NINE DAYS OF THANKSGIVING

The Sisters of St Joseph give thanks for 150 years 1866 - 2016





Recently I was reading Mary MacKillop's letter to the Sisters on 19 March, 1891. In this letter Mary reflects, twenty-five years ago St Joseph's Day was celebrated for the first time as the special feast of the proposed Institute. It was on this day that the work of the Sisters of St Joseph was placed under St Joseph's care. Mary MacKillop always wrote to the Sisters for St Joseph's feast each year. It became a tradition for the Sisters to participate in a Novena dedicated to St Joseph for the nine days prior to the feast day.

In this our Sesquicentenary year we invite you to join the Sisters of St Joseph in praying this novena as we the Sisters look forward to celebrating our 150 years. In one of her later letters she encouraged the Sisters to let no obstacle prevent us from proceeding with courage as Joseph had done. May this novena enable you to act with courage as you live into the challenge that the Year of Mercy and our Sesquicentenary holds for each one.

May you have a wonderful day of celebration as we give thanks for the faithfulness of our good God over these 150 years.

Sr Monica Cavanagh Congregational Leader. Joseph's first and primary call came at birth when he responded to life and thus became a word of God in his person.

This word continued to be "spoken" throughout his life, as, at each stage of his development, he became more deeply who he was made to be.

Through the words of scripture and tis interpretation by community leaders, he would have remained in tune with the word of God, allowing it to influence life decisions and to give shape to the truth of God within him.

In The Spirit of Joseph. Mary Cresp rsj

It was through listening to God in his dreams that Joseph learnt his vocation.

This word continued to be "spoken" throughout his life, as, at each stage of his development, he became more deeply who he was made to be.

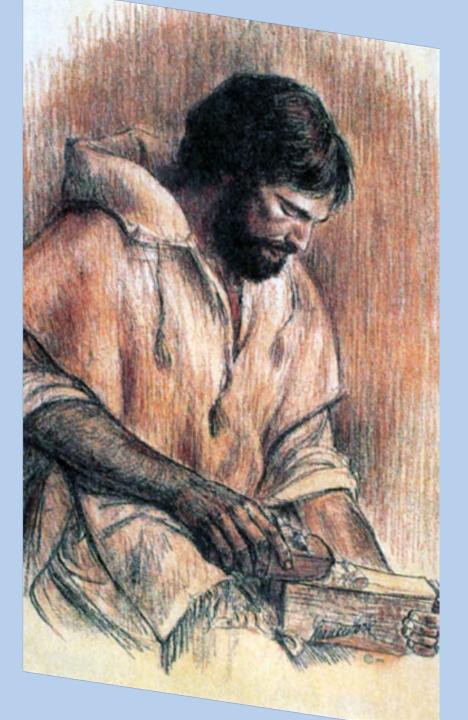
Through attending to the dream, Joseph learnt that he, along with Mary, was to play an active part in the coming of the Messiah. In bringing the gift of himself and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through him, Joseph enabled God's story to take shape.

In The Spirit of Joseph. Mary Cresp rsj

Following in the footsteps of Joseph we are called to be attentive to the promptings of Spirit in our hearts and continue to carry out the mission of God in our world.

In the coming days let us, with grateful hearts, walk with Joseph, our Patron.

Click to continue when ready



DAY ONE

Click to continue when ready



JOSEPH

THE

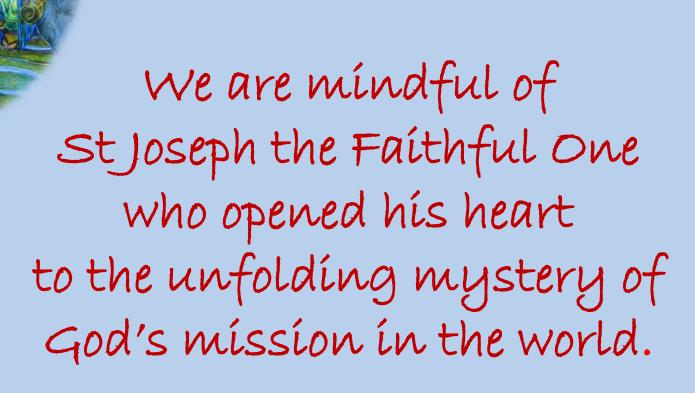
FAITHFUL

ONE

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WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

Today we give thanks for those in partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph





Forever O God your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

Psalm 119:89-90

Do all you can with the means at your disposal, and calmly leave the rest to God.

Mary Mackillop 1891



As you ponder the words from

Psalm 119

5the writings of Mary Mackillop 1891

what touches your heart?





(take as much time as you can to reflect on this.)



To what does this call me today?

united with those who are in partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph we pray:

We give thanks for God's generosity in calling the Sisters of St Joseph into being.

For Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods the first Sisters, the children in schools, the families around them, the friends supporting them. For the vision, energy and legacy they left. We give thanks for the Josephite spirit in God's mission for the women who heeded,
the people who supported the mission,
the families who welcomed the Sisters,
For the love and healing in our parishes.

Join with us, all who have gone before walking the Josephite way supporting the Josephite vision drawn into Josephite communion.

Join us in praise God's abounding kindness.

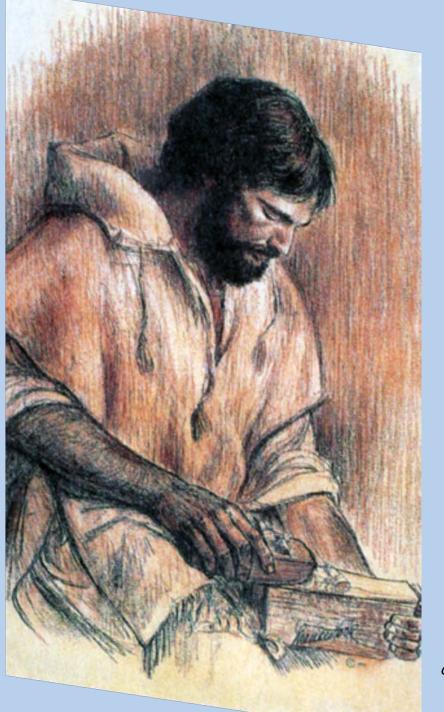
Amen



Thank you for praying in solidarity with the Sisters of St Joseph and people from across the world.

Let us remain mindful of St Joseph who opened his heart to the unfolding mystery of God's mission in the world.

We look forward to praying together tomorrow.



Click to continue when ready