

Volume 1

The Associates Newsletter

Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition

April Edition 2008



*"Go, and with what you have
do all the good you can"*

St Emílie de Vialar



Sr Jeanette Hevron, Associate Liaison Person writes . . .

This first edition of the Associate Newsletter for 2008 is a little later than usual, however, as the saying goes ***‘better late than never!’***

With this current edition there is a change of hands!

After many years as *Production Manager, Editor in Chief* - and more, Sister Concepta has decided it is time for her to hand over the production of the Associate Newsletter.

A very big **thank you, Sister Concepta** for your tireless work on behalf of the Associate Movement over the years, maintaining Associate records and many more other quiet, behind the scenes work, as well as the massive task of the publication of the Associate Newsletter.

Thanks also to Sister’s *‘mail out’* helper, Shirley Verjans.

We now welcome on board Regina Barnett, an Associate for many years who has kindly offered to step in and be involved in the production of this valued Newsletter at this point in time. Thanks Regina and be assured of our support for the task ahead!

Feast of St Emilie de Vialar

This year, a special Mass and light luncheon is being organised jointly by the Sisters and Associates to celebrate together St Emilie’s feast. We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration. For further details please see the *‘Invitation’* on the back cover of this Newsletter.

As we journey through the Season of Easter may we continue to be blessed by the Risen Lord and receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

From the Editor

I must say, it is an honour to takeover the publication of the Associates Newsletter from Sister Concepta. She has indeed left some rather *‘large shoes’* to fill and I will do my utmost to fulfil the responsibilities associated with its publication and distribution. I would like to thank Sister Jeanette for her support and encouragement thus far, and look forward to the challenge and furthering my involvement as an Associate of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition.

Those wishing to submit future articles may do so via email to rbarnett@corpus.wa.edu.au and I welcome them.

Regina Barnett



“Changing of the Guard”

This Newsletter sees a ‘*changing of the guard*’ in that Sr Concepta A’Vard has ended her days as editor and publisher of the Associates Newsletter, a most invaluable source of communication, whose regular publications kept us one with each other, keeping us all up to date with current events and news.

It is obvious from all the publications we have received over the years the amount of work that this valued publication entails. Sister Concepta’s tireless and selfless work is appreciated and admired by us all and we ‘thank you’ for this.

Sister Concepta, on behalf of all Associates and friends, Australia wide and overseas, I would like to express our sincere ‘thanks’ and gratitude for the many years of your involvement in the publication of the Associate Newsletter stemming from its inception back in 1993. What a marathon effort indeed!

We have benefited from the fruits of your labour and you have certainly walked in the footsteps of your Foundress St Emilie, when we reflect on her parting words to her Sisters as they left the shores of France and England so many years ago, ***“Go, and with what you have, do all the good you can”***.

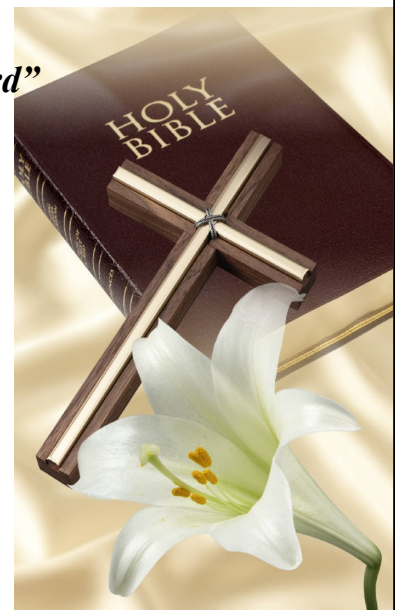
May God Bless you Sister Concepta and reward you with good health as you take on a new direction in your precious and much treasured vocation. Be rest assured that we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Regina Barnett - for and on behalf of all Associates

Our deceased Sisters, Associates, Relatives and Friends

“Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord”

Gerard Wilson	Husband of Betty
Dorothy Tierney	
Alan Thomas	Cousin of Sr Gemma
Keith Butler	Cousin of Sr Irene
Marion McCarthy	Cousin of Sr Kathleen
Dan Fitzsimmons	Brother of Fr Fitzsimmons and Lil
Pat Rattigan	Sister-in-law of Sr Juliana, wife of Barney
Jim Lee	Brother of Sr Liguori



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

**Pen Picture of Mosaic
SJA Apostolates
Thailand**

by Sister Anastasia Crowley

Before I left for Thailand on 26 June 2007, I was asked many times:

***“What do the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition do in Thailand?”
“What was I going there for?”***

So, to set the scene, here is a quick pen picture of the various apostolates in which our Thai Sisters are involved in that beautiful country.

