

Associate Newsletter

March

Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition

Continuing the Journey

1855



2005

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year as we come to the launching of our year of celebrations – **150 years since the arrival of the first Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition in Australia.**

May you all receive many blessings as we continue this journey
Sister Angela Basile
Provincial Superior

In this first newsletter for 2005, it seems appropriate for us as we Continue **our** Journey to remember *all the sisters in the Australian Province who have gone before us*. Many we have known – others we have heard about. Their lives have been our inspiration and we are eager to pay tribute to them, to their families and to all those whose lives they touched from :

1855 until this special year, .

At the end of the eighteenth century the first immigrants arrived on the Australian continent on the east coast around Sydney. The settlement towards the west developed later and when the first Sisters of St Joseph arrived in Fremantle they encountered newly emerging settlement.

As in other places the mission began in precarious conditions. However, the young superior *Sister Julie Cabagnol*, scarcely twenty five years old performed wonders. Her life has been a frame of reference to the sisters who came after her. Through her the foundress's spirit was present in this far off continent.

We know very little about Sister Julie. However, we do know that she, with her three companions *Sister Zoe de Chamouin, Sister Emilie Petit and Sister Lucy Fieuzet* formed a very united and joyous community.



Devotedness

In loving memory of the
Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition
who through their lives of devotedness
touched the hearts of so many
in our country - Australia
May they rest in peace.



ECHOES OF THE PAST (Continued)

1909

January Shelter shed erected for the children of Parry Street School paid for by donations and a concert given by the children of the Infant School. It is a great boom to the children as in winter they were obliged on wet days to remain in the school room during recess and at dinner time. New stairs were erected and boarders' dormitories painted which made a great improvement.

March Grand display by the children of all the schools from Fremantle to Midland Junction took place in Claremont. The children wearing different uniforms went through some pretty exercises in wand drill.

April Sister Stanislaus ordered a change by the doctor - went to Newcastle where she remained with the Sisters of Mercy for a few weeks. They were exceedingly kind to her.

June *Feast of the Sacred Heart* - had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel - from about four to eight. The Sisters and Boarders kept up the Adoration. The altar looked lovely with its array of flowers and lights. The Act of Consecration was read by the priest.

16th September Reception and Profession Ceremony. Three Sisters received the habit and Sisters Josephine, Peter, Catherine, Adelaide, Aidan and Patricia were professed.

November The annual concerts given by the children of the different schools - all passed off successfully. Proceeds devoted to prizes - the surplus being added to the common purse..

13th December Distribution of prizes in the different schools. A very nice exhibition of fancy work, paintings etc. by the children attending the High School and Parry Street School. A number of visitors came to see it and were loud in their praises.

Farewell to the Carmelite Fathers

It is with feelings of sadness that we bid farewell to the Carmelite Fathers who have left the parish in Hilton after so many years. We have come to know the Fathers and worked with them since their earliest years and we send to all our special thanks and our best wishes in their ministry for the future. Our prayers are with you at this time. *Farewell!*



Parish Named for St Emilie

Canning Vale parish began operating as a parish in 2002. From the very beginning the people have been enthusiastic. They are a multi-cultural group, their main goal being to have a church built where they could worship together. They are still striving for this and hopefully in the near future St Emilie will have her place as Patron Saint in the Church. The following account is from a December 2004 Record.



St Emilie de Vialar Foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition

has been chosen as the patron for the new parish in Canning Vale

Bishop Don Sproxton recently celebrated Mass with parishioners and community members to mark the occasion. Father Robert Carrillo was inaugurated as the first Parish Priest. The occasion was also used to launch the Parish Pastoral Program using the model of the Basic Ecclesial Community.

"St Emilie was a generous labourer for the Gospel, attentive to the Spirit and reached out to all people regardless of religion race or colour" He said. Parishioner Lyn Harkins said the Church's approval of the name St Emilie has become a further acknowledgement of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition who have worked in the Archdiocese for the past 150 years. Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition were the second congregation of religious women to arrive at the Swan River Colony at the invitation of Bishop Serra O.S.B.

"The Mass was also a wonderful occasion to celebrate the many facets of our community by using symbols carried to the altar in procession by various members of the congregation, many of them in national dress" Lyn Harkins said.

In addition to the large picture of St Emilie, a number of symbols were placed at the front of the altar during the Mass.

