



AMBASSADOR

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
TO THE HOLY SEE

15 May 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I strongly commend to you for your consideration and support the forthcoming Mary McKillop Art Awards. Your assistance, particularly with sponsorship, will ensure that this initiative is successful and highlights, in the centenary year of her death, the continuing legacy of the life and works of Sister Mary McKillop.

While much is known about the works of Mary McKillop in establishing the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph, it is not generally realised that her activities in Australia reached far beyond the capital centres of Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. The founder of an order of nuns to provide education, notably for the rural poor in colonial Australia, Mary McKillop opened the first St Joseph's school in the small South Australian country town of Penola.

Mary McKillop's good works are carried on today by the Sisters of St Joseph and the foundation that bears her name. The Sisters of St Joseph undertake valuable work with the homeless and migrants, among others, and the foundation funds small scale community self-help projects and scholarships for Indigenous students. This is important work and to be commended.

Mary McKillop was a quintessential Australian. A major set of art awards in this important anniversary year, and at a time when consideration of the nomination of Mary McKillop for sainthood is reaching a very important and critical phase, is an excellent initiative. Any assistance towards the mounting of the Mary McKillop Art Awards in 2009 would be very much appreciated and would further assist both the work of the Mary McKillop Foundation and the propagation of peace and harmony among peoples of all nations and creeds.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Fischer', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Fischer, AC
Ambassador to the Holy See
