

Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

Rejoice always.
Pray
without ceasing.

--1 Thessalonians 5:16

JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team."

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths. -J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

The Shape of the Mass

In the renewal of the liturgy that followed the Second Vatican Council, the full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly was the primary consideration. By participation, the Council Fathers did not mean just joining in the singing and the spoken responses, but active engagement and prayerful understanding of the rites. They envisioned a transparent liturgy, a worship that spoke so directly to the hearts and minds of the faithful that it would require no explanation at all.

The liturgy itself is the best possible catechesis on the liturgy. What does the liturgy teach us? It shows us the ministry of Jesus continuing in the present. He gathers a community. He calls us to prayer and repentance and praise. He teaches us with the very word of God. He does not send us away empty, but sets before us a marvelous banquet, feeding us with his very body and blood. Then he sends us forth to do what he has done—to give ourselves for others, not just in words, but in deeds. The Mass is the pattern of our Christian lives. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

ANGELS OF PEACE

Let us not be
justices of the peace,
but angels of peace.

—St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **December** offerings:

PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. *Include your offering envelope # with your donation.*

[for late Nov.] 1st Collections: \$4262. Add Op: \$677.

Cap Exp: \$752. Rural Food: \$3532.

12/13: Op. Expenses. 12/25: Capital Expenditures. 12/25: Christmas.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA Zoom

Finance Council [FC]: TBA Zoom

Liturgy Committee: TBA Zoom

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Centering Prayer ZOOM: Tues. noon/Fri. 9:30am - info www.stphilipstteresa.org

Coffee & Goodies: cancelled for now

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon: cancelled for now

Qi Gong Tai Chi [Thurs.] & AA [Fri.]: cancelled for now

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

12/13 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

12/13 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Peggy Glenn

12/20 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

12/20 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Prayer Requests: Leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James, Dennis M., Art H., Lynn, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N.

Virtual Advent Retreat: Fr. Christopher LaRocca has graciously offered to hold an Advent Retreat on **Tuesday** evenings [6:30pm] December 1, 8, 15, and 22 via Zoom. Our Zoom retreat info is posted online at www.stphilipstteresa.org [All are welcome.]

PARISH MEMO

December-- The times and locations of our outdoor Sunday Masses:

St. Philip's, 8:00am in the parking lot fronting St. Philip's church;

St. Teresa's, 9:30am on the steps of St. Teresa's church.

[Note: Rain or extreme weather cancels Masses for the day.]

The 9:30am Sunday Mass is also being live broadcast using Zoom. See below for login information.

Please mute your microphone and turn off video when joining.

The Zoom will begin at 9:15 with Mass at 9:30. Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85354104721?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85354104721?pwd=SHVsbEpnL3gvWHJ4NGZNdWlSRWdtZz09)

[pwd=SHVsbEpnL3gvWHJ4NGZNdWlSRWdtZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85354104721?pwd=SHVsbEpnL3gvWHJ4NGZNdWlSRWdtZz09)

Meeting ID: 853 5410 4721 Passcode: 054786

As of 11/20: **Ella's Centering Prayer group by Zoom** will be at the usual time (Fridays 9:30-10:30a.m.) and also on Tuesdays at 12noon. It will always be this same link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/221895142?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/221895142?pwd=SnROcFJ3My95NC9Qc3hVSVlVUZzIJZz09)

[pwd=SnROcFJ3My95NC9Qc3hVSVlVUZzIJZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/221895142?pwd=SnROcFJ3My95NC9Qc3hVSVlVUZzIJZz09)

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for December 2020

We prepared for potentially cold and stormy skies for the December Rural Food distribution by purchasing drive through tents to shelter our volunteers and the precious commodities they prepared to distribute.

We were happy to see sunny skies and warm weather on Tuesday, 12/8, as we distributed food to 60 families totaling 139 people, including 24 seniors and 34 children. We received warm smiles and much appreciation as we also distributed socks, masks, scarves, hats and Union Hotel handmade cookies for all families who received nutritional support at the distribution.

We are so thankful for the support provided to make this program flourish. A new volunteer told us, "We were so happy to be there and it really touched our hearts to see all the love present."

This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in Hall

Sat., January 9, 9-10:00am: repackaging

Mon., January 11, 8-11:00am: set up

Tues., January 12, 8-11:00am: food distribution

Bishop Vasa Speaks...

