

Volume 11

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

August Edition 2011



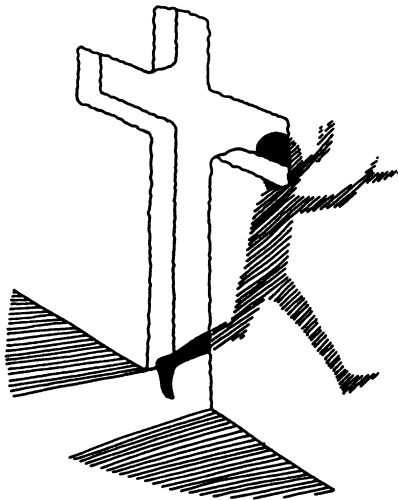
*“Go, and with what you have and will receive
do all the good you can”*

St Emílie de Vialar

Happy Easter



I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus



Through the Cross to the Risen Lord

No turning back...no turning back

Love and prayers from Janet

Although Holy Week has come and gone, the Easter message should live with us in our daily lives, consequently, I'd like to share the Easter message from Sr Janet and our Associates in England.

Regina

The Klong Lan Report

The last of the \$6,000 Associates contributed on the Launch Day of the Klong Lan Project last year has now been sent to Thailand.

The money has been used very carefully with the majority going to provide for the educational needs of uniforms and books which the children require for school. Some money has been used to support the community. Also when it was realised that one of the villages which the Sisters visit had no water, it was decided to provide money to construct a well. This will be done when the weather is right. So far the Project has been developing well and at present the Sisters at Klong Lan are planning what further educational requirements they will need to provide in the future.

Thanks must go to all those who have contributed. Together with some special larger donations, those Associates who have deposited regular amounts directly into the bank account have kept the balance growing throughout the year. This is greatly appreciated.

We Associates, should be proud of what has been accomplished with our contributions. By the time of the Klong Lan Meeting on 30 October 2011, the results of the future planning the Sisters have done should be available for us. The Committee really hopes you will come along to the meeting and hear what the future holds, and of course share a cup of tea and a chat with the Sisters. We also hope you will be inspired to continue your support for the Project.

Finally, I have been invited to visit Klong Lan on behalf of the Associates and meet the Sisters, and see first hand the work they are doing and how best we can support them. I will be going in the first week of November, so hopefully, may have time to report to you all in the Christmas Newsletter.

Wendy Cronin

REPORT ON ST EMILIE'S FEAST DAY MASS



The Annual Mass to celebrate St Emilie de Vialar's Feast Day was held on 12 June, this year. It was a cause for great celebration, being held in St Emilie's Catholic Church, Canning Vale. I am told that this is the only church named after St Emilie in the world. On the altar was a relic of St Emilie which was given to the Parish for veneration. Already, two parishioners have attributed their return to good health through her intercession.

The Mass was led by Fr Robert Carillo, the parish priest, who has great devotion to St Emilie and his enthusiasm for spreading the Word to his community is evident. As we sat in the church, the sun was shining through the stained glass window to the right of the altar which depicts St Emilie and some children. The window has had an eventful life; firstly, in the College Chapel in Samson, then in Kalamunda Chapel and next in St Emilie's Catholic Church.

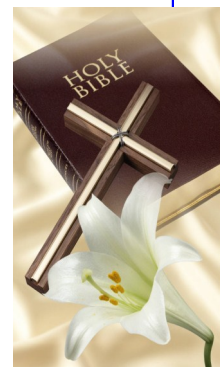
Following Mass, we enjoyed a lovely lunch that Associates and Community Members had brought along to share. It was very special to be mingling with the community, particularly members of the choir who had sung so enthusiastically. One of the hymns was to honour St Emilie, composed by a choir member. Everyone agreed that it was a truly great day.