There are five communities there at present, Ubonratchathani, Surin, Mae Cheam, Klong Lan and Bangkok.

Ubon

Sister Napha, Delegation Leader resides in Ubon. The Sisters there conduct a co-educational school K-10 and a Hostel for young girls from the villages to enable them to continue their education in high schools, colleges and at the local university.

An outreach programme is in place in Ubon under the care of our Sisters who render assistance to any in need.

Surin

The Sisters teach in the Diocesan school and again are involved in ministering to underprivileged people through the Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) programme.

Mae Cheam

Two Sisters supervise and work with the young school age children who are brought by their parents from the mountain areas to be accommodated from Monday to Friday in the Parish Centre to offer them a chance to be educated at the local Government school.

Klong Lan

This is also a live-in facility Monday to Friday under the Sisters' care giving children from remote areas an opportunity to be educated locally.

Bangkok

The Thai Sisters conduct a formation house for young ladies interested in living the religious life as members of the congregation. Two Sisters are involved in this training. Bangkok is a most convenient location as it is central to courses in pastoral care, catechetical programmes and religious life courses in Sampran, the Diocesan Pastoral Institute.

Hostel accommodation is also provided here to ensure a secure environment for young women who come to Bangkok to pursue careers in teaching, nursing and university courses. A Sister from this community works with COERR which is a bank of volunteers, some Australian, priests and lay people. The Bangkok Sisters want it known that any friends of the Sisters will be made most welcome in their House of Hospitality, Bangkok. Just ring the door bell and do not worry about Fuji, the loveable terrier at the gate!

From the very beginning of the Sisters' mission in Thailand, our Australian Province has been most supportive in promoting the advancement of these apostolates, through making personnel available and in willing, generous funding of projects. All the communities in Thailand have benefited from this caring and support from the Australian Province and are deeply grateful.

My part in this mosaic was to teach English daily to the postulants in Bangkok and to encourage them and others who sought help with conversational English. I thoroughly enjoyed this challenge and was pleased with their obvious improvement.

Though the schools, private and government offer a good education they are now faced with the added compulsory requirement of studying English in primary and secondary school. All Thais know that a good education is their way forward to reduce poverty, improve their future prospects and achieve their dream. And after all, wasn't our Congregation founded on a dream too?

May God bless us all.



World Youth Day

During the past months many Parishes and schools have been preparing for World Youth Day which is to be held in July 2008 in Sydney.

The Sisters in Albany, together with a Parish Committee are preparing for the World Youth Day Cross with a public welcome, prayer vigil, Eucharist and farewell breakfast.

During the celebrations in Sydney there will be an Expo on Religious Life at Darling Harbour. Sr Bernadette Casey will participate in the Expo. To assist her in this we have sponsored two Sisters, Sister Anne Marie from Thailand and Sister Espie from the Philippines to attend this very special day. Both Sisters work with young people in their respective countries and will spend a few days with us in Perth prior to going to the Sydney celebrations.

We wish all those attending the World Youth Day celebrations God's blessings and safe travel.

Patricia Porteous

who attended St Joseph's College

Adelaide Street, Fremantle 1941-1952 writes . . .

Sister Concepta has asked me to write about my time with the Sisters of St Joseph. I will be turning 70 years of age this year and I don't know about other people's memories but sometimes I find difficulty in remembering what I did yesterday! However, I will do my best.

The little chairs and tables, which in my mind were painted blue are the first memories of Sr Genevieve and Sr Barbara in the "*Bubs*". Looking back, I think the room must have been a verandah at one stage because we had to go up three or four steps to the next class, 1st and 2nd Standards. When I ascended these steps, so did Sr Genevieve too as she taught us for those Years.

Third and Fourth years are not so clear. At that time, I developed a kidney ailment Nephritis and was away from school on and off for two years with correspondence lessons in between hospital and home. The times I attended school in those years, I seem to remember we had Sr Augustine and Sr Finbar.

Next, there was Sr Dorothea in Fifth and Sixth and we were in the same room at Seventh Standard. It was around this time that my little sister Jeanie commenced school.

Sr Kevin was in 7th and when we reached this grand status of Seniors of the Junior side we had a special place for our bags in the green lattice gazebo. The desks were beautiful too with curved wooden seats. I think it was in this year we had to choose between a Commercial and Professional Course. Sr Germaine taught the Commercial class and Sr Emmanuel taught French. Sr Thomas taught German, and I chose languages.

