The MISSION in the year of JUSTICE

FEDERATION Be the Change

SUSTAIN

www.mwia.org.au

DECEMBER 2018

MWIA Loreto Family International Become One!

LORETO VIETNAM EDUCATION FOR CHANGE
ABOUT US
Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) is a registered charity and is the Australian and international development organisation of the Loreto Sisters.
Our Mission is to support the development works associated with the Loreto Sisters and their colleagues as they empower women to transform structures and systems that keep them oppressed and marginalised.

PROVIDE SOMETHING MORE THAN ORDINARY...
Belonging to the global Loreto IBVM network ensures that the friends of Mary Ward International Australia are part of 400 years of faith filled tradition. Each day we walk in the footsteps of Mary Ward and Saint Ignatius, making a difference of our own.
The Mission and Feast Days of our Australian Loreto schools are featured in an acknowledgment of the extraordinary efforts of all the students. Being the Year of Justice, activities were created to raise awareness of and support for MWIA projects enabling women and children in marginalised regions to transform their lives through education and opportunity.
You will smile as you read and see the many interpretations of felicity, sincerity, verity, freedom and justice. Follow us through the streets of Ballarat with the Loreto students’ walkathon, the reverent procession of young girls carrying floral tributes to the statue of our Lady at Loreto Kirribilli and onto Loreto Maryatville, where the students were encouraged to follow their dreams of creating a better world by Dreaming for Justice. See the tangible joy at Loreto Coorparoo and Loreto Nedlands as they gathered to celebrate the blessings of their community life, the students of John XXIII taking the students of Majella Catholic Primary School to the beach for the first time and the strength of the foundations of the Loreto values underpinning Loreto Toorak.

This year, as a guest speaker at Loreto Normanhurst, I witnessed the overwhelming commitment not only to the value of Justice, but to each of the five General Congregation Calls of the IBVM.
All these young students around Australia are change makers of the future.
The Loreto network connections are long standing, beginning with our school connections and continuing in a variety of relationships. In this edition we recognise the efforts of former pupils who are loyal supporters of the work of our Loreto Sisters. We are forever thankful for the friends of the Loreto Family International group and all the women and men who attended the 2018 Loreto Federation Gathering at Loreto Normanhurst in May.
As the year comes to a close, we take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks for the generous support from our friends which has enabled us to increase our global and domestic support for the projects that are truly changing lives.

Our hopes are best said on page 13 in the prayer written by the Loreto Nedlands 2018 Mary Ward Captains.
We wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and pray for a new year filled with kindness and generosity of spirit.
Warmly,
Kim Nass

SUSTAIN Mary Ward International Australia
www.mwia.org.au
INSPIRATIONAL U N I T Y

Loreto Family International & MWIA Become One

Think Loreto, think Federation, think Ballarat, think 1987...these four elements aligned and sparked the start of a revolutionary change maker, Loreto Family International.

We have recently experienced the extraordinary Loreto Spirit first-hand at the 2018 Loreto Federation, “Be the Change” – Celebrating the 30th Gathering of the Australia-wide Loreto Community. All who have attended a Loreto Federation will understand the energy it generates and its inspirational spark!

In the beginning, the funds were channelled directly into education for girls and later, into programs providing support for women and families. LFI members began by sponsoring a child at Loreto Sealdah and Elliott Road for $175 per annum. As further needs were identified, support for many programs followed:

- Darjeeling Collective Voices – set up to empower tea plantation communities in Darjeeling to know, promote, and enact their rights in education, protection, health, and nutrition. As a result of families’ participation in this program, enrolment in schools has increased to 100% and trafficking has dramatically reduced because parents are sending their children to school rather than the plantation fields to work.
- Kolkata Capacity Building – offering micro-credit programs, drop-in centres for victims of child labour, programs for identifying children who, unaided, would not be able to attend school.
- Kolkata Female Correctional Home – equipping female inmates with a vocational skill to assist them, when released, to live a life of dignity.
- Kolkata Satarda and Shilling Regions – establishing income generation projects e.g. masala grinding, canteen, micro-savings schemes, vocational training and health programs.
- Ethical Enterprises Initiative – providing training to young girls in skills relating to jute and paper products so that they would be employable and able to earn a wage.
- Two hundred teachers have been trained in primary education and education manuals in Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu have been developed.

