The Miraculous Medal Association Australia

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Bulletin No 17 Issue 1
1st February 2018

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

Inside this issue:

Reports from our AMM in Marsfield, Sydney, Adelaide, SA, and Blacktown, Sydney

Extracts from the letter of Fr Tomaz Mavric CM, Director General of the AMM for the closing of the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism.

On the threshold of the Fifth century of the Vincentian Charism.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens." **(Ephesians 1:3).**

To all the members of the Vincentian Family.

Dear sisters and brothers in St Vincent.

As we officially end, on this 25th January 2018, the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism, with exuberant hearts we can repeat Saint Paul's words written at the beginning of his letter to the Ephesians. Heaven has given us blessings on many different levels: on the personal level, on the level of each branch, and on the level of the Vincentian Family as a whole. May this experience remain for us a source to keep deepening, developing, and extending the Vincentian Charism to produce ever more new fruits.

During the Jubilee Year the Vincentian Family organized so many wonderful initiatives, projects, and celebrations on the local, national, and international levels

After referring to some of the initiatives organized on the international level, Fr Tomaz suggested: "As we now begin the fifth century of the Vincentian Charism, I would like to suggest as first steps on this path the following two initiatives.

a. to renew and deepen our relationship with the Saints, Blessed., and Servants of God of the Vincentian Family around the world as models of the Vincentian charism and spirituality.
b. To renew and deepen the 'Culture of Vocations'"

It is our intention in future Bulletins, to take up the first of these two initiatives, by offering reflections on some of the Vincentian saints and Blessed and Servants of God, as suggested by our Director General.

Fr. Kevin Canty, CM
National Director.

NEWS FROM AMM IN SYDNEY

1. Sr Marie Westblade DC: Golden Jubilee

We extend our congratulations to our National Coordinator, Sr Marie Westblade, DC, who in early January celebrated 50 Years of dedicated and faithful service as a Daughter of Charity. On January 6th, 2018, at a Mass at Elizabeth House, Marsfield, celebrated by our National Director, Fr Kevin Canty, CM, and attended by a number of her Sisters, Sr Therese Haywood, DC, presented Sr Marie with a special commemorative candle. Also present at this celebration were Sr Marie's sister and brother-in-law, Kath and Bill Kelly. All present enjoyed a celebratory meal following the Mass.

(Pictures show Sr Marie with Sr Therese Haywood, and the commemorative candle, and Sr Marie with her sister and brother-in-law, Kath and Bill Kelly.)

2. Feast Day Eucharistic Celebration, St Anthony's, Marsfield, Saturday, November 25th, 2017

Once again a good number of our members and visitors attended the celebration of the Eucharist for the Feast of the Manifestation of the Miraculous Medal in St Anthony's Church, Marsfield. The celebrant was our National Director, Fr Kevin Canty, CM, and following the Eucharist, a number were enrolled in the Miraculous Medal, before all moved to the Parish Hall for morning tea.

3. Donation to Daughters of Charity, Province of South India.

At a meeting of our Core group in September, 2017 it was decided to follow our usual custom and send $1000 to an overseas mission. The mission decided upon was the Daughters of Charity in the Province of South India. The following is the letter we received from Sister Rose Chirayil, Provincial, on the receipt of our donation.

27 December, 2017
Dear Sister Marie and all the members of the AMM.
Prayerful Christmas greetings and love from all the sisters of the provincial house. Dear friends hereby I take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable contribution of money and love towards the poor and the needy. I wish and pray that God may be your reward for your good heart. We will be utilising this money for the benefits of the poor., especially the poor people who have been affected with the recent ochi cyclone in Kerala and the Kanyakumari side. Many fishermen went to sea for the fishing and never returned till today. More than 900 missing and nearly 300 bodies have been found so far. Due to that many families livelihood is gone into the sea and many mothers and children left without work and money. So together with church authorities we are helping them in many ways such as repairing of the houses, food materials, clothes, new fishing nets, etc. Dear Sr Marie, thank you for sending the money and when it is credited to our bank account I will let you know about it. So, once again I wish you all the best in your dedicated and faithful service to the church and to others.
God bless you all.
With lots of love and prayers.
Sr Rose Chirayil, DC.

