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August 2010

A Reflection on Mary's Canonisation by Dora Cavuoto

At the time of her canonisation, how will we recall and celebrate Mary MacKillop's life? After the 31st October, what will we do to remember her life within our community?



Sr Catherine Clarke rsj led a very passionate and informative session on the 18th July, where she challenged everyone in the room to consider deeply the impact of Mary MacKillop: **prophet or empire builder?**

What is being proclaimed?

What is sainthood about?

A prophet gives a new face to the people of who is Church in a time of crisis.

When we reflected on Mark's Gospel (8: 27-30) "Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am?" we considered the changing attitudes and the eternal values that spring forth from the change in mission – the structures that enabled the revelation of the message.

Hence, the canonisation is about the communication of the message "Christ as the prophet among people." Mary MacKillop had her eye on God with action for humanity. It enabled us to recall Mary's life to respond to her spirit.

We recalled some significant events throughout her life and the manner in which this saintly woman responded to the needs of her time to bring about some extraordinary changes and accomplish much for the Catholic Church and education in Australia.

As explained by Sr Catherine, "Let us come to Eucharist or the lives of our holy men and women not just to recall, let us come so that we may **re-member** (to relive, put together again, re-enliven) the spirit of Mary MacKillop in our lives in our world."

Briefly, this amazing and inspiring spirit of Mary MacKillop was to reveal:

- ★ a compassionate God present in ordinary circumstances
- ★ a God to all people, especially the poor, marginalised and isolated
- ★ a spirit of humility, simplicity and practical response

Therefore, the ministry of being and serving, educating and caring become paramount to empower people "in all things love". This leads to actions that inspire confidence and empowerment, through the development of knowledge and skills.

What are the road signs in our world today?

Who is the God image?

To whom is God imaged?

In what spirit is God imaged?

Through what actions is God imaged?

We recall, remember and respond.

Re-member through believing in a kind, compassionate heart and the unconditional love of a provident God and thereby doing the Will of God in the ordinary circumstances of life. The gifts of education and partnership are not just for the betterment of the individual but embracing all. Therefore, let us come to **re-member** not just recall the spirit of Mary MacKillop in our lives and world.

Mary MacKillop: Canonisation Update

8th October

- 7am The Mary MacKillop Foundation Annual Fundraising Breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Cost is \$60 per person. Guest Speaker will be Lieutenant Governor of SA, Mr Hieu Van Le AO. Book online at www.mackillopfoundation.org.au or call 02 8912 2714. Bookings close 1st October
- 10.30am Mass in the Kensington Chapel (and 8th of every month).
- 7pm Evening Reflection (and 8th of every month at 5.45pm).

9th – 16th October

7pm – 7.45pm Evening reflection and prayer preparation at the Kensington Chapel led by different groups:

- 9 Oct led by Associates
- 10 Oct led by Covenant Josephites
- 11 Oct led by St Joseph's Old Scholars
- 12 Oct led by Mary MacKillop College
- 13 Oct led by Josephite Schools Committee
- 14 Oct led by Companions of St Joseph
- 15 Oct led by group of young people
- 16 Oct led by Province Canonisation Committee



17th October

Canonisation of Mary in Rome. There will be concurrent activities in Adelaide.

- 10am Free entry all day to the exhibition at the Mary MacKillop Centre.
- 1pm Entertainment by the students of Mary MacKillop College. Food and drink will also be available.
- 2.30pm Procession begins from the Mary MacKillop Centre to St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Be aware that a number of the roads around the MMK Centre and also the Cathedral will be closed to traffic. Cars may be parked on the College oval – enter from Thornton Street. Pilgrims depart from Phillips Street after a short prayer and may join the procession at any point along the route. The route and other relevant details will be available from various venues including the MMK Centre. Food and drink will be available near the Cathedral. There will also be entertainment by various cultural groups.
- 6.30pm Direct telecast of the Canonisation from Rome. There will be large screens in Victoria Square and also in the Cathedral. Bring rugs if sitting outside.

18th October

Schools celebration in Victoria Square.

31st October

- 2.30pm Official Concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass at the Entertainment Centre. Tickets are available from the Province Office, Kensington. Telephone 8130 5900.

"We have cause to be grateful for God has done much for us." MMK

Advent/Retreat Day

Saturday 13th November

11am – 4pm (cuppa at 10.30am)
Bethany Hall, Province Centre
4 High St, Kensington



Lucia Ciocca (at left) and Val De Brenni (at right) will together be leading this day. Lucia is a teacher in a Catholic school and Val is based at the Catholic Education Office.

