

# Associate Newsletter

July 2007

## SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF THE APPARITION

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There is a season for everything

A time for giving birth

A time for dying

A time for tears

A time for laughter

A time for mourning

A time for dancing.....

Yes! There is a time for everything. 2007 has certainly proved this to us in many ways.

As this newsletter goes to print our Sisters who have attended the General Chapter in Rome will be looking towards their journey homeward.

The General Chapter is the first extraordinary authority of the Congregation. It is convened every six years by the Superior General when her term of office expires.

The Chapter this year is the 21<sup>st</sup> in the history of the Congregation. The Theme:

“The love of Christ impels us” (2 Cor. 5:14)



Sister Bernadette Galea and Sister  
Maura McNamara with  
Pope Benedict XVI

In addition to electing the Superior General, and her team for the coming six years term, the delegates to the General Chapter, hailing from 5 continents and representing 27 countries will evaluate the situation of the Congregation today against the yardstick of the gospel.



## A Tribute: *Sister Helen Giles*

### Our Associates Write

Dear Sister Angela and all the Sisters of S.J.A.

Our warm and sincere thoughts and prayers for you have marked this past month since learning of Sister Helen's sudden death on 5<sup>th</sup> March. A beautiful transition but rather a sudden shock for the community and all who have known and loved her – a gentle person. Her quiet and understanding ways imparted and gave to us an intense depth of meaning to the ministry and spirit of St Joseph's and St Emilie's work amongst us. She merits God's gentle peace and rest – tho' we miss her

*God's blessing and help at Easter and always.*

Vince and Lina Strangio

*We were shocked and saddened to learn of dear Sister Helen's sudden and untimely death. We will always remember Sister Helen in so many beautiful ways and will miss her visits to Victoria very much. Our love and deepest sympathy go out to all on the loss of dear Sister Helen. May God comfort all of you.*

Ted and Cecilia Gannan

Sister Helen was a beautiful woman whom I admired deeply for her generosity, her kindness and unconditional love at all times. She was certainly someone who always inspired me to be a better person and always ready to help the poor and needy.

*A Burmese Friend*

*It is with much regret that I learnt of Sister Helen's death. I send my deepest sympathy to you all as I know how much she meant to everyone. Her contribution to the Albany Associates was wonderful and I know how much love she had for St Emilie de Vialar and followed in her footsteps. God bless you all in your sadness. May Sister Helen rest in peace with God.*

Love

Hope Sharp.

Our deepest sympathy in the passing of more Sisters in Christ.

Happy Feast Day for 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Many thanks for the Newsletter. May God love and bless you all.

Love

John and Ivana O'Dea



Thank you for your Associate Newsletter which I enjoy reading very much. I would like to say how sorry I was to hear of the passing of dear Sister Helen Giles, my teacher in grades 3/4 in St Joseph's school Albany. She was a very good and dedicated teacher and I enjoyed my years at the school. I also enjoyed meeting up with her in later years. I wish you all a "Happy Easter" and look forward to more memories.

Love and God's blessings.

*Luba Ricketts*

### From the Sisters

Hard to believe Helen is just not there any more. She gave so much of herself to her Ministry for all the right reasons. She made the most of her gifts and she knew how to enjoy the good things life had to offer. Her sense of humor and informed and intelligent conversation made her a good companion in any group. I always admired the way she handled pain, grief and set-backs of any kind. Her love of, and knowledge of St Emilie and the Congregation showed through as a matter of course in so many facets of her life and work. She is a big loss to the Province.

I will miss her presence and inspiration a great deal.



I received an e-mail to let me know of Helen's sudden death early this week. What a shock for you all. It must be hard to believe. She has made a very significant contribution to secondary faith formation in the Archdiocese, to faith formation in the Parish and I know, to the formation of your Associates in SJA spirituality....a lot of people will be touched by her death as they were by her life... a gentle, gracious lady. So this wee note is to send my condolences to you all and to let you know that I have been thinking of you and holding Helen and you all in prayer.



## Coming Events

In a previous newsletter you would have received notification of a coming General Meeting for the Associates. Details of this meeting are as follows:

### INVITATION

An invitation is extended to all Associate members to attend the Annual General Meeting on :

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm in Saint John Paul Parish Hall at Willetton. The meeting will conclude with afternoon tea.

We look forward to seeing you at Willetton.

RSVP 12<sup>th</sup> August: Telephone 9310 4072  
172 Pinetree Gully Road  
Willetton.



As usual in our Newsletters we pray for all our sick relatives friends and Associates especially those who are close to us.

We pray especially for our deceased Associates who have died in recent weeks

Kathleen Anderson  
Claude LoPresti  
Alice Turnoch  
Mary Brady



Eileen Lynch  
John Stokes  
Jack Toohey  
Frank Kelly



**A late sad  
item  
of news.**  
Sister  
Helen



As the newsletter was about to go to print we received the very sad news that Sister Helen Giles had died very peacefully in her sleep on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This has been a great shock to all of us and we will certainly miss Sister Helen and the gentle caring person she was.

Sister had spent most of her religious life as a teacher in our Catholic schools, and later as a member of the staff at the Catholic Education Office and again in the parish at Willetton where she was well known for her work with Adult Faith Education. Her main project was her work with the Associates from the beginning of its foundations. She was a very gifted lady and always willing to share her gifts with others. As well as conducting the general meetings for the Associates, in various places, she also conducted a smaller discussion group named "The Emilie Group" where she spread her knowledge and love of St Emilie de Vialar (Foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition). This group developed into a wonderful group of ladies with a knowledge and love of St Emilie.

Over many years Helen has been greatly interested in the mission of the Sisters in Burma and the Philippines and has visited these countries several times. (had returned from the Philippines two weeks ago)

We, the Sisters will have happy memories of Sister Helen and we pray that what she has begun will be forever remembered.

**We extend our sympathy to all Sister's family and friends.**

May she rest in Peace.

