



# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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## THE HEART OF OUR SERVICE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2012

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries held their annual conference on 19 and 20 July, 2012 at Novotel Brisbane, attended by 155 key leaders from the health, education, welfare and research ministries.

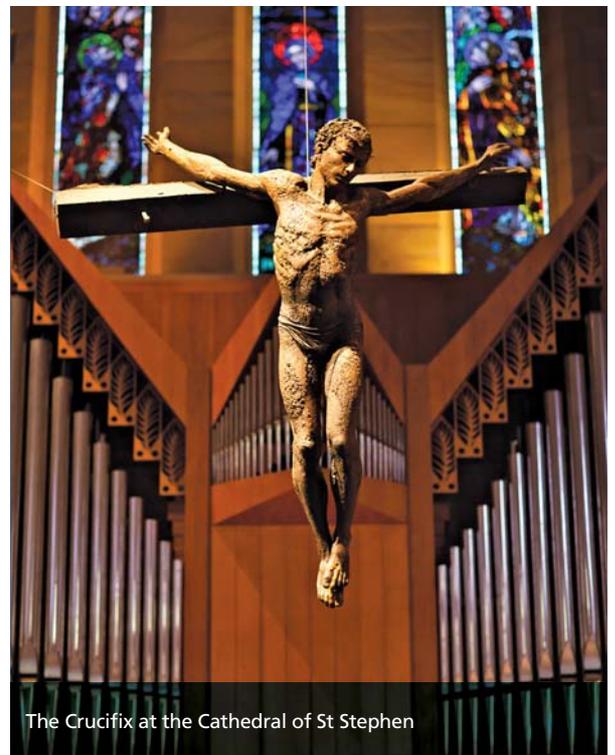
The theme of this year's conference was 'The Heart of Our Service', with a focus on Ignatian Spirituality as a basis for discernment and decision-making in our Ministries.

The conference opened at the Cathedral of St Stephen, with Eucharist, at which Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the Archbishop of Brisbane, presided, with Fr Peter Meneely, Fr Ian Waters and Fr Frank Brennan SJ. The Eucharist was followed by a reception and dinner, with a Welcome to Country delivered by Uncle Bob Anderson and Aunty Joan Hendricks. Alexander Smith, a lawyer at Freehills Sydney and former Head Prefect of St Ignatius College, Riverview, spoke of Ignatian teaching in his inspiring dinner speech on his lived experience as a "man for others."

Students of Mt St Michael's College performed a graceful liturgical dance at the Eucharist and the College choir filled the Cathedral with melodious singing. Delegates were entertained by the College musicians during the reception. Another College group performed a moving rendition of African and other songs during the conference.



Eucharist at the Cathedral



The Crucifix at the Cathedral of St Stephen

We were privileged to have two distinguished speakers, Sr Úna O'Neill rsc and Fr Mark Raper SJ AM. Sr Úna, a Religious Sister of Charity based in Dublin, served on the General Council of her Congregation for 12 years and was Congregational Leader from 1995 to 2001.

Sr Úna spoke of the Ignatian way as a very practical one, with God to be found in everyday events. She captivated us with her humour and stories to illustrate key points: first, the heart of Ignatian Spirituality is the interconnectedness of the human and holy; and second, God can be found in both the positive and negative aspects of the world. She explained that the core of Ignatian Spirituality is within the profound truth that a person is valuable because of who they are, not what they can contribute to our wellbeing.

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# THE HEART OF OUR SERVICE

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Fr Mark is the President of the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific based in Manila, and Superior for the Jesuit missions in Timor Leste and Myanmar. From 2002 to 2008, he was Provincial of the Australian and New Zealand Jesuits and served as President of Catholic Religious Australia. He drew on his experiences in the service of refugees, as the first director for Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific during the 1980s, then, until 2000, as International Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in Rome, to link the key elements of Ignatian Spirituality to practical purposes of discernment. He highlighted the key elements of its application to decision-making: first, to cultivate awareness of one's own bias/prejudice; second, to be open to others' views; third, to rationally list the benefits and drawbacks of possible options; and fourth, to acknowledge that "unity is where diversity is in harmony."



Trustees with Fr Mark Raper (third from left) and Sr Una O'Neill (fourth from left)

Fr Mark, ably assisted by Lisa McDonald, Director of Mission at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, invited participants to explore, reflect on and apply these elements of discernment to five health and education based scenarios devised to raise ethical issues in decision-making.

Sr Una and Fr Mark referred to the wisdom of Mary Aikenhead:

*"...we each and all must try our best to stand steady under the heat and burden of the day, and, with perseverance, labour in our special engagements in the service of the poor, whatever our respective difficulties may be."*

Dr Tessa Ho  
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries

## CLC SACRED SPACE

Sunday, 17 June saw the opening of the Sr Una McAllister Centre at Catholic Ladies College (CLC) in Eltham. It was a joyous occasion celebrating a beloved former CLC principal, the late Sr Una McAllister rsc, and the completion of the College's new sacred space and music centre.

Sr Annette Cunliffe rsc and Sisters of Charity from all round Australia joined the Trustees, staff, students, parents and friends of CLC for the occasion. The Centre was blessed by College Chaplain Fr Terry Kean, and formally unveiled by Sr Annette, Trustee David Robinson, CLC Board Chair John Slattery and Principal Margaret McKenna, whose vision for a major College gathering space was realised with the opening ceremony.