Glen Stevenson (Brindley)

Our deceased Sisters, Associates, Relatives and Friends

"Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord"

Francesca (Calogera) Basile	Mother/mother-in-law of Calogero and Francesca, Aunty of Sister Angela and Gloria Basile
Lina Strangio (nee Ruggera)	Wife of Vincent, sister of Mary Lopresti
John Brindley	Brother of Glenys Stevenson
Robert Burns	Brother of Alice Male
Michael Sexton	Father of Eileen and Kathleen
Anne Mary Partlon (nee Feeney)	Mother of Christine and Anne

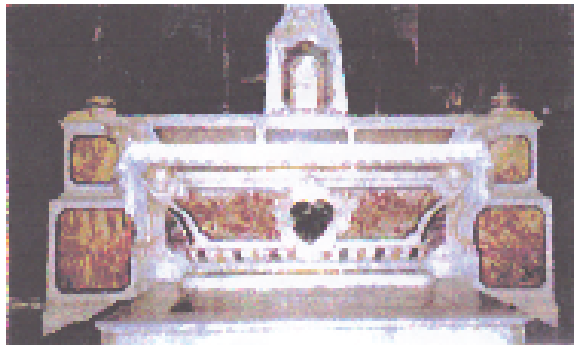


***We pray for all our sick Sisters, Associates, relatives and friends,
and for all who have asked our prayers at this time.***

Emile's Vision In the Church **From EMILIE DE VIALAR FOUNDRRESS**

I felt an attraction to prayer and I would retire several times a day to my room in order to pray. This spirit of piety which it pleased Almighty God to foster in my soul made me avoid anything which would prevent me from assisting at Holy Mass daily. When at all possible, I also used to visit the church in the evening; and as my father did not like to see me going to church twice in the day, I slipped away unknown to him to spend a few moments in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. One on such occasion it pleased God to favour me with a great grace.

During a visit to the Blessed Sacrament one afternoon between three and four o'clock I was alone in the church, praying fervently. I had, I think, my head slightly inclined in recollection. Suddenly I saw Jesus Christ in the tabernacle. He was lying with His head resting on the Gospel side and His feet on the Epistle side. The Saviour's arms were in the form of a cross. I could clearly distinguish His hair which fell on His neck and shoulders. A shadow concealed part of His sacred Body, but His torso, His arms and feet were visible whether to the eyes of my soul or body, I don't know which, but as clear to me as a person standing before me. What caught my attention most, was the five wounds, which I discerned quite clearly, especially that of the right side. As I gazed, there appeared a few drops of blood oozing forth. I was struck by the fact that this adorable wound was not on the left as I had previously believed. This vision of Jesus Christ lasted for a short time, but I have no clear idea about its duration.



The Altar in St Peter's Church

This vision with which Emilie was favoured at St Peter's Church, marked her spiritual life. For her, the accent is placed on the love of Jesus for humanity. Jesus did not love us just with words; He accepted to shed His blood, to die for us. Even if we are not called to shed our blood, we need to enter in this movement of love, not merely with words and sentiments, but with acts of love - small or big actions....

In the Rule drawn up by Emilie and given to her Sisters, after the foundation of the Congregation, in part of the commentary on "Works Of Charity" it states,

" They (the Sisters) will dwell frequently on the adorable wounds of the Saviour, so that, reflecting unceasingly on the love of God for humanity they will maintain and increase each day, the sentiments of compassion and zeal....." ..

Taken from LIVING THE YEAR WITH SAINT EMILIE DE VIALAR Sr M Pascal Epailly

The contemplation of the five wounds of Jesus Christ in particular 'that of the right side' enables us to catch a glimpse of the heart of God, who loves us with an infinite love and it opens our eyes and hearts to all the sufferings of humanity.

Sr Helen Giles.booklet 1. Vision

Dear Associate Friends

To help plan future events, groups and even articles for the Newsletter which will be of interest to you, the Organizing Committee invites you to write to the Newsletter sharing what being an Associate means to you. There are different kinds of Associates depending on personal situations, each is valuable and we become enriched by sharing our stories. I was chosen to volunteer to be first.

For me, being an Associate, initially followed on from the 'old girl' reunions but with a prayer to say, which I occasionally did. What changed my understanding came from being involved in the Emilie Group, the Committee, the Klong Lan Project and finally Sister Dorothy's talk to us early this year. Looking back, I am amazed at how my attitude has changed. Now I see being an Associate as providing links, friendships, a sense of belonging and a new dimension to my spiritual life.

Firstly, there is the link of friendship I share with the Sisters. Really, this provides the link between us all and is responsible for a special warmth and friendship, even sometimes, joy at Associate gatherings whether you know one another or not and this gives me a sense of belonging. Friendship with the Sisters brings special interest in the work they do and I now appreciate that praying for them and their work is a link at another level. It is a commitment to support friends.

