

# FCJnews

Newsletter of Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus  
Province of Asia–Australia  
Spring 2009



Gathered in support and friendship

## Fundraiser for Romania and the Philippines

Sister Margaret Mary Kennedy reflected on life in Romania today from her recent visit. She told of the continuing hardships, the work of the FCJ Sisters and the progress of former students, colleagues and parishioners.

Sr Paola Terroni, from England and now working in Manila, told of the FCJ community development project. 'We have health, housing, educational and welfare projects, women's development, seniors groups, and activities for children and young people, all of whom live alongside one of Manila's worst dumpsites.'

Sr Judith Routier described the lives of street children in Leyte, a rural province of the Philippines, whose life chances have improved since the FCJ Sisters opened St Joseph's Boys Home. At present 27 boys live in the home and attend school.



**Dare we  
be women  
of hope?**

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## FROM THE PROVINCIAL



In June a milestone was celebrated for Genazzano FCJ College—120 years since its foundation by a handful of FCJ Sisters who moved from Richmond to the countryside of Kew in 1889 to establish a school there. I was struck by a letter written that year by the founding superior in Australia, Mother Mary John Daly, to the Superior General, Mother Marie de Bussy and quoted in Ursula de Jong's book *William Wardell and Genazzano FCJ College*.

*I am writing again this week to let you know that we have not been yet able to raise any money for the building and to beg of you in pity to send us some; I am nearly out of my mind, cannot eat or sleep thinking of the fearful thing we have done; we pray and do all we can to induce God to have mercy on us, but no one seems to be ready to help us.*

Reading this edition of *FCJNews*, we can see so clearly the fruits of trusting in God's Providence and in our countless friends! Now in 2009, our enterprises in mission are the fruit of collaborative enterprise with many different people and organisations. Today's challenge for us all is to share the gifts we have been given with those in far greater need. Our companionship urges us to *communion, embracing all persons and all things, excluding no one and no thing from our compassion. It urges us to gentleness and reconciliation in a growing culture of violence. It urges us to collaboration and mutuality.* (GC08 FCJ)

Barbara Brown-Graham ff



## Genazzano—120 years

On Sunday 21 June the Genazzano FCJ College community gathered to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the foundation of the college.



There is something mystical about St Patrick's Cathedral. It was here on a cold Sunday in June that over 1800 members of the Genazzano community gathered to celebrate 120 years of learning, faith and life at the 'school upon the hill'. The celebration of this anniversary had been commemorated in a range of ways at the college throughout second term, and most notably the previous week at the launch of Ursula de Jong's wonderful book, *William Wardell and Genazzano FCJ College*, which traces the emotional and brave journey of the Sisters, particularly Mother Mary John Daly, in the conception and development of the college. And this was the day when we gathered as a community to remember, recall and give thanks for the wonderful work of so many people for their contribution to the fabric of college life.

The liturgy of the Catholic Church is all about ritual and celebration. Stories are told, experiences are shared in prayer and as a faith-filled community we gather around a table to share in the most sacred of all meals. It was thus on this very special Sunday. When we entered the Cathedral it was 'Gen'—graced with wonderful banners on the gothic pillars, which reminded us of the founders of the college houses. The Genazzano College banner—a silent participant in all our college events—was at the right of the sanctuary. But what made the beginning so memorable were the processions: the Sisters, who embody

their charism, followed by a range of people who represented a variety of areas of college life—the procession of principals of the college, led by the current principal, Patricia Cowling, the procession with members of associations, representatives from the student and staff body. All involved in the procession carried not just their own experiences but reminded us of the many students, staff and parents upon whose work and commitment we continue to build.

We were blessed to have Archbishop Hart and a number of clergy celebrate with us on this day. The Archbishop's homily reflected a considered understanding of the heritage of the college. The music, always a joy at Genazzano, was beautiful. The Gospel of the day—the well-known story of the calming of the sea—was a symbolic reminder that even in the midst of any challenges we face, we can remain confident in Jesus' faithful presence ever with us. And so I was reminded at the celebration of this ever-present faithful God, who has worked in so many ways through so many people to enable the charism of FCJ education to thrive for 120 very special years. The journey continues!

*'Then he said to them, "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" They were filled with awe and said to one another, "Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him."' (Mk 4:40–41)*

Cathy Jenkins, Deputy Principal

The FCJ Sisters In Australia dare to give companionship to many fellow citizens, regardless of age, race or creed, by ministering to them through existing community organisations.

