

# Companions News

Welcome to the **JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND** Quarterly Newsletter

**September 2021**

## Editorial

In our last Companions News, June 2021, we reflected on the title of the Chapter document from the Sisters of St Joseph 27th General Chapter (October 2019): *Bring Me What You Have*. The document contains eight deliberations that were articulated and documented at the Chapter as the mission focus for the Sisters of St Joseph.

As Josephite Companions, we are enriched by being able to share in reflection on the inherent invitation within each of these deliberations. We are also challenged to explore the richness of possibilities that emerge as we continue to live out the Josephite Charism through *Friendship, Prayer and Service*.



### **PLANNING GROUP**

**Pauline McGuire** (Chair)  
pmcguire@tsv.catholic.org.au

**Erin Jones**  
ejones@tsv.catholic.org.au

**Carolyn Grimward**  
cgrimwar@bigpond.net.au

**Bernadette Roche**  
broche@onthenet.com.au

**Ken Theodore**  
ken.theodore20@gmail.com

**Anne Child**  
tess194568@gmail.com

### **CONTENTS**

<i>A prayer for our earth</i>	2
<i>Various items</i>	3
<i>Spotlight on a Companion</i> —Marie Sellin	4
<i>Donations Page</i>	5

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QUARTERLY NEWS PLEASE EMAIL:**

qld.companions@sosj.org.au

In light of the recent declaration by the IPCC Report on Climate Change, the UN chief declared a “code red for humanity”, with the hope that if the world acts quickly, catastrophic outcomes can be avoided. I was immediately drawn to one of the deliberations in the Chapter document that speaks of urgency and states:

*Let's face the crisis affecting people, other species and Earth itself at this time and with compassion and urgency, collaborate locally and globally to influence governments, companies and others to halt the damage, protect life, restore habitats and settle the homeless.*

In medical circles, Code Red requires a code team to rush to a specific location and begin immediate resuscitative efforts to save a life. The heart of our planet is sadly beating slower at the moment and, as Companions committed to Gospel values and service, our call to be Stewards of the Earth takes on a another level of meaning. As members of a global code team, there is hope that resides in our “being selfless and intentional in our relationships with the cosmos” (Joan Chittister).

As we approach the Anniversary of Fr Julian Tenison Woods' death (7 October 1889) it is fitting that we reflect on his influence, as evidenced by his ongoing awareness of and commitment to the environment. Father Julian Tenison Woods “understood the deep links that environment, faith and education played on one another. His attentiveness to God's creative presence in the world around led him to understand the interconnectedness of things” ([www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/our-college/sustainability-at-tenison-woods-college](http://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/our-college/sustainability-at-tenison-woods-college)).

Fr Julian Tenison Woods was an astute observer of natural history and made significant original contributions in geology, palaeontology, botany and zoology. Much of his research was

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

conducted “on the field” whilst listening to the birds and taking in the beauty of the surrounding bush, rocks, plants and rivers in areas such as the Mosquito Flats, Naracoorte Caves and Muddy Creek. Father Julian Tension Woods was very much supported in his scientific research by Samuel Pratt-Winter, owner of Murndal Station on the Wannon River near Hamilton. Julian visited this large-scale pastoral enterprise on quarterly visits from Portland in 1856 and 1857, and in later years. Little did he know that Mary MacKillop’s father, Alexander, would be laid to rest in 1865 near Hamilton.



It is funny how things are often linked: both Father Julian Tension Woods and Saint Mary MacKillop received great support in their endeavours at various times, from people outside their faith tradition. Both Julian and Mary seemed to celebrate that “all creatures are filled with God’s presence and tender love” (*Laudato Si’ — A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation*, p 190), as they rode through the countryside on mission.

Mary and Julian were both people who actioned responses to the needs of the time as they became apparent, with compassion and urgency. Perhaps we could call this their Code Yellow ... one of hope for tomorrow and, as the sun rises each day, the promise of far-reaching rewards for efforts made locally and collaboratively.

