

Volume 9

*The
Associates Newsletter
Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition*

December Edition 2010



*“Go, and with what you have and receive
do all the good you can”*

St Emílie de Vialar



Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

The year has passed by very quickly and much has been happening as you will read in this Christmas edition of the Newsletter.

Something I am very proud to share with you all is that in 2011 at Corpus Christi College, Bateman, where I work, the College is introducing eight new Houses, one of which is named "de Vialar", in honour of St Emilie de Vialar, her life, her works and her charism.

The new Houses were launched last Friday afternoon and the House Coordinator of de Vialar House, Mr Michael Rathmann, presented a wonderful and informative PowerPoint on Emilie's life and the current work being done by the Sisters and the Associates. The Klong Lan Community Education Project Thailand, received much emphasis and interest amongst the students, teachers and non teaching staff associated to this House.

Had you been present at this launch, you would have been very impressed and proud with the content of the presentation made by Mr Rathmann, who also made special mention of Sister Margaret Anne Beech, and thanked her for all her help and time afforded him to obtain the information on the life of St Emilie.

May you all have a Holy, Safe and Happy Christmas with family and friends.

My Christmas Prayer

*Loving Father,
Help me remember the birth of Jesus,
that I may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver me from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach me to be merry and with clear heart.*

*May the Christmas morning
make me happy to be Your child,
and may Christmas evening
bring me to my bed with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake.*

Amen.

Regina Barnett, Editor

“For unto us a child is born - Unto us a son is given...” (Isaiah 9:6)



The Christmas Season is a special time for giving thanks to God for the many blessings received during 2010 as we look forward to the blessings in store for us in the New Year.

This last edition of the Newsletter for the year gives the opportunity to say ...

Welcome to all the new members who joined the SJA Associates during the year.

Thank you to all who have kept in touch with us this year, and for your generous support for all our missions - especially the new Associate “Klong Lan Community Education Project”.

Special thanks to everyone involved in the planning and organising of the events throughout the year, in particular the Committee members, Newsletter Editor, coordinators and presenters, without whom the events would not eventuate.

Ask your prayerful support for a very special event

.... Visit by our Superior General and General Councillor

Early in the New Year, Sister Dorothy Vella-Zarb, our General Superior, and Sister Angela Basile, General Councillor, will be coming to Thailand and Australia on official visitation. They will be in Thailand in January and commence visitation in Australia on 14 February, and remain until 14 March.

The purpose of the visit is to enable us to reflect together on the reality of the situation of the Province and to assist us in determining our way forward into the future, and brings many graces and blessings on a Province.

Several functions have been arranged to give the Sisters opportunity to meet with the Associates during their stay. **For details of these functions please see the Invitation on the back page** of this Newsletter, and **Betty Tulloch’s article for Albany date.**

Mark in your 2011 calendar NOW

Wishing you and all your loved ones the love, joy and peace of Christmas

***May His gentle coming
touch you with love
fill you with hope
enfold you with peace***

Sr Jeanette Hevron

Meeting of the International Commission of Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition held in England, October 2010

The meeting was held at the Oblate Retreat Centre in Crewe, Cheshire with Lay Members of the Commission attending for the first time. Sr Angela Basile (Rome General Council), Sr Janet Arrowsmith (England), Sr Eugenie Ghirando (Malta) and Sr Gemma Grant (Australia) were the Congregation representatives and Lay Members in attendance were Carol Birch (England), Vicky Vella Gaffiero (Malta) and Glen Stevenson (Australia). The opportunity to bring the Lay experience to the meeting was seen as important for building a religious/lay partnership in spirituality.

Taking the theme of “Listening - to the Holy Spirit and each other”, meant that we were determined to embrace all meaningful experiences that Associates had with the aim of sharing at the international level. We could gain from each other’s stage of formation, recognising that we may be at different levels of experience as Lay associates. This was borne out by the reports received from individual Provinces. The aim was to create a blueprint for all the Provinces that will assist in promoting the Association internationally throughout the Congregation. It was also accepted that there is a wide range of the level of participation by Associates in any one province. For those Associates who wish to deepen their response to the Holy Spirit, we were intent on showing the way through a formation package. We are currently working on this which will be presented to a General Chapter in Rome.

The enthusiasm of our Sisters of the Associates movement is so welcome and their preparedness to share their experiences of the Spirituality of St Emilie de Vialar is central to our own growth in Spirituality. Sr Gemma had the task of reporting for our region which encompasses Australia, Myanmar, Thailand, India and the Philippines. This will give you an idea of the work involved, not to mention the travel, so keep her in your prayers for every success. The Commission has great hopes for the future growth of our movement where we will reap the benefits of being part of an international loving and sharing faith community.

Glen Stevenson (Brindley).