"The symbols represent the many people from different cultures and countries that make up this one unified and vibrant community" she said. A new stole was also presented as a gift to Father Carrillo in gratitude for the inspiration and spiritual leadership he has unceasingly given.

Although the parish was established three years ago, construction of a Church building will not take place for another three or four years.

At present Mass is held at the Canning Vale State School undercover area in Livingston.

However, Mass will be held at the St Emilie de Vialar Catholic School in Canning Vale from December 11 and 12 onwards.

St Emilie de Vialar Presbytery and Office is located at Lot 4/151 Amherst Road Canning Vale. Father Robert Carrillo can be contacted on 9456 5130



The Sisters at Mass for the naming of the Parish
With Bishop Sproxton and Father Robert Carrillo



OUR ASSOCIATES WRITE

Merry Christmas. May the joy and Peace of Christmas be with you throughout the year. Our love and prayers. Thank you for your regular newsletter. It is greatly appreciated
Best wishes from

Vod and Elizabeth Dzialosz



Thanks a million for the newsletter once again. Wishing you and all Happy Christmas and New Year and a prayer that there will be peace in our world. Lots of love

Peg Heinrich (Feeney)

Thank you for sending the Newsletter. I was sorry to hear that Sisters Leo and Genevieve had passed away recently. Wishing you all the blessing of Christmas love.

Judy Nichols (Fitzmaurice)

Dear Sisters. Thank you for the beautifully presented newsletter, which I always enjoy reading. Wishing you a Holy and Happy Christmas

Robin Mason (Turnbull)

Dear Sisters. Thank you very much for the newsletters. Please remember in your prayers two aunts who are ill . Both are past students from Mandalay, Burma - Kathleen Ialgado (90 years) and Myrna Martia nee Salgado, - both very ill Do you still remember me Sister Irene? I taught your nephew Richard. With best wishes

Bernice Bernard

Dear Sisters. May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you throughout the year. I look forward to your newsletters. With love

Lucy Blake (Solomon)

Dear Sisters. It's time to wish you all a very Holy Christmas and Peaceful and healthy 2005. Both my husband and I thank you for the 2 letter journals we receive as associates. We are waiting impatiently for the December issue. We hope you are all keeping in good health. May the Lord bless you all and fill you with His love to zealously spread the word. Love and best wishes to all.

Marlene and Joe D'Esposito

To all the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition! A note of thanks for always sending me the "Associate Newsletter. Hopefully in the new year I will make contact! Some years ago Sister Irene made contact with me and I just didn't respond. Time and commitment take over! Hope to keep in touch in 2005

Shalom

Georgia and Robert Bruce-Smith

Thank you for your regular newsletters which I very much enjoy reading. Love to all the Sisters.

Anne Partlon (Feeney)

May I wish all the sisters a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Margaret Cullinane

Please keep sending the newsletter. I will attend one of the gatherings when I am not working but my 'new career' in educational and mental health now takes me all over Australia. God's blessing on you all. *Meg Roche (Haddleton)*

To the Associates of St Emilie:: Joyous at this Holy Christmas season, Happy New Year, good health to you and to all those dear to you. May the Divine Child bless you very specially and grant you all the graces you would like to have for yourselves, your family and friends
Sister Melanie Lantrain (Thailand)

Dear Sisters. Once again, my thanks to you all for keeping me in touch with old school friends through the Associate Newsletter. I do look forward to receiving all the news. I was sad to hear of the passing of Sister Genevieve. I have many happy memories of Sister. She taught me and also my two brothers in 1st and 2nd standard all those years ago. Once again my thanks for continuing to send me the Associate Newsletter. I send my best wish to all Sisters. May you have a Holy and Happy Christmas with a safe and healthy New Year to follow.
Fond regards *Maureen Stubbs (James)*



I enjoy reading your Newsletter – it is varied, interesting and a means of “keeping in touch with the past!” It certainly revives memories for me. God bless you and your undertakings as a means of communication between Associates and Sisters.

