

# Being With Others

Whatever the emotional life of Joseph we have no way of knowing but in whatever ways Joseph demonstrated his love for those dearest to him, we can assume they would have conformed to the norm for societies of the time and the roles they demanded. The prevailing family value in this Galilean society was family loyalty. The devotion of Joseph to his immediate and wider community would have reflected the commitment to further their honour and to care for their welfare.



The concept of service being communal was contained in the very title of the early French Sisters – Congregation of St Joseph, since it was the aspect of unifying love that their founder Medaille saw as characteristic of the Saint. Therefore the sisters should be constantly reminded of their mission and character, simply by the use of their name. The vocation of the Sister of St Joseph was then, as now, “to enter into the Trinitarian mystery, to welcome with all our being the life God gives, and with Christ, to live and work so that life may be communicated, that humanity might be restored and healed.” For St Mary and Fr Julian devotion to St Joseph completed what they saw as the model of the religious family, that of the family of Nazareth and a model in the building of community.

One of the ways in which Sisters of St Joseph in Whanganui demonstrate their commitment to each other and the wider community is with the development of facilities such as Nazareth Resthome, providing quality holistic care for the aged and Quinlan Court, affordable quality living in a safe environment with support for independence. *Being with others* stretches out into many other areas of life through groups established to serve the needs of women and families (WAF) and walking beside women in prison as friend and advocate in the spirit of openness and respect.



- In what ways do I live out Josephite values in my family life?
- And in my life in the community?
- How do others enrich my life?
- How do I enrich the lives of others?

*'In right relationships with Godde and each other  
we find inner peace.'* . . .first rule 'of the Sisters'