Right: Commission Members



Visit to Klong Lan

Sister Chalernsri Meesri and I visited Klong Lan between 1st and 3rd September 2010. It was a 6 hour bus trip from Bangkok to Klong Lan. I was surprised to see how beautiful the area was, nestled amongst the hills and at this time of the year, all green and lush. It rained heavily both nights we were there.

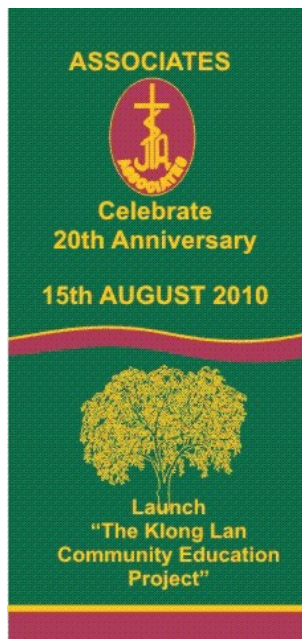
Sisters Marie Therese and Pattaya live in a house just outside the town and it is here that they have set up an office in which they run a Project for the surrounding villages. This Project is for the elderly and children and is very well run. The day of our departure, the Sisters had a meeting with the villagers to plan a health care programme.

During our stay we travelled around the different villages. The simplicity and meagre situation in which they live did surprise me. As the two Sisters teach English in the Government School on a Monday they took us to visit the Director of the School. He is a very interesting and compassionate person and of the opinion that even before education, basic human needs require attention in some of the villages. I certainly agree.

The Sisters are very well inserted into the area and conduct a wonderful evangelisation programme. I took \$2,000 from the Project funds and after a discussion, it was decided to use it for the educational needs for one of the villages, providing transport, books and uniforms for the children of this village, who at present, attend school intermittently. On seeing this particular village I can see that funds will be well spent. The parents seem very aware of the need for their children to be educated and are very appreciative of the different ways in which the Sisters help them in this task. Sisters Marie Therese and Pattaya have committed themselves to keeping us informed of their work.



Article and photos from Sr Margaret Anne Beech



On Sunday afternoon, August the 15th 2010, a group of more than one hundred Sisters and Associates gathered at the Beaconsfield Parish Hall in a celebratory mood to mark the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Associates, and in particular, to launch our Commemorative Project, The Klong Lan Community Education Project Thailand. Among those attending, there was a noticeable spirit friendship and happiness to be involved and also an air of expectancy.

The suggestion of a commemorative project was put to the Provincial, Sister Margaret Anne Beech, with a request that she find such a project for us. She did not let us down and we were offered a wonderful and challenging opportunity to support with our prayer and financial aid, the work of the Sisters of the Klong Lan Foundation, particularly their work in education. The immediate task will be to provide financial support to the Sisters, helping them to provide the necessary school uniforms, books and transport which are required by children wishing to attend the free Government school. In the years to come as the focus of the Sister's work in education changes and develops, we will continue to support them with finance and prayer. The formalities began with Sister Gemma Grant and Associate Germaine Matison recapping the journey and development of the Associates over the past twenty years. Associate Glenys Stevenson introduced the Klong Lan Community Education Project, assisted by a very interesting slide show of Klong Lan. The commentary was provided by Sisters Patrick and Chalermisri. Glenys concluded with a plea to Associates to take the project to heart, now and on into the future.

Sister Margaret Anne brought formalities to a close with thanks to all concerned. The celebrations got underway when we were invited to share a wonderful afternoon tea of delicious sandwiches, cakes, slices and various delicacies provided by the attending Associates. Sisters and Associates mingled over cups of tea and coffee while renewing friendships, some made many years ago. There was much laughter to be heard as memories and stories were retold and as we shared our life experiences and caught up with the news of past years. Many indeed had not seen each other for twenty or thirty years. Some had travelled several hundred kilometres to attend.

The project was well received and accepted by Associates who expressed an appreciation that they were able to do something to help the Sisters in their work. This was reflected in the collection which realised \$2,542.70 on the day. No one rushed away and there seemed to be a reluctance to bring it all to an end until late in the day. An excellent result in every way! At the end of August when all cheques and direct deposits were added the total was \$4232.70.



PROJECT ACCOUNT ASSOCIATES	
Summary Project Account 24/5/10 - 31/10/10	
DONATIONS	
From Associates - Cash/Cheques	4232.70
Direct Deposits to Bank	870.00
Other Donations - Seton College	2000.00
Private Donation	<u>6000.00</u>
	\$13102.70
WITHDRAWAL - Taken to Thailand by Sr Margaret Anne	<u>-2000.00</u>
	\$11102.70
Bank Fees	42.80
Balance as per Bank Statement 31/10/10	\$11059.90

The Committee would like to thank our Associates for their very generous response to the Klong Lan Project. As you can see, together with other donations, the account has reached a very respectable amount, which is available for immediate use. Also we found the positive comments about the project very encouraging.

