



Loreto Friends *Networker*

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Issue 7
December 2007

From the Provincial

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Dear partners in our mission,

Christmas provides a time to look back on the year and to thank God for all that has happened, and this *Friends Networker* provides a privileged place to do this.

Our Loreto schools have flourished. In addition to fine academic results, each school has its own outreach to those less well off: in holiday programs for disadvantaged children, in 'pilgrimage' experiences which sensitise our young women to other cultures, in generosity to Loreto projects overseas, and in the weekly community service.

Many teachers support the effort to deepen spirituality, to provide good liturgy, to encourage students to grasp the meaning of becoming a disciple of Jesus. In debating, in art, music, drama, sport, and current affairs many students have shown that Mary Ward's commitment to a holistic education is still alive and well. Many parents express their gratitude for the grounding their daughters receive: so a big thank you to all associated with each school: Chairs and School Councils, principals, staffs, committees, parent, past-student bodies, and Dr Roslyn Arnold, Sr Julianna Drobik OP, and the Ward d'Houet Board members for all they do to enable

this work to continue. In addition, St Mary's College continues to offer a great base from which university students can explore both academically and socially, the next steps towards adult responsibility.

Mary Ward International-Australia (MWI-A) continues to grow under the able guidance of Sr Janet Palafox, and her Board, led by Mr Peter Black. As arrangements are put in place with due regard for law, justice, financial responsibility, and partnership with those in the field, MWI-A is growing in its capacity to engage a wide range of present and past students and friends in the works for the least privileged in our society.

Overseas our sisters in Timor Leste and programs in Vietnam are part of Australian Loreto outreach, and each one takes our concern and love into a wider circle of friends, as does the vital outreach of a few Loreto sisters in a number of rural areas in Australia.

Other committees and councils: Finance; Communications; Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation; History and Archives – all continue to ensure that our activities are informed by skilled people who share the vision. In this issue you will see that we have established a Loreto Futures

Team to deepen understanding of our shared spirituality and mission. In recent months we have also been assisted by a Property committee, helping us negotiate plans for the future. Our Province Office staff and internal committees like Aged Care, Formation, Community leaders, with the Provincial Council over it all - from so many different points of view, each contribution enables this work to continue. The three calls from our General Congregation in Peru in 2006: to risk deepening our relationship with God and each other; to work in creative and respectful partnership with others; and to sharpen our engagement with church and society, are all happening in this wide flung enterprise.

So to all our co workers – thank you! May this Christmas and New Year bring to fruition the prayer of Advent, where we open our eyes and take time to realise that in our very midst God is! It is perhaps easier to imagine the stable at Bethlehem, but if we are serious about our faith, we are confronted by the fact that this God continues to come to birth through us and our words and actions to make this world a place of peace, of justice and of loving respect for all those whom we see as 'different'.

Chris Burke ibvm

Further information

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Above: Liz Hepburn

New Loreto Principal for St Mary's College

The Loreto Sisters continue their traditional role at St Mary's College, (residential college at University of Melbourne), with the appointment of Sr Elizabeth (Liz) Hepburn as College Principal, commencing in 2008.

Liz was formerly principal of Sancta Sophia College, where she has been greatly appreciated by the students and staff.

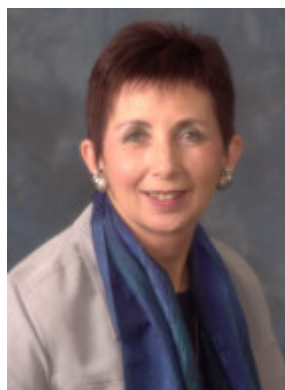
St Mary's is owned by the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and run by a College Council, but since its foundation in 1918 the principal has been an IBVM sister. Co-educational since 1977, St Mary's gives witness to the joy and energy of young women and men as

they explore new horizons in an atmosphere of trust and a call to personal responsibility.