Both facilitators have led retreats for Associates in the past and bring with them a store of information, knowledge and experience.



The Retreat this year will focus on the traditional themes of Advent and their relevance for us in today's world. Be prepared to take time out listening to the Word of God and to our own inner voice as we come to terms with the real meaning of Advent.

Please bring a plate of lunch to share and also respond** to this invitation by Friday, 5th November if you are intending to come and be part of the day.



A Musical Evening

Wednesday 15th December

From 7pm
Bethany Hall, Province Centre
4 High St, Kensington



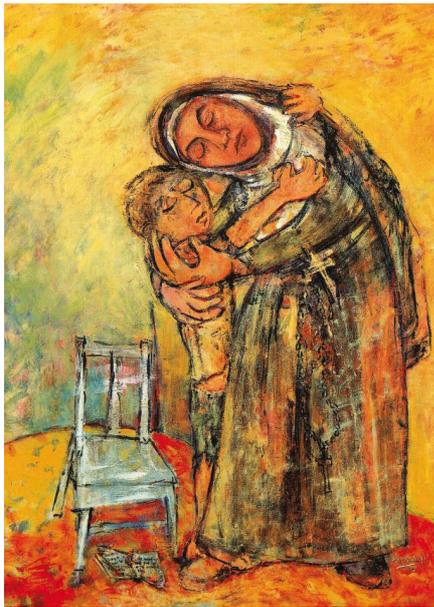
Associates, families and friends are invited to an evening's entertainment. This is an opportunity to socialise with others in an informal setting in an informal way. Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj will lead us and have us singing and laughing.

Please bring a plate of supper to share as well as one inexpensive Christmas tree decoration per person. Bring a friend!

Please respond** with numbers and if you need transport.

**Contact Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or email us at sa.associates@sosj.org.au

MMK Centre Talk & Exhibition by Pat Sandretti



'Nothing could come between her and a child in need' by artist John Maitland – used with permission.

“Make no reserves with God. Reject no-one. You never know what grace can do.” MMK

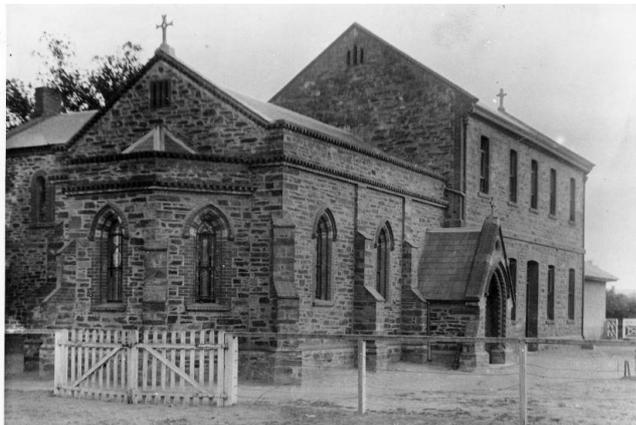
After attending the 10.30am Mass followed by a delicious morning tea, a group of Associates visited the Mary MacKillop Centre on Saturday 8th May to listen to a very informative talk on the early work of charity which began in Adelaide by Mary MacKillop and her Sisters.

Sr Patricia Keane rsj spoke about one of the first works of charity being the care of orphans and neglected children. The first Orphanage of St Vincent de Paul was in Walkerville for boys and the girls went to the Boston Cottages in Franklin Street.

The Sisters also visited the Adelaide Gaol and the Government Destitute Asylum which led to the idea of establishing a House of Providence. It was an open house for poor homeless women of all ages.

Other charities included Refuges for unmarried mothers, delinquent girls and alcoholics. The latter being the Solitude established at St John's, a country village near Kapunda. This was later transferred to Glenelg and from there to Norwood.

I would highly recommend a visit to the Centre to see the display and to talk to Sr Pat who we thank for her great work and vast knowledge of Mary MacKillop.



St Joseph's Church at Franklin Street where the Sisters were from 1869 – 1871. Mary was excommunicated here.



St Joseph's Providence at 32 West Terrace with some of the residents ca 1910. The Catholic Church bought this house in 1905 and it remained a House of Providence until 1951.

A reminder re subscriptions for 2010 – 2011

Membership is now due for this financial year. If you haven't already done so, please complete your details on the form from the previous newsletter and post, together with your payment of \$15 which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer, Gerald Hinton (25 Chapel St, Campbelltown, SA, 5074). Alternatively, you can see anyone from the Committee who will be more than happy to pass it on.

