

Volume 2

The Associates Newsletter

Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition

August Edition 2008



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

St Emílie de Vialar

Sister Jeanette writes about the happenings on the Associate scene since the last Newsletter.....

Over the past few months we have formed an interim Associate Committee which has met several times to discuss future directions for the Associate Movement in Australia. Time has also been spent evaluating the proposed Congregation Associate Guidelines.

The committee has been involved in planning and organising the Newsletter with the new editor Regina Barnett. Congratulations Regina on your first edition - Well done!

Three meetings were held with the Emilie Group: Carmel Posner presenting material on *'Joseph'*, Thea Ziegelaar presenting *'Links and Connections'*, and Sr Margaret Anne walking us through *'Lectio Divina'* – a way of reading and meditating on the Word of God that leads to prayer.

A meeting has also been held with the Associates in Albany with Betty Tulloch the Albany Coordinator presenting material on *'The Apparition of the Angel to Joseph'* (Matt 1:18-25).

The Mass and luncheon to celebrate St Emilie's Day at Holy Family Parish, Como was coordinated by the Committee. Our thanks to Fr Paschal Kearney the Celebrant for his challenging words reminding us we are all called to mission, each one having a special part to play in bringing God's love to our world today, there where we are through the everyday events and circumstances of life. There have been quite a number of positive responses and high praise received from the Associates and Sisters. Especially noted were simplicity and poignancy of the celebrations.

Thanks to all who have contributed in various ways to the above event.

A special thanks to the Associates for your quick and generous response to the needs of the Sisters in Myanmar at the time of the recent cyclone disaster. The Myanmar Sisters express their appreciation and send their thanks 'a million times over to all who responded so promptly and generously towards the relief efforts...' Sr Ann Schwe writes *"Thanks is all that I can say to express my gratitude for the kindness and care shown towards us in this recent tragedy in our country. With what we have received we will be doing all the good we can!"*

A change of plans..... 'Important Diary Dates 2008' see back page.

With WYD Sydney 2008 behind, let us pray that the power of the Spirit continues to pour down on our Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, and through the lives of the pilgrims, to all the nations of the world.

Since the last Newsletter the Sisters were saddened by the rather sudden death of Sister Colette Gimblet, and after a short illness, Sister Damian Warner. Sisters Marietta and Benedicta kindly share memories of these two Sisters with us. (see overleaf)
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Eulogy on Sister Colette - given by Sister Marietta

The facts of Sister Colette Gimblett's life are easy to relate. They are as follows. Sister was born in Cumbran, a town near Newport in Wales on 31 August 1917. She was the beloved younger daughter of Thomas and Alice and the much loved sister of four brothers and a sister, who later became Sr Thomas in our Congregation. At her baptism Sr Colette was given the names of Mona Magdalen, - names which did not please her very much; she preferred her name in religion and was never tempted to revert to her baptismal names.



The Gimblett family emigrated to Western Australia when Colette was quite young and both she and her sister were taught by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition. When she was 18 she followed her sister into the Congregation, making her first vows at Fremantle on 28 August 1937 and her final vows in 1943. Sister undertook many apostolates in various communities ranging from Cunderdin to Albany during a long life and died in Margaret Hubery House on 20 May 2008.

These essential facts, however tell us little, if anything of the rich fabric of Sr Colette's life. Her inherited traits, early family experiences and life circumstances made of her a free spirit. Thus, although Sr Colette was an obedient religious, there must have been times when she had to struggle with the discipline of religious life. Towards the end of her life she often expressed her delight in being in Hubery House with the caring staff who looked after her by declaring *"It's lovely here as no one tells you what to do."* This shows that Colette always retained her integrity – she was always true to the person she was.

Colette's family was always very dear to her and just a day before her death she dreamed – or had an experience of being in an accident and then being surrounded by her parents and her brothers and sister. Her first reaction to this was to ask a visiting Sister if there were any scratches on her face; how typical of Colette, and then to say how wonderful it was to have her family around her. She was comforted and supported by this dream, which surely was a grace sent by God.

Sister Colette was an extremely talented person who used her many talents to help other people and to further the interests of the Congregation. She made her own the words of St Emilie De Vialar *"Go and what you have and will receive do all the good you can"*.

For some years after her profession Sr Colette taught in the Sisters' schools in the Fremantle area. At one time at Beaconsfield she was teaching in the junior school during school hours and commercial subjects to the senior pupils after school.