The dedicated LFI Committee and their generous sponsors have sent more than $1.5M directly to India and the only costs to the organisation have been postage stamps for correspondence. What an outstanding record of philanthropy!

All good things must come to end, or must they?

This wonderful initiative has come full circle from its inception at the same event over thirty years ago. After much consultation, the LFI Committee and their donors decided it was time to formally join with MWIA. At the 2018 Federation, LFI’s current President, Kate Russell, handed archival material and database details over to MWIA’s Executive Officer, Kim Nass, on behalf of the committee and donors, as a symbolic gesture to indicate that future support would be given through direct donations to MWIA.

The Loreto IBVM Constitution states: “in a world of inequality and injustice we stand with the oppressed, the dispossessed and those exploited in any way by unjust systems.”

MWIA supports these goals in very practical ways, by assessing project applications, seeking funding for projects, organising the international transfer of funds and reviewing every project. MWIA also creates ways for people to collaborate with this mission for justice and development by providing opportunities for volunteers.

Loreto Family International is now a part of the MWIA family and, through donations made to MWIA, its members will continue to support the development work of the IBVM Sisters. The Annual Mass will celebrate the wonderful collaboration between LFI and MWIA this November at Loreto Toorak and a Loreto International Family Grant will be awarded annually to a project in India focusing on women’s education. The legacy of Loreto Family International will live on in the lives of those empowered by opportunities created as a result of love, generosity and compassion.

Heather Kitson
MWIA Communications Officer

Should you wish to learn more about MWIA, donate or contribute please go to www.mwia.org.au

Images
1: Brick Field Project – Kolkata, India.
2: Loreto Family International President, Kate Russell, & MWIA Executive Officer, Kim Nass.
3: Ethical Enterprises Initiative – Darjeeling, India.

The desired outcome of all Federations is that this spark is harnessed in the energy it generates and its inspirational spark! Each LFI was formed, an LFI Committee was established, and Past Pupils from all over Australia were invited to donate to provide funds to support the international development work of the Loreto Sisters, specifically in India, where in 1987 the IBVM Sisters believed, ‘the need was greatest’. Many generous and loyal donors signed up, and over 80 percent of these donors, together with some who have joined their ranks in more recent years, have continued to give over the thirty years that have followed. Most of the current committee members have served for all or almost all of those years and they have been extraordinarily grateful to the dedicated donors for their ongoing commitment to LFI.

What a unique and special idea, one that pre-dates today’s organisations like Mary Ward International and MWIA and really, is the bones of what these organisations have evolved into – the fundraising arm that supports the IBVM Sisters’ projects internationally. Colette Burnes and this small committee of Ex-Loreto students, were certainly well before their time!
Each school celebrates Mission Day with distinctive flair, creativity, joy and sheer hard work. A highlight of the school year, these days integrate prayer, reflection on the causes of injustice, student leadership and community building. This dynamic connects our school communities to the global Loreto network and invites us to celebrate, and be challenged by the essence of our Gospel call to justice.

Justice, as Mary Ward described it, involves personal integrity based on harmonious relationships with God, with other people and with the whole of creation. It is expressed in “works of justice”, active participation to bring about such harmony.

The Loreto Schools’ Mission Statement

In this Year of Justice, we invite you to delight in the extraordinary commitment of our schools to promote just relationships, advocate for the poor and share time, energy, money and love to support and uphold the dignity of those on the margins of our neighbourhoods, nation and wider world.

Anne Muirhead
Director of Mission,
Loreto Ministries Australia & South-East Asia

Images
1) Loreto Kirribilli Students place flowers in honour of Mary, Mother of Jesus.
2) Loreto Kirribilli provide wonderful support for education at Loreto Gari-uwal, Timor Leste.
LORETO KIRRIBILLI
NEW SOUTH WALES

MISSION
May Day is a very special tradition on the Loreto Kirribilli Calendar that celebrates Our Lady, Holy Mother Mary as well as our founder, Mary Ward.

TEAM
The celebrations encourage the whole school to assemble together to celebrate, to reflect and to enjoy the Loreto Spirit.