By getting to know about St Emilie's life I can see that she is a great model for women of today. She has become a friend, someone I can turn to for help at difficult times. She and St Joseph have become guides on my spiritual journey. To help plan future events, groups and even articles for the Newsletter which will be of interest to you, the Organizing Committee invites you to write to the Newsletter, sharing what being an Associate means to you. There are different kinds of Associates depending on personal situations, each is valuable and we become enriched by sharing our stories. I was chosen to volunteer to be first.

Finally through the Klong Lan Project I see that St Emilie's spirit continues today in the devotion of her Sisters. It also gives me an opportunity and satisfaction to be able to help in a practical way.

Sister Dorothy's talk which focussed on the international perspective of the Congregation exposed the breadth of work being done in very difficult and trying situations throughout the world. I felt very humble especially when I thought that by my Associate prayer I am linked to these wonderful sisters who are the face of kindness and compassion to those they serve. I am still pondering Sister Dorothy's invitation to us to share St Emilie's and the Congregation's charisms and use them in our own lives.

Now please don't leave me hanging out here on my own. I will be looking forward to hearing different stories and learning new things from those of you willing to take up the pen for future Newsletters. Your comments and ideas are welcome too. You can write to Sr Jeanette, 48 Bradshaw Crescent, Manning WA 6152 or email our Editor Regina direct: rbarnett@corpus.wa.edu.au or me at: mickcronin@iinet.net.au

God bless

Wendy

A Sad Farewell to the Finest of Ladies – Lena Strangio

It is with the deepest sadness that I write about the passing of Angelina (Lena) Strangio (nee Ruggera) in Melbourne on 25 June 2011.

Lena was the finest of friends to me over many years and I miss her dreadfully. But I am not alone. There are so many others who also miss her because she had a unique capacity to enrich the lives of others by her kindness and wisdom, and by her extraordinary capacity to accept the hardships of life, just as she accepted the joys.

Lena saw good everywhere and in everyone. By her positive outlook - even in her hardest moments when she was so ill – she still managed to lift the spirit of all who knew her.

Lena and I both went to St Joseph's in Fremantle. But I was some years older and so did not know her until a chance meeting many years later at an Associates gathering in Melbourne where we discovered we were actually neighbours! Lena and her husband Vince ran my local pharmacy in Fairfield. Lena worked alongside Vince in the pharmacy, where she was well known for her warmth and attention to all customers. I had been going to their pharmacy for years but never realised the connection I had with Lena. So after that first meeting we became the greatest of friends.

Lena was an elegant, warm and friendly lady who cared deeply for others. She was devoted to her husband, Vince and to their son Lawrence, who is a well known playwright in Melbourne, daughter-in-law Pam, and their beautiful grandchildren - Oscar, Felix and Milo. Lena had a wide range of interests, from music to theatre to literature and in later life, she completed a Bachelor of Arts at La Trobe University. Lena loved helping with the Associates meetings in Victoria where we enjoyed meeting the nuns when they came to Melbourne every year. We loved hearing the news of the Sisters and of their achievements in France and all over the world.

When my husband Ted fell ill, Lena and Vince were the most constant of friends. Lena would call by and leave beautiful messages and flowers. I will never forget how she supported me and how caring she was. And then Lena herself became ill, there was so little we could do. She coped with her illness with great dignity and remained focused on supporting her friends and family. She never complained and remained positive to the end, still hoping her treatment would succeed, but God needed her more. Lena had the greatest of faith and was an inspiration to us all. Lena's sister Mary spent the latter part of her illness with her which was a great comfort to both Lena and to Vince over those final weeks.

We miss her so much.

Cecilia Gannan (nee Roberts)

The Associates Klong Lan Meeting 2011



All Associates are invited
to attend this meeting
on

Sunday October 30th
2.30pm

at

Christ the King Parish Hall
(behind the church)
Cnr Lefroy Rd & Moran St
Beaconsfield

Sr Gemma will present matters
of interest to Associates

There will be a report on what has
happened at Klong Lan and
plans being developed for the future

Followed by a light afternoon tea
with the Sisters

Please bring a small plate

RSVP October 20th

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