



# AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.amssa.mercy.org.au>

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## Newsletter August 2012 No. 03/12

### *Welcome to the AMSSA newsletter.*

#### **This issue:**

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Subsidies available for AMSSA events in the conference “off-year”
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- Page 7:** Another helpful resource: Prayers for Meetings – for meeting of boards, councils, committees, volunteers or staff of church organisations

We welcome a contribution from your school for next term’s newsletter. Ask your development officer to send AMSSA one or two photos of images of Mercy and/or Catherine McAuley in your school, and add a few words of explanation if you wish. Email these to [amssa@mercy.org.au](mailto:amssa@mercy.org.au). (Deadline **Friday 9 November**).

The poster features a background image of hands cupping a glowing orb with the words 'MERCY ALIVE' inside. The text is as follows:

# 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial AMSSA Conference – Auckland, 13 – 16 July 2013

**SAVE THE DATE**  
13 – 16 July 2013  
Auckland, New Zealand  
AMSSA Conference  
(Australasian Mercy Secondary  
Schools Association)

The AMSSA Executive warmly invites staff and two students to the 12th Biennial AMSSA Conference; to honour the beginnings of our Mercy story, to celebrate our growth and unity, and be challenged to revitalise Mercy for the future.

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### **Conference update:**

By now you should have received your copy of the conference invitation, or it will be arriving shortly. A copy is attached to this newsletter as well. The conference planning is well advanced and keynote speakers confirmed are Sr Megan McKenna, Debra Stephens (a bioethicist from New Zealand), and Sr Marilyn Lacey.

### **Student delegates:**

Some of the schools have already begun working with neighbour schools to provide staff to accompany the student delegates to and from the conference. Students will be billeted by the families of the Mercy Colleges in Auckland. A reminder that the student accommodation with host families is only for the days of the conference. If you intend sending them earlier, or continuing the students' stay in New Zealand after the conference, your school will need to organize students' accommodation, and associated supervision, for these days yourselves.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

#### **AMSSA subsidies in the conference 'off-year'**

The AMSSA executive will be putting a proposal to the next Biennial General Meeting about events in the 'off-year' between AMSSA conferences.

You will remember that in 2006 the Sydney Mercy schools hosted a two-day Pastoral Conference for Deputy Principals and Religious Education Co-ordinators. In 2008 many of the member schools and colleges participated in the Day for Young Mercy Leaders, again in Sydney because it was the venue for World Youth Day 2008.

The Executive will be proposing that we offer to subsidise an event which a school or group of schools want/s to hold in your region. It may be for a particular group of staff (for example REC's), or for student leaders.

Any event would be held on behalf of AMSSA and would be open to all the AMSSA member schools and colleges.

## *Icon of Our Lady of Mercy, Mater Misericordiae at Carmel College* From Kath Deady, Principal Carmel College Auckland



The icon was a gift from the Carmel Old Girls to the school following our 50th Jubilee in 2007. Although it looks very old, it was commissioned only five years ago, and we as a school learned a great deal about the "writing" of an icon through working with Michael Pervan, who works from the Studio of John the Baptist and has produced icons for cathedrals, schools and parishes throughout New Zealand.

The image was written on a timber panel prepared in the age-old way with Italian Gesso, a special recipe of rabbit-skin glue and gypsum. The paint was egg tempera, freshly mixed in the studio in the traditional way. More than the techniques, however, Michael taught us how to read the image. Jesus IS the Mercy of God, who came to us through Mary, who richly deserves the title "Mother of Mercy". Mary holds out to us the hand of her child, which will receive the nail, and the other symbols of his passion are engraved into the throne of Mercy. Jesus' feet are turned in different directions, representing his dual nature, both human and divine. The letters carved into the wood in both are Greek (mu, rho, theta, nu) which stand for Mother of God, the title given to Mary by the Council of Ephesus.

Above all, Michael taught us to see the image as the Gospel in the Person - the good news of Mercy summed up in this image of Mary.





**Advice from Catherine McAuley on how to celebrate Mercy Day**

From *Familiar Instructions* of Rev. Mother McAuley, reprinted in *Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy*

In Keeping with our Holy Rule, we are to have unbounded confidence in the Blessed Virgin, we are to fly to her in all our difficulties and spiritual needs; and as a most efficacious means of securing her protection, we are to labour in earnest to imitate her virtues – her universal charity, her untiring patience, her profound humility, her unlimited obedience, her perfect conformity.

Another practice, our Holy Rule mentions, is, that we are to celebrate her feasts with joy and devotion, congratulating her on her exalted privileges, exulting in her glory, which is ever increasing, by the devotion of her children on earth, rejoicing that she has won the heart of God himself, so that in her He takes delight.

