

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH: THE TASMANIAN EXPERIENCE
THE FOUNDATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH IN TASMANIA
1887-1937

Submitted by

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STATEMENT OF SOURCES

This thesis contains no material published elsewhere or extracted in whole or in part from a thesis by which I have qualified for or been awarded another degree or diploma.

No other person's work has been used without due acknowledgement in the main text of the thesis.

This thesis has not been submitted for the award of any degree or diploma in any other tertiary institution.

All research procedures reported in the thesis received approval from the appropriate Ethics/Safety Committees.

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Signature

ABSTRACT

This thesis reports on and analyses the first fifty years, 1887-1937, of the Sisters of Saint Joseph's ministry in Tasmania. The design of the study is qualitative in nature, employing ethnographic techniques with a thematic approach to the narrative. Through a multifaceted approach the main figures of the Josephite story of the first fifty years are examined.

The thesis attempts to redress the imbalance of the representation of women in Australian history and the Catholic Church in particular. The thesis is that as a uniquely Australian congregation the Tasmanian Sisters of St Joseph were focused on the preservation of the original spirit and tradition articulated at their foundation rather than on the development of a unique Tasmanian identity. The thesis argues that it was the formative period that impacted on their future development and the emerging myths contributed to their search for identity. Isolated from their foundations through separation and misunderstanding, they sought security and authenticity through their conservation of the original Rule. The intervention of cofounder Father Tenison Woods in the early months of their foundation served to consolidate a distinctive loyalty to him to the exclusion of Mary MacKillop. Coupled with the influence of Woods were the Irish and intercolonial influences of significant Sisters from other foundations which militated against the emergence of a distinctive Tasmanian leadership.

As a Diocesan Congregation the Tasmanian Josephites achieved status as authentic religious within Tasmania and yet were constrained by their Diocesan character. The study identifies the factors that contributed to their development as a teaching Congregation through the impact of the Teacher and Schools' Registration Act

1906, influence of government regulations on the Woods-MacKillop style of education, and the commitment of the Church to provide Catholic education in the remote areas of Tasmania. The thesis identifies two major formative periods as occurring at the instigation of Archbishops Delany and Simonds at both the foundation and then more significantly after the consolidation phase at the end of the period under examination.

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I dedicate this thesis to the memory of my parents Frank and Moira Brady through whose decision I first encountered the Sisters of St Joseph.

ABBREVIATIONS

AHMA	Archdiocese of Hobart Museum and Archives
AOT	Archives Office Tasmania
BR	Rules for the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph 1878, Bathurst.
OR	Original Rule for the Institute of St Joseph 1867.
IBVM	Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters)
IBVMA	Archives of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary .
NSSJA	Archives of the Sisters of St Joseph North Sydney.
PSSJA	Archives of the Sisters of St Joseph, Perthville, NSW.
SMAC	Archives of the Sisters of Mercy Callan, Ireland.
TSSJ	Tasmanian Sisters of St Joseph.
TSSJA	Archives of the Sisters of St Joseph Tasmania.
WSSJA	Archives of the Sisters of St Joseph, Wanganui, NZ.
Sr	Sister
Fr	Father
Sr A.	Pseudonym, which bears no relationship to the actual name of the Sister which is adopted to preserve the anonymity of Sisters who engaged in the process of interview in June and July 2002.

Measurements and Conversions

One pound (£)	20 shillings (20/-)
One shilling	12 pence (12d)
One pound (£)	two dollars at the time of conversion to decimal currency (1966)
1 foot	30.5 centimetres
1 mile	1.61 kilometres

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