



From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn “realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith”

Laudato Si Pope Francis

It is hard to recall commencing a school year with such a pall of widespread calamity. The ongoing drought and bushfire crises have impacted families and communities across the country and the recent developments with the deadly new coronavirus have in the last week swamped the media. Such has been the intensity of disaster coverage, some mental health professionals have advised people to moderate their exposure to the 24 hour news feed.

In light of the drought and bushfire crises, national attention to the degradation of the environment has been arrested like never before. It is timely to reflect and draw upon Pope Francis' seminal Encyclical *Laudato Si*, in which he explores in detail the devastation of the natural world in the past 200 years. The Encyclical invites Christians to consider a host of relevant themes, including that an essential part of our Faith is care for the environment God has gifted us. Also, importantly Pope Francis enunciates new perspectives on Catholic Social Teaching, by emphasising the environment is our common home and the climate, for our common good. Ultimately, *Laudato Si* (Praise be to you) is a statement of hope in that it urges dialogue between all people of good will, believers and non-believers, theologians and scientists, in pursuit of actions at a global and personal level, urgently attentive to the environment and our brothers and sisters most vulnerable to the changes we are experiencing.

As Marist educators we are consistently challenged to be voices of *hope* with our young people, and particularly in times of crisis. The start to the new school year is a time to amplify hope as we welcome students to the new academic year and all it promises. On a morning last week, when the airwaves were again replete with bushfire warnings, the devastation of the drought and the global risks of the spreading fatal contagion, I was privileged to be a guest at the Saint Gregory's College Campbelltown High Achievers Assembly, during which the students who excelled in the 2019 NSW HSC were recognised. Like many similar occasions in our Marist schools throughout Australia, the sense of optimism among the recent and present students was tangible. Sitting among this close-knit community, the hours of care, love, guidance, teaching, and support afforded these fine young people was acknowledged in word and attitude. As each young man quietly shared his hopes for the next chapter of life, their preparedness and enthusiasm were evident.

This Friday Marists across the nation are invited, in a spirit of hope, and solidarity, to contribute to the Saint Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal. Details previously sent to schools are included in this newsletter. Please give generously. The need is great.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

9-11 Feb	National MYM Formators' Conference	28-1 Feb/Mar	Care for the Soul Retreat: Mittagong
14 Feb	In the Marist Way: Lismore	5 Mar	In the Marist Way: Northam
23-26 Feb	Footsteps1: Mittagong	6 Mar	MYM Super Connect: Eastwood
26 Feb	Ash Wednesday	15-18 Mar	Footsteps1: Mittagong

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

HEAD OF MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE

Click [HERE](#) for more information

MARIST PROVINCE BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Click [HERE](#) for more information

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING - JOIN IN?

International Communities for a New Beginning is an initiative of the Marist Institute open to Brothers and Marist Laypeople who feel called to dedicate a period of their lives to go beyond their geographical and cultural borders. It is characterised by sharing life in mixed Marist communities, global availability, internationality and inter-cultural living and mission, responding boldly to emerging needs.

Further information can be found [HERE](#).

13 February 2020 - Anniversary of Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

Members of the Stolen Generations were invited to hear the National Apology first-hand in the gallery of The House of Representatives chamber at Parliament House in Canberra. The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd delivered the Apology at 9.00am on 13 February 2008.

[Here is the link to the Apology \(It's Time\) youtube video.](#)

National Marist Bushfire Appeal Day

FRIDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2020

Marists across Australia are invited to stand together in unity and solidarity with the people of Australia who have lost relatives, friends, homes and businesses, and to the thousands stranded as fires burn across our country.

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO THE
ST VINCENT DE PAUL BUSHFIRE APPEAL

"If you stay closely united, you are like a tree standing in the middle of a bushfire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn. The time for this rebirth is now!"

Saint John Paul's 1986 Alice Spring's address to Indigenous Australians.