ACTION
The celebrations begin with the flower procession when students, from Kindergarten through to Year 12, participate by placing flowers on and around Mary’s statue to honour Mary, Mother of Jesus. Flowers are brought from their gardens or from the Kirribilli Florists (local flower providores rejoice on May Day too!) The students proceed to the liturgy to honour and remember Mary Ward, founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

During the liturgy, the statue of Mary is presented with a floral crown from the youngest girl at the school and the School Captain and every Circle Class presents a bouquet of flowers to decorate the sacred space. The afternoon is filled with celebrations of felicity and fun. There are various food stalls to raise funds, including a range of activities on offer to raise funds, including a finale concert of singing and dancing. At the end of the day, the flowers are delivered to the residents of James Milson Village.

TRADITION & SPIRIT OF LORETO
May has traditionally been ‘the month of Mary’ in the Catholic Church. Prayers (particularly the Rosary) and songs to Mary are performed more often during this month. The name of the month, May, comes from the Latin goddess of the earth, Maia. The practice of celebrating May Day has been celebrated in Australia since 1876 when Mother Gonzaga Barry wrote about this tradition in A Mother’s Letter to her Children in Eucalyptus Blossoms in 1895. Mary Ward, the founder of the IBVM Sisters, had a special devotion to Mary and often visited the House of Loreto in Italy (Santa Casa – The Holy House) where Mary, Mother of God was born. It is a Loreto Kirribilli tradition to honour Mary, Mother of God, during the month of May.

HELP
Activities and food stalls are integral to the day to raise funds for Mary Ward International Australia Projects. This year, to visualise our connection with Gari-uai in Timor, each class was gifted a TAIS (traditional weaving created by women of East Timor) from Sr Diaan Stuart as a visible reminder of our connection with another branch of the Mary Ward family around the world.

Images
1: Loreto Kirribilli Students deliver flowers to the residents of James Milson Village.
2: Loreto Gari uai, Timor Leste class photo.
3: Loreto Mandeville Hall Students celebrate Feast Day.
4: MWIA Powering Sustainability Project is supported by Loreto Mandeville Hall.

LORETO MANDEVILLE HALL
TOORAK VICTORIA

MISSION
We celebrate what we call Feast Day at Loreto Toorak in September each year.

TEAM
The day is run by Year 12 Student Councillors, our Year 7-11 SRCs and Year 6 Leaders, under the direction of our two Captains.

ACTION
Our day commences with a whole Loreto Toorak School Community Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral. We return to school to hold a student run ‘fete’ where the girls and staff from Prep – Year 12 are involved and the day concludes with an assembly and celebration together.

TRADITION & SPIRIT OF LORETO
On our Feast Day, we celebrate and give thanks for the many gifts of our school community and acknowledge with gratitude the vision of Mary Ward and the work of the Loreto Sisters. We do this in prayer, a shared Eucharistic Celebration and then by coming together as a whole school community to take part in our Feast Day Fete, which is student led and run. With felicity and sincerity and in a spirit of JUSTICE this day embodies the Loreto Values upon which our school is grounded.

Our Feast Day always focuses on supporting the work of MWIA through a particular project chosen by our student leaders. Our school community learns about the project and its focus as well as the wider work of MWIA in the lead up to Feast Day and this strengthens our connection with another branch of the Mary Ward family around the world. Our school community is moved to understand the reasons support for the project is needed and the longer-term development outcomes hoped for in working towards justice for those whom the project will benefit. Our focus on justice in 2018 has emphasised the basis of ‘right relationships’ and this aspect underpins our learning and our practical support for the work of MWIA, as we also encourage our girls to be ‘doers of justice’ in their own lives.

HELP
In 2017 we supported Loreto Rumbek, South Sudan raising funds for the work of the community and in particular their Powering Sustainability Project to support the work of the Health Centre.

Michelle McCarty
Director of Mission & Leadership
Mission Day is celebrated in May.

The day is always a success because of the many staff and students involved in organising and running the day. Pastoral Leaders of the school play a major role in the preparation and in the work on the day. As well, a few student committees and service groups such as Mary Ward @ Coorparoo, the Caritas Group, the St Vincent de Paul Chapter, the Social Justice Council and the Student Representative Council run stalls (mostly food) on the day. The House Captains are also important organisers of the entertainment and competitions.