Sister Cecelia (Schembri) Provincial House Malta

A friend, and ex-pupil of Beaconsfield told me about the Associates of St Joseph of the Apparition – their gatherings and Newsletters. Margaret Cullinane sent me the latest and some back copies of your wonderful Associates Newsletters. I have had a wonderful time reading them remembering names (and trying to put faces to names) of some of the Sisters and 'the girls'. It brought back a flood of memories starting the early '40's when we attended the 'Bushie' School in Cunderdin and later when I boarded in Fremantle for the High School Years. I feel privileged and grateful for how my life has been touched by those contacts. I would like to be added to the list of Associates of SJA, and would love to catch up with you again. God's Peace and Blessings to all.

Yours sincerely Val Carter (Shehan – Meckering)

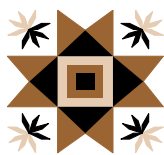
St Emilie Speaks about Australia



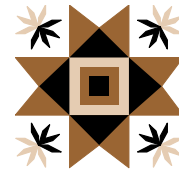
*“At present I am filled with great joy
at being able to help
in spreading the Lord’s kingdom
in these new lands that are so vast”*
(In a letter written by St Emilie on 7th July 1854)



“I pray every day for the Australian Sisters”
(Words of St Emilie to Sister Mary Petit 15 February 1855)



Deceased Sisters, Associates Relatives and Friends



“Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven”

Relatives, Friends And Associates

Bernadette Medwin (Troy)	Niece of Sister Lucy Troy (Deceased)
Mrs Haddleton	Mother of Meg Roche / Cheryl Lopez
Abe Mouraid	Husband of Alyce
Father Martin McMahon	Carmelite Father

Paul Melvaine (Associate)

Paul’s memory remains with us. His children were educated by the Sisters in West Ivanhoe and Paul and Ena were among the wonderful parishioners who supported us in the difficult, early days of St Bernadette’s school West Ivanhoe. In later years Paul gave financial support for a young student, known to our Sisters in Thailand. We thank him for this too.



Praise to you O God.
for your gentleness and strength,
Praise to you for the words and
the songs,
the rhythm and the dance,
the resting and the rising
as we make our way to you.

We pray for all our sick Sisters, Associates. relatives and friends
and for all who have asked for our prayers during this special year.





Seton Professional Development Day

Last December the Sisters were contacted by Seton Catholic College with a view to taking part in their first staff day on January 28th 2005. The rationale behind this approach was a directive from the Catholic Education Office based on the Mandate Letter of the Bishops of Western Australia for all involved in Catholic education. *Faith Story and Witness* is the name given by the CEO to the document prepared to facilitate this, and it has been made a component of teacher Accreditation. As part of the exploration and development of their identity, it is suggested that schools revisit their founding charism or spirit – hence our involvement! Because Seton Catholic College was founded on De Vialar College and St Brendan's College, both groups were invited to participate.

So it was that eighteen Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition and Father Michael Evans SMA appeared at Seton College for an 8.30 am start to a very interesting day. Ex-students were represented by Mrs Elizabeth Mancini (Higgins) and Ms Germaine Matison. The theme for the day was – “*We Were Made For These Times*” – a name chosen by Mrs Pauline Kingsbury, Religious Education Co-ordinator for Seton College and a niece of Sister Kathleen Downes SJA



At a ‘mock assembly’ in the outside courtyard where staff and students of De Vialar College used to battle the elements, lines were formed and those below addressed from the balcony above in the old tradition. The ‘privileged few’ above included Father Michael Evans SMA, Sister Angela Basile SJA and Mr David Heath, transition Principal. After a welcome and an opening prayer, the “Head Girl”, Mrs Elizabeth Mancini (who once actually filled that role) asked those lined up below to proceed to the Emilie De Vialar Arts Centre in ‘orderly fashion’ – but not before she had commented on the inappropriate dress of some!

. Some input on the purpose and content of the day followed, given by Pauline Kingsbury and Mario Bugna, Campus Minister. Everyone was then asked to speak about the meaning and origin of their name in a small group. This was to bring to life the title of this activity.- ‘To Be Born is to be Chosen’ (J O’Donohue, *Anam Cara*) – by heightening the sense of our calling (cf also Isaiah 43:1: Is 45:3, Mark 5:9. After this, as Liturgy of the Word led all to reflect on the wonder of God coming to expression in and among us, centred around a reading from Ezekiel 37: 1-11, in which God breathes life into dry bones. The Liturgy also recognized the spirit of the three Saints, Elizabeth Seton, Emilie and Brendan as well as that of all who have played and presently play a part in our lives and the life of the school.