Liz has recently been wearing another hat. As the Provincial Council member who liaises with the Loreto Vietnam Australia Program, Liz recently returned from Vietnam where she spent a few days with Trish Franklin and visited many of the works that LVAP supports. Trish's special ministry there continues with increasing assistance from the Vietnamese Government and from Australians and others working within Vietnam, who can see LVAP's great efforts on behalf of the poorest and most disadvantaged peo-

ple: rural children who would otherwise not have access to education; children with disabilities; vision-impaired children and street children. A new project being planned is an additional campus for "Sunrise Special School" for older children with intellectual and multiple disabilities. This new educational environment will include a component to assist hearing-impaired students.

On December 1st a huge musical gala "Loretifest" was held at RMIT Vietnam to raise money to furnish and equip the new campus, and it raised sufficient money to carry through many of the hopes Trish had about this new venture.



Above: Prof Marie Emmitt

Ward d'Houet welcomes new member

Prof Marie Emmitt recently joined the Ward d'Houet Education Board.

Marie Emmitt is Professor and Dean of Education at Australian Catholic University. Before this she was Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) and previously a Head of School at Deakin University.

Marie has spent many years in literacy education, and has been active on state and national curriculum bodies. Marie has been national president of the Australian Literacy Educators' Association, has presented at national and international conferences and is published

widely in the area of language and literacy education. Her co-authored book with Oxford University Press *Language for Learning* is now in its 4th edition.

Marie was a boarder at Genazzano in 1962 and 1963 and was presented with the 2004 Annual Genazzano FCJ College Award for Outstanding Achievement of a Past Pupil Award. She was a member of the Xavier School Council for ten years and is now a member of the Jesuit Schools Commission. She is also the chair of St Mary's School Board in East St Kilda. Marie is also involved with a small group

working to provide tertiary education to those in refugees camps, in particular along the Thai-Burma border. Marie is committed to education making a positive difference both for the individual and the community.

Marie replaces Sarah Rey. We thank Sarah for her valuable, active and effective role on the committee.

The Ward d'Houet Education Board supports the maintenance of the Loreto and FCJ charism, and oversees plans, projects, and finances of the schools and advises the provincials on these matters.

Further information:
http://www.loreto.org.au/education_board/

Baucau Teachers' College celebrates 2nd graduation

In 2005, as a result of a call from our international leadership team, every province or region of our world wide institute was asked to have 'the courage to move'.

Our Australian province thought that Timor Leste, so close a neighbour, coming recently from such a traumatic upheaval and with a very young population, might be a place we could make some first steps.

Sr Anne Byrne and Anne Kelly, Sr Diaan Stuart answered the call to begin this new venture. All had to begin Tetum from scratch, and two had never worked in a foreign country. All had experience in our large and well established schools here, and one sister also had experience working in refugee camps in northern Uganda.

Di and Anne Byrne began work in partnership with the Marist Brothers in their Teachers' College in Baucau, and with the Canossian Sisters there, while Anne Kelly began work with Alola Foundation in Dili. This year as a result of the violence, the work in Dili was halted but Anne hopes to be back there in 2008.

The Baucau Teachers' College was begun in 2000 after the Marist Brothers were invited to commence

a Catholic Teachers' College by the bishop of the diocese of Baucau which takes in the whole of the eastern region of East Timor. In 2003 the College accepted its first group of student teachers.

Prior to 2000, 90% of teachers were from Indonesia and most of these teachers returned to Indonesia after the East Timorese won Independence. Thus the need for teacher training was critical. The Institute accepts applications from all the thirteen districts based on final Year 12 results plus an entrance interview.

In 2006 the first students graduated. They had managed to continue studies despite the political difficulties. This year again, 48 out of the 50 students who began in the second intake graduated.

As the students are accredited by ACU, the Acting vice-chancellor of ACU, Professor Gabrielle McMullen, conferred the degrees. Also present from ACU were the Dean of Education, Professor Marie Emmitt.

It was a formal, colourful, joyous ceremony, and for the students and their parents represented a wonderful achievement in the face of great difficulties not least material poverty. Even the presence of



A student receives her degree from Acting Vice Chancellor Gabrielle McCullen

parents represented an achievement as some live in the most remote rural areas and travel is not simple.

These students went out to join others, in the schools across the country, who are already making a difference in the lives of children.