Mission Day begins with a general presentation given by our Social Justice Council Leader about the work of MWIA. Following this, the Year 12 students run justice workshops that focus specifically on the MWIA Project being supported on the day. There are a number of food stalls at morning tea and lunch. Each house prepares a jazz dance (Years 10 - 12) and a choir song (Years 7 - 9), overall house winners are awarded a trophy. There are also different fete style stalls and activities such as tombola, lip sync, trivia, sideshow alley and other fun activities.

Mission Day at Coorparoo is a felicitous occasion that brings the staff and students together in a circle of friends through the organisation and running of the day. It allows us as a community to celebrate the talents of our young women and to work as one to ensure a great day and to raise awareness of the wonderful blessings of our community.

The involvement of almost all of the justice groups in the school in preparing and running the day clearly links the day to justice. However, the presentation and workshops that begin the day are a very clear and concrete way to promote and ensure the focus of the day is about JUSTICE.

This year we have decided again to support the Gari-uai Project in Timor Leste. A group of students and staff visited Gari-uai in September 2017 on immersion and these girls presented their stories to the school community on the day.

Loreto Normanhurst celebrates Loreto Day as our main Mission Day each year.

Loreto Day is a whole-school event, led by Year 11 Students, who work closely with staff on the Pastoral and Mission Teams.

We begin with a Celebration of the Eucharist, where we bring our minds and hearts to God and focus on the people who are at the centre of our efforts. After the Celebration of the Eucharist, the school comes alive with stalls and House activities. Lots of gold coins come out! Guests from two of our local schools, with children who have special needs, join us in the festivities and participate in an afternoon concert highlighting the talents of students from each school and occasionally staff. All have much fun!

The students consider what is central to who we are at Loreto Normanhurst when choosing their cause. Firstly, the GC Calls of the IBVM: Call 1: Reclaim the freshness of the Gospel allowing Jesus to transform our lives. Call 2: Bring those forced to live in poverty to the centre of our lives and ministry. Call 3: Go where the need is greatest. Call 4: Live sustainably, discerning what is enough. Call 5: Create the oneness that moves us across boundaries. Thirdly, our Strategic Plan must be reflected in every aspect of the day, ‘A Faith Centred School, A Person-Centred School and An Ecology-Centred School’.

At Loreto Normanhurst, ecology and sustainability is important. These concepts help us to focus our minds and hearts on the gift of God’s creation and the need for us as individuals to be responsible stewards of resources; there is no point raising money for a cause if, by doing so, you are careless and wasteful of resources. Students even have a sustainability committee who are responsible for encouraging and monitoring the ethical sourcing of materials and minimising waste and single use plastics and disposable items.

Finally, the cause must be aligned with a Mary Ward International Australia Project or work that supports a Loreto Sister or ex-student and have a focus on women and children. This year the cause was The House of Welcome in Sydney.

Sustained and enriched by a spiritual foundation, the Loreto Normanhurst community向着 a vision of a school where the values of the Loreto Tradition are lived.

**MISSION**


**TEAM**

Loreto House and Koolyangarra House follow the Loreto Values and Charism of Mary Ward. Loreto is one of six “Faith and Mission” days or works going on at the College.

**ACTION**

Our Loreto House Day incorporated cooking for the Western Australia Catholic Archdiocese Charity Shopfront. Volunteers of Loreto House helped make 100 meals for the homeless on Loreto Day. Our Loreto House Day is a celebration that incorporates an assembly, food and a Community Mass.

**TRADITION & SPIRIT OF LORETO**

In the Mary Ward Year that values Justice, a great example of ‘Justice-in-Action’ was our current Loreto House Captain organising a day at the beach for Majella Catholic Primary Students. Majella Catholic Primary School is situated in Balga, Perth and has a large population of migrant and refugee families.

At JOHN XXIII’s Leadership Retreat, the Majella Catholic Primary School’s Deputy, Chris Burns, told how the children were on an excursion passing Lake Monger and mistook it for the beach. In this moment, it became apparent the children had never seen a beach. In response Captain of Loreto House, Georgia Williams, organised a day at the beach in conjunction with her Surf lifesaving Club (City of Perth) and other Loreto House students.

**HELP**

Western Australia Catholic Archdiocese Charity

Cameron Haines
Loreto House Coordinator

**MISSION**

Loreto Mission Day is held in September, last week of Term 3.

