



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 2 | JUNE 2017

LOVE ... IN ALL THAT WE DO

... "I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will remain – so that whatever you ask in my father's name, He will give you. This is my command to you: Love one another".

(John 15:14 – 17)

The essence of Mary Aikenhead Ministries' value of Love is a conscious desire to give, to help, to delight in the object of our love. This is not just a notion of sentiment or romanticism but involves a commitment, faithfulness and a purposeful act. Our love is shown by what we do and the nature of the relationships which we foster.

Remember the passage from St Paul:

"if I have all the prophetic powers and understand all the mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing ... Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude..."

(1Cor 13:1-4)



As Christians we believe

"God is Love"

(John 4:8).

We received God's gift of his son Jesus. This is the core of God and God's Love brings all other values into perfect harmony ...

"Love your neighbour as yourself"

(Matthew 22:37).

We know this is not always easy. As cartoonist Michael Leunig put it:

"Love one another and you'll be happy – it's as simple and as difficult as that".

And, as a Sister of Charity reflected in our recent publication *Voices from the Heart*, *"our motto (The Love*

of Christ impels us) is not for wimps".

For those in the community of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, as it is for the Sisters of Charity, we express our love through the preferential option for the poor. We seek deliberate, conscious and creative ways of serving those in need: the poor, the marginalised and the forgotten. As a community this drives us and makes us joyful and alive! As individuals this affords us the opportunity summed up in the last line from the musical *Les Misérables* ...

"to love another person is to see the face of God".

David Robinson

Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

MAM CONFERENCE 2017

'OUR HEARTS AT THE TABLE'



Welcoming ceremony



Keynote speaker Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP

Mary Aikenhead Ministries' 2017 conference entitled *Our Hearts at the Table* was held at the Novotel Sydney Central on 11-12 May. Attended by 180 participants from across the education, health, aged care, research and community service ministries, the occasion opened on Thursday morning with a Welcome to Country and liturgy. This was followed by conference keynote speaker, Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, who deepened participants' understanding of how they continue the mission of Jesus within Mary Aikenhead Ministries through his address, 'The Care for Christ's Body'. Fr Timothy truly touched the hearts gathered at the conference tables, including through engaging in dialogue with participants in the second session of the conference.

Another theme of the conference related to refugees – thus, the dinner speaker on Thursday evening, Tim O'Connor, currently CEO of the Australian Refugee Council, spoke on *Beyond the Asylum: A Sustainable Approach to Refugees*. Further, two ministry scenarios presented on Thursday afternoon by Catholic Ladies' College and St Vincent's Care Services Eltham, respectively, looked at their initiatives in Melbourne to support the integration of refugees into the community. As an alternative to a mission scenario, Thursday afternoon concluded with a panel of key leaders from across Mary Aikenhead Education Australia who considered mission-inspired leadership in the context of contemporary Catholic schooling. Another highlight of the conference was the launch of the Trustees' Roundtable resource during the conference dinner.



Trustees David Robinson and Linda Ferrington rsc launching the Roundtable resource during the conference dinner

The second day commenced with the conference Mass at St Peter Julian's Church in Broadway with chief celebrant Bishop Terry Brady. This was followed by two further ministry scenarios that looked, respectively, at total genome sequencing at the Garvan Institute in Sydney leading to new cures of debilitating diseases, and a program developed by St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne to identify elder abuse and support older people experiencing family violence, recognised by the Victorian Government as best practice.

The conference concluded at lunch time on Friday with the commissioning of pilgrims going to Ireland in the footsteps of Mary Aikenhead and a concluding liturgy. Students from St Vincent's College and two former Sisters of Charity schools, All Saints College in Liverpool and Bethlehem College in Ashfield, enriched the conference with music and dance.

The conference is the most important formation activity conducted by the Trustees for those in leadership and



A replica of the Roundtable was presented to representatives of the ministries at the conference

governance roles across Mary Aikenhead Ministries – feedback indicated that it continues to be highly valued by participants.

[Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM](#)
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

HONOURING VETERANS

Each year St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne provides an occasion to honour war veterans and widows who are in-patients at the time of ANZAC Day. This year Trustees David Alcock and Gabrielle McMullen were invited to join Private Hospital Regional CEO Ian Grisold and Mission Integration Manager Julie Wain on the eve of ANZAC Day to meet with these patients.

Five patients were visited, four veterans and widow of a veteran – in four cases service had been during World War II and in one instance during the Vietnam War. They all welcomed the recognition of the veterans' service to their country and told of their experiences and losing loved ones and mates with some sadness. The Vietnam veteran was particularly moved that his service was being recognised.

Each of these patients was given a small showbag and a wooden cross made by a Christian refugee from Palestine. The morning was a very moving occasion for each of us and a fine example of the compassionate care offered by the St Vincent's Health Australia hospitals.



96-year-old veteran William Charles with Trustees David Alcock and Gabrielle McMullen and Private Hospital Regional CEO Ian Grisold

As Julie subsequently wrote in her monthly report:

"These visits are always a powerful reminder of the impact that war wreaks upon people, upon families, upon communities, and indeed the nation. Our mission implores us to care for the poor and vulnerable and, at this time of year, vulnerability is very real amongst our veterans, both young and old".

[Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM](#)
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

HONOURING HISTORY

120 YEARS: ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE

It was with a sense of continuity and community that St Columba's College commemorated its 120-year-long history with the blessing of three artworks on 27 April. On the occasion the College welcomed Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, David Alcock, Linda Ferrington rsc and Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, and representatives of the Sisters of Charity, College Board, Mary Aikenhead Education Australia and the College alumnae and parents' associations to the celebration.

Using technology, the College community gathered in assembly witnessed, in turn, the blessing of each artwork at its location around the College. The artworks, representing different aspects of the College's ethos, history and values, are a sculpture of Venerable Mary Aikenhead by Jenny Steiner, a triptych by Michael Galovic honouring women from the past, present and future and entitled *The Timeless Dance*, and an icon of Venerable Mary Aikenhead, also by Michael Galovic.

Debra Randall

St Columba's College



Trustees Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Mr David Alcock and Linda Ferrington rsc celebrating 120 years at St Columba' College

175 YEARS: THE HOBART FEMALE FACTORY



Ms Susan Ryan with executive staff from Mt Carmel College at plaque ceremony

On Thursday, 9 March, the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries presented a plaque to the Hobart Female Factory to honour 175 years of the Sisters of Charity in Australia and the pioneer sisters who ministered to the women convicts at the factory. Emeritus Archbishop Adrian Doyle blessed and unveiled the plaque and spoke of the ministry of the sisters on that site.

Over 30 guests were in attendance including the CEO of the Historic Site Management Authority in Tasmania, the Manager of the Female Factory, Sisters of Charity, local historians, the archdiocesan archivist, Mary Aikenhead Ministries pilgrims and representatives of the Tasmanian Catholic press. The staff of the site then hosted afternoon tea in the grounds and guests were invited to tour the matron's cottage and grounds of the Female Factory.

Sr Helen Clarke rsc

Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



SAVE THE DATE | 2018 CONFERENCE

Hobart: 10-11th May, Grand Chancellor Hotel



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'JOURNEYS' IS PUBLISHED BY
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