*Bernadette Roche*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

A prayer  
for our  
earth

From Pope Francis' encyclical  
*Laudato Si'* (Praised Be)

Source of prayer graphic: <https://twitter.com/caritasaust/status/612530418357657601>

## ALLORA JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS — AUGUST 2021

Beginning at our June meeting, we are spending the rest of the year working our way through the new *Josephite Companions Discovery Program*, using it as a renewal process. Our August meeting was a celebration of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day and we looked at the pages on Julian Tension Woods and Mary MacKillop. Their interconnectedness is beautifully depicted in the photo titled *The Vision* on Page 21. We never tire of Mary's inspiration and we all agreed we came away with a new understanding of Julian. After our meeting we enjoyed a roast meal at the local Hotel who have renovated their dining room.

We will have a second celebration with a belated School Mass in honour of Mary MacKillop where Joyce Gibson will give the children a talk on the wonderful history our school shares with the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

## Mary MacKillop Day Celebrations

It is hoped that most of you were able to come together to celebrate Mary MacKillop's feast day in August. Unfortunately those of us in Brisbane were in lockdown and our plan of coming together at the Cathedral for Mass had to be abandoned.



## WEBINAR REPORT

Hopefully groups who were not able to view the Webinar together will soon have the opportunity of sharing what they have taken from it. One or two sentences about the experience, either individually or from groups, to go in to our next newsletter would be appreciated.

## Prayers please

Please remember in your prayers **Cecilia McFayden**, a long-time member of the Companions, who passed away earlier this year.

Also please pray for **Jayne Kidd**, who did so much to ensure the success of our Conference in 2018. Jayne died recently as a result of a tragic accident.



## Prayer in uncertain times

God, open my eyes to see you.  
God, open my ears that I could hear you as I cry  
when I am hungry,  
when I am scared  
and when I feel beaten.  
God, open my heart to you and to others.  
Give me the strength to endure.

([www.missionaustralia.com.au](http://www.missionaustralia.com.au))

## Newsletter Contributions

Our Newsletter is for everyone so contributions are welcomed. Could any for the December Newsletter please be sent in by 20 November to:  
[qld.companions@sosj.org.au](mailto:qld.companions@sosj.org.au)  
OR

Queensland Josephite Companions  
Villa Maria Convent  
123 Warren Street  
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

## Resources

Prayers and meditations for the Year of St Joseph:  
[www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph](http://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph)

The official website for the Sisters of St Joseph, a mine of valuable information and resources – News and Events, Pray with St Mary MacKillop, Become Involved (where you will find the newsletters of other Regional Companions), Resources, Online Store: [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au)

## SPOTLIGHT ON A COMPANION

### Marie Sellin

I have known Sisters of St Joseph ever since I began primary school in Caboolture. I then attended Mt St Joseph's College at Nundah as it was known then, now Mary MacKillop College. I then went to teachers' college in Sydney and have taught in many Josephite schools — both in country Queensland and city ones. I have now been retired since December 2019 and loving being able to do different activities during daylight hours!

I have been a Companion since 2007 and was on the Core Group. I then became a member of the Planning Group and would



finalise the yearly budget with Sr Moya. Some interested Companions and I are in the process of starting up a Northside Companions group — hoping we get to have many active members.

I have always found Mary MacKillop a woman ahead of her time... her practicality, her unwavering faith, and her love and care for the Sisters. I am still in touch with many Sisters and look forward to celebrating special days with them.



*Living in harmony  
with nature and with God  
gives us full happiness and purpose.*

*Fr Julian Tenison Woods*



**DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND COMPANIONS MOVEMENT**

**NAME:** .....

**PHONE NUMBER/S:** .....

**AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE)**

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$.....

**ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO:**

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QUEENSLAND LEADERSHIP TEAM  
VILLA MARIA CONVENT  
123 WARREN STREET  
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

**PHONE:** 0474 947 296

**EMAIL:** qld.companions@sosj.org.au

*CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QLD*

**OR PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT:**

COMMONWEALTH BANK

**ACCOUNT NAME:** JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS QLD

**BSB:** 064163

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 10429581

**REFERENCE:** SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

*Thank you for your donation!*

