

Annual Gathering - Josephite Rural Conference Dubbo NSW

A large and enthusiastic group of Josephite women converged on Dubbo's Cattleman's Country Motor Inn again this year for their annual Conference which ran from 21-24 May. This is a group which looks forward to coming together and participants travel long distances from where they work,



Sr Anne Derwin, (Central Josephite Congregational Leader) watches on after inviting Leaders Srs Noelene Quinane, (Goulburn) and Mary Quinlan (NSW Province, speaking) to the microphone.

mostly in remote rural centres of NSW, with some even from across the Victorian and Queensland bor-



Laraine Crowe (Goulburn) chairing Day Two

ders. Meeting to confer with the group each year are representatives of their Leadership and Province Teams from Sydney, Perthville and Goulburn Congregations and the gathering is enhanced by the presence of Josephite Associates as well.

The Conference aims at providing a time of spiritual and personal refreshment for those engaged in

Josephite Rural Ministries and the format provides times of input, group conversation and sharing of experiences relating to ministry in rural and remote areas. This year's theme was *Remembering*



Colleen O'Sullivan rsj, Presenter Day One



Sr Antoinette Baldwin rsj chairing Day One

with Gratitude the Dream of Mary MacKillop.

Sr Madeline Breen rsj writes:

"The whole Conference was a most life-giving experience. Colleen O'Sullivan rsj led Day One as we looked at the Spirituality of Walking in the Margins





Julie Greig, Presenter Day Two

- yesterday and tomorrow". We also looked at our charism/our own call to the margins, to those places where people's lives are impacted by difficulty and struggle.

On Day Two Julie Greig (employed by the Uniting Church as a Rural Chaplain and based in Hillston) presented a very factual and informative account of the current situation in Rural NSW and across Australia, and its impact on people and families. This was a very interactive day with lots to be learned also from within the context of the group.

It was truly uplifting to be working in such an atmosphere of joy and hope"



Sr Bernadetta Muscolino from Pauline Books & Media, Sydney, being thanked for making a Book and Resources display as well as her expert advice available to shoppers who rarely get the opportunity to visit the store in Castlereagh St, Sydney to update their resources.

