



Good Samaritan Congregational Partnership Gathering 5 - 7 October 2013

Stewarding the charism into the future

It's love that impels us. RB 5:10



Good Samaritan Sister, Catherine McCahill has been engaged in education ministry for 30 years. She completed her schooling at St Margaret Mary's College in Townsville, obtained her education qualifications at James Cook University and taught in secondary schools across three Australian states. Her theological education was undertaken at the very ecumenical United Faculty of Theology in Melbourne. Before her election to the council of her congregation in 2011, Catherine was Academic Dean at Yarra Theological Union, a College of the MCD University of Divinity in Melbourne. Catherine says her doctoral thesis, "Making God Known: Jesus, the Teacher of the Fourth Gospel and the Contemporary Christian Religious Education Teacher", enabled her to bring together her passion for biblical study and Christian religious education.



Over a long life as a Good Sam, Jill O'Brien's ministries have included classroom teacher, RE teacher, parish assistant, congregational administration, adult education and university campus ministry. She has lived in Sydney and Melbourne and the far-flung areas of Whyalla in South Australia and the Kimberley in Western Australia. During this time Jill has seen much change in the way the sisters participate in ministry. When she was first professed she worked in a school which was staffed predominately by religious with just a few lay teachers. As a 'motor missionary' she worked alongside ministers of other Christian denominations to provide religious education to catholic children in state schools. Other ministries provided the arena to work with adults – newcomers to this country, university students, married couples, Indigenous people, teachers and parents, priests and bishops.



Pam Grey, a Good Samaritan sister living in Melbourne, draws inspiration from the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict. Pam was in the first group of sisters who in 1983, professed the Benedictine vows of conversion of life, stability and obedience. An intensive study of the Rule taught by Sr Aquinata Bockmann in Rome, rekindled Pam's love of the Rule and since then she has given workshops on the Rule to various groups.

Her teaching background began at the State College of Teaching of Victoria and continued in State primary schools for six years before she joined the Good Sams. In Sydney Pam enjoyed six years of teaching in TAFE colleges where she worked with adults who were retraining in labour market programs. She also taught adults literacy, numeracy and English and met a wide range of people trying to make a go of life.

Pam's theological study was undertaken at Yarra Theological Union in Melbourne. Scripture, missiology and pastoral studies were her key subjects, taken in preparation for her ministry in the Republic of Kiribati. There Pam taught and accompanied young women and men who were considering life's options. One young man obtained his dream of entering the Maritime College, having studied and passed his English and maths exams, while Pam learnt a lot from him about life at sea.

Pastoral listening of sustaining, recognizing and nurturing, became Pam's work for the past ten years, as she worked with her very elderly sisters in Melbourne. Pam is now writing and teaching again.



Facilitator, Penny Carroll is passionate about working with those who are interested in reflecting on their spiritual journey, and finds in both the parable of the Good Samaritan and the Rule of St Benedict deep wisdom and balance which resonate with her lived experience. Read Penny's full biography in The Good Oil, the e-newsletter for the Sisters of the Good Samaritan <http://www.goodsams.org.au/good-oil/a-life-of-ongoing-conversion/>