



# LIVE MARIST

Vocations e-Newsletter for the Marist Brothers Province of Australia  
September - December 2013

# WELCOME

Welcome to our first edition of *livemarist*, the vocations e-newsletter for the Province of Australia. We wanted to use September 12, the Marial feast day of The Most Holy Name of Mary, as the launch date for our publication. We pray that under Mary's guidance and inspiration, our ministry of nurturing and growing Marist life in Australia may flourish!

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Vocations  
E-Newsletter For  
The Marist Brothers  
Province Of  
Australia

Spring 2013

*livemarist* aims to bring you news of events and happenings in Vocations ministry from around Australia, through the work of the Marist Vocations Team. Produced several times a year, *livemarist* is for all members of the Australian Marist Community; Brothers, Lay Marists, those involved in leadership, faith formation and youth ministry in Marist Schools, and Young Marists. We want to share with you photos and reflections from our ministry with students and staff in schools and our work with Young Adults in MYM.

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MaristVocations

## Marist Vocations News

### School Presentations 2013

So far in 2013, the team has given thirty-five presentations in eighteen schools to student groups in Years 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12. Our multi-media presentations have focused on the following themes; Year 6: *Called By Name*;

Year 7: *Being Brothers and Sisters*; Year 11: *Stepping-Up* and Year 12: *My Life-List*. Each presentation looks at vocation and service through the lens of Marist Brotherhood and being a Young Marist.

### Marist Life Mentors Workshop Commences

The Vocations Team recently launched the Marist Life Mentors program, focused on providing teaching and non-teaching staff in MSA schools with basic skills for vocationally mentoring senior students. The program has three aims:

1. To encourage and affirm senior students who show a passion for faith, justice, or ministry activities.
2. To connect senior students to post-school Young Marist activities in their region.

3. To invite and affirm senior students who they believe are open to considering a vocation to the consecrated life or priesthood.

We have been delighted with the positive feedback from staff who have participated in the workshop so far. These will continue into 2014.



Br Greg and Br Rod with Yr 12 students at St Augustine's, Cairns



Marist Life Mentors workshop with St Augustine's staff, Cairns.

*Marist Vocations Team*

Our 2013 Vocations Team comprises of four handpicked and quality Marists! Br Greg and Br Rod are the full-time members with Br Patrick Connell and Br Doug Walsh as part-time members. Even though we don't share the same taste in AFL or NRL teams, between us, we have 110 years of Marist life under the belt and a passion for our religious vocation. When not planning and strategising, we're on the road or in the air heading to another Marist school or meeting with Young Marists somewhere around the country.



**Two Young Marists Begin their Formation in the USA**

Best wishes to Jack O'Sullivan and James Hodge who are commencing the next stage of their vocational discernment with the Marist Brothers. Today (September 12) Jack and James will join

with Sam Amos from the United States and begin the Postulancy Program in Esopus, New York State. Please keep Jack, James and Sam in your prayers and their formator, Br Robert Clark who will accompany them.



Jack O'Sullivan



James Hodge

**Vocations Team on Facebook**

A few months ago we launched our Marist Vocations Team Facebook page, and it's going well! With over 50 posts we've managed to attract nearly 200 likes, with most of those being Young Marists keen to hear about what the Vocations Team is up to. We regularly post news and images on the day to day ministry of the team as well as offer reflections on vocations and Marist life, based on current happenings in the Church and the Marist world. If you haven't yet liked our page, keep updated by heading to:

[facebook.com/MaristVocations](https://facebook.com/MaristVocations)

**Strategic Plan for Vocations Ministry 2013 - 2015**

Recently the Vocations Team presented our Strategic Plan to the Provincial Council. We see the goals put forward in the document as the overarching thrust through which all vocational strategies and outcomes can be initiated in the coming three years. A summary of the Strategic Plan will be featured in our next newsletter. A part of the document was the list of beliefs:

*Our Beliefs about Vocations*

- *We believe* the Marist charism given to us by St Marcellin Champagnat is a gift to the whole Church.
- *We believe* that every member of the Australian Marist

Community is called to live out their vocational life to the fullest.

- *We believe* our future lies in growing and nurturing Marist vocations now.
- *We believe* the vocation of the Marist Brother is still relevant today.
- *We believe* there are young men being called by God to live the life of a Marist Brother.
- *We believe* that young people need reflective spaces where they can listen to God's call and the voice of their vocation.
- *We believe* that invitation is a critical step in vocations awareness.

- *We believe* that all Marists, both Brothers and Lay Marists, have a shared responsibility in inviting young men to consider the vocation of a Brother.
- *We believe* that young men discerning a Marist vocation should have opportunities to be involved in ministry with Marist Brothers.
- *We believe* that coming to know a young person is a critical step prior to inviting them to consider discerning Marist religious life.
- *We believe* REMAR and other Youth Ministry programs provide effective pathways for vocations promotion with young people.

## VOCATIONS REFLECTION

Br Greg McDonald, fms

### MONDAY NIGHT Nicholson St, Fitzroy

25 young adults gather for a Taize Prayer evening, hosted by MYM. Four Brothers from the Community are present together with a visiting Brother from nearby North Fitzroy. The singing and praying is in full voice. Later, everyone enjoys a bowl of soup and some crusty bread. The young people talk about their study at Uni and what happened over the weekend.

### TUESDAY NIGHT Enoggera

It's *Exchange Night* and the Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane team is preparing a meal and reflection for 35 Young Marists. Five young people are helping a Brother in the kitchen prepare the salads. Finding a space to eat is a challenge with the crowd flowing from the dining room into the TV room and out onto the back verandah. After dinner there's some input on discipleship followed by discussion. Five Brothers join the small groups in the chapel and sit around on the floor listening to young people reflect on a scripture passage, joining in their shared prayer.

### FRIDAY NIGHT Eastwood

"Marist Connect" - 20 Yr 11 and 12 students and staff from four Marist schools in western Sydney enjoy an evening of activities, prayer and discussion in the school chapel with members of the MYM and Remar teams. Three Brothers are part of the gathering. Later, everyone moves to the Community where the Brothers have prepared a meal. The homemade Kebabs and salads are an instant hit with the students. The evening continues with plenty of lively chatting and laughter around the tables.

### SUNDAY NIGHT Randwick

A group of 15 Young Marists join the Seabird Community for their fortnightly reflection on the Sunday Gospel, using *lectio divina* to stimulate discussion on the reading followed by shared prayer. Three Brothers are present. Following the reflection, the group moves upstairs to partake in table fellowship and good humour. The young people hang around with the Brothers long after dinner, finally trickling out around 11pm.

*(cont. on page 4)*



FOUR  
NIGHTS  
FOUR  
MARIST  
COMMUNITIES

(cont. from page 3) *A glimpse* into four Marist Communities where young people are choosing to connect and seek a place of belonging through companionship, prayer and good food. Not only is there great energy but also a growing sense of community and the possibility of future connections. In each place the young people feel welcomed and at home. In the midst of this, the Brothers are there, working alongside the MYM teams, offering a drink or some dessert, having a conversation, and simply being present. Marist hospitality at its best. Our Marist Constitutions remind us; "We are close to young people in their actual life-situations, taking the risk of going into what may be unexplored areas where those in material and spiritual poverty await the revelation of Christ. In dealing with young people, we show a concern that is humble, simple, and forgetful of self." Perhaps other Communities maybe considering offering hospitality to senior students or young adults in your local area. Beyond the Marist school, our Communities have potential in providing opportunities for young adults to tap into our rich Marist charism and spirituality. Worth a thought!



Exchange Nights - Enoggera, Brisbane