



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter March 2010 No. 01/10

Welcome to the AMSSA Newsletter.

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A Message from AMSSA President, Jane Holloway

As we begin another year, we welcome members to our newsletter, and extend a warm welcome to principals new to Mercy schools.

Planning is well underway for the Perth AMSSA conference for staff and students to be held in July of 2011. You will receive a flyer about the conference within the coming weeks of Term 1. Schools are invited to send two Year 11 student delegates to the conference, and schools are asked to cover a registration fee of \$50.00 for each of the two students, and travel expenses. AMSSA will meet all other costs for the two students.

Are you sending students to World Youth Day 1011? Mercy International are planning a three-day course for students at Baggot Street, in the days immediately before the WYD Week. See Mercy E-News for details.

Jane Holloway, Saint Catherine's College Kilbirnie janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz

Are you up to date with Mercy E News?

Check their Archives at <http://www.mercyworld.org/news/enewsarchives.asp>

Mercy WYD 2011

The World Youth Day 2011 event will be held over 7 days from 15-21 August 2011 in Madrid. Because Dublin is only a 2 ½ hour flight from Madrid, Mercy International is exploring the idea of hosting a Mercy Youth Pilgrimage experience to Baggot Street either before or after the Madrid event. Mercy International is gauging interest in such a pilgrimage and welcomes feedback from any group planning to come to Spain and interested in extending their travels to Dublin. Contact youth@mercyinternational.ie (E-News 1 Feb)

Books

- Sr Deirdre Mullan: Meeting the Global Citizen in YOU (E-News 1 Feb or 7 Feb)
- Sr Joy Clough ed.: 'Intercessions of Mercy', a prayer book based on *Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy*. Order from The Daughters of St Paul, 7 Denmark Hill Road Hawthorn. (E-News 14 Dec 2009).

Mercy Story

'Where Sisters of Mercy Minister' began with Ireland, the first of the 47 countries to be featured in issues of E-News this year. Start your collection!
(Overview E-News 1 Feb, Ireland 8 Feb.)

Make a gift to Mercy International

Mercy International is asking for complimentary copies of Published Works for the new Mercy Library at Baggot Street (E-News 7 Feb).

Mary Reynolds on Catherine McAuley

Listen Vol 27 No 2 2009 has Mary's six papers from the retreat she gave when in Australia last year.

Watch for the new Mercyworld.org website, going live in March, and the papers will be online in the Spirituality section.



A LENTEN PRAYER

(Adapted from *Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy*)

Faithful God, may the renewal of our covenant with you,
through prayer and fasting, bring us closer to you and your people.
We ask your help to remain faithful to our commitments and to grow in
generosity and courage.

We make this prayer in union with Jesus, whose passion, death and
resurrection opened the way for us. Amen.

Walking Nuns – 150 years of Mercy Sisters in NSW

Six Sisters of Mercy came to NSW in 1859 and initially took responsibility for schools in Goulburn. Foundations in 38 other towns followed, across southern New South Wales and Victoria, in an area spanning approximately 58,000 square kilometres. Care of homeless children began soon after their arrival, and a request to run an aged care facility and hospital in Young led to their involvement in health and nurse education in three major rural centres.

The Sesquicentenary of the Sisters of Mercy Goulburn Congregation was celebrated in October and November 2009 with a gathering in Goulburn and a travelling exhibition which has so far visited five venues in the two dioceses of Canberra-Goulburn and Wagga.

The exhibition, **Walking Nuns**, was curated by two lay women, Nancy Clarke and Claudia Hyles, with assistance from their friends and colleagues at the Australian National Library and the Australian National Gallery. There is a comprehensive exhibition catalogue, titled **Walking Nuns**, and the Goulburn Mercy Sisters have donated a copy to each of the AMSSA member schools.




At the Albury showing of the exhibition, students from Xavier High School and St Anne's Primary visited. Xavier High School was formed from the amalgamation of the Mercy Sisters' Secondary College and the Christian Brothers' College, and St Anne's was established by the Sisters and in their hands until 2008. Both schools are now under the auspices of the Diocese of Wagga. Students are seen here with the Walking Nun. Originally, the figure was the clinical teaching model in the Albury Mercy Hospital, for the trainee nurses to practise care of the hospital patient. She was dressed for the exhibition in the Mercy religious habit of the early 1960's.



