

# Associate Newsletter

## March 2007

### Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition

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Once again we are at the beginning of a new year. Hopefully it will be a Happy Year bringing to all of us the blessings of our God. We, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition, have many ventures ahead of us, not the least of which is our General Chapter, a continuation of the work started last year at our Provincial Chapter. This year we elect a new person to head our Congregation as Superior General. We ask you to join with us as we pray for all our intentions which will ensure the future of our Congregation. We thank you especially for your prayerful support, for the forthcoming Chapter. I will be attending the Chapter in Rome with the two Delegates from Australia – Sister Margaret Anne Beech and Sister Gemma Grant. We extend to all our wishes for a very Happy New Year and we invite you to join in:

#### A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING.

May you awake each morning with thank you on your lips and in your heart, recognizing that all is gift, that all is blessing.

May your friendship with God be strong and healthy. May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as you struggle to find your way in the new year.

May your God be someone you can lean on in your weak or painful moments. May you know God as your rock, your shelter, your strength, your wing of comfort and support.

May your life this year be a living legacy to your God.

*Sister Angela Basile* (Provincial Superior)



#### Our Associates Write

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.

*Julie Nicholson*



To the dear Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition :

*May our dear Sister Thomas rest in peace. Sister was my teacher for German and Maths at St Joseph's College Fremantle, and I will always remember her beautiful singing voice, and when she sang Silent Night in German, how sweet it was. A very happy person, always smiling and made me feel as if I was special to her. Grant her eternal rest.*

With love : Mary, Claude Lo Presti and family.

This little note to thank you for the lovely newsletters you send me which I do enjoy very much. Love and best wishes to you.

*Pat Sullivan (Feeney)*

*To all the Associates. May the Divine Babe of Bethlehem grant you every blessing, peace, happiness and success for Christmas and the New Year. May God love and bless you all. Love and prayers*

Sister Celestine (England)

Have just read your Christmas Associates Newsletter. It was brilliant! Congratulations. Reading all those familiar names and events just brings back such a lot of warm, happy times in my life. I owe the Sisters so much.

*Irene Pead (Ferguson)*

*Many happy memories of Sister Thomas who was one of my teachers during my High School years, and who was always so caring and friendly.*

*My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Love*

*Bernadette McKie (Roberts)*

Wishing you a Happy Christmas season, remembering my days at Parry Street Fremantle and De Vialar College days with fondness and kindness of those happy days. Love from

*Anne Tesoriero and Nancy Tesoriero (Keenan)*

To the Sisters of St Joseph: Many thanks for the Newsletter which I enjoy immensely. Love and best wishes to all the Sisters.

*Anne Partlon*

Our thoughts and prayers go with love to all at the sad loss of Sister Thomas. Lovingly remembered by :

*Kath, Jeanette (Ruggera) and Mary Strangio (Little Mary Ruggera)*

To all the Sisters. *Please accept our deepest sympathy in the passing of Sister Thomas. She was a wonderful teacher with a bright happy nature.*

*Joan, Letty and Phyllis (Houlahan)*

Reading about Sister Clotilde in the latest newsletter brought back happy memories of conversations we had in the library – a gentle person who was always very helpful.

It is difficult to write about Sister Thomas, who was an inspirational mentor during my early years at De Vialar. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and she achieved amazing results in the Speech and Drama classes we shared. When I was told that Sister Thomas no longer recognized anyone, I decided to keep my memories of her intact – maybe that was selfish, but I am grateful for having worked with such a talented and joyful teacher, Please give my condolences to Sister Colette, also.

Regards from *Lee Evans*



# Manila – 29<sup>th</sup> January – 11 February

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Sister Helen Giles spent time in Manila just recently where she met with the Sisters and Associates. The following is a schedule of her programme during her time traveling and in Manila.

## January:

29<sup>th</sup> Monday

Flight

30<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Arrival. Unpacking. Preparation

31<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

Two girls, Veronica and Jessel left for Israel to do house-keeping in order to support their families with the income.

### Session with twelve Sisters of the Delegation



The Vision



Belonging to the Congregation



The General Chapter

4pm set off for the Formation House,, Novaliches.  
arrived 5.30 pm.



Sister Helen Giles

An elderly Associate, Miniz, came to see me. She apologized for not being able to attend the meeting to be at Las Pinas, but insisted that when we returned to Novaliches that she take us out to dinner.

## February

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

Bishop of Novaliches Diocese offered Mass, 6.00am.

Shared breakfast with the community, Examined the school where there was some roof leakage problem. He left a gift book signed, entitled "A Poet Dances". (the author wrote many poems about time spent in Australia)

After lunch driven back to Paco. (Sister Maria Goretti, the driver.

