

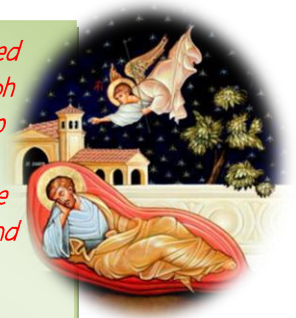
Dreaming

Christians have a long faith tradition regarding messages to God's people. There is a rich biblical tradition of discovering God's word as made known through dreams. We have known image and symbol to be effective agents of change throughout Judeo-Christian history.



"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus. .."

Mt 1:20-21



The dreams of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods are preceded by the Josephite dreamers of 17th century France who dared to become a community of Sisters living and working directly with the disadvantaged and the poor when the most accepted model for religious life was monastic. From these radical beginnings the Josephite movement filters to all corners of the world today.

As a symbolic event, a dream has power to trigger new levels of awareness. It awaits our acknowledgement of its power for reawakening and conversion. Collecting accounts of communal dreams and examining their archetypal meanings can heighten insights into community life and provide a rich source of information about the communal story. Dream work can also be evaluated in light of theological reflection.

Community Dreaming as a tool was used by the Sisters of St Joseph, Whanganui prior to a 4-yearly Chapter meeting to help identify the communal vision for the following years.

To process your own dreams answer these queries:

- *What feeling does the dream evoke?*
- *What title would you give your dream?*
- *If the dream would ask you a question about your life what would that question be?*

The future belongs to those who dream...