‘Our attention is drawn to great gatherings of people, many of them impoverished, trafficked, marginalised, despairing or far from their own country. With them, we cry out for justice.

Dare we be women of outrageous hope?

The confidence to dare rises from the heart of our charism of companionship, an amazing gift for our world today. This companionship urges us to communion, embracing all persons and all things, excluding no one and no thing from our love and compassion.’

(Chapter Decree 2008)

Individual ESL tuition  
Teresa Hennessy



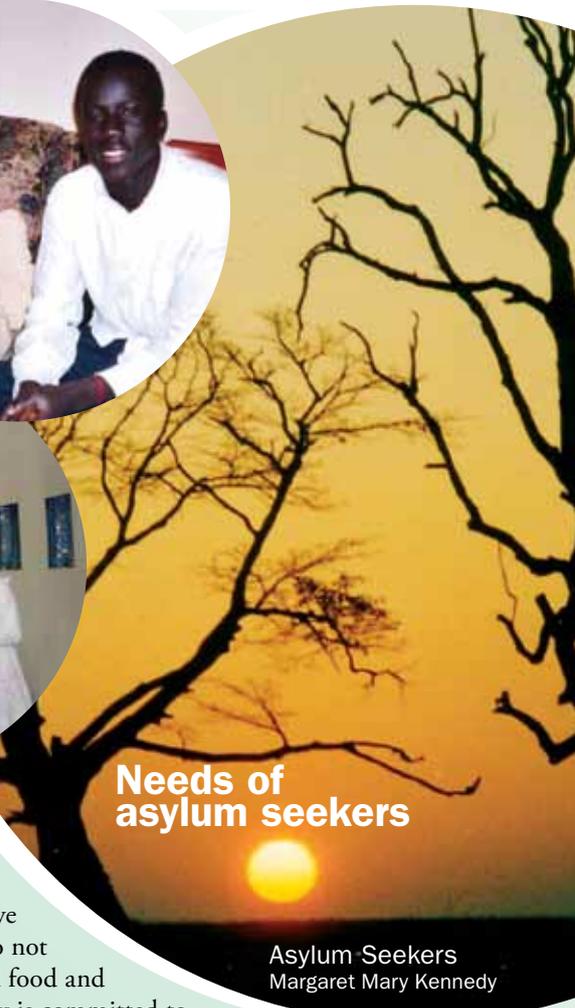
God Start  
Ann Connolly  
Port Pirie  
Diocese, SA.



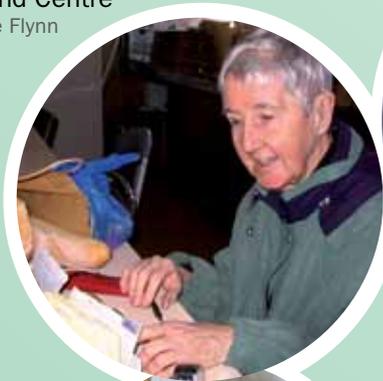
The Parish community of St Anthony’s, Alphington, including the FCJ Fairfield community, continues to provide food each week for several asylum seekers and their families. These people are still waiting for their visa applications for permanent residency to be assessed. Some have waited for between five and six years. They have accommodation but do not have the right to work. Consequently, they need food and other necessities of life. St Anthony’s community is committed to providing food, which is much appreciated. They also provide advocacy for asylum seekers’ rights.

**Needs of asylum seekers**

Asylum Seekers  
Margaret Mary Kennedy



Richmond Centre  
Catherine Flynn



Pastoral Care  
Sunshine Hospital  
Margaret Maher



Aboriginal  
Catholic  
Ministry  
Helen Mary  
Langlands



Villa Maria Disability/  
Aged Care Education Centre  
Mary O’Shannessy



St Ignatius, Richmond  
Helen Buckley

# You are my companion



Maria Irene Indrayanti (Meita) fcJ

All FCJs who are currently living in Yogyakarta were present for our weekend of celebrations as well as Sister Barbara, and Sister Afra representing FCJ Ende. On Friday 14 August Meita was formally welcomed into the Society by Sister Barbara. This service included a dance to the hymn *Take and Receive*. The actual making of vows took place at a ceremony in the late afternoon of 15 August. It was very beautiful in all respects.

When the time of her profession came Meita made her vows in a gentle yet confident voice. The vows were received by Sister Barbara and the witnesses were Sisters Margaret O'Donohue and Clare Hand. After the service we celebrated with a delicious Indonesian meal. The following day at 8am we had Meita's missioning. After breakfast we celebrated with Meita as she read the many cards and messages she had received from FCJs around the world.