(On 6th January, 2018, Sr Marie received an email stating that the money had been received in their bank account, and with extended thanks and best wishes.)

NEWS FROM ADELAIDE, SA

Feast Day Celebration in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Adelaide, South Australia

The Association of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal SA Chapter celebrated the feast day on Saturday, 25^{5h} of November 2017. It was started with the procession of the Statue of Our Lady around the vicinity of the Parish, followed by the rosary, novena, and the Eucharistic celebration. It was held at Mater Christi Church in Seaton and celebrated by most Reverend Father Philip Marshall, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Adelaide, concelebrated by Reverend Father Roger Manalo CS, Chaplain to the Filipino Community and Parish Priest of Mater Christi, Reverend Father Severino Bustamante, Parish Priest of St. Francis de Assisi in Newton and also with deacon Arturo Jimenea from the Parish of St. Augustine Church in Salisbury.

It is indeed a very pleasant occasion and a lot of attendees, considering the weather is just on the mid twenty's After the mass, there were gathering and fellowship at the parish hall, where the sponsors and members of the Association, prepare the food, entertainment and raffles for people to enjoy the day. You can see the smile on their face as we celebrate the occasion because they know that the food and the entertainment are well prepared and at the same time they became part of the charitable contribution that we made to our four beneficiaries.

For more than two decade now that we do this special occasion and doing the rosary and novena to Our Lady to any different families all around Adelaide for almost every Saturday of the year People started to know the devotion to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, they asked for visitation for their families by the blessed Mother to their place. They willingly want to become a sponsors or donate money on our feast day celebration, which we gave to charitable institution here in Australia and in the Philippines.

We reach out to people to have devotion to Mary and share their blessings to the others, to the needy and less fortunate. May the blessings of the Lord be with us and ·through the intercession of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, may we become workers of the truth and justice of the gospel and to be loving and caring individuals.

From: The Association of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and all each members.
Francisco Leoncio
Chairperson, AOLMM

FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACLOUS MEDAL—BLACKTOWN CHAPTER

On the 25th of November, 2017, we celebrated the feast day of our Lady of Miraculous Medal. In the past six years, the Sacred Heart Parish in Mount Druitt, NSW under the leadership of Father Carl Ashton welcomed and continuously supported our members in this celebration. It's amazing how the local parishioners embraced and became an integral part of the yearly celebration. The feast begun with the Holy Mass officiated by Father Ashton, followed by the prayer of the rosary and short procession with the image of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal around the church block. While this year's celebration was not as well attended as the previous years, it was remarkable how these loosely organised members shared their ever growing bond with the Lady of Miraculous Medal and among themselves.

Our journey with the Blessed Virgin Mary….
Home visits with the image of the Miraculous Medal remain the main activity of the group. It was during these visits that members experienced the intercession of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal in their healing, comfort and renewed strength, growth in faith and deeper understanding of the love of God. A mother who was visited by the image of the Miraculous Medal for the first time in January 2017 shared miraculous healing. The aggressive tumour in her brain stopped growing immediately after the visit and the doctors' prognosis of her condition dramatically improved since then. An older lady shared how praying the rosary with the Miraculous Medal provided her comfort from her deep sadness due to her husband's passing. There were many stories of answered prayers for finding job, family reconciliation and peace among members. We have witnessed renewed strength from our seriously ill members, even peaceful passing of members or their loved ones. While there is no deliberate effort to spread the devotion, it is amazing how new homes and several lives were touched and hopefully changed for the better year after year

Community outreach…
We believe that the Virgin Mary touches and wants to use us in helping her less fortunate children. One of the organizers of the Miraculous Medal Blacktown, Donna Ponce has been blessed with strong desire to help the needy in Mindoro, Philippines. Since 2010, about six outreach activities have been conducted already. Food, school supplies, used clothing and others were shared during the outreach. In 2019, a medical mission is being planned. While members provide voluntary contribution (cash and in kind), it's the huge sacrifices of Donna and her family made the outreach possible.