



Sr Margaret Finlay IBVM
Archdiocese of Perth

Sr Marg Finlay is a member of the Loreto community in West Australia. She has been a Loreto Sister for 48 years. Prior to entering the Order, she was an Occupational Therapist. Following Profession, Marg studied to become a teacher after which she spent many years teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools. From 1990-96 Marg was a member of a Spiritual Formation Team based in the Parramatta Catholic Education Office. The purpose of this team was to offer opportunities for Catholic Teachers to update and reflect on their roles as Catholic Teachers in Catholic Schools.

From 1997-2001, Marg was the Leader of the developing Catholic Community in Glenmore Park, west of Sydney. A role she really enjoyed. Since returning to Perth in 2002, Marg has been the Catholic Chaplain in Bandyup Women's Prison.

In order to address some of the needs of Perth's Homeless women, Marg and a group of Religious women from other Orders worked to establish a night shelter in Fremantle, known to all as The Sisters' Place. Homeless women have had the opportunity of safe sleeps here for the past two years.

Marg also works with two groups of women who gather each month to reflect and study together. One of these, known as The Circle of Peace, has spent a year meeting with Muslim women. This has provided the opportunity for women to meet each other and build bridges of friendship and understanding. The photograph shows Marg greeting one of the Muslim women who joined The Circle of Peace.

This year the Loreto Sisters are celebrating the 400th anniversary of Mary Ward's founding of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary Ward's message is very relevant for the 21st century as her vision and values, spirituality and prophetic response continue to challenge and inspire many women and men today.