With Prime Minister Kevin Rudd are Joan McDermott, Sister Shirley Garland, Sr Pius Doran, Sr Bernadette McNally and Sr Marie Duffy. Pius and Bernadette travelled from the Irish Mercy founding houses of the Goulburn Congregation to join with the Goulburn Sisters in the sesquicentenary.

Below are the texts of the Senate resolution from the day the Sisters visited Parliament House, on the actual 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Sisters in Goulburn, and the adjournment speech of Senator Ursula Stephens.



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

Sister Marie Duffy RSM
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn
Administration Centre
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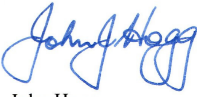
Dear Sister Duffy

I transmit to you the text of a resolution agreed to by the Senate on 28 October 2009.
The resolution is as follows:

That the Senate—

- (a) notes that 28 October 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Goulburn congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, the first Mother House in regional Australia;
- (b) acknowledges the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy to the development of education, nursing, pastoral care and care for the aged and disadvantaged in Australia; and
- (c) congratulates the inspirational women of the Goulburn congregation on their colourful history and involvement in shaping the history of the region.

Yours sincerely _____



John Hogg

Adjournment Speech by Senator URSULA STEPHENS (New South Wales – Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion) from Senate Hansard 28th October 2009 (pp. 37-38)

I would like to take up the last few minutes of this debate today by acknowledging that 150 years ago, exactly today, six Irish Mercy nuns arrived in Goulburn to set up the first Mercy congregation on the east coast of Australia. Their influence in those 150 years has been quite extraordinary. The Mercy nuns were established in Ireland by Catherine McAuley, who herself had to enter as a Presentation nun in order to learn how to be a nun so that she could set up her own congregation, which she did with the benefit of her own ... estate. In doing so she set up a congregation that was very different to the other religious congregations of nuns. She wanted to set up a congregation of sisters to serve the poor. The vision she articulated of the Mercy mission was one of serving the poor and the disadvantaged and particularly of serving disadvantaged women. The Mercy Order, as it has expanded in Australia, has focused on a few very important things: their nursing mission, their teaching mission, their pastoral care and their care for the aged and infirm. All around the south-east of Australia are Mater hospitals and many, many Mercy schools and colleges that pay tribute to the Mercy mission and the Mercy sisters.

Last week there was a joyous celebration of those 150 years of service to our communities. The apostolic nuncio, the archbishop and 1,500 people came to the old cathedral in Goulburn to share in this celebration. We were also joined by two wonderful Irish nuns, who are here in parliament today, because they represent the two founding houses ...

We have an extraordinary tradition in Australia. There are many people in this place who have been educated by the Mercy nuns, including Senator Parry who told me that he had – *Senator Back interjecting* – and Senator Back as well, who is joining in. It is a very good fan club. I want to mark the very, very important contribution to education in Australia made by the Goulburn congregation. Goulburn was where the state aid debate played out in 1961. The school inspector of the time came in to St Brigid's school and told the principal and the parish priest, "I'm going to close you down if you do not upgrade those toilets." And the parish priest and the parish said: "Give us some money. We will upgrade when there is some money." Of course, there was no money. The school inspector closed down the toilets. "Fine," said the parish priest and the bishop. They closed the parish schools and 2,000 children were put in the state schools in Goulburn. They lasted a week. The public schools were bursting at the seams; they could not cope. That marked a real commitment by the federal government of the day to make a contribution to Catholic and parish schools in order to ensure that we had some equality of education. So this is a very important point in history and it is one that is recognised and acknowledged worldwide as being quite significant. Let us celebrate 150 years of some feisty Mercy sisters.

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Students from the schools in Goulburn and Crookwell established by the Mercy Sisters carried Catherine McAuley roses in the Opening Procession of the Schools' Sesquicentenary Eucharist, and after the Mass planted them outside the original Cathedral of the Archdiocese, near the first Mercy convent. If you would like a photocopy of the booklet used in the Mass, contact Frances at amssa@mercy.org.au.