**TEAM**

The Leadership Team oversee the planning and preparations – Principal, Deputy and Assistant Principal. Year 5 and Year 6 students apply for a licence to run their nail polish, hair colouring, games, and various stalls; there are also, sticks in the sand, lucky dips, trash n’ treasure, drinks and lollies.

**ACTION**

The morning begins with the Loreto Mission Day Prayer Service; this involves a procession of items that reflect Mary Ward and Loreto Nedlands and students from all year levels are responsible for the readings and prayers. Each class also presents a brief summary of the project and country they have been learning about in class, for example Year 1 Students are currently learning about projects in Vietnam.

The Mission Day Fair commences at 12 noon and everyone participates. Our whole school comes together to view our ‘Loreto’s Got Talent Show!’ The afternoon concludes with our ‘Happy Holiday’s Hymn’.

**TRADITION & SPIRIT OF LORETO**

Loreto Nedlands “sense of social justice” is not, only confined to our Loreto Week or Mission Day. We strive all year to promote a sense of justice in our students throughout the various gatherings, weekly assemblies and fundraising events held during the year. Throughout the year, we also have visitors, sisters, and volunteers, who meet with the students. These people share their stories about the work they have been doing in various countries around the world, and where the students fundraising money goes.

**HELP**


Claudia di Biaggio
Mission Coordinator

**ORETO NEDLANDS PRAYER FOR JUSTICE 2018**

as written by our 2018 Mary Ward Captains

God of all people and nations, We gaze at the beauty of creation that you have made. You made us all different and you love each one of us. May we learn to walk your way of justice and compassion with all your people.

In a special way we keep in mind the children women and men around the world who live in poverty. Please help us to protect our environment too, keeping it safe for future generations to enjoy.

Following the example of Mary Ward, assist us in being “seekers of truth and doers of justice.”

We ask this in the name Jesus, Amen.
**MISSION**

At Loreto Marryatville (SA), it is simply called ‘Mission Day’ and is in September each year.

**TEAM**

It is a whole school event – Reception to Year 12 and the student executive leaders run it.

**ACTION**

The Social Justice and Executive Leaders will be promoting why we have a Mission Day in our weekly assemblies leading up to Mission Day. We give special emphasis to the pilgrimage students from our school are about to undertake. This year a group of students and staff are going to Vietnam/Cambodia, whilst last year it was India (Sealdah, Lolay, Panghatta).

The day commences with a whole school liturgy. The senior school has the pleasure of listening to our guest speaker and then the fun begins! The talent show includes all years and the many varied talents of our students. Celebrity judges are invited to judge the talent show and in past years, we have had Olympians, Old Scholars and personalities. After lunch, each Home Class is responsible for food stalls and activities, each raising lunch, each Home Class is responsible for food stalls and activities, each raising funds for our Mission Day cause.

The chosen theme for Mission Day this year is DREAMING FOR JUSTICE! This theme fits perfectly into the Mary Ward Value of Justice, which we have been celebrating in our school community this year. We encourage all students to follow their dreams of creating a better world, and dress up as whatever they believe would make this world a better place. This theme can be interpreted differently according to how each girls sees fit, therefore the possibilities are endless! The girls can come as something male-believe, as something they wish was true and only see in their dreams, mermaids, unicorns, fairies… think magically or they can come as politicians, human-rights advocates, famous feminists, people they believe would make this world a better place.

**HELP**

Money raised goes to Mary Ward International - Australia.

Mr David Hall

Head of Senior School

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**MISSION**

The Loreto Ballarat Walkathon happens in April each year.

**TEAM**

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee with entire school participation.

**ACTION**

Organisation of the event includes contacting sponsors, preparing sponsorship cards, decorating the gymnasium, preparing rosters for stalls, ordering food and drinks, cooking, organising raffles as well as planning and logistics of the day. Over 1000 students and staff dress in costume for the 12 km scenic walk through bush, parkland and streetscapes of Ballarat.

There is always great anticipation for the Walkathon theme to be decided by the JPIC Committee and presented at the first whole school assembly in Term 1.

With much anticipation, the Ballarat Community warmly welcome the annual colourful and creative parade of students crossing busy streets in full costume. Often it’s a spectacle that makes the local news and further raises awareness for the cause.

