

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH GOULBURN—TASMANIA

JOURNEY TOWARDS UNITY

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LIVING WATERS FLOW

... Report on Gathering of our WORKING GROUPS ...

Saturday February 27th 2010

*The Tenison Woods Memorial Centre
Mount Street, North Sydney*

Dear Sisters of Goulburn and Tasmania

At our first gathering of Working Groups on Saturday the conviction was verbalized that we believe it is “no coincidence” that we are engaged in our journey toward Union in this year of Mary MacKillop’s canonisation! Mary had a vision for her time. She supported the vulnerable, the needy, the poor. In our time we have the additional blessing of being able to “stand upon the shoulders of those who’ve gone before us”! Thus, on Saturday we reflected that in standing on the shoulders of Mary MacKillop our vision for today is different; what we ‘see’ is not the same, we need to search out and commit in mission to the care for today’s poor, vulnerable and marginalized. This is our goal, as we make progress on our journey.

We have six Working Groups. We ‘called’ five of them: *New Ways; Charism/ Spirituality / Formation; Pastoral Care & Well-being; Leadership & Governance; Properties & Finance* to gather on Saturday for the discernment of their mandates and the commencement of their tasks. Our sixth group, *Liturgies & Prayers*, will enter the process a little further on.



We began our day in reflection and prayer: *Mary of the Cross MacKillop ... offering us "inspiration and wisdom for our journey in 2010"*. We were blessed once again, with the skills of facilitation offered by Srs Mary Cresp rsj and Patricia Egan rsj. Jill and Noelene were each given the opportunity to offer encouragement to utilize this process for deep personal and congregation *renewal, refounding and recommitment to all that is most sacred to the core of being Josephite*. This journey is seen as an opportunity of grace for us all, and for our church and society.

There was a 'buzz' throughout the day, intense discussion as each group worked to discern and articulate *their MANDATE, their TASKS, their operating PRINCIPLES, and their TIMELINES*. By the end of the day each group was able to present outlines to the whole group, under each of these headings – a magnificent achievement!



NEW WAYS

MANDATE:

To imagine, explore, research and propose "newness" in important areas of Josephite life.

Many questions were raised and together we tried to explore some of these! Each Working Group has a big year ahead and will be engaged in ongoing research, discernment and work - always centred in prayer. The Scriptures, our Constitutions: A Future and a Hope, as well as relevant Church documents, Statements and articles relating to Religious Life will form the basis for our reflection. The whole congregation will be 'brought into the journey' by each Working Group at various stages.

We felt very supported in prayer on Saturday, supported by all those who were not able to attend, or were not part of our Working Groups at this stage. We sincerely thank each of you, and we look forward to continued sharing with you as we journey through this year of grace, Mary's canonisation year!

God bless each one. Let's continue to pray for each other.

Your loving Sisters in Christ,

Jill Maclene +

Jill Dance & Noelene Quinane



LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

MANDATE:

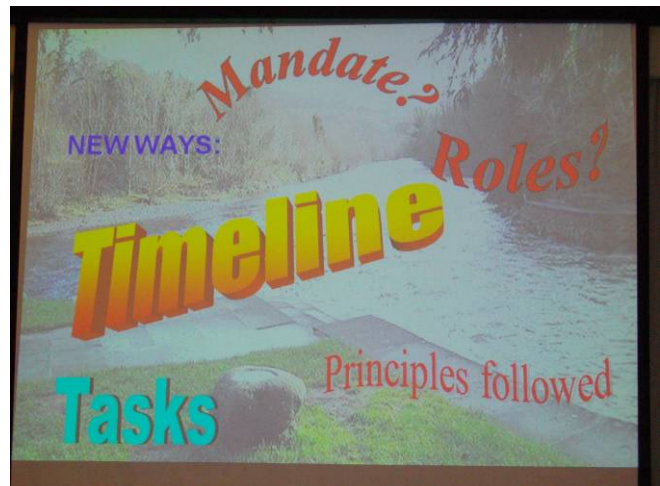
- To develop an integrated leadership model.
- To look at a variety of leadership models.
- To hear from and respond to other groups so that leadership and governance is formed and informed by them.
- To relate to the total membership our findings and proposals.
- To develop a position paper on current progress.



PROPERTIES & FINANCE

MANDATE:

To examine all aspects of finances and resources, and make suggestions as to their management/operation into the future.



CHARISM/SPIRITUALITY/FORMATION

MANDATE:

- To present the charism and spirituality of the new Congregation in such a way that it is inclusive, breathes new life in us and ignites an energy which will attract others and inspire them to live in the Spirit of Joseph.

PASTORAL CARE & WELL-BEING

MANDATE:

- To provide pastoral care for all Sisters and those associated with the mission of the Congregation of
- By Pastoral Care we mean compassionate concern for the emotional, physical, spiritual and psychological health and well-being of each individual.



The next meeting date for the Working Groups is Saturday, 7th August 2010.
The Tenison Woods Memorial Centre, Mount Street, North Sydney.