AMM National Office, 172 Balaclava Rd, Marsfield, NSW 2122.
Phone: (02) 9878 4617.
Email: dcmedals@pacific.net.au.
Coordinator: Sr Marie Westblade, DC.

Miraculous Medal Association Australia

Incorporating AMM Sydney, New South Wales
AMM Adelaide, South Australia. And Nausori, Fiji.

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Inside this issue:

Gospel for Christmas Day Luke 2: 1-14 1.

Christmas—New Year-Reflection 2.

Celebrations for the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal 3.

.Feast day celebrations, continued 4.

Appendix:
News from St Catherine Laboure Parish, Gymea
The Mercy Bus. The Tablet, Nov, 2016

Christmas Night Gospel: Luke @ 1-14

Caesar August issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census—the first—took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you : you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

" Glory to God in the high-

To all our members, and all our readers, We hope and pray that this Christmas Season has been a truly blessed time for you and yours, and wish you all God's blessings for the year ahead.

May you come to experience each day the ever-faithful love your God has for you, and may Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother too, through her intercession, enable you to become the person of faith, hope and love God calls you to be, May God's peace, hope and joy be

Christmas - New Year Reflection

It is difficult to establish the historical details of Jesus' birth. However it is clear from what we read in the Gospel of Luke, that Jesus' birth is placed within the context of world history. The taking of the census and the journey it involved enables the writer to emphasise the following. As prophesied of the Messiah, Jesus belonged to the royal family of David and he was born in Bethlehem. Also, Mary, though only betrothed to Joseph, gives birth to Jesus in very humble and squalid circumstances. It is important for us to note that the Good News that this event means for the world is first announced to the marginalized, to lowly shepherds, and that the message of the angel identifies the lowly born Jesus as savior, messiah and lord. Jesus' birth results in glory being given to God, bringing peace to all who enjoy God's favour.

Mary laid Jesus 'in a manger'. This child was to be God's response to the hunger of his flock, as we read in the prophet Micah. "he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God." (Micah 5 v 3)

Luke explains why Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in bands of cloth, (swaddling clothes) and laid him in a manger, 'because there was no place for them in the inn'. The guest room was not available, but it was no place for Jesus, who has not come as a guest, but as one spoken of by Jeremiah, who said, "O hope of Israel its savior in time of trial why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveller turning aside for the night".. ,.

In another Christmas Gospel passage, from the beginning of the Gospel of John, we read. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." Some Scripture scholars suggest we read this as 'The Word pitched his tent and lived among us.' In the Book of Sirach, we read how God pitched his tent in Israel (Sirach 24 :3-12) Here we have another reminder of how close our God is to us. Jesus has come to live among us, - He pitched his tent among us –he has come to enter into our human lives, to share fully in our human experience, so that we might eventually share in his divinity. In our Eucharistic celebration, as the celebrant prepares the gifts for consecration, he pours a few drops of water into the wine that has been poured into the chalice. As he does this, he prays; "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

And the Opening Prayer for the Eucharist on Christmas Day sums up what this should mean for us.

".O God who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. "

January 1st is the Octave Day of Christmas and the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. In the Gospel for this day, we read from St Luke how the shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem and made known to Mary and Joseph what had been made known to them about this child. And Luke tells us, "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Luke has presented Mary to us as the perfectly obedient 'servant of the Lord' (Luke 1:38) The word translated 'pondered' is the Greek word from which we get our word 'symbol'. Mary held all that happened in her heart, knowing that the meaning of it all would one day come together, as God's purpose unfolded through her and through her child. Mary is presented to us as the one who most perfectly lives out the qualities expected by Jesus of his disciples. Above all we here witness the quality of her faith. She is asked to trust that God will enlighten her in time as to the meaning of the mystery in which she has become involved. She has said 'yes' to God. Now she must be attentive to every word that comes from God's mouth, and every event that happens in her life. May Mary help us to be the disciples that Jesus calls us to be in our world today. May she help us during this coming year to ponder within our hearts, that is in the centre of our being where all our thoughts, desires, affections, hopes and decisions come from. How can I best develop that reflective, pondering spirit that enables me to be in touch with Christ's ever faithful love for me, assured by his loving presence in the experience of my daily living, that enables me to have something of Mary's faith and hope, so that my attitudes, affections, desires, and decisions etc, will come from a truly pondering heart, and where I can thus share the ever-faithful love of God that I experience, with those I meet each day, especially the poor and disadvantaged of our world.

.CELEBRATIONS FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL.

ADELAIDE

The Association of OLMM here in Adelaide, has celebrated the annual feast day honouring our Blessed Mother. It was held on the 26th of November, 2016 at the Mater Christi Parish in Seaton. The celebrant was Rev. Father Roger Manalo, CS, chaplain for the Filipino Community and concelebrated by Rev. Father Severino Bustamante, parish priest of St. Francis de Assisi in Newton. Deacon Arturo Jimenea who was assigned at the Parish of St Augustine in Salisbury was also present on the Eucharistic Celebration.