During this time I learned Music from Mother Carmel who was so gentle and kind. Although I passed my exams, I think I must have been a great disappointment to her and my family that I did not go further. I also studied Art of Speech with Sr Assumpta whose patience must have been sorely tried at times.

When I look back, I have always been so grateful to the Sisters and my parents that I grew up surrounded with sensible traditional values which have sustained me during my whole life. Friendships which I made in those first early years are still enjoyed today. Lois Williams, Carmel Daly, Alma Carey, Diane Thornett and Judith Condon to name a few. We also enjoy catching up with Alice Whitely (Sr Amelia).

Lunch time was sometimes a little daunting with Mother Alacoque in charge. Her rule was half an hour to eat and half an hour to play. I remember we had to eat ALL our lunch otherwise we were kept sitting in the big shed.

She would check the bins as well, with the words, *“woeful waste makes woeful want, and there will come the day that God will say, where is the crust of bread you threw away in the bin at St Joseph’s College?”*

I recall the lovely big tree in the play area which gave us shade in the summer, but dropped all the black olives. It must have been a nightmare to keep clean and tidy. Very early too, I remember there were ponds in the two gardens leading to Parry Street school. They were filled in later. There were also the lovely big, cool verandahs with palms in big pots and under the steps going up to the Boarders rooms were two hand basins, and further along, the steps to the cellars and Tuck Shop.

Between the hand basins and the cellar were steps leading up to the kitchen, the domain of Sisters Martina and Paschal. What an enormous job they did too.

The other day, I was speaking with my cousin Glen Brindley and we recalled with great delight the “plum iceblocks” from the Tuck Shop.

Still on the Junior side, dear Sr Adelaide was in charge of reception. How gracious she was. She was also reassuring on exam days when we went to the upstairs sitting room to face the Examiner. Apart from an exam, the only other time we went up the ‘red carpet’ was to see Reverend Mother for misbehaving – we all lived in dread that it should happen.

We learned dancing from Sr Germaine and singing from Sr Gerard (who, incidentally had an array of Holy pictures for sale that rivalled Pelligrini’s). There was an annual concert at the Fremantle Town Hall where we showed off our talents to proud parents and relatives. Some years I can recall Bob and Shelda Wrightson giving an exhibition in ballroom dance. We were all enthralled. Also, Joy Ashton and her dancers would entertain us. It was all very wonderful in our eyes at that time.

Another great occasion was the First Communion party which was held on the red cement verandah outside 3rd and 4th classrooms. There was always red cordial. Sr Kevin used to get us ready for that wonderful day. We would go into St Patrick’s Church through the brick archway, up the wooden steps and Sr Kevin would practice giving us the Host, with little bits of bread. We were taught the extreme reverence of Holy Communion which is still with me today. We would attend Mass at St Pat’s at least once a week, quite often more, if there was a funeral. I think it was a good way for us to learn that death is part of life, and although I don’t think we understood that at the time, it prepared us subconsciously for later in life. It was also part of learning our Catholic Faith, as was learning the Catechism and how to pray.

Sr Emmanuel took care of me then, and she is still my mentor today. How does one say “thank you” for such a gift?

I remember Monsignor Bourke would arrive to test us on the Catechism and prayers. One year some bright spark spread the rumour that he was going to ask us to recite the Gloria in Latin – BACKWARDS. That was enough for me, I stayed home sick that day.

Sports day was another grand occasion. It was held on the tennis courts on the Senior side. I couldn't run to save my life, but I was fortunate to have my cousin Glen Brindley kind enough to pick me on her team. Running, relay and ball games were contested. When we were old enough we were taught tennis; by I think his name was Mr Edwards, a professional tennis teacher. I really enjoyed tennis and was able to continue into pennants with the Catholic Lawn Tennis Association after leaving school.

That about sums up the Junior years for me at Fremantle. The next stage was moving over to the Senior side, with the famous "log/long swing" (I was never sure which it was) but Oh, what a wonderful contraption, highly prized at lunch time on which to sit and eat our lunch!

Albany Associate News and Meetings for 2008

We have come to a period of relative calm after the RCIA, Lent and Easter programmes. Associates have been involved in the many Parish activities so we can now settle down to preparing the diary and contents of our proposed meetings for the year. We will start on 22 June with an overview of the Albany Associates, inviting those who are new to the Parish or have not attended previously to come see whether they would be interested in seeing if this is a way for them to participate in the life of the Community, meet the Sisters and learn about the Foundress and the works undertaken.

