



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter March 2013 No. 01/13

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IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE AMSSA EXECUTIVE

Interim President of the Association

Late in 2012, our President, Jane Holloway, became ill, and resigned from her position as Principal of St Mary's College Auckland. Jane is now considerably recovered, and joined the Executive at our termly phone meeting on February 12.

In response to Jane's situation, the Executive decided that Kath Deady, Principal of Carmel College Auckland, would take on the role of AMSSA President until the conference in July of this year, when a new Executive will be ratified and a new President elected at the Biennial General Meeting.

The members of the Executive are most grateful to Jane for her leadership and for the planning for the conference which she had already put in place, and to Kath for taking on the role of President this late in the lead-up to the conference, all the more so when she is so heavily involved in the conference preparations. Jane will continue to be involved, and Mary Lynch, who recently resigned from her position as Principal at Villa Maria College Christchurch, has agreed to take on the role of Conference Officer.

Welcome

Best wishes from the Executive to Principals new to AMSSA schools this year, and our gratitude to the deeply committed leadership of the outgoing principals for their leadership of their staffs and students in Mercy and for their support of our Association:

Mary Farah, taking over from John Davidson at St Aloysius College North Melbourne;
Anna Negro, taking over from Regina Byrne at Sacred Heart College Geelong;
Philip Morison, taking over from Bernard Dobson at Mount Lilydale Mercy College;
Peter Morgan, taking over from Philip Morison at Emmanuel College Warrnambool;
Jeff Mills, taking over from John Armstrong at Ursula Frayne College Victoria Park;
Deborah Brosnahan, who took over from Mary Lynch at Villa Maria College Christchurch;
Christine Barlow and Brian Nolan, who are leading St Mary's College Auckland for this year.

12th Biennial AMSSA Conference - Auckland, 13 - 16 July 2013

With this newsletter is a pdf of the Conference
brochure and registration form.

Please distribute it to the relevant staff at your school.

**MERCY
ALIVE**

CALL FOR FORUM/WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

The AMSSA Executive welcome the submission of abstracts
for workshops or forums.

Presentations should address the leadership and education of
young people and formation of staff in the spirit of Mercy.

The time allocated to each presentation is 45 minutes.

Submissions for consideration to be sent to Kath Deady,
kdeady@carmel.school.nz

St John's School Roma

*From Clinton McGoldrick
Assistant Principal - Faith
and Mission (Secondary)
St John's School Roma*

St John's School Roma was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1881. Roma is situated in Queensland, approximately six hours due West of Brisbane.



Our founding Sisters travelled by rail to Roma and established the school. Sister Mary Xavier Kenyer was the First Superior and Sr Mary Attracta McGillicuddy the Head Teacher. Among the numerous Sisters who have had a presence in our school are Srs Miriam McShane and Patricia McGovern.

St John's School is part of the All Saints Parish in the Diocese of Toowoomba. Fr. Jamie Collins is the Parish Priest with Sr. Nora Fitzgibbon (Mercy Sisters) in Pastoral Presence. We are a diocesan school, one of thirty three schools in the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office, and St Saviour's Toowoomba is a sister diocesan school. St John's has an enrollment of approximately 780 students from Prep to Year 12, three hundred and fifty of whom are secondary students. The Mercy monument that lines our boundary fence is a very important icon in our school and is a local sculptor's impression of "Mercy Sisters - True Women of the West".



A PALM SUNDAY PRAYER

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

Shepherd of Israel, you loved all your flock.
Teach us to have a love for all peoples,
especially for those who are most in need of our help.
Let us never fear the consequences of discipleship.
This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Cross and Crown

Catherine's ability to reflect on her own experiences taught her the rhythms of light and darkness, of pain and surcease, of sorrow and joy, of death and resurrection, or of "cross and crown". She had tremendous confidence that one would follow the other with regularity, and taught that a life of peace and harmony was to be achieved from the constant integration of these paradoxical realities. Possessing a lived understanding of the Paschal Mystery, she used the language of "cross and crown", seeing sufferings at work in her life and in the life of the institute as ways of taking up the cross and dying daily to self to resurrect the spirit and to grow in deeper union with God.

Catherine's deepest theology consisted in her belief that the cross was part of life. To embrace it released new and creative powers from suffering, pain and death. She believed sorrows were to be felt, yet transcended through the free choice to yield – learning through yielding the lesson of the seed's dying to come to new life. Everything in life had the power to ennoble and transform, for "without the Cross the real Crown cannot come".

From Isabelle Keiss rsm and Joanna Regan rsm: Tender Courage: A Reflection on the Life and Spirit of Catherine McAuley, First Sister of Mercy.