

## All Roads Lead to Dubbo

Traveling from Ballina and Walgett, Nyngan and Wagga and lots of places from Victoria to the Queensland border, Sisters of St Joseph and Associates working in rural areas gathered for a two day conference at the Cattleman's Country Motor Inn, Dubbo. The Sisters shared experiences and engaged in a dynamic process of reflection and discussion centered round life in rural areas.

Guest speaker, Josephite Ann Gilroy challenged those gathered to explore the Conference theme "Whisperings of God" from a theological perspective and along with fellow Josephite, Jan Barnett led the sisters in a process of reflection and discussion aimed at deepening their understanding of God's presence and relationship in their everyday life and ministry.



*Presenter Sr Ann Gilroy puts final touches on her Presentation*

One of the delegates, Yvonne McGettigan from Warialda said, "This is my first experience of the Conference and I found it uplifting as well as challenging". Catherine Histon rsj from Lightning Ridge was grateful to



meet with sisters from rural areas who share similar experiences. "I feel affirmed by their dedication and commitment in remote and often isolated places", she said.



*Organisers, Presenter and Facilitator with everything in readiness,  
(left to right) Srs Laraine Crowe, Brigid Linehan, Ann Gilroy, Jan Barnett, Anne Gibson, Madeline Breen and Mary Ellen Griffin*



*Right: Conference Candle*



*Sr Jean Cain has the honour of thanking Sr Ann Gilroy for a wonderful day of presentations*



*Facilitator, Sr Jan Barnett calls for a moment of quiet reflection*



*Presenter Sr Ann Gilroy listens to feedback from one of her set workshop tasks*



*(l to r) Srs Kerrie Cusack, Noelene Quinane & Mary O'Dea catch up during a break*



*Sisters Patricia Duffy, Coral Fleming, Therese McGarry a little weary at the end of a most interesting Day One*



*Prayer focus for the Conference Theme: Whisperings of God*



*Sr Timothy Monaghan reports to the total group from her Table's sharing on one of the set tasks*



*Srs Frances McAleer and Kathryn Sweeny happy to oblige the photographer*



*Srs Jean Cain, Bernadetta Muscoline & Jan Barnett meet over an afternoon cuppa*



*Srs Mary Quinlan & Ann Love catch up on some work during a break*



*Srs Robyn McNamara and Margaret Stapleton prepare their response*



*Josephite Associates (l to r) Denise Quealy (Gilgandra) and Min Coady (Canowindra) happy to meet for the first time.*



*A moment of deep emotion during part of the presentation - some pictures that will stay in the memory for many a long day*



*Sisters view the map displaying the many towns and cities Sisters of St Joseph and Associates travelled from - such as Ballina and Walgett, Nyngan and Wagga and lots of places from Victoria to the Queensland border*

## Travellers From Near And Far:

Conference participants shared experiences of their ministries from widely-scattered rural and remote areas, including

Mungindi NSW  
Fern Hill Vic  
Werris Creek NSW  
Gilgandra NSW  
Bathurst NSW  
Canowindra NSW  
Quirindi NSW  
Lyneham ACT  
Wagga Wagga NSW  
Moree NSW  
Batehaven NSW  
Tamworth NSW  
Armidale NSW  
Walgett NSW  
Eden NSW  
Lightening Ridge NSW  
Merriwa NSW  
Burwood NSW  
Ungarie NSW  
Holbrook NSW  
Warialda NSW  
Perthville NSW  
Mittagong NSW  
Ardlethon NSW  
Narrandera NSW  
Goulburn NSW  
Nyngan NSW  
Croydon NSW  
Orange NSW  
Oberon V  
Dubbo NSW  
Barellan NSW  
Ballina NSW  
Taralga NSW  
Wonthaggi Vic