The proposed dates for our meetings for this year are as follows:

22 June 2008

14 September 2008

16 November 2008

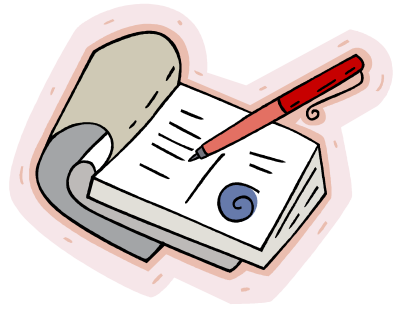
We are looking at perhaps a day retreat in December as preparation for Christmas and Foundation of the Congregation.

This is where we are up to at the present time.

Betty Tulloch

Coordinator - Albany Associates

Our Associates Write



“Thank you very much for the newsletter. I always look forward to it and so does my husband. May the love and peace of the Infant God fill your life. God bless you all now and throughout the coming New Year”.

Marlene and Joe D’Esposito

“Thank you for sending the newsletters. I read them with a sense of belonging!”

Rita Sweeney

“I find the booklet very interesting following the work you are all doing. Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year.”

May Beech

“I do enjoy your newsletters and appreciate all the work you must put in to the making of it. Judging by comments from your readers and ex-students, they get much pleasure also. I am always very thankful to the Sisters of St Joseph for my happy school days at North Fremantle and at St Joseph’s Convent in Fremantle. This is expressed many times in your newsletters by other students who have enjoyed the same privilege”.

“Wishing all the Sisters a Holy and Happy Christmas”.

Pat Sullivan (Feeney)

“Dear Associates

Many thanks for your Christmas Newsletter which Sister Cora and myself always read with great pleasure. Thanks also for your greetings for Christmas and the New Year which we warmly reciprocate. May the Infant Lord load you with His love, joy, peace and blessings throughout this Christmas season and New Year.

Hoping that this card will find you in the best of health and keep alive in you the spirit of St Emilie. United to you in Christ. Yours,”

Sister Veronica and Sister Cora (Rome)

“Wishing you the Light of Hope that keeps the future bright. Wishing you a Christmas touched with God’s Eternal Light.”

Sister Arul and Community (India)

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2008	
Our Annual General Meetings	
Willetton	Sunday 17 August 2008
Albany	To be arranged
Melbourne	To be arranged
Dates for Meetings	
Emile Group John Paul Centre Willetton WA at 7:30pm	Albany Group Ave Maria Convent 19 Premier Circle Albany at 1:30pm
Wednesday 28 May Wednesday 23 July Wednesday 24 September Wednesday 3 December	Sunday 22 June Sunday 14 September Sunday 16 November

A Daily Meditation - "Radical Grace" by Richard Rohr

An Incarnation Analogy

We need signs of salvation. We who are well off have been given signs of the cross among us like the poor and the handicapped. We have to enter their world on their terms to love them. And the beautiful thing we discover is that we become free. We come at last to know who we are by looking in their eyes.

There was a television show called ***Son Rise*** about a couple who had an autistic child. They wanted their son to change and enter into their space. And they did everything they could to get that child to enter into their world and to be like them, the normal people. And then one day they realised they would have to enter his world.

It was nonsensical and gruelling to do so. The mother entered into the child's world on his terms, day after day sitting on the floor, playing seemingly silly, goal-less games with this child, waving her hands and entering his world.

After years, many days and thousands of hours of this, her son spoke to her! There's the incarnation. That's the pattern of redemption. That's the price that God paid. God entered our world on our terms to feel the grief of being human - so we could speak back to a God who would understand.

Jesus is the suffering of God. Jesus is the pain of God, the pity of God. He is the revelation of the heart of God. Somehow our own feelings, somehow our own pain and our own pleasure is a participation in who God is. God is in agony and delightful expectation until the end of time.

from Days of Renewal

Invitation

*The Sisters and Associates
are invited to attend a special Mass
to celebrate together the*

Feast of St Emílie de Vialar

*on
Sunday 15 June 2008
at
11:30am*

*in
Holy Family Church, Como
(Cnr Canning Highway & Thelma Street)*

*This celebration is being jointly organised by the
Sisters and Associates
and following the Eucharist you are all invited to
share in a light lunch in the Parish Centre
(Please bring a plate to share)*

We look forward to seeing you all there

*RSVP: Thursday 29 May 2008
Telephone: (08) 9430 6075 (Germaine Matison)
Email: germaine.m@bigpond.com*

*Mail: "SJA Associates"
St Joseph's Convent
96 Campbell Road, Canning Vale WA 6155*