A convivial gathering at morning tea was a prelude to the next segment. Father Michael Evans gave an interesting outline of the life of St Brendan and detailed information regarding the founding of the African Mission Society and its work.

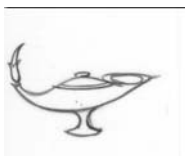


This was followed by a power point presentation of a modern re-enactment, in an exact replica of his boat, of the voyages of St Brendan. Prepared by Pauline Kingsbury from a book describing the modern venture, it brought to life Brendan's daring and zeal in a vivid way.

The SJA component of the day was prepared by *Sister Elizabeth Rose Sanders*, who was also one of the sisters involved in the transition days and beginnings of Seton College. *Sister Helen Giles* gave an illuminating talk on St Emilie and the early days of the Sisters in Australia. A power point presentation from the 1970's and 1980's followed, featuring buildings, past pupils and staff of De Vialar College, (some of the latter still working at Seton) plus a few photos of the Sisters in the process of leaving their convent home in 1989.



**The
Sisters
at
Seton
College**



A small group session followed, during which Sisters, ex-students, and staff who were part of the amalgamation interacted with present staff of Seton College to explore some of the characteristics of De Vialar College in its time. Two significant icons of the College and the Congregation, the statue of St Emilie and the votive lamp, were suggested as a starting point for this and all was then related back in a plenary session and noted for future reference.

A DVD compiled by Mrs Mancini for a reunion last year of '70's students caused merriment as it recreated the spirit of that time, with its pop idols, fashions, etc, as well as a little of how it was then for the students of De Vialar. Our input ended with a word of appreciation to staff for their wonderful welcome and some information on activities for our 150th celebrations this year, delivered by Sister Angela Basile



Over a shared lunch, the atmosphere was alive with reminiscence and renewal, as people met up with the Sisters again. Many of the Sisters had to leave after this, but a few stayed into the afternoon, when Seton Staff listened to the first Principal of Seton, Mr David Heath, describe his experience of its initial years. The day concluded with an address on the theme "We Were Made For These Times" by Brendan McKeague, followed by an informal gathering over afternoon tea.

The overall opinion was that staff gained much from the day, gleaning something of the spirit that inspired the patronal saints of the two colleges that formed the present one. From the Sisters' point of view, it was a wonderful invitation to revisit a foundation that was a very important part of our work in Australia, evolving as it did from our first school in the early days of Fremantle; and to pass on again the charism of St Emilie

- *Sister Elizabeth Rose Sanders*



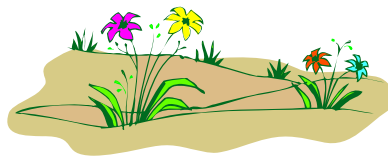
2005 – ASSOCIATE RETREAT DAYS

Sister Margaret Anne Beech

1. Perth and Metropolitan Area

Sunday – 2nd October
at

A Place to Be
4a Preston Point Road East Fremantle.



2. ALBANY (At a day to be arranged)

(See next Newsletter for further information)

Celebrating the Journey

1855 - 2005



Commemorating the 150th year
since the arrival of the
Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition
In Fremantle

on
24th May 1855

*You are invited to join us in the celebration of Mass
in St Patrick's Basilica*

*On Sunday
12th June 2005
at 11.00am.*



“Emilie” Group Meetings – 2005 (Sister Helen Giles)

Meetings for March and April (more next Newsletter)

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1. Wednesday 16th March, 2005 - “The First Four”
 2. Wednesday 20th April, 2005 - “A Roman Weekend”

7.30pm St John and Paul Parish Centre

WILLETTON

The Session in Rome

31st March – 3rd April 2005.

Objectives of this Session:

- ✚ To become acquainted with what is being lived at present.
- ✚ To seek together how best to accompany our lay members (Associates) in order to prepare for the future



The Session is for Sisters from all Provinces.

Sister Helen Giles and Sister Jeanette Hevron

represent Australia.



Saturday 19th March 2005
Feast Day of St Joseph

*A Happy Feast Day to All Associates
St Joseph Pray for us.*



ST JOSEPH
as you took loving care of Mary
and gladly committed yourself
to Jesus Christ's upbringing,
watch over and protect
this family
dedicated to you
by
ST EMILIE