Following the Memo from Bishop Vasa (Bulletin #81) dated December 1, 2020, the counties of the Diocese now fall into the tiers noted below:

"PRESENT COUNTY TIER STATUS: According to the latest (December 1, 2020) data, Lake County has a negative change in the Tier status from **Tier 2 (Red)** to **Tier 1 (Purple)**. Thus, for now ALL of our [diocesan] counties remain in or go to **Tier 1 (Purple)**.

Humboldt County - Stays at **Tier 1**

- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Del Norte County - Stays at **Tier 1**

- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Lake County - From **Tier 2** to **Tier 1**

- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Napa County - Stays at **Tier 1**

- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Mendocino County - Stays at **Tier 1**

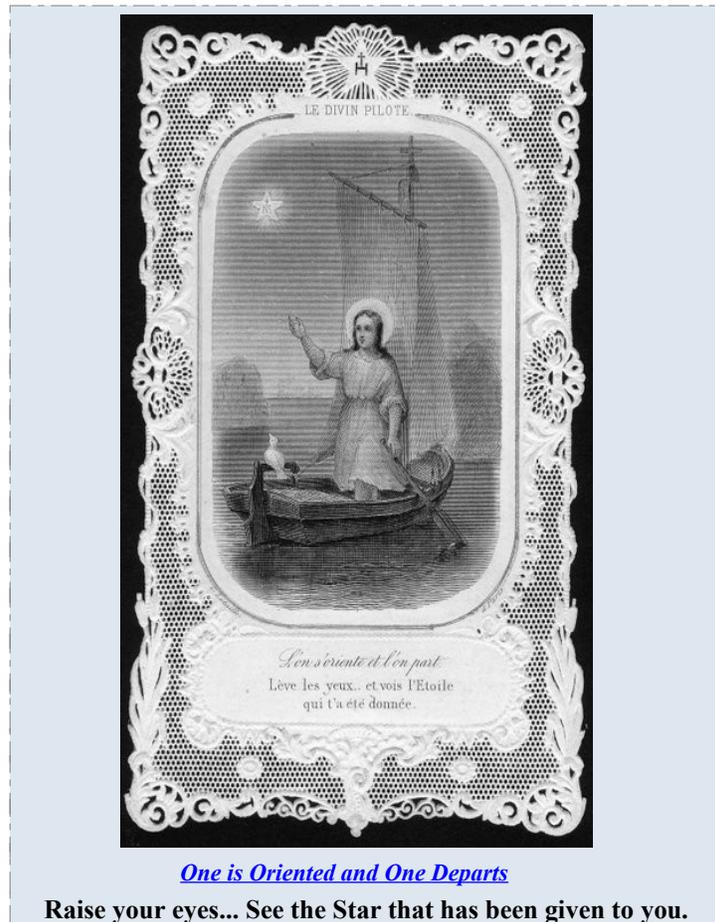
- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

Sonoma County - Stays at **Tier 1**

- Outdoor only with masks and social distancing.

NOVEMBER 21 STAY AT HOME ORDER: The following notice was posted by the Acting State Public Health Officer on November 21. (I had not noticed it before.) "Therefore, as the State Public Health Officer, I am issuing a Limited Stay at Home order, effective in counties under Tier One (Purple) of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, requiring that all gatherings with members of other households and all activities conducted outside the residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation with members of other households **cease between 10:00 pm PST and 5:00 am PST**, except for those activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure or required by law. This order does not apply to persons experiencing homelessness. Nothing in this order prevents any number of persons from the same household from leaving their residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation, as long as they do not engage in any interaction with (or otherwise gather with) any number of persons from any other household, except as specifically permitted herein." <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/limited-stay-at-home-order.aspx>

This order is scheduled to remain in effect until December 21 and we must anticipate that it may not end before Christmas. It seems prudent to plan that no Masses begin later than 8:00 pm." ~ RFVasa



Deacon-structing the Voice of Illness, Part 3

By Deacon Pedro

Monday, December 7, 2020

We began our reflection [two weeks ago](#) by defining the voice of illness as the voice inside all of us that cries out, "Where is God?" And [last week](#), we looked at the work of pastoral ministers and the tension between being and doing.