Please do not forget to pray for the Foundation and the Sisters working there.

The number of Associates who have recently used direct deposits into the account is also encouraging. The account details are included for anyone with the intention of making small occasional donations but who has mislaid the account details.

***CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:**

Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition Project Account

***DIRECT DEPOSITS to any Commonwealth Bank Branch**

***ACCOUNT NAME:**

The Community in Western Australia of St Joseph of the Apparition Inc
Project A/c

***BSB NO: 066 102 ACCOUNT NO: 10184483**

As Reference: Give your name

SISTER JULIE CABAGNIOL LEARNING CENTRE

The official opening and blessing of the '**Sister Julie Cabagniol Early Learning Centre**' took place in Albany the 1 November 2010. This Learning Centre is part of the **St Joseph's College Campus**. Sisters Patrick Bottriell and Bernadette Casey represented the province in this very important function.

Before I tell you about the opening, I would like to refresh your memories about Sr Julie Cabagniol, Sister of St Joseph of the Apparition. You may recall she was part of the Albany community in the early days of the Congregation in Australia. She made a great impression on the local people. She was loved and revered. There are a few monuments there in her honour. It was a great delight to us when we found out that the new learning centre would honour her name, and are grateful to Mr Hall and the school community for choosing the name of this revered woman of their new learning centre.

The official welcome was given by the Head of **St Joseph's College, Junior School**, Mr Mike Watson. After the singing of the National Anthem we had an appropriate scripture passage (Thessalonians (5:12-18) which exhorts us to ways we can live good Christian lives.

Fr Tony Chiera, represented the bishop who was unable to attend owing to a prior engagement. He commended and thanked the school authorities for the step taken to construct this centre. His particular task was to bless the building and crucifixes which were placed in each learning area. This ceremony was carried out in a way that was meaningful and reverend. The school choir embellished the opening with some appropriate melodies that delighted those attending and put them in a somewhat reflective mood. Intercessory prayers followed.

Finally, Senator Glenn Sterle, on behalf of the Australian Government, officially opened the building and spoke about the benefits of such an establishment and the support given by the Federal Government, while also commending the local community for their varied contributions. The Catholic Education Office, in the absence of Ron Dullard, was represented by Mr Alec O'Connell. He too spoke of the benefits of this new addition to the school and thanked the many people involved. It was left to Mr Bradley Hall, School Principal, to make a vote of thanks. This he did in sterling fashion expressing gratitude to all who made this great venture possible.

When formalities came to an end, all were invited to tour the new building which was indeed well appointed and the surroundings very conducive to learning. The rooms are really a delight – who wouldn't want to work there? Continuing on our journey we ended up in the home science department where we had some delicious snacks.

The trip to Albany was very worthwhile and an added bonus was catching up with some of our great Albany benefactors, associates and friends.

Sister Bernadette Casey

ASSOCIATE NEWS FROM ALBANY

Our latest meeting was held on Sunday 10 October at New Camfield, the Parish Centre. The main focus of the meeting was the Khlong Lan Project using the Power Point from Sister Pat, which was very well received. Sister Krystyna Dzialosz attended and was able to add her personal experience of having spent some time at Ubon, and was able to give us an insight into the people, geography, and the purpose of the mission undertaken. Although the areas were some distance apart we had an idea of the economic and educational hardships experienced by the people living in the geographical areas, and the Mission undertaken.

Sisters Pat and Bernadette visited for the opening of the Early Childhood Learning Centre at St Joseph's College named after Mother Julie Cabagniol, a pioneer Sister of Albany. We managed to meet and catch up with all their news.

The Associates have a group of about 12 taking part in the Advent Programme, (using the Woolongong booklets) which started on Tuesday 23 November at 9.30am in the Parish Centre.

We are very much looking forward to the proposed visit by Sister Dorothy, Superior General, and Sister Angela to Albany. The dates and programme are as follows:

ARRIVAL in Albany 19 FEBRUARY, 2011

ALBANY SJA ASSOCIATE MEETING- SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

VISIT EARLY LEARNING CENTRE and RETURN TO PERTH -21 FEBRUARY.

Albany Associates please mark these dates:

As part of our future meetings we will be using "A Way Of Life" as a resource for discussion.

Of course Christmas will be well celebrated, and we sincerely wish all Associates a Happy, Holy and Joyous Season, and celebration of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition.

Best Wishes.

Betty Tulloch

Our deceased Sisters, Associates, Relatives and Friends

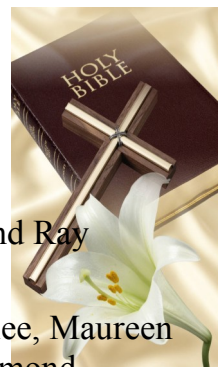
"Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord"

Noel Diggins

Husband of Judy, brother of Merle and Ray Bayfield, cousin of Sister Zoe.

