



President: Mrs Deane Bray

CIRCULAR No 2 - April, 2008.

To: Executive, Diocesan Presidents, State Presidents and Caritas Leaders.

Dear Members,

Once again the weeks are flying by. The Toowoomba Conference and the Executive Meeting seem a long time ago. I do hope you are all excited and have had a chance to share your experience with your fellow members. I know that some of you have articles in your Diocesan Magazines and there are also articles and photos on the MU Australia website. If Executive members and Diocesan Presidents live in the same Diocese, I hope that you have shared your experiences as they were very different, but of equal importance. We are now planning how we in Australia, will move forward with our sisters and brothers around the World in being relevant to our times, showing compassion and sharing Christ' love.

NEW BRANDING.

MSH has produced a new badge which is not compulsory to wear. It says clearly, "**Who we are and what we do.**" The **O** in Union is a World map and it is envisaged that different areas of the World will be shown, eg Africa will have a map of Africa on their badge. All printed matter will carry the new brand.

HOME AND FAMILY.

MUe has changed the name of Home and Family to "Families First" as from August 2008. We have expressed our concerns to MSH about this name as it is so similar to the name of a political party in Australia. We are looking at how we can overcome this problem. From September 2008, "**Families Worldwide**" will be produced and will bring Prayer Diary, Encompass and Policy Watch into one magazine. In due course both magazines will be available on the internet. There should be a page with all details in your posting of the February 2008, Worldwide Council minutes. If not, please let me know and I will do a mail out when I return from holidays.

BLUE HANDBOOK.

This publication is out of print and is also in need of a major "overhaul". If there is anything you think should be included or excluded, please contact Elizabeth Appleby as soon as possible at: Email: reappleby@bigpond.com or PO Box 112, WARATAH, NSW. 2298.

Executive members, would you please get your updated pages to Elizabeth also.

We have not made a final decision on whether to combine Promotion and Development and Caritas permanently. A decision will be made at Australia Council in May, 2009. This could make a new publication "out of date", so we may need to consider not republishing until after May, 2009.

PRAYER AND SERVICE BOOK.

If there are any changes you want to see made to the yellow MU Service Book, please send them with the survey form Bronwyn has sent out for branches and individuals to complete. Please send forms to Robyn Southerden.

Email: rjsoutherden@idl.net.au or 54 Park St, CHARLESTOWN, NSW. 2290.

This matter is **URGENT**. Please encourage your members to participate.

A.C. 2009 and Executive Meeting.

These meetings will be held at Palotti College, Millgrove, Victoria.

MU Executive will meet from 30 April until 3 May, and Australia Council from 3 to 7 May.

The main focus will be on “*Interacting with the Media*”, and we hope that Reg Bailey, CEO at MSH will be our guest. Lois will send out all details later.

NEW DP.

Welcome to Marcia Ashworth from Leeton who is the new DP in Riverina. Marcia’s address is: Unit 2, 2 Mallee St, LEETON. NSW . 2705.

I will be in Broken Hill for an Australian Womens Coalition (AWC) Meeting in June and will meet with MU members there before returning home.

MIA MIA.

Executive has noted concerns expressed about the new arrangements for Mia Mia. We are now looking at how we distribute the audio version produced in Grafton, so that those members who receive the audio version, do not also receive the printed version.

CHANGE TO ELECTIONS.

Please discuss with your executive and members the proposal to bring Diocesan terms of office into line with those of Australia Executive. Such a move would have advantages in relation to training when planning AC and Conferences. It would also save reprinting, or frequently making alterations to CODE.

Please respond to Lois’ request for your *Term of Office dates* so we can look at how the transition can be made if the proposal is accepted. Your input will give us accurate time lines so informed decisions can be made – not just “guessing” at time lines. *Term of Office dates* are also required under our Constitution.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Kate Lord from Melbourne Diocese was nominated by Anne Kennedy and Elaine Longford to attend the 2020 Summit in Canberra on 19/20 April. She has been accepted as a participant.

Congratulations Kate!

Did we have any other members participating? If so, congratulations.

HOLIDAYS.

I will be on holidays from 22 April until 20 May. Christine Hurford will be away from 28 April until 12 August (Bp Richard on long service leave and also attending Lambeth Conference). Christine requests that no one email her during that period. Kaye Healy will be able to be contacted if you have any problems. Lois is going on holidays for a well deserved rest shortly after I return.

In conclusion, thank you all for your participation at the Toowoomba Conference and at the Executive Meeting in Brisbane. I was very proud of the way you helped us in the preparation for SWWRM, and of the way you made our guests feel welcome and comfortable in a very short time. Letters of *Thanks and Congratulations* are still being received from overseas.

Well done MU Australia Leaders!!!!

Deane.

18 April, 2008.