Her results were good, but such a programme must have irked her somewhat, as her musical talents were under utilised. After all she had a gold medal in the Trinity College ATCL examination. However Sr Colette's life soon changed.

In 1943 she was chosen to be one of the foundation members of the Mt Barker community. She was the designated music teacher but had other duties as well. Sister was the coordinator of the catechetical outreach to the children of the neighbouring towns, relief school teacher when the Sister cook had to leave her classroom to cook the Sisters and the Priest's dinner and also the Sacristan in the church.

However, from such a humble beginning great things came. Sr Colette began to use her creative talents to create a legend of musical events which still lives in the Mt Barker people's memories and which incidentally, helped to provide much needed funds for the sisters' maintenance and upkeep. There was certainly no cast of a thousand, but the results in the eyes of the parents and students **were** bigger than "*Ben Hur*". Sr Colette began to produce high quality pantomimes, concerts and musical evenings. Later with the gift of some instruments from a retired and astonished musician the school had an orchestra of some standing. Notwithstanding all these extra-curricular activities Sister's private music pupils continued to obtain extremely good results in their examinations.

The Mt Barker experience provided the pattern for Sr Colette's future life. She never did anything by halves. Throughout her life she continued to demand as much of herself as she did of her students who inspired by her example and teaching prowess rose to heights of achievement which they had previously considered beyond them. The bond established between Sister and her students continued, in many cases, into their adult life – they continued to visit her and to write to her, inviting her to share in their joys and sorrows.

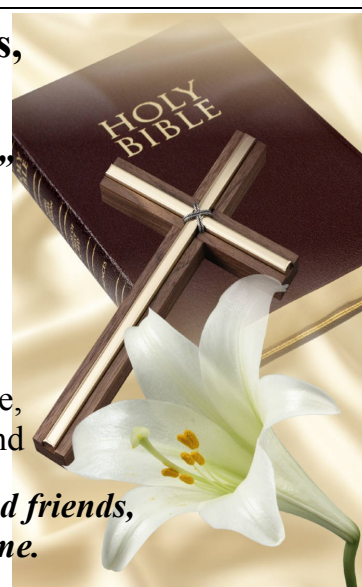
Sr Colette now lives in the presence of God surrounded by all her loved ones, her family, her congregational family and the many people whose lives she touched. May dear Sister Colette rest in the peace of the Lord .

Our deceased Sisters, Associates, Relatives and Friends

"Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord"

Sr Colette Gimblett	Sister of Sr Thomas (dec'd).
Sr Damian Warner	
Sheila Gravett	Aunt of Sr Elizabeth Rose.
Lorraine (Rainee) Matison	Wife of Jim, mother of Germaine, Christine, Adam, Greg, Philip and Peter; sister of Shirley Kemp.

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



Eulogy on Sister Damian *given by Sister Benedicta*

Sister Damian entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition on 2 February 1948. Her first teaching assignment was at the Primary school in Fremantle we affectionately termed "*Parry Street*", where she taught lower and middle Primary students. She was much loved by the children who recognised her loving nature and were quick to run to her when they had need of attention.



After several years Sr Damian was sent to Victoria where our Sisters taught in the Parish schools in West and East Ivanhoe. She spent happy years here and loved the warmth and welcoming spirit of the people supporting these schools. She also spent a short time at the Primary school in the country district of Gisborne.

On her return to the west she taught in the Secondary section of St Joseph's College in Fremantle and later transferred to the newly built College and Convent known as De Vialar Convent in Samson. Here she remained until the College amalgamated with St Brendan's College and the Sisters left. She went to St Emilie's Convent in Kalamunda and was there until she died. She played an important role in the driving of the elderly Sisters to medical appointments and the like, and worked on the computer on the financial commitments of the Convent. She became well known in the town for her warm smile and friendly attitude.

Sr Damian was always interested in others whether it be the pupils she taught or the people she met in the streets or shops and was never too busy to offer assistance or listen to their problems. Hers was a loving nature and she accepted others as they were rather than as she thought they ought to be. I think she will always be remembered for this quality.

Over the years Sister Damian endeared herself to many and will be sorely missed, but I am sure she is now reaping her reward for the years she spent in the service of others.

From the Editor

With my first newsletter out of the way I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your positive comments and supportive feedback. Associates wishing to submit future articles may do so via email to rbarnett@corpus.wa.edu.au and I welcome them. Sr Jeanette may be contacted at 96 Campbell Road, Canning Vale WA.