The day concludes with a whole school fashion parade (including teachers) in the gymnasium, where costumes are added to, primped and prepared, before hitting the catwalk. The creative, friendly, highly competitive parade, with the odd Nutbush dance thrown in to keep everyone moving, is a highlight and fitting finale to the day.

**TRADITION & SPIRIT OF LORETO**

Loreto College Ballarat proudly celebrates our inimitable Loreto Spirit and unique identity in this region as the only Catholic girls’ school. There are often past pupils or families of Loreto that stop to cheer the girls, rejoicing in their memories of time at Loreto and their participation in the annual Walkathon. All local news media share the full story of the event and inform the community about our fundraising efforts. Loreto Ballarat Walkathon is an annual event that promotes a highly visible sense of social justice.

Loreto Values of Verity, Sincerity, Felicity, Freedom and Justice, all actively demonstrated, as is the strength of connection between Loreto College and the Ballarat Community. The whole schools visible participation shares the clear message that social justice is everyone’s concern, not just individuals or groups, but everyone!

**HELP**

The JPIC Committee decide where monies raised on the day are to be distributed. In 2018 it will be directed to support the Ballarat Winter Relief Appeal and MWIA Projects.

Mandy Carroll

Director of Faith and Mission

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Mandy Carroll

Director of Faith and Mission
The message Loreto is bringing to the world is one that speaks strongly to me – I care deeply about the youth of Vietnam, the power of education and the inequalities that exist still today in both rural and urban parts of the country. That is why I want to support Loreto in whatever way I can, to help change educational opportunities and impact positive change in Vietnam.

Phillip Nguyen
Loreto Ambassador

How to help Loreto Vietnam

People can support through donating, fundraising, volunteering or becoming an advocate or spokesperson for the charity.

Loreto Vietnam strongly relies upon the generosity and goodwill of its supporters and donors to operate and make a positive, long-term impact in Vietnam’s poorest communities.

For tax-deductible donations go to:
www.mwia.org.au
Loreto Federation is the coming together of Loreto past students Australia-wide, and their family and friends. It generally happens every three years and this year the 30th Gathering of the Loreto Family, entitled “Be the Change,” occurred on the Pentecost weekend 18-20 May 2018 at Loreto Normanhurst, Sydney.

There were many facets to this meeting of minds and hearts which led to great conversations and explorations of important social, cultural and government themes and issues, relative to contemporary society. The weekend also provided much good-hearted laughter and cheer as Loreto friends and family re-connected.

The event opened with a beautiful liturgy in the Chapel, followed by a splendid cocktail party enhanced by the extraordinary talent of past pupil, Ms Katie Hardyman (LN, ’88), accompanied by the gifted Loreto Normanhurst singers and musicians.

Saturday started bright and early with the critical question, ‘How, through education, can we better engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community, to reach the best outcomes?” Considering this question was a panel consisting of Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, two Aboriginal students and a past pupil from Loreto Normanhurst; with Michael Combs, CEO Founder of Career Trackers. Genevieve Jacobs (LN,’84), journalist and former ABC presenter, facilitated.

Loreto Normanhurst is part of an excellent scholarship program that provides education and boarding for first nation students. The three Loreto Normanhurst students, who are currently on or who have benefitted from the program, are impressive, and confident young women who told of their experience and how they overcame the difficulties of becoming boarding students at a Sydney private school. Sarah (Broome), Lianne (Bourke) and Ciara (Darwin) spoke with much love of their school experience and the opportunities it has gifted them. Sarah credited her time at Loreto Normanhurst with igniting the spark of a love for education, which ultimately led to her decision to study primary school teaching at university.

Many great suggestions came from this panel discussion: that Aboriginal Studies should be a curriculum subject studied by all students, that Indigenous heritage and culture should be present and reflected in daily school life and that continually seeking feedback from participants of the program is essential. Continuing to seek answers, improve and take action are all necessary components for ‘better engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.’

Would it not be a good thing for all Loreto girls to Federate? Federate to lend a helping hand to whatever is good and beautiful, noble and useful in the world around.