When I look at Scripture, it seems as though Jesus never shied away from healing anyone (at least none that were recorded). All throughout the Gospels and mainly in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, when Jesus encounters disease and suffering, he heals. We hear endless accounts of Jesus curing lepers and the sick, of Jesus healing the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10), Jesus healing the lame and paralytics and expelling demons, the healing of the woman who touched the hem of his garment and Jairus' daughter brought to life (Mark 5:21-43; Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56), Jesus healing the blind, the deaf, and the mute, the woman who had been crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17) and the man with the withered hand (Matthew 12:9-13; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11) and today's Gospel reading, Jesus heals the paralytic whose friends brought him in through the roof (Luke 5:17-26). We are also very familiar with the stories of

Jesus offering comfort: the calming the storm (Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25), forgiving the woman caught in adultery (John 7:53-8:11), and raising Lazarus (John 11:1-44).

Jesus always confronted suffering with healing, with forgiveness of sins, and by offering hope and comfort.

It is not very clear whether Jesus ever sat and just listened to people or whether he let them set the agenda (as I suggested we should do last week - although, according to the Gospels, he never heals anyone who does not ask for it. Maybe that is letting them set the agenda).

Perhaps, however, especially during this time of the year, the kind of suffering we encounter is not the kind that needs physical healing. Perhaps it's closer to Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman from John 4:4-26. She is not crippled or ill. But she is in pain, and Jesus listens to her voice of illness. He offers her living water and, as a result, changes her life. Her "Where is God?" has been answered. But did Jesus merely listen to her and do nothing? On the contrary, he teaches her, corrects her, and offers her a solution. He fixes her problem, as he does with everyone else he heals.

Not to presume that we can operate in the same way Jesus operated. He answered, "Where is God?" by simply being God; we can't do that. I do believe that in many cases we must offer words of encouragement and, when necessary and appropriate, with charity, offer solutions. The key is first to be present (the better part, the one that Martha's sister Mary chose in Luke 10:38-42) and allow for Christ to be present.

Then, be authentic in our ministry to that person.

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and on December 12 we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. I can't help but think that maybe Mary offers us a better example. We don't know much about what she said or did except that she accepted God's will (Luke 1:38) and kept things in her heart (Luke 2:19). But we also know that she acted with haste and went to help others (Luke 1:39-56). I'd like to think that she listened and was a comforting presence to all. Last Sunday, Isaiah told us that God, like a shepherd, feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms (Isaiah 40:11). That sounds like the comfort a mother provides.

Next Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, Isaiah tells us that the Messiah will come

*"to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favour from the
LORD." (Isaiah 61:1)*

This year does not feel like it has been a year of favour for anyone: so many are in darkness. Maybe this Advent season we can make an extra effort to be present to those around us, to

let the Lord enter when we encounter the other, and to really listen to those around us and offer them real comfort. Then, offer hope. Use words of hope, bring glad tidings, proclaim liberty, and announce a year of favour!

Let me end by suggesting that if you are not sure how best to offer hope to someone this Advent season, perhaps you can light a candle of hope for them. Visit our [webpage](#) to find out how you can do that.

Come back next week as we explore what this means to all of you in pastoral work and [write to me](#) to ask questions or share your thoughts with me.



Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. And don't worry, at the end of the day he always puts the pieces back together. There are no limits to deconstructing: Write to him and ask any questions about the faith or Church teaching: pedro@saltandlighttv.org

A Main Street Tradition in Panama

(from Advent Around the World)

By Ana Valeria Luque



Advent is a time of hope, of remembrance, and most importantly, of happiness. In Panama, Christmas songs are heard in each house, garlands and ornaments emerge from seemingly forgotten boxes, nativity scenes inhabit living rooms, and elders crowd around young ones, telling them their favourite stories of Christmases long past. For as long as I can remember, I've always loved counting down the days until Christmas sweeps by, watching as it leaves behind a trail of trees and lights and everything we know and love.

One of my favourite Advent traditions is going to the business centre area - which is in one of Panama's most important (and busiest) streets - and taking pictures in front of the nativity scenes there. It started all the way back in 1991, when the insurance agency ASSA moved to the street and set up a nativity scene during Advent. The tradition caught on, and now every Advent the entire street is decorated with a nativity scene in front of each building.

The figurines are life-sized, so every single detail is noticeable - from the Blessed Virgin Mary's light blue dress and rosy cheeks to Baby Jesus "wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12) to the camels and... everything. The scene is so ethereal with the streets illuminated and children's laughter ringing throughout the street. Everything just screams HOPE.

This year, it's a little different. I'm not sure if taking pictures in front of that beautiful nativity scene will be possible, so I've created a tradition of my own. It consists of continuously worshipping and adoring God through his servant, the world's most beloved tenor, Mr. Andrea Bocelli, during and before Advent. His Christmas songs, especially "Angels We Have Heard On High" (you might know it as "In Excelsis Deo"), bring hope and love — the definition of what Advent truly is. I think I've listened to that song approximately 1,800 times in the course of one month!

2020 has been one of the most memorable years of this century, and it's impacted each and every one of us, even if we don't want to admit it. But as it says in John 1:5, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Christmastime will always be our ever-shining lamp, reminding us that eternal life has been made possible thanks to Jesus' birth. God sent Him so that we could be saved, giving us everlasting hope that we remember every year during Advent and Christmastime.

And even though we might feel at times that COVID-19 has seemingly extinguished hope, we must remember that it hasn't. As long as we have our family, our faith, and Andrea Bocelli (I'm kidding... or am I?), the spirits of Advent and Christmas will never leave us. We must trust God, placing all our hopes in Him and putting everything in His hands. After all, like St. Faustina Kowalska said, "A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God."



Photograph of Saint Mary MacKillop in 1890. Public domain

Australia celebrates 10th anniversary of St. Mary MacKillop's canonization

Rome Newsroom, Dec 7, 2020 / 09:30 am MT ([CNA](#)).- Australia is celebrating the 10th anniversary this year of the canonization of the country's first and only saint, St. Mary MacKillop.

The pioneering religious sister founded the Josephite sisters who brought schools and orphanages to the Australian outback in the 19th century despite facing numerous challenges.

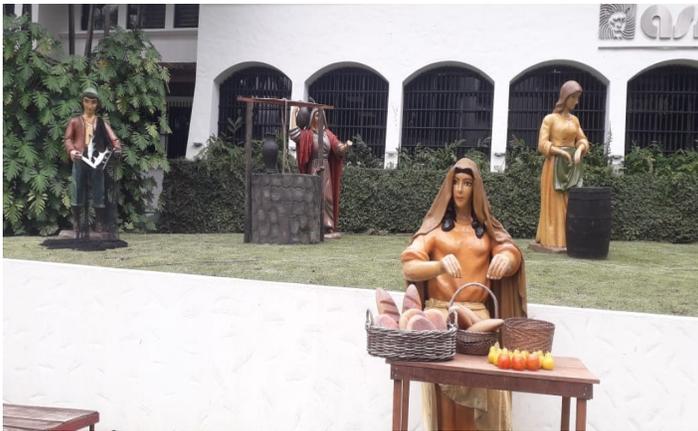
"What she stood for really encapsulates the values and spirit of Australia, and this is why her appeal goes much beyond just that of the Catholic community," the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See Chiara Porro told EWTN News.

The Australian ambassador hosted a webinar to celebrate the life of St. Mary MacKillop on Dec. 4. She said that the Australian saint provides lessons in leadership for women leaders in the Church today.

"Mary MacKillop used to say: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' And that was really what inspired her life. She went out of her way to work with those on the margins of society and set up schools for the poor, for the indigenous population who at the time were very desolate and had no hope," Porro said.

"I think for me what it shows is the role of these women, religious women, in addressing some of the most important needs of society today and particularly during times of crisis where the poorest always suffer the most."

MacKillop was the first of eight children born of Scottish immigrants in what is now Melbourne in 1842 at a time when the European settlement in Australia had been established for a little more than 50 years. Her father had studied for the priesthood in Rome for seven years before migrating to Australia where he met



[Fourteen-year-old Ana Valeria Luque lives in Panama City.](#)

Parish Message:

New Missals will soon be available at Sunday Mass for you to take home/bring back weekly for your personal use.

Calendars will be available in Dec./Jan. at Sunday Mass.

Christmas / New Year Mass Schedule: check our website and next weekly bulletin.

Other Notes

Star Child Note of Appreciation: Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to provide \$40 gift cards to the 50 children from 15 families in our Rural Food Program. The parents expressed heartfelt thanks for your support during these difficult times. Thank you all, Peg Duffy and Diane Schwab

her mother who had arrived from Scotland less than two years earlier.

The family faced continuous economic difficulties and had to move frequently. The postulator of MacKillop's cause for sainthood, Sr. Maria Casey, described the conditions at the time:

“Poverty was rife especially in country areas, religious discrimination was widespread, the plight of the aboriginal people was deplorable, unemployment was common-place and communication was difficult in the extreme. ... The Church had few priests to serve its people who were scattered around rural areas and, as a rule, were experiencing poverty. Education was limited and virtually non-existent in rural areas,” Casey said at the webinar.

“From a young age, Saint Mary had increasingly felt the call to live as a religious sister but she still had the obligation to care for her family, a burden she undertook from when she was 16 to 25.”

Mary dreamed of the possibility of offering free education for Australia's Catholic rural poor, and with the help of her spiritual director and mentor she developed a plan for a congregation of sisters to aid those in need in Australia's vast rural areas.

She began the order's work with a school in a stable in the small town of Penola, Australia in 1866. Taking the religious name St. Mary of the Cross, MacKillop founded what would go on to be the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Her sisters went on to establish many schools and orphanages across Australia, including in the "bush" areas where hardship was common.

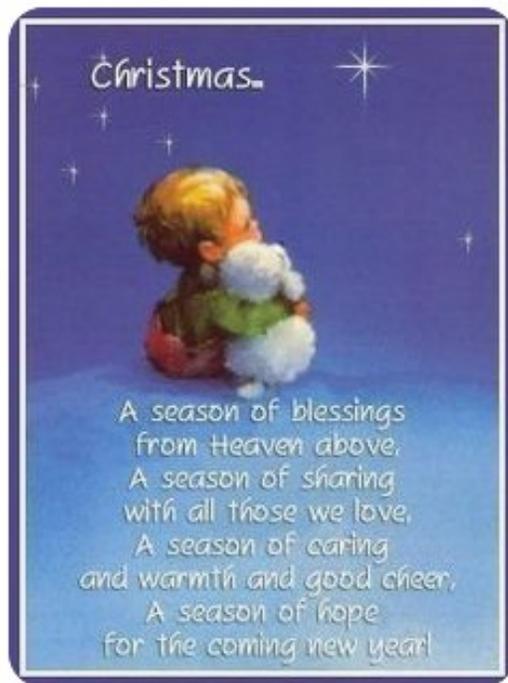
“Travel over any distance was for the fearless and tough. Roads were merely tracks through the bush, travel by steamer was not for the faint-hearted and trains were rare. Mary used all means to visit her sisters,” Sr. Casey said.

As an innovator and as a woman in the 19th century, MacKillop encountered many challenges, including from inside the Church.

“Mary envisaged the sisters being governed centrally by one superior and being free to go wherever there was a need anywhere in the colonies. ... The system of governance was contrary to that experienced in most European religious congregations of the time and was the cause of disputes with some of the bishops as the fledgling Institute expanded,” her postulator said.

“A complex set of circumstances led to the Bishop of Adelaide, who was once her friend and benefactor, excommunicating Mary in September 22, 1871 for supposed disobedience. This excommunication was invalid and unjustified in the light of later information. Mary accepted the excommunication and the dismissal of many of her sisters with serenity and peace. The Bishop revoked the sentence before his death less than six months later.”

By the time of MacKillop's death in 1909 there were 650 sisters in her congregation ministering in all Australian states and in New Zealand.



Today, the "Josephites" have extended their ministry to Ireland, Peru, East Timor, Scotland and Brazil.

St. Mary MacKillop was remembered at an event in Rome co-hosted by the Australian and U.K. Embassies to the Holy See, which also honored another innovative female Catholic leader, Blessed Mary Ward, who founded the Congregation of Jesus and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in England in the early 17th century.

The undersecretary of Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Sr. Carmen Ros Nortes, said at the webinar that both Catholic women founded religious institutes that were “born from an inspiration of the Spirit that seeks to renew the Church.”

“If we ask from where Mary MacKillop and Mary Ward received this vision of the future and the inner strength to realize it, we can only say that the Spirit blows where it wills, and that God has his time for everything,” Sr. Carmen said.

“There are men and women designated as instruments of Providence in times of great historical crisis.”



MacKillop article by [Courtney Mares](#)