Photo by Holger Link on Unsplash

Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELIN CHAMPAGNAT


MARIST BROTHERS
Province of Australia

Marist
MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

In solidarity with those most effected by the fires in the broader community, schools are invited to participate in the **Marist Bushfire Appeal on Friday 7 February**. This Appeal is for our entire network: schools, ministries, offices, Brothers communities, Association members and groups.

THE UNIVERSE STORY IS OUR STORY



Jacquelyn Deer, Alexa Hunt and Louise Pope



Laura Williamson, Nick Hickey and Kevin Leong



Jonte Connolly, Cathy Holmes and Charis Madden

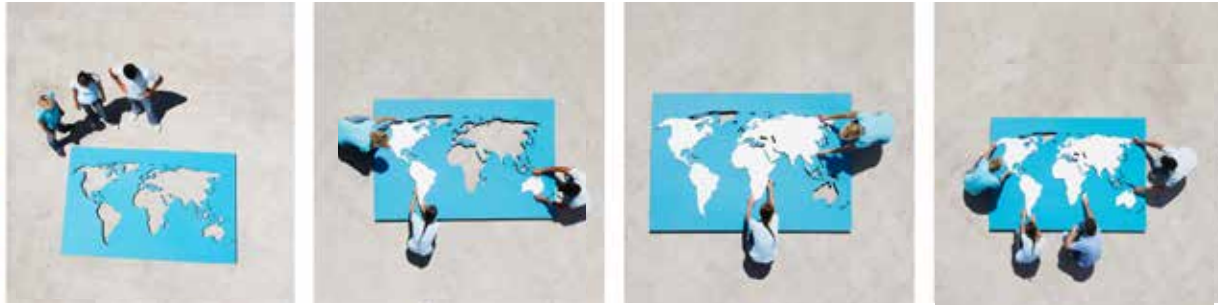
Our Marist Association Formation Program for 2020, **One Wild and Precious Life — Creating One New Humanity**, invites us on a journey through our hearts, minds and imaginations to look at what it means to be human in our relationships with ourselves, others, God and creation.

Marist schools are taking up this theme of how we grow in awareness of and live in communion with others and creation and, bridge the chasm between science and our Christian story. This program has proven relevant and challenges all of us to view our world and our interconnectedness in a different light.



Anita Kennedy, Toby McCarthy and Alexandra Fraser

“The universe story is our story, individually and as the human community. In this context we can feel secure in our efforts to fulfill the great work before us. And the accomplishment of the task is not simply of the human community but of the entire planet Earth,” Thomas Berry — “The Fourfold Wisdom”



CREATING ONE NEW HUMANITY 2020

Dear Marist teachers and school leaders,

As we step into 2020, the team here at Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) wants to thank you for your support and encouragement in 2019. With you as our partners we were able to support more than 14,000 marginalised and vulnerable young people in 24 countries in 2019. Our schools network forms a vital part of our work and without you we couldn't help children and young people across the region reach their brightest potential. You and your communities hold and express the solidarity that makes a difference in this world – AMS is merely the vehicle to help transmit it to our partner communities.

This year the focus of our school's campaign is the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati, which is pronounced 'Ki-ri-bas'. In our 2020 Schools' Kit you'll find prayer and learning resources to help engage your students with this country and the work of Marists there. As always, we hope that learning and reflection will lead to action and so there are fundraising ideas and information about the badly needed renovations we are hoping to support at St Louis High School. You will find these resources and more at www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au.

This year we have provided separate kits for primary and high school audiences. We hope that this will be of use and would love to have your feedback on our resources so that they can be even stronger next year. Let us know what works, what doesn't and any ideas you have for future schools kits.

Our young people are remarkable. Their heart for solidarity, their energy and their passion are desperately needed in our quest to make this world a more just place. We look forward to working with you and your school community in 2020 to increase awareness and understanding of the experiences of young people in our region and to ensure that all young people have equal access to quality education.

Sincerely yours,



Rebecca Bromhead
CEO



The year has started for Marist Youth Ministry:

From 28 to