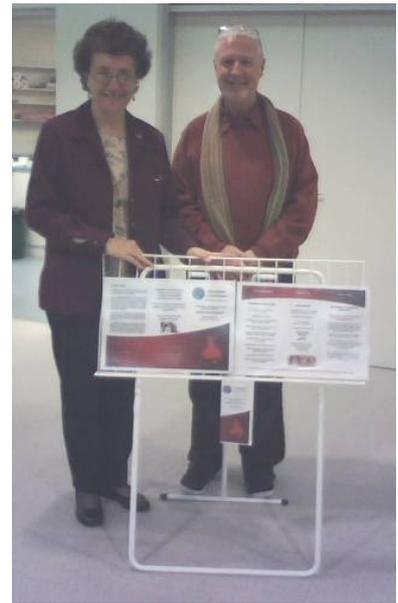
Launch of the *Brochure* by Carla Mastrangelo

Also on the 18th July Sr Marion Gambin rsj (Provincial Leader of the Josephites in South Australia) and Paul Murphy (from the Leadership team) launched the *Brochure*.

This is a new look version with updated details. It is intended as an initial point of inquiry for those expressing an interest in or wanting to find out more about the Associate movement. The *Brochure* has been included in the mail out with this newsletter with an electronic version for those on our email list.

Is it easy to read and understand? Does it cover some of the basic questions? Your feedback for improvement would be appreciated. More copies are available from the Mary MacKillop Centre and we hope to have multiple copies for our Country Contacts as well.

Our gratitude and thanks are extended to Paul Murphy and his son Luke who worked patiently and diligently to bring this to us and thanks also to Watermark (the Printers) for a high quality publication.



Our Associate Country Contacts

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Jamestown | Margaret Williams 8664 1739 and Colleen Stewart 8662 4185 |
| Murray Bridge | Jan Howard 8532 4277 |
| Port Lincoln | Moya Bourke 8682 3655 (at St Joseph's School) |
| Riverland | Anna De Guglielmo 8586 5055 (at St Joseph's School, Renmark) |

Jubilee of Profession by Julie Langman



Front row: Srs Teresita Cormack (75 years professed), Genevieve Secker (50), Maureen Colbert (RIP).

Back row: Srs Judy Gurry (50), Carita Higgins (50), Judith Murnane (60), Mary Canny (60), Mary Cresp (50), Marie Foale (60)

Absent: Sr Maurice Roche (70)

Congratulations to our Jubilarians

who commemorated various years of religious profession at their Mass at St Ignatius Church on Saturday 1st May. It was definitely a day to celebrate, remember and give thanks.

Of note was Archbishop Wilson's final blessing:

★ "Through the example of Mary MacKillop, may you learn to recognise God's Will for you and trust in God's providence."

★ "May Mary's life of service awaken in you a deep respect for the poor and a passion for justice."

★ "May you share in Mary's courage, see with her vision and love with her heart."

Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the monthly Masses on the 8th.

If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to telephone Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or let one of the Committee members know.

Josephite Associates' Prayer Page

Mary MacKillop



A Woman With An Open Heart

From the pen of Mary MacKillop: Make no reserves with God. Reject no-one. You never know what grace can do. 1871

Scripture: Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.
Luke 19:5

Reflection: Mary MacKillop brought the message of human dignity to all whom she encountered. She held in reverence each person about whom she spoke even those who had caused her great pain. Sr Mechtilde recalls how 'if anyone came to her in trouble and distress, she would encourage and help them and draw the good that was in them out'. Stories abound of how people responded to her presence.

Story from the life of Mary MacKillop: Mother Mary taught by her example. I remember how once an eccentric old gentleman was to be tended – being unable to care for himself. Mother instructed the Sisters to brush and comb his hair and long beard. Oh, our repugnance. And seeing it, Mother herself lovingly and gently did it all and then took him elsewhere for further attention leaving us humbled and ashamed. (Sr Anne Joseph Waters)

Pause for reflection: With whom is God inviting me to keep an open heart?

Prayer: God of tenderness, you call all to share in your Trinity of Love. May we, like Mary MacKillop, open our hearts to all whom we encounter this day. Blessed Mary of the Cross, defending human dignity, pray for us.

Action: Be open to the stranger who comes into your life today.

Extract from *Praying from the Heart* – used with permission.