

# Companions of St Joseph visit Mount Street

In July a group of Companions of St Joseph from Adelaide travelled to North Sydney for a reflection weekend. The reflection was led by Sr Susan Pollard RSJ.

The Companions of St Joseph are an association of the lay faithful. The group is formally recognised by the church and live as companions, according to the spirit of St Joseph and inspired by the example of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.



The group of Companions with Susan Pollard and Anne-Marie Gallagher

The group stayed at Anderledy Lodge in Mary MacKillop Place. This was the first visit to Mount Street for most Companions and even the first visit to Sydney for one!

The group attended various sessions led by Susan in the small Chapel at Anderledy Lodge where they read the Gospel, reflected upon the Josephite charism and the importance of lay people in the church today. One session was attended by Sr Katherine Tyrrell RSJ. Katherine is on the national Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia team. Another session was attended by Sr Margaret Press RSJ, a Federation Josephite. It was such a wonderful experience to be able to meet and discuss the role of the Companions with such inspirational women.



Some of the Companions and Susan with Sr Margaret Press

The group also met and had a lot of contact and many laughs with Sr Anne-Marie Gallagher from Sydney (what a hoot!). Being of such a young age, Anne-Marie was truly vibrant and totally inspirational to us all. Even though there was a lot of time spent on reflection, prayer and discernment, there was still plenty of time for a lot of laughter and fun.

The group had plenty of opportunity to explore Mary MacKillop Place and visit the museum, gift shop/café and Chapel and spend time praying at Mary's tomb.

Madeleine Brennan and Robyn Mercer were given the opportunity to meet with Sr Anne Derwin and Sr Eileen Lenihan from the Congregational Leadership Team and were able to explain who the Companion of St Joseph are.



Madeleine, Robyn and Angela

The group was very fortunate in that there was a life commitment ceremony taking place for Rose Vu in the Mary MacKillop Chapel on the Saturday morning which we were invited to attend. At this we were introduced to many Sisters including most of the Congregational Leadership Team, some of the NSW Province Team and many other Sisters from NSW. A lot of the Sisters had heard of the Companions of St Joseph but didn't really understand who we were.

The Companions were overwhelmed by the hospitality, warmth, love and friendship we received from the Sisters.

The Companions would like to say a big thank you to Susan Pollard for all the effort she had put into the weekend and for arranging the many introductions that were made and to all the Sisters we met who made us feel so welcome.

The weekend was a truly inspirational experience for us all and the memories will be treasured for many years to come.