



**Friendship in Action
Part of MU Australia**

marjorie.voss@bigpond.com
11th November, 2010

To all Diocesan Caritas Leaders and Groups,

This is my last letter to you as your Australian Caritas Leader. Your new Australian Leader will be Jan Misiurka from Gippsland Diocese. I spent a week from the 21st October to the 28th October at Pallotti College, Millgrove, Vic. for the Australian Executive meeting followed by the Australian Council Meeting of MU Australia. The following Office Bearers will form the Australian Executive for the next 3 years, from the 1st January 2011

Australian President	Rev.Canon Libbie Crossman,	Brisbane *
Vice Presidents.....	Mrs. Kaye Healy	Perth
	Mrs. Anne Kennedy	Melbourne *
Secretary	Mrs.Marilyn Robey	Bathurst *
Treasurer	Mrs.Kath Glew	North Queensland *
Caritas Leader and Promotion & Development	Mrs.Jan Misiurka	Gippsland *
Education Officer	Wendy Mayer	Sydney *
Mia Mia Editor	Mrs.Elizabeth Harris	Willochra
Overseas & Northern Outreach	Mrs.Beverley Ovens	Sydney
Prayer & Spirituality	Mrs.Bronwyn Fryar	Rockhampton
Social Responsibility	Mrs.Doreen Hall	Bunbury *
Publication Manager	Mrs.Elaine Longford	Melbourne

* = New positions.....

Libbie was previously Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator
Anne was previously Melbourne Diocesan President
Marilyn was previously Bathurst Diocesan President
Jan was previously Gippsland Diocesan President
Kath was previously Nth.Qld. Diocesan Treasurer.
Wendy previously held positions on Sydney Executive
Doreen was previously Bunbury Diocesan President.

From the above you will note that some of the new Executive have already been on Aust.Executive and Australian Council but have changed positions.

I know many of you will have had your final gatherings for the year, but I trust you will pass on this Newsletter to your members.

I presented to the Executive the new promotion material I have prepared for Caritas and after I make a small alteration, the postcard and poster will be ready for printing. They will be ready for the beginning of the new year and hopefully you will use them to promote Caritas. I know Jan will be encouraging you to do so as she has been involved in Caritas and is as keen as I am to see it flourish again and reach out to many more people.

I have received word from Mike in Bristol (UK) that after his contact with me and from the information I gave to him regarding Caritas, they have started up three Groups in their Diocese. They are being called “Families First” groups.

I presented a report on Caritas at Aust. Executive and also at the Aust. Council Meetings. Unfortunately there was no other time given over to Caritas as I received no requests from Groups for matters to be put to Australian Council (except for promotion material, which was already under way) To have Caritas up front at Council Meetings it is necessary for you to submit Discussion Points and/or Motions on areas of concern/interest within your Groups. I trust you will take this on board for the next AC in 18 months time. Of course if there are concerns in the meantime you should contact your Australian Leader and she can take these further....as has always been the case. Your Australian Caritas Leader is there as YOUR representative.

I would encourage you to make sure that your local clergy know that you are about and ready and willing to help with outreach. So many clergy see Caritas Groups and MU Branches as “just” groups who do their own thing.....this should not be the case.

I would encourage you to look on the Mothers' Union UK Web site > www.themothersunion.org and also the Manchester Website > www.mothersunionmanchester.org for some interesting activities undertaken by them. If you join as a member you can receive more information. You do this via the Website. Talking about Websites, I apologise for the lack of information regarding Caritas on our Australian Website, for although I have sent information it has not appeared. Hopefully next year Jan will be able to get things up and running.

For those Groups who have requested links with other Australian Groups, I trust these will be successful and lead to more unity. I am putting out the results of the survey in which most groups took part earlier this year. I am sorry for the delay.

Finally, I thank you for your friendship over the past 3 years. It has been a pleasure to be your Australian Caritas Leader, and I have tried to bring groups closer together. However this could only work if the information I sent was relayed to Groups from the Dioceses in which you operate. Those without Diocesan Leaders heard from me directly or should have received information through their Diocesan Executive. You are an important part of MU Australia and your Parish and need to have your say on matters important to you and the way in which you operate.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and good health and happiness in 2011. May God bless you in your endeavours and may you move forward in Faith.

Marjorie (Voss)
Caritas Leader
MU Australia