## An Appeal from South Africa



We have had a request from the Kgwadu Primary School in South Africa where the principal is hoping to put his students in touch with some Australian students by email.

The school's website is [www.kgwaduprimary.co.za](http://www.kgwaduprimary.co.za), and it has plenty of photos of the school and school community.

In the area AIDS has taken a great toll, and of the thousand students in the school, more than three hundred of these have only one parent. Almost another three hundred have no parents. They are cared for by grandparents, while some of the orphans are cared for by the Sacred Heart (OLSH) Sisters. An Australian Sister of Mercy, Teresa Foley, works with the OLSH Sisters, and the request from the school comes via her.

Obviously, the school would like some financial support as well, but the main interest is in finding some students who will start a conversation with the children via email.

Contact: [principal@kgwaduprimary.co.za](mailto:principal@kgwaduprimary.co.za).

Mr Madikela Makgaba

Principal

Kgwadu Primary School

122 Sekonye Village

Botlokwa

Private Bag X523

Dwarsriver

Limpopo Province 0812

SOUTH AFRICA

# MODERN SLAVERY

## THE SECRET WORLD OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

An educational resource packet with a DVD & discussion guide



A new educational resource on sex trafficking, *Modern Slavery: the Secret World of Trafficking of Women*, is now available from Network for Peace through Dialogue. This resource, which includes a DVD, background information and an outline for discussion, features passionate anti-trafficking activist Sr. Eugenia Bonetti. Modeled on the Network's "Living Room Dialogue" program and useful for all audiences, from schools to community groups, it is an excellent tool for opening the subject of sex trafficking and considering actions for ending it. It can be purchased for \$20 plus \$5 for shipping and handling from Network for Peace, 240 E. 93 St., #3H, NY, NY 10128 or online at [www.networkforpeace.com](http://www.networkforpeace.com). For further information, call 212-426-5818



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## PRAYERS FOR MEETINGS

### A COMPLETE READY-TO-USE KIT

*Maureen Cleary*

**FOR MEETINGS OF BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES,  
VOLUNTEERS OR STAFF OF CHURCH ORGANISATIONS**

#### THIS FLEXIBLE KIT CONTAINS:

- 12 Prayer Themes on beautifully illustrated Prayer Sheets. The themes can be used in any order and in conjunction with a special focus of a meeting of your board, committee or group. For example, 'A Future Full of Hope' when doing strategic planning. 'The Economy of Being Graciously' for the financial budgeting meeting. 'In Time of Sorrow' when the organisation or someone at the meeting has suffered a bereavement.
- 20 laminated copies of each Prayer Theme have been provided so that the sheets can be re-used by various groups in your organisation.
- The CD called 'A Meeting Place – Inspirational Songs And Music' features the songs of James Maher msc, Trisha Watts, Maggie Russell, Amanda McKenna, Jared & Rebecca Haschek, Monica Brown, Kevin Bates sm, Monica O'Brien, Geoff Bullock, Gina Ogilvie and Michael Mangan and other instrumental music by Gina Ogilvie. All the music required for each session.
- The 'How To Use This Kit' Booklet illustrates the flexibility in using each Prayer Theme. Each Session has six parts:
  - Short introduction by the Leader.
  - Reflective music (2 mins).
  - A reading.
  - A short response prayer.
  - A one-one-one shared reflection..
  - A closing song.

The whole session can take up to 15 minutes as it is presented. However, the Leader and group can decide to change the order of the various parts, delete or extend any part.

#### PRAYER THEMES

1. God's Presence
2. The Least of My Family
3. An Open Heart
4. The Paradox of Suffering
5. The Economy of Being Graciously
6. Care of Earth
7. On Faithfulness
8. Go Forth
9. No Peace Without Justice
10. A Future Full of Hope
11. In Time of Sorrow
12. We Give Thanks

Author and Producer: Maureen Cleary  
Art Work & Design: Paula Volona  
Major Photography: Annette Potter  
ISBN: 978-1-876550-12-7

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## About The Author ...

Maureen Cleary is a consultant who specialises in Church, community and nonprofit organisations. She brings her skills and experience of working in and managing Catholic church organisations to facilitating meetings and workshops, strategic planning processes and training boards and committees. She also has extensive experience facilitating organisational change programs for religious organisations. Maureen will also conduct "in-house" workshops on a variety of topics from "How to Run Meetings" to "Developing Spiritual Leadership".

Maureen was awarded PhD degree from a study on "The Management Dilemmas in Catholic Human Services (Health, Welfare & Education) in Australia". Edwin Mellen Press (UK) published Maureen's PhD thesis in 2007.

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#025	Prayers for Meetings Kit (inc. 1 copy of music CD)	\$66.00		
*Extra postage will be added for orders that are from overseas countries.				<b>TOTAL \$</b>

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