Clare Hand fcJ

## 50–60 Years of Faithful Companionship



Sisters Joan Cartlidge, Cecilia Courtney and Maureen Martin celebrate 50 years of Religious Profession as Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus this year. Sr Joan, who is presently in residence in Calgary, Canada, celebrated on 22 August.

Sisters Cecilia and Maureen celebrated by gathering with SFCJ sisters, Companions in Mission, family and friends in the Genazzano FCJ College Chapel on Sunday 30th August. During the Mass the Jubilarians renewed their vows before all present.

On the same day Sisters Catherine Flynn and Teresa Hennessy celebrated 60 years of FCJ vowed life.

*'The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to give good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight; to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.'* (Luke 4:18)

This scripture quote comes from the Gospel chosen by Sisters Maureen and Cecilia.

Congratulations to all our Jubilarians.



(top) Sr Maureen Martin, Sr Cecilia Courtney 50 years  
(left) Sr Joan Cartlidge 50 years, Sr Catherine Flynn,  
Sr Teresa Hennessy 60 years

## Justice matters

On 22 April I had the privilege of accompanying nine students from the Social Justice Group at FCJ Benalla to Harrietville for the Justice Matters Camp.

Each year the Sandhurst Diocese organises this event for students in Years 9–12. The theme for this year was ‘Called to Justice, Called to Reconciliation’.

The first evening was a great opportunity to meet like-minded students from across the diocese. Delsie Lillyst then led us through an ‘Awakening to Justice’ experience. Over the next two days the students explored what social justice is. The students from each school shared how they live out justice through action and fundraising activities. Attending workshops on particular justice issues was a highlight. Topics included Human Trafficking, Making Indigenous Poverty History, Sustainable Eating, Reconciliation, Addressing Global Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals.

It was an inspirational few days that helped us discover that Justice Matters. We were challenged to get MAD (Make A Difference).

*‘Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.’ (Martin Luther King Jr)*

Debbie Saunders



MAD students from FCJ College, Benalla

## Joseph and his flying machine

FCJ College Class of 2008 student, Joseph Daw, has been awarded a prestigious Prime Minister’s Award for Skills Excellence in School, in the category of highest achieving student in Australia in the transport and logistics industry category.

The prize recognises high-achieving students who completed their Year 12 studies in 2008 while undertaking vocational education and training in schools or an Australian School-based Apprenticeship.

Joseph was also awarded a 2008 Australian Vocational Student Prize. The prize celebrates the benefits of studying vocational education while at school and reflects the benefit of community collaboration between schools, training providers and employers.

Joseph studied Certificate IV in Aviation Operations (Commercial Pilot Aeroplane License) while doing his VCE, and is now working as a spotter for Oberon Airlines.

‘We are very proud of Joseph for this fantastic achievement’, said David Leslie, Principal of FCJ College, Benalla.

‘We were very pleased to be able to offer him such an opportunity as part of the many pathways available to senior students. Joseph worked very hard to achieve his Certificate while studying for his VCE, and this award reflects his commitment. It also demonstrates the variety of opportunities for students, and the ability to achieve through different pathways.’

Joseph is home celebrating with his family before flying out next week to continue his work with Oberon Airlines. After attaining his commercial pilot licence, Joseph intends to study for his pilot instructor licence.



Joseph takes to the air

# Meet Sr Bing from the Philippines

Sr Annabelle Delos Santos fcJ (Sr Bing)

## What is your earliest memory of school?

I was the smallest pupil in the class of 30 children, so I was always the first in line. I had the feeling that I was loved and a favourite of my classroom teachers.

## Did your parents have any special goals for their children?

Father and Mother told us, 'Children, we want you to take education seriously because that is the only treasure we leave to each of you. It is a treasure that you will take with you to your grave. Nobody can steal it away from you. It is yours forever!'

## What book or books impressed you as a young person?

Growing up I was very impressed with the story of our national hero, Dr Jose Rizal. It was the first book I had in first grade. I memorised every word from cover to cover.

## Do you have any favourite songs?

The first song I learnt in our catechism class is my favourite: *Walay bisan kinsa ang mabuhì* (Cebuano version) or *Walang sinuman and nabubuhay* (Tagalog version). It means, 'no one lives for him/herself alone'. My second favourite I first heard when I was in the novitiate, *Eagle's Wings*.