New Loreto Futures Team

The Loreto Futures Team will take forward the core business of the Loreto sisters.

A Loreto Futures team has been established to work collaboratively with others to share the Loreto charism and mission while rethinking the Loreto formation program.

The Loreto Futures Team will take forward the core business of the Loreto sisters: accompanying people in their search for God; offering them ways to deepen an understanding of the Good News of Jesus; and sharing with them the story of Mary Ward and the mission she espoused in ways that encourage freedom, sincerity, justice and felicity.

At the 2006 General Congregation, three “calls” were framed out of the concerns and hopes of sisters across the globe. They

are relevant to a wider audience: to listen to the passion of God and wrestle with the meaning of our lives; to work generously in partnerships, valuing relationships and diversity; and to sharpen our engagement with church and world. Taken together, they give a common shape to our lives and ministries and unite us across a variety of works. The Loreto Futures Team will be responsible for ensuring that these calls inform all Loreto undertakings – that they colour the program and way of working in a dynamic way.

To begin this process, the team will consist of three Loreto sisters: Marg Finlay, Francine Roberts and Maureen Burke. They will be

supported by a committee which brings the additional help of a chair, Mary Magnus and advice of Leoni Degenhardt, the outgoing Normanhurst Principal.

This Loreto Futures Team indicates a changing of the guard for the *Vocations Ministry* in this province. Cynthia Wright has held this role for eleven years, and worked tirelessly to involve us all in praying for and being aware of the importance of Vocations with her slogan: *it is everyone's responsibility!*

In 2008, Marg Finlay will be the official initial contact for any ‘inquirers’ about religious life with the Institute. Thank you Cynthia for your dedication and boundless enthusiasm in this key role for eleven years.

Loreto Sister guest curator of precious exhibition

“This is an extraordinary collaboration and a major logistical undertaking ...we may never see works like this in Australia again”

Emeritus Professor Margaret Manion AO, Professorial Fellow in Art History Melbourne University (and Loreto Sister), will be the guest curator of the ***Medieval Imagination: Illuminated manuscripts from Cambridge, Australia and New Zealand*** exhibition at the State Library of Victoria from 28 March to 15 June 2008.

The unique exhibition will feature over 90 stunning illuminated manuscripts, books and pages dating from the 8th to the 16th centuries from the collections of the Fitzwilliam Museum, the University Library, Trinity Col-

lege and Corpus Christi College at Cambridge University. This will be the first and, possibly only, time these manuscripts will travel to Australia - many have not left the University since they were first placed in the collections. They will join a similar number of precious books from Libraries, Galleries and Museums in Australia and New Zealand to create the largest exhibition of its kind ever held in Australia.

Works on display will include sacred traditional texts as well as works of music, law, history and sci-

ence. Complementary talks, tours, music concerts and school activities will also take place during the exhibition.

Margaret believes the exhibition is the most ambitious of its kind ever mounted in this part of the world. ‘This is an extraordinary collaboration and a major logistical undertaking for the State Library, Cambridge University and other participating institutions. The manuscripts are priceless and irreplaceable. Because of their fragile nature we may never see works like this in Australia again,’ she said.

Mary Ward Justice Lecture 2007

The Loreto Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee has, for the past three years, organised the Mary Ward Justice Lecture around key social issues.

The first lecture focussed on Industrial Relations, last year's theme was *Make Indigenous Poverty History* and this year the three speakers: Dr Attracta Lagan, an ethicist working with large corporations, Dr Simon Longstaff, Director of the St James Ethics Centre and Fr Frank Brennan SJ, barrister and Professor of Law, tack-

led the issue of *Public Virtue, Private Vice*.

Dr Lagan vividly described the impact of corruption on groups who are manipulated by cartels. She gave a list of questionable corporate leaders who hide their exploitation under the guise of philanthropy. Among the corporations giving good leadership in terms of employment, environmental practices and community engagement are Google, Toyota and the Bodyshop.

Fr Brennan recounted his meeting with an American marine and that man's ethical and moral dilemma with the war in Iraq. Dr Longstaff

was the facilitator asking the questions and drawing in the audience.

