr Mary St Palladius (Susan) Filmer	1965
		Sr Mary Gertrude of the B S (Kathleen) O'Dwyer	1989
	8 th	Sr Mary Bernadine (Catherine) O'Donohoe	1999
	11 th	Sr Mary St Irene (Mary) O'Reilly	1904
		Sr Mary Philomina of Jesus (Kathleen) Topliss	1976
	13 th	Sr Mary de Lellis (Mary) Ryan	1982
	18 th	Sr Mary Monica (Sheila) Maddison	2004
	19 th	Sr Mary Michael (Mary) Thornett	1981
	23 rd	Sr Mary Theophane Venard (Margaret) Egan	2000
	24 th	Sr Mary Austin (Doreen) Sutherland	1994
	26 th	Sr Mary Benedict (Cecilia) Trott	1980