## Do you remember your happiest day?

It was the day of my first profession as a Faithful Companion of Jesus, 30 January 1999. Friends, parish co-workers, family members and FCJ sisters travelled by land, sea and air to join me in celebrating the joyful moment.

## If only I could ...

Each day in my ministry I encounter different people coming to the Pangrap Foundation asking for help: financial assistance, guidance and counselling, someone to listen to their problems. I long to be able to fulfil all their needs, yet I know I am only one human being with limitations.

## What has been your most challenging experience?

A father came to the office asking for financial help because his daughter was due to give birth. Having at first thought of placing the baby for adoption, she had decided to keep her baby, but she needed a large amount of money for a caesarean. The office could not give her the amount she needed, but I tried to accompany her spiritually until her due date. What a surprise when the father came to the office to thank me for my support and to tell me his daughter had experienced a normal delivery. Thank God! I realise that we need to witness people's life experiences in order to live in humility and trust in God's grace and blessing.

## What has been your most rewarding ministry?

The Paliparan Community Development Program, in Cavite where I work, serves 80,000 families. Feeding 100 undernourished children Monday to Friday is important. The worker has to record and monitor both height and weight, make home visits, meet with the mothers and prepare nutrition classes to show them how to maintain their children's normal weight. It is a demanding role but at night I sleep with a smile in my heart, as I know I have helped the families.

## My greatest joy ...

To experience springtime in London, witnessing each day the leaves and flowers growing on the branches of the trees outside my window. This experience showed me the resurrected Jesus. I love to sing the Alleluia song celebrating the risen Lord, who is present in every human heart. Alleluia!!!

Annabelle Delos Santos fcJ (Bing), Philippines/West Kamias



# Mission fundraiser



Sr Judith Routier fcJ from Leyte, the Philippines



The 'barrel girl' and the winner



Help for the MC, Brian Hartung



Mrs Patricia Cowling, Sr Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ and Maureen Hartung



Sr Paola Terroni fcJ from Manila and the FCJ Learning and Development Center Inc



Market Stall. Goods made by the women who attend FCJ Learning and Development Center Inc



Enjoying a good story

FCJ friends gathered on 17 June for a fundraiser for the ministry of the Sisters in Romania and the Philippines. Mrs Patricia Cowling, Principal of Genazzano FCJ College, hosted the gathering of 340 friends of the Sisters. The evening was organised by the Friends of Romania and the Philippines. Three of the Sisters made presentations about the ministry. We heard of the joys and hardships experienced by the people the Sisters support. The photos here tell the story of the night, and with a number of generous donations \$30,000 was raised.



Chaos! In search of a Door Prize



Sr Paola Terroni fcJ, Sr Judith Routier fcJ, Julie Chamberlin, Sr Margaret Mary Kennedy fcJ, Sr Barbara Brown-Graham fcJ

# William Wardell and Genazzano FCJ College



**William Wardell** (1823–1899), the architect of St Ignatius Church, Richmond, and St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne, was engaged by the first FCJ Sisters in Australia to design and build a new convent school in the grasslands of Kew.

In this, the 120th year since the opening of Genazzano, the college has commissioned and published a beautiful book, *William Wardell and Genazzano FCJ College*, researched and written by architectural historian Ursula de Jong.

As the guests arrived for the launch of the book the building was a-glow from a set of coloured floodlights, creating a surreal

effect. Guests entered by the original front door and walked up the steps and along the wide corridor that leads to the inner rooms of the building. The FCJ Provincial, Sr Barbara Brown-Graham, launched the book.

Ursula de Jong has produced a scholarly work that brings alive for the reader the details of this elegant gothic-style building of fine proportions. The book also describes the struggles the Sisters endured following the financial crash of the 1890s. *William Wardell and Genazzano FCJ College* will be of interest to a wide group of readers. It is available from the college, priced at \$50.

## Diary Dates

In December Melbourne will host the 2009 Parliament of the World’s Religions. This will be the world’s largest global interfaith gathering.

Fr John Dupuche, chairman of the Catholic Interfaith Committee of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, is a member of the Program Management Committee. Recently he said that ‘Melbourne was chosen because it seemed to be the perfect example of how different religions cooperate and do things in a harmonious way, with freedom and connectivity’.

**Date:** 3–9 December 2009

**Venue:** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

**Off site:** Events will be held throughout the city (eg Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral, celebrated by visiting prelate Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington).



Registration forms available from:  
[www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org)

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