We started it with the procession of the image of Our Lady in the parish ground of Mater Christi. The weather was so nice, a low 20° C, so a lot of people joined the procession. It was followed by the Rosary and Novena During the rosary children offered flowers to the Virgin Mary after the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mysteries, while the choir sang a hymn for Mary. Every year we celebrate this feast day to honour our Blessed Mother and express our love to her during this special day. We give thanks for making our lives more meaningful, that we become caring individuals who are willing to share our blessings, our resources and our own talents to others.

Through our devotion to Mary, we're able to meet other people and later on we become part of their lives because every year they ask the image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to be brought to their homes, to pray the Rosary and Novena and to give thanks for all the blessings they receive from the Lord.

The celebration is very successful and very well attended having our prayers answered by having nice weather. I thank all the members of the Association, most especially to the core group members, all the sponsors, and all who contributed for the entertainment and to all the people who give their time, effort and help to make the occasion a memorable one.

Special thanks to the priests and deacon who celebrated the Eucharist and to all distinguished guests who came and celebrated with us, especially to Sr. Kathleen Boland DC and Sr. Maeve O' Brien DC, and also to the Religious Franciscan Sisters of St. Anthony, Sr. Quintilia Trotta, Sr. Renata Payan and Sr. Lisel Genes. I'd also like to thank Dame Rosemary Milisits and to Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo Juanta, Honorary Consul General for the Filipino Community in South Australia.

We will continue our journey of the spreading the news of our salvation to all the people as Jesus Christ our Lord had said, through our devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. May the Lord bless us and protect us, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

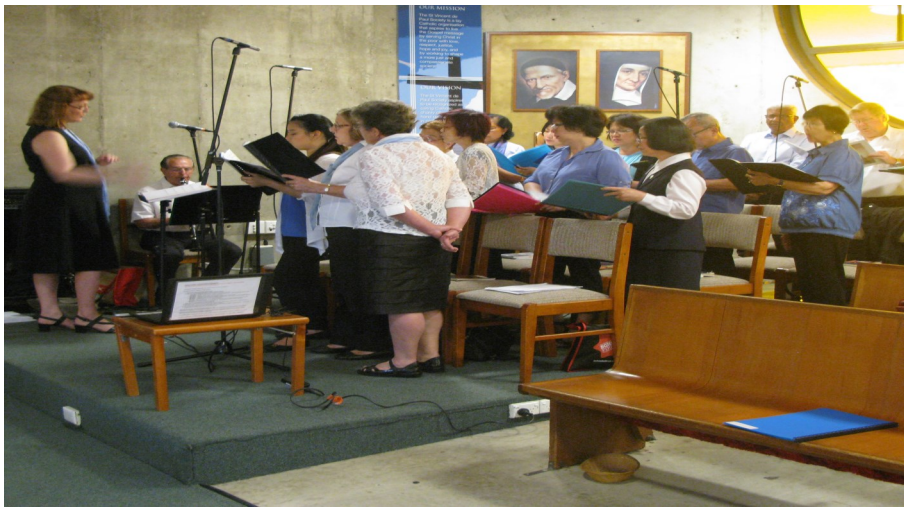
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Francisco Leoncio Chairperson, Association of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

BLACKTOWN, SYDNEY, NSW

The Children of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal (Association of Miraculous Medal – Blacktown) celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal on the 26th of November 2016 at the Sacred Heart Parish, Mt. Druitt, (picture at right). The occasion culminated with the celebration of the Feast Day Mass at 9:00 a.m. celebrated by Reverend Carl Ashton, followed by consecration and the Living Rosary. This year's prayer intentions were thanksgiving, special prayer for the deceased members of AMM and special prayers for children, women and men caught in the midst of war, poverty and all sorts of physical and mental sufferings. Around 50 AMM members, parishioners and friends joined the celebration. Thanksgiving meals were shared and each member was delighted to receive the miraculous medal and prayer booklet from AMM. Our members were especially grateful for all the prayers and support such as the sharing of the special readings for the Holy Mass, the medals and prayer booklet we received from AMM.

MARSFIELD, SYDNEY, NSW:

The annual Eucharistic celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was very well attended in St Anthony's Church, Marsfield, the celebrant being our National Director, Fr Kevin Canty, CM. There was also a good attendance at the Morning Tea in the Parish Hall, following the Mass. (Photos below) Our thanks to all those who took part in this celebration, especially the Parish Choir, who once again enhanced our celebration with their singing, and to all who provided very adequately for our morning tea..

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