Wendy Cronin, fellow Associate will submit regular articles, the first being on St Emilie on the following page.

Regina



Do You know why 12th September is a Special Date for Associates?

It is Emilie de Vialar's birthday. She was born in the year 1797 in Gaillac, France during the time of upheaval caused by the French Revolution. Her comfortably wealthy family luckily came safely through those turbulent times.



Above, left: Emilie aged four and her cousin

The church, seen as wealthy and part of the aristocracy had its land confiscated, churches closed and given over to other uses. Priests who did not flee the guillotine moved about disguised and in secret.

Not only were Emilie's parents married in secret by a priest wearing military uniform but Emilie was baptised in secret in the hospital chapel.

She was the eldest of four children with three brothers Augustine, Alfred, who lived only a few weeks and Maximum.

Her early education was given by her mother. She also sowed the seeds of the faith and nourished it during childhood.

At seven years she went off to attend Mlle Duberville's secular school in Gaillac. Emilie attended the school for six years with good academic results.

Piano lessons became the trial of her young life. Mlle Duberville demanded Emilie aged eight practice several hours each day. This was to fulfill Mlle's own ambition to use Emilie to enhance the school's reputation.

Telling lies to save being scolded became a habit.

She received the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 3 of June 1807. It was the first visit by a bishop since the Revolution.

Her childhood came to an abrupt and distressing end when in 1810 Emilie's mother took her to Paris to find a suitable school, run by nuns, to complete her education. While in Paris her mother became seriously ill and after some weeks died.

What a sad time for Emilie and what a difficult age for a young girl to lose her mother. How keenly she must have felt the separation when her father and brothers returned to Gaillac leaving her in Paris with her aunt.

from Wendy Cronin

Celebrating St Emilie's Feast Day

Celebrating St Emilie's Feast Day



Left: *Glen Stevens presented Sister Concepta with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all Associates in recognition and appreciation of her years as editor of the Associates Newsletter.*

Right: *Sister Kieran chatting with friends at the shared luncheon following the celebration of Eucharist*



Left: *Sister Zoe in good company enjoying the celebrations*

Our Associates Write ...



Dear Regina,

Congratulations on the Newsletter! Attractive and interesting!! Now I am wondering if you would be able to send it to me in pdf format to send across to our website? We usually post it up there as well. If it's too much trouble, just let me know and I will think of another way, perhaps. I wonder if you would also make a note in the next edition of the death of my aunt, Sheila Gravett, on 14 June, 2008, just two weeks short of her 101st birthday. She was a wonderful lady, full of wit and kindness right up to her last breath - which she drew after chatting and having a 'cuppa' with one of her grandsons! Many thanks.

Sr Elizabeth Rose

Congratulations on a wonderful Newsletter. I really enjoyed reading it and love the cover.

Sr Margaret Anne Beech

Many thanks for the newsletter. I enjoy it very much. God bless.

Anne Partlon, (Feeney)

I enjoy receiving my Associates' Newsletter. Today I planned to clear out my cupboard of an accumulation of correspondence etc. over many years. But found that many of the Newsletters, especially those with any of our history since 1855 were reread and replaced.

So this way I remember my friends – Srs Anastasia, Monica, Irene, Gemma, Olivera, Anne Marie and others. I will leave the “clearing out” for some-one else.

Audrey Walsh (Chidlow)

Thank you very much for the April edition of the Newsletter.

Both my husband and I would like to thank Sr Concepta and her team workers for the wonderful job they did with the production of the Newsletter. Now, as you (Sr Concepta) retire to a calmer pace in your life, we wish you a very peaceful and healthy future. May the Lord bless you and fill you with the joy of His loving presence.

We like to welcome the new team, Regina Barnett and her helpers to continue with the production of the Newsletter. We wish you every success and pray the Holy Spirit to guide and enlighten you to carry out fruitfully this important task.

We appreciate the invitation to the Feast of St Emilie de Vialar on 15 June 2008. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend as we shall be interstate.

We wish you all a very Happy Feast of St Emilie and have a great get together. Well, once, again thanks for the Newsletter.

Our very best regards.... to the Sisters. May the Lord bless you and keep you all in the Palm of His Hand.

Joe & Marlene D'Esposito

More from the Associates . . .

Sorry that I will be unable to attend the special Mass to celebrate the feast of St Emilie de Vialar. Our grandson is being confirmed on Sunday 15 June at Our Lady of Fatima Church Palmyra.