Set into the side of a hill, the Sr Una McAllister Centre blends aesthetically with its bush surrounds. Its sacred space is a venue of great beauty and stunning works of art, where College groups gather for liturgy; the music rooms are state-of-the-art and will foster CLC's music life. The Trustees congratulate CLC on the Sr Una McAllister Centre.

[Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen](#)  
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



David Robinson, Ray McAllister, Sr Annette Cunliffe, John Slattery and Margaret McKenna at the opening of the Sr Una McAllister Centre

# REACHING OUT

## SYDNEY OUTREACH VISITS – DAY 1

On April 26, Trustees Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Dr Tessa Ho, Mr Jim Russell and Sr Helen Clarke rsc visited some of the Sydney Outreach facilities, accompanied by Sr Margaret Fitzgerald rsc.

The day began with prayer, an overview of the services and an introduction to the Clinic Outreach office staff. Travelling to Western Sydney, the Trustees met staff and volunteers at the Safe Haven, which provides crisis accommodation for victims of domestic violence. The next port of call was the Parent Support Program, which provides a day care centre for children ages 0 to 5 years and a parent education program for their mothers.

The Trustees then moved to Chisholm Cottage at Westmead where they met staff and volunteers, toured the facilities and enjoyed lunch. Chisholm Cottage is owned by the Catholic Women's League Australia, Diocese of Parramatta and managed by the Sisters of Charity Outreach. It provides short-term, low cost accommodation for country people and others who need to be near medical facilities or need emergency accommodation. The Trustees were warmly welcomed at all the Outreach facilities and presented staff members and volunteers with a gift of a Mary Aikenhead Ministries badge.

The day concluded with a tour of St Joseph's Hospital and Village in Auburn after meeting with senior executives in the hospital boardroom. These visits affirmed the strong commitment and delivery of services to those in need, declared in the Sisters of Charity Outreach Mission Statement.



Trustees' visit to the Parent Support Program

### SISTERS OF CHARITY OUTREACH MISSION STATEMENT

The Sisters of Charity Outreach is committed to supporting people in need within NSW through the active participation of trained volunteers and staff. Outreach is a compassionate, diverse service supporting the vulnerable in our society, with an emphasis on women and families.

Outreach is committed to providing holistic care and being a human presence through its service of education, hospitality, counselling, visiting, transport and referrals. Outreach endeavours to be a voice for the 'voiceless'.

Sr Helen Clarke rsc  
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Trustees visiting the Outreach Shop, Darlinghurst



Gabrielle McMullen, Sr Margaret Fitzgerald, Jim Russell, Sr Helen Clarke and Tessa Ho at the Sisters of Charity Outreach office

# A DAY AT THE RACES

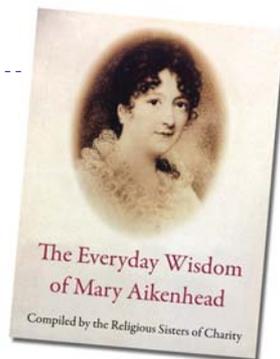
25 July was a typical Brisbane sunny winter day: ideal conditions for the Mt. Olivet Charity Racing Day at Eagle Farm Racecourse. About 200 keen amateur and professional 'punters' enjoyed a wonderful seven event programme. The ladies were resplendent in the latest fashions, competing for the best outfit of the day.

The newly appointed Archbishop of Brisbane, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, was present to welcome the supporters and acknowledge the wonderful work of the Sisters of Charity in Queensland, particularly in relation to the services provided at St. Vincent's Brisbane (formerly Mt. Olivet Hospital). Dr Ian Marshall AE, Chairman of the Committee, kept proceedings moving. Many sponsors have been on board since the first Race Day in 1988 and well over \$1.6 million has been raised in that time.

A highlight of the day was the interview with leading local jockey, Chris Munce, who was delighted to spend time with Sr Cath Munce rsc. A number of Sisters of Charity were present, enjoying this wonderful social occasion. The races were keenly contested, but Chris Munce did not manage to bring home a winner.

*It was a most enjoyable day – great company, good food and wine, and a generous financial contribution to an outstanding health facility of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.*

Jim Russell  
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



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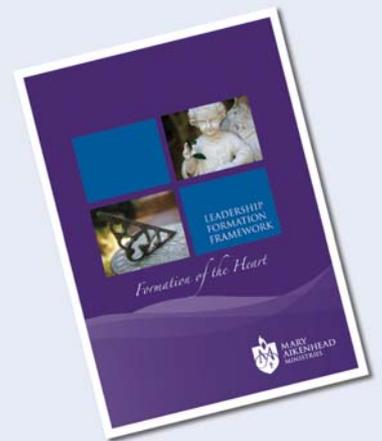
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## LAUNCH OF FORMATION OF THE HEART



The Leadership Formation Framework document, *Formation of the Heart*, was launched at the 2012 Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries Conference by the Archbishop of Brisbane, Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

The launch took place during the conference dinner with each Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries reading the aims of the Framework. Conference delegates were provided with a copy of the Leadership Formation Framework to take back to their ministry.

*Formation of the Heart* is the product of two years' work by the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Leadership Formation Coordinating Group. It is the intention of the Trustees that this Framework will be regularly updated and will provide a reference for leadership formation across the education, health, research and welfare ministries.



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