

Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar

13TH GENERAL CHAPTER

DAY FOUR —Report

Our Morning Prayer, led by Christine O'Connor, was focused on St Joseph. De la Tour's beautiful painting, together with hymns, psalms, the reading of Luke 2 (the loss and finding of the young Jesus) and intercessions brought us together deep in the Spirit of Joseph. Each person shared in her group what came to her as she reflected on him.

Our prayer and discernment led us to a positive decision on the Admission of New Vowed Members. We also accepted a Vision Statement which will inspire and encourage us as we move into the next five years. With difficulty we sought to express how we will specifically live out this vision in the here and now.

We moved to a unity in our vision for leadership and governance. We supported continued links with other Josephite Congregations and looked to the possibility of a wider Josephite network, recognising that the spirit of Joseph is in more hearts than ours.

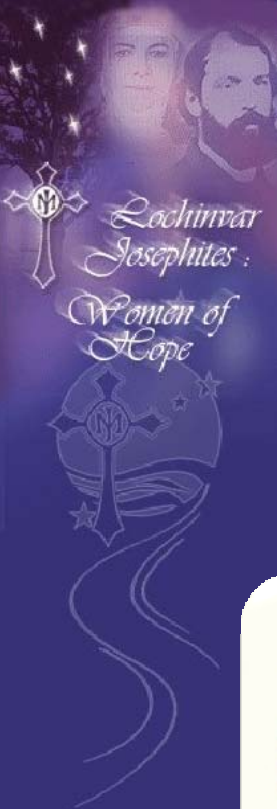
Our moving forward today felt a bit like being in a trail of wagons pressing forward across new and sometimes difficult terrain, but there was a strong sense of a direction ahead. We hope this direction captures our hearts and calls us on with the love of God alive in us.

Patricia Egan, Congregational Leader, outlined for us the procedure for the next three days, when we will communicate to the whole congregation what has taken place so far and involve all in the discernment for leadership.



Thanks

A beaming Patricia concluded these four days with sincere thanks to all for their participation. She thanked especially our two valiant facilitators, our Liturgy support people, our secretaries (Lochinvar sisters Marjorie McLachlan and Margaret Anne Geatches), whose dedication to their demanding task has been outstanding.



We extend our thanks

to all who have assured us of prayers, and sent greetings, emails and beautiful floral arrangements. We thank our dear bishop, Michael Malone, our priests, Central and Federation Josephite Leaders and sisters, Perpetual Adoration Sisters, other religious Congregations, our families and other wonderful, inspiring faithful people.

We thank our own sisters, Marie Hughes, Laretta Baker and Michele Connolly, who were Chapter Chair Persons on three consecutive days.



Comments from Chapter Members

'It's been full of fresh insights.'

'It's been alarmingly thoughtful.'

'I think it's moving very well. We are getting our teeth into the matter for voting.'

'It's a practical example of the Holy Spirit bringing order out of chaos.'

'In these three days we've been taking a fresh look, "getting fresh with" our Constitutions.' e.g. '*We strive to promote the stewardship of creation.*' Constitutions p 8.

'It's amazing how you can spend a long time mulling over something and seem to be getting nowhere, and all of a sudden a new voice or thought comes, and that's it.'

We concluded with a reflective prayer and Mary MacKillop's loving exhortation.

"Be calm and full of hope"