I wish you all a very Happy Feast Day of St Emilie de Vialar. With best wishes.

Pat McLinden (Pozzi)

Dear Regina

I meant to send this email on receipt of the Associates newsletter to congratulate you. Well done. It had a very appealing cover. I can understand how you must feel following Sr Concepta's productions which we know were very informative and well presented. But I know with the support of Sr Jeanette and others who can give you some news for the newsletter you will continue to make it special.

Hope the Mass went well, I was there in Spirit. Happy Feast Day for Tuesday. May St Emilie continue to guide and bless you all. Love and prayers.

Sr Angela

The Spirit of the Sisters lives on in various groups who meet from time to time

Hello. My name is Lynette Reilly (nee Knight) and I attended St Joseph's College in Fremantle from 1945 until achieving my Junior Certificate in 1955. I cherish those years and loved all the nuns I was associated with.

In 1960 I was fortunate enough to find most of my friends in my class and we had a re-union in my home. Since then, it has become an annual "get-together" and we have been hiring a house on the waterfront in Mandurah every February for a long weekend.

This year however, we are having a week in Bali which should be great. We leave Perth on 25 July 2008.

Now that we have the "travel bug" we are hopeful in 2010 to visit Celine Montocchio in Thailand, but that will be another story.

I thought perhaps you might be interested in publishing part of this e-mail in your Associates Newsletter.

Regards

Lynette Reilly (nee Knight)

(in response to the April Newsletter)

Albany Associate News and Meetings for 2008

The Albany Associates gathered at the Convent, 19 Premier Circle, Albany for their meeting held on 22 June 2008. The meeting started at 1.30pm with 14 Associates present, along with Sisters Jeanette, Patrick, Mary and Krystyna.

The theme for the meeting was “Apparition” and “Do not be Afraid” in relation to St Emilie founding and naming the Congregation. We began with the hymn “Do Not Be Afraid” then read Matthew’s account of the apparition of the angel to St Joseph and his role in the Incarnation (Matthew Ch 1 Verses 18 – 25). We then related this to an (unauthenticated) account of Joseph appearing to Emilie at the outset of her vocation, telling her that she would meet obstacles, sufferings and grief, but that she would overcome these and her work would prosper. This raised many questions and much discussion. The closing music was “Be Thou My Vision”. We then reaffirmed our Associates Promise, the prayer ‘Be at Peace’ by St Francis de Sales was read. A very pleasant afternoon tea was enjoyed amid much laughter and conversation.

Two new Associates have returned their Invitation Forms and we welcome with pleasure, June and Ron Webb.

Betty Tulloch

Coordinator - Albany Associates

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Sister Bernadette, travelled to Sydney with Sr Espie from the Philippines and Sr Anne-Marie from Thailand to World Youth Day. The experience was somewhat educational and inspiring. To be part of such a large gathering of youth, and witness their reverence and quiet on the solemn occasions, e.g.



Above left: Lilian, Sr Espie, Sr Bernadette and Sr Anne Marie, at Perth airport before departing to Sydney for World Youth Day.

Mass and the Vigil prayer we had on the Saturday evening, was something to reflect upon. It gave one hope in the Church of the future. The opening Mass celebrated by Cardinal George Pell and the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI had their high points with much applause and that too was a good experience for all present. Wherever you went in Sydney you encountered some youth with WYD backpacks (ourselves included too). All in all, I think it was a week to remember for young and old, and a great time for the Church.

(see back page on WYD).

Snippets from World Youth Day Experience



From Lilian. *World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney had been a joyous, memorable and spiritually uplifting time for me. It was truly an inspiring and uplifting moment sharing with the many young people from all nations in celebrating our faith.*

Sister Espie *from the Philippines writes - Thank you very much for the beautiful and enriching experience from Australia. I have spoken a lot to the sisters about my impression and my experience in Australia. So thankful for those people young and old during the celebration of WYD. Australian people are so friendly, accommodating, generous and loving.*

Sister Anne Marie *from Thailand says - her experience of being in Sydney for WYD was quite overwhelming.*

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2008

NB the following CHANGES to Annual General Meetings listed in the last Newsletter

Willetton	Scheduled for Sunday 17 August 2008 HAS BEEN CANCELLED
Albany	Albany does not hold an AGM
Melbourne	There will be NO gathering in Melbourne this year

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 24 September 2008 Wednesday 3 December 2008	Sunday 14 September 2008 Sunday 16 November 2008