Around 200 people attended and they responded very positively to the evening.

For more information on the Loreto JPIC committee please visit the Justice page at www.loreto.org.au or click below: <http://www.loreto.org.au/works/jpic.html>

Sourced from Ring of Fire Australia November 2007

Australian Political Ministry (PolMin)

PolMin is a national membership organisation committed to bringing about systemic change in Australian society through the influencing of public policy for the common good in accordance with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Founded by a group of religious women PolMin aims:

- To lobby those who have influence in the formation of public policy on particular policy issues which undermine the common good and which trap people in poverty and disadvantage.
- To resource and support those prepared to

take action on PolMin issues.

- To network and collaborate with organisations whose goals and values are similar to those of PolMin on particular issues.
- To educate for effective lobbying on issues identified by PolMin which affect the common good.
- To obtain the financial and personnel resources necessary to enable the goals of PolMin to be achieved.

PolMin is guided by a Board of lay and religious men and women with expertise in law, unions, refugees, Catholic Social Teaching, education and facilitation.

A full time lobbyist meets with politicians, produces fact and information sheets, speaks at various forums, organises meetings with members and issues regular press briefings on particular issues. This year PolMin highlighted water, industrial relations, refugees and asylum seekers, anti terror laws and the Millennium Development Goals as key issues for responsible voters in the 2007 federal election.

The Loreto Sisters actively support the Australian Political Ministry Network (PolMin). Sr Libby Rogerson is a founding Director of the Board.

Further information: www.polmin.com.au

Baby news

Congratulations to Loreto Province Office staff members: Carolynne Harrison, (Accountant) on the birth of her baby girl on August 1st, Alexia Mugure; and Sophia Ljaskevic (Communications Officer) on the birth of her baby boy, Tomas Elias, on November 6th.

Christmas holidays

The Province Office will be completely closed from December 22nd until January 2nd. Normal office operations commence the week beginning January 14th.

More news

For more Loreto news and information visit our website: www.loreto.org.au

Upcoming calendar dates:

<http://www.loreto.org.au/calendar/index.cfm>

Latest news:

<http://www.loreto.org.au/news/index.cfm>

To contribute a story or to add a friend to our mailing list please email

Sophia Ljaskevic at
communications@loreto.org.au

Add a friend or a news item

We hope you enjoyed this edition of **Loreto Friends Networker**. If you would like to make a contribution to a future edition or would like to add a friend or colleague to the mailing list please contact Sophia Ljaskevic, Communications Officer at communications@loreto.org.au.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



Events

The Centres of Ignatian Spirituality presents Margaret Silf

Margaret Silf, acclaimed Spiritual Author, will be conducting a five day Summer School Program - 'Ignatian Wisdom for a Post-Modern World' at the Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality in Melbourne from January 21st to January 25th, 2008.

There is also a Five Day Retreat from January 27th - February 2nd, 2008 - 'Living Pathways' and a one day workshop on February 3rd, 2008 - 'God's Unfinished Story'. There is an option to 'live-in' during these longer courses.

For further details on Campion Centre programs, phone: 03 9854 8110 or email: campion@cis.jesuit.org.au

What is Freedom? What is Truth?"

Margaret Silf will also conduct a two day workshop "What is Freedom? What is Truth?" from February 9 - 10th, 2008 at the Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality in Sydney. She will also conduct a five day retreat "At Sea with God" from February 11 - 17th, 2008. Both these courses have the option of "living in" or "living out".

For further details on Canisius Centre programs, phone: 02 9488 4524 or email: canisius@cis.jesuit.org.au

Centre for Ageing & Pastoral Studies - 4th National Conference

CAPS is a centre for applied research, education, ethics, spirituality and meaning in later life. It is multidisciplinary, catering for the needs of health professionals, pastoral workers, clergy, and older people. The Centre examines spirituality in various cultures that form the multicultural picture of Australian society.

Sun 17 - Wed 20 August 2008
Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort
Federal Highway, Sutton
(North ACT/NSW border)

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<http://www.centreforageing.org.au/>