Mother Gonzaga Barry 1897
Next on the program was the very impressive Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally. She asked, ‘Is the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such as fertility, Kristina raised concerns about the church failing by not having women in the room? When discussing issues that directly impact on women such fertility, Kristina asked whether priests becoming isolated and irrelevant unless women were considered ‘more than the strawberries on the cake’ is a part of the whole cake – the flour, the sugar, the essence.’ The very pragmatic Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO believed change was coming but suggested ‘it would come suddenly and out of crisis.’ It was a lively debate, refreshing in its honesty and with much participation from the audience.

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After a lovely lunch in perfect sunshine, we returned to hear past pupil, Dr Sally Greenaway (L.N. ’77) speak on ‘When caring requires a revolution.’ The attendees were then invited to choose from a selection of small group breakout sessions. Some found themselves building prosthetic hands for The Helping Hand Program that donates to amputee landmine victims throughout the developing world. Others joined in creating a collaborative Federation artwork underpinned by the identity of place. Whilst others experienced the power of song, a debate around euthanasia, or discussions on acts of justice that concluded with the experience of the Ignatian spiritual practice of the Magis Circle.

At the well-attended Federation Dinner, held in the Ballroom at Daltone House Hyde Park, we were led by comedian and ex-student Jo O’Reilly (L.K. ’83) as Master of Ceremonies. An outstanding performance from ex-student Elise McCann (L.N. ’02), performing a medley of songs, including from her award-winning role as Miss Honey in the musical Matilda. It was a joyous evening that finished on an absolute high with all in attendance standing and joining to sing the ‘Hymn’. On Sunday Fr Chris Gleeson SJ celebrated the morning Eucharist and then it was back to considering ‘Taking on the Change’ with a panel facilitated by ex-student Dr Virginia Small (L.N. ’77). The final day, fittingly finished with ex-student Sadie Harmer (L.K. ’89) re-capping the experience of a small group who harnessed the flame from the 2015 Bangalore Federation. They pooled their resources and collected from donors to purchase a second-hand car to teach members of the Northern Beaches newly-arrived Tibetan Community how to drive. The story was heartfelt, humorous and enthralling as Sadie relayed the accident that has ensued since the program’s inception, thankfully without serious injury.

Kim Nass spoke about Mary Ward International Australia’s (MWIA) projects and thanked Kate Russell of Loreto Family International (LFI) for over thirty years of support and contribution to the IBVM Sisters’ Projects in India (see article on LFI on page 4). MWIA currently oversees 20 projects in eight countries, providing education, protection and shelter to the most vulnerable. Cate Sydes, CEO of Loreto Ministries, was our final speaker and gave us an update on Loreto Ministries and the future.

Sr. Wendy Hildebrand’s summary of Federation was that “Through prayer, input, dialogue, shared meals and stories delegates were prompted and encouraged to consider how our actions large and small can have a transformative impact on our world. Encouraged once more by Mother Gonzaga Barry, let us strive to do good…” “It may seem to you that you cannot do much but, you will do much if you do all you can and do it with a great and generous heart and a humbled mind and do it for God’s sake.”

So, Mother Gonzaga Barry challenged Loreto past pupils to unite together with spirit and passion to lend a helping hand to make the world a better place…

Heather Kitson
MWIA Communications Officer
The House of Welcome: Empowered to Work Program

Empowered to Work Program assists people seeking asylum in Australia to overcome barriers to employment and is a valuable step towards re-establishing a sense of hope, dignity and belonging. With many asylum seekers now receiving work rights, the need for support services is essential. In 2018, the Empowered to Work Program has given 220 asylum seekers community support to join the Australian workforce. All thanks to the generosity of MWIA donors and to the growing team of volunteers, who provide HR assistance with coaching and training. Empowered to Work Program recently won the STARTTS Humanitarian Award for Best Project 2018.

WWW.STARTTS.ORG.AU

Images: 1. Sr. Libby Rogerson with successful recipients of the Work & Welcome Program L-R: Rija Kamara, Kadiatu Turay, Sonya Kajjar, Anbreen Shah, Malisha Kerrin. 2. MWIA Empowered to Work Program recently won the STARTTS Humanitarian Award for Best Project 2018.

Should you wish to learn more about The House of Welcome or donate to this project go to www.mwia.org.au

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MWIA is a full member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, managing our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

Mary Ward International Australia is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

MWIA acknowledges the traditional custodians of this country and offer our respect to the elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia.

SUSTAIN Mary Ward International Australia
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