Two Sisters, Helen and Martina, set off for the 100 Islands on their mission.

Four of us at Paco: Sister Christopher, Sister Marie Therese, Sister Assumpta. from the Formation House and myself

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2<sup>nd</sup> Friday : 6.30 am Mass, Blessing of candles. A quiet day.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday : Feast of St Blaise. Blessing of throats. Dined out.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Meeting of Associates. 10.30am at Las Pinas:  
16 Associates and 7 Sisters including me.

Sister Patricia led the meeting – Power-point  
from Sister Janet Arrowsmith – introduced my  
presentation, which was followed by Sister Epsie who concluded the  
meeting and invited all for lunch. Sister Marina and Magdaline cooked  
and served.

5<sup>th</sup> Monday

Shopped at Paulines Bookshop. Lunch at SM Greenwich Restaurant.

6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Lunch at next SM, Pizza Hut. Trouble over Sister Christopher's visa.  
Sister Estella arrived with a young girl, Chrislin, who wishes to enter  
the Congregation.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Visit to the Chinese Museum at the invitation of a Chinese lady friend of Sister Christopher. Very informative, very interesting.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday Sister Estella and Chrislin left for Novaliches. Much stress over the visa.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Friday Returned to Novaliches. Associate Miniz escorted me to lunch.  
Session with the Novices 2pm.  
At 5.30pm Sister Maria Goretti drove me to the Radio Veritas Complex where I spent the evening with Sister Regina and Sister Kanyavee (Thai Sister.)  
While we were away Sister Christopher visited the Australian Embassy and her visa was cleared.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday Returned to Paco.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday Left for Perth. Sr Magdaline drove us to the airport

*Sister Helen Giles* (Beaconsfield Community)



The following was sent to Sister Anastasia Crowley from the Sisters in the Phillipines. You may remember Sister spent some time there a few years ago.



### Can You Help?

Actually, we have our project in the school that we have opened in Novaliches. One, is to help our poor children (from Amparo only) to have a chance studying in our school. Two, to purchase computers for our children as well. I have thought of asking a favour from you dear Sister, if you can ENDORSE us to one of your friends. To sponsor one of our poor children. This coming school year (starting in June) we expect two or three children for a scholarship.

I will be willing to send you the documents you need to know once you have agreed to help us or whom you know can help us about this matter.



Sisters in Novaliches taught by Sister Anastasia

## *Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition*



A little piece of history contained in: "A Documentary History of Rottnest" edited by Joske, Jeffery, and Hoffman. The information was supplied by Monsignor O'Shea

C.S.O. 783 W.D. Jackson to Colonial Secretary  
27<sup>th</sup> March 1874

The Sisters of St Joseph are about to occupy the Government House with the Miss Welds and a number of other children from the Convent.

I have the honour to ask your permission to allow them to have their bread baked in the prison during their stay.



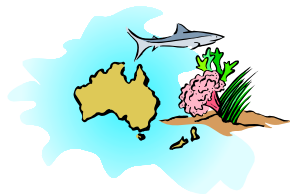
The following is on the fly leaf of a Douay Bible published in 1866, which is in the Provincial Archives.

*Presented to the Sisters of St Joseph by Mrs K.L. Jackson.*

*Fremantle 25<sup>th</sup> July 1867*

This lady gave this Bible to the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition. Mrs Jackson was taken off an early vessel near Rottnest in a life boat and taken to Fremantle where she had her baby and was cared for by the nuns. Hence the Bible!!

Signed) Dorothy Gugerii (relative)



*The following article was written by Sister Anastasia Crowley as she tells us a little of her life story*

### *As Time Goes By*

Born in 1923 I lived with my parents Tim and Amie Crowley, nine siblings and a paternal grandmother and an uncle, John, in Cree, County Clare Ireland, so community life was no hassle for me when I entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition in 1940.



After completing my Novitiate, I was given the opportunity to train as a teacher through Claremont Teachers' College. Then, armed with my Certificate and with trust in Providence I began my teaching career in our schools in Western Australia.

In 1950 an invitation came to our Sisters to establish a school in St Bernadette's newly-formed Parish, West Ivanhoe, Victoria. Sisters Regis, Finbar and Nicoline and I pioneered that venture. Father Geoghan, Parish Priest had told his people that the Sisters coming to teach were for a French Congregation with cute headgear. No wonder the welcoming party of parishioners remarked that we "spoke English very well" - not a bad start for an Aussie, a Croatian and two Irish!!

St Bernadette's opened its doors in January 1951. Many migrant children swelled the already big enrolment of local children. Integration of migrant pupils was not a problem. In the playground and in the classroom the staff and pupils made a concerted

effort to welcome the new-comers thus making "St B's" renowned for its friendliness and acceptance of differences.

For the next 21 years I taught in the three Ivanhoe schools and served as Principal in each. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Parents, staff, pupils and parishioners of the Ivanhoe parishes for their never-ending generosity, support and love shown to our sisters during our time spent on Education in Victoria. It was with sad hearts that we withdrew from the schools and returned to Western Australia to continue teaching here

A request from our mission in Thailand for help in teaching English in their school of 500 pupils was answered when Sister Irene and I volunteered to teach English as a Second Language in Ubon, North Eastern Thailand and later on to our Novices in Bangkok. This experience was challenging but most rewarding and I highly recommend it to anyone seeking adventure!!

Next came an S.O.S. to our Provincial for help in teaching English to our Novices up there in Novaliches, near Manila. I volunteered and spent a very happy year mingling with young novices who now are professed and are engaged in challenging mission in Thailand and the Philippines.



During my life as a Sister I have had many opportunities through Seminars, Spiritual and Personal enrichment Programmes and Retreats to keep abreast of the changes in Church life, Religious life and in Education. For these and for the friendship and love of the Sisters and the hundreds of people I have met over the years since 1940 I thank God and ask His blessing on all of you in this "Wide Brown Land."

*Sister Anastasia Crowley*  
(Beaconsfield Community)



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### Memorare to St Joseph

Remember, O most Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession was left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto you, and beg your protection. Despise not O foster Father of the Redeemer, my humble supplication, but in your bounty hear and answer me. AMEN.



## *Our Deceased Sisters Associates Relatives and Friends.*

We pray for all those who have died recently, especially those who have been close to us

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



We pray also for all the sick who are known to us and in need of our prayers  
and for whom we have promised to pray.

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



### **WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS**

Quite often we receive requests for special prayers for our relatives and Associates who do not keep good health. We would like you to know that we do respond to these requests, and we ask you all to join us in praying for the many people who rely on us to pray for them. Very often we receive a positive response from people, which confirms that our prayers are answered. Thank you all for being part of this exercise with us.

## *Our Annual General Meetings. 2007*

**WILLETTON  
ALBANY  
MELBOURNE**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August  
To be Arranged  
To be arranged

## *Dates for Meetings – Emilie Group 2007*

*11 April  
30<sup>th</sup> May  
24<sup>th</sup> July  
25<sup>th</sup> September  
5<sup>th</sup> December*



**Wednesday Easter Week  
Wednesday  
Tuesday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday**

## 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FEAST DAY OF ST JOSEPH.



### St Joseph Foster Father of Jesus

*Hear our prayers  
and  
obtain our petitions*

St Joseph is one of the most outstanding and beloved of all the saints. That is because he was such a profoundly human being – in his desire not to cause shame to Mary over the child she had conceived without him; in his wonderment about the meaning of the prophetic words of Simeon at the Presentation; in his anxiety while searching for the lost child Jesus in the temple.

Even though there are few references to him in Sacred Scripture, and even though he is never quoted, Joseph surely must have been a strong and saintly man. The Gospels reveal a man of great faith, of heroic chastity, of courage in following the will of God, and of great love in seeking the happiness of his family before his own.

This unassuming, seemingly ordinary carpenter from Nazareth was certainly a fitting foster father to the Son of God.

### Prayer to St Joseph

O Glorious St Joseph,  
through the love  
you bear  
to Jesus Christ, and for  
the glory of his name,  
hear our prayers  
and obtain our  
petitions

**St Joseph pray for us**



**A late sad  
item  
of news.**  
*Sister Helen  
Giles*



As the newsletter was about to go to print we received the very sad news that Sister Helen Giles had died very peacefully in her sleep on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This has been a great shock to all of us and we will certainly miss Sister Helen and the gentle caring person she was.

Sister had spent most of her religious life as a teacher in our Catholic schools, and later as a member of the staff at the Catholic Education Office and again in the parish at Willetton where she was well known for her work with Adult Faith Education. Her main project was her work with the Associates from the beginning of its foundations. She was a very gifted lady and always willing to share her gifts with others. As well as conducting the general meetings for the Associates, in various places, she also conducted a smaller discussion group named "The Emilie Group" where she spread her knowledge and love of St Emilie de Vialar (Foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition). This group developed into a wonderful group of ladies with a knowledge and love of St Emilie.

Over many years Helen has been greatly interested in the mission of the Sisters in Burma and the Philippines and has visited these countries several times. (had returned from the Philippines two weeks ago)

We, the Sisters will have happy memories of Sister Helen and we pray that what she has begun will be forever remembered.

**We extend our sympathy to all Sister's family and friends.**

*May she rest in Peace.*