Edith O'Flaherty

Wife of John (dec'd), mother of Raylee, Maureen (dec'd) and Margo. Aunt of Trish Edmond.



***We pray for all our sick Sisters, Associates, relatives and friends,
and for all who have asked our prayers at this time.***

The Word was made flesh.
and He dwelt among us ...

Using excerpts from “Living The Year with Saint Emilie de Vialar”

Sister M Pascale Epailly

The Institute of St Joseph of the Apparition, founded on Christmas Eve 1832, was destined, in the mind of St Emilie de Vialar, **to honour in a special way, the revelation, made to humanity, through the person of St Joseph, of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word made Man.**

“Do not be afraid, Joseph, to take Mary as your wife.....”

This is the text that is found in a brochure meant to make the Congregation known in 1956, shortly after the Canonisation of St Emilie.

And yet, Emilie never wrote anything about the Mystery of the Incarnation!.....

However, **we** do know that she was drawn to a picture which hung in a Church in Mantauban, a neighbouring town. It touched her so deeply that she had a replica made of the painting and hung it in the chapel of the Foundation House from very early days. It was a picture of the apparition of the Angel of God to St Joseph.

The paintings were not exactly alike. There were two significant changes made in the replica. Firstly, the shaft of light coming from the top left hand corner has been added, and secondly, the angel's finger is pointing upwards into the light. Sister M Pascale Epailly suggests the Angel is saying to St Joseph, “Are you not going to believe that the child Mary is expecting, is from God?” It is the love of God, coming, in person, into our world!

This light, that rips the night, doesn't it help us think of the prologue of St John.

“... the word was God... the light shone in the darkness.... The Word was the true light that enlightens everyone . He came into the world and the world was made by Him and the world did not recognise Him.” Jn Ch 1.

Isn't this already a source of Emilie's missionary Vocation: Is she going to leave all these people in the dark or will she do all she can, so that they will see the light?”,

As for Joseph, the Angel is making it clear that, “he can trust Mary, since **God is there.** His will be a **hidden but indispensable role..** He does not see clearly what this unheard of role will entail ,**but he trusts God and,**

“does what the angel of God tells him to do.”

“This Mystery of the Incarnation, needs to be revealed.

Each one of us, in her own place, even if this is very humble, like that of Joseph, must contribute towards this revelation to the world. We need to help to give birth to God in the heart of every person, at every moment of our lives.....”

“The Congregation will be a perpetual ex-voto of the Mystery of the Incarnation.

An ex-voto is a sign of thanksgiving. To be a living ex-voto, is first of all **to recognise, that all is grace in our lives**, that the grace of God precedes us in everything.



For Emilie this was a constant attitude. As Emilie reviewed her life, she became aware that the Lord was present in everything in her life: preceding her, accompanying her, inspiring her and strengthening her.

The word ‘**grace**’ recurs in every happening related by Emilie.

“The grace of the lord encouraged me to....”

“the grace of the Lord inspired me about this.....”

This recognition of the grace of God in all, led Emilie to praying daily in thanksgiving and what she called ‘feeble gratitude.’

“Conclusion

In this Christmas feast, it is a good thing to let ourselves be drawn by **this attitude of thanksgiving**, an attitude which seems to be overlooked in our days. It was a natural, spiritual attitude for Emilie. Is it not indispensable when we receive such a **gift** - the coming, in our lives, of the very Son of God?

Is it not the moment to become more aware of this **love of God for me**here and now, in my own situation at this moment God has sent Jesus to me. It is my happiness that He wants. I trust Him.

I also become aware of the **love** that **God** has for **all humanity**... He wants the happiness of each one of us.

He entrusts to us, He entrust to **me**, the responsibility to **continue His Incarnation**, to give my contribution, to make Him present, even if this is done in a very humble, hidden way, as did St Joseph.”

Wendy Cronin

**Sister Dorothy Vella-Zarb
the Superior General of the Congregation
accompanied by Sister Angela Basile
will visit Perth
in
February 2011**

An afternoon for Associates to meet and welcome Sisters Dorothy and Angela has been arranged. They have been invited to speak to us and we look forward to what they have to tell us.

We will share a light afternoon tea at the conclusion.

**Associates are invited to attend a welcome for
Sister Dorothy and Sister Angela**

On Sunday afternoon February 27th at 2.30pm

to be held at

Beaconsfield Parish Hall

(Corner of Lefroy Road and Moran Street Beaconsfield)

Once again we ask those who can, to bring a **small** plate. We need only a bite to go with the cuppa.

RSVP Germaine 9335 1639 Wendy 9330 1723

Email: mickcronin@iinet.net.au

Tear this off and put on your fridge as a reminder