29th October 2015

Dear Principals, Assistant Principals, all teachers and Directors of Music Departments and the Arts

Next year, on 19th March the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart will celebrate 150 years since their founding at Penola and the opening of the stable school there by Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods. (1866)

At the time of the Congregation’s Silver Jubilee in 1891, Mary MacKillop wrote to her Sisters: “Twenty five years ago we first kept St Joseph’s day as the special feast of our proposed Institute, and little did either of us (she and Father Woods) then dream of what was to spring from so small a beginning”. So many years later, we can say the same thing. As you know, Father Woods went on to become the first Director of Catholic Education in South Australia, and some say in the whole of Australia.

St Mary MacKillop’s values inspire us to live good lives and expand our hearts. She was a young woman with a dream to make a difference in our world. Her dream encompassed opening simple schools where there was no class distinction offering refuge to the most neglected and bringing practical help to families. Mary and her Sisters of St Joseph dedicated their lives bringing the message of God’s love to all whom they encountered and this has been continued for 150 years.

The sisters today live out their charism “Never see a need without trying to do something about it” in so many parts of the world e.g. Australia, New Zealand, East Timor, Peru, Brazil, Ireland, Scotland.

To celebrate and commemorate this special 150th anniversary, we invite all schools and colleges both primary and secondary

❖ to consider when planning and preparing for next year’s Performing Arts Festival
❖ to remember the theme or some aspect of the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, e.g.

- “Never see a need without trying to do something about it” Mary MacKillop 1867
- “Reach out to those in need”
- “To relieve suffering and bring hope”
- “Listen to the heartbeat of the world”
- Soul of the Sunburnt County: “Be its shining soul and warm heart”
- “Believe the whisperings of God in your own heart”: MM 1868
- “Gratitude is the memory of the heart” MM 1907
- “See God’s love in all”
- “There where you are you will find God” MM 1874
Introducing our Sesquicentenary Logo

Concept - The red line is a heartbeat which ultimately forms a heart. The heart wraps around the world signifying love and care for humanity and for the earth. The heartbeat is woven through the Josephite emblem to show that loving and caring is part of the essence of the Josephite charism.

The sisters have always taken a keen interest in the Performing Arts Festival event and have been inspired over the years with the student’s performances in the various areas.

We are in admiration of the dedication of the teachers and the wonderful opportunities given to the students.

We are hoping that many of you will take up this opportunity with your students and we look forward to the results. We are happy to support you in any way we can e.g. a Sister to visit the students and teachers or for you to visit the Mary MacKillop Centre South Perth to embrace and catch the Spirit of Mary MacKillop and her Sisters

For more information e.g. please open the attachment - A summary of the Life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

May St Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods inspire the young to go out and make a difference as they did.

On the behalf of the committee I thank you for taking the time to read this information and we dearly hope that you will consider taking up this theme for 2016

On behalf of the planning committee, Mrs Roberta Chapman, Mrs Pat Brown, Sr Emilie Cattalini rsj

Sr Maree Riddler rsj
Director
Mary MacKillop Centre, South Perth

2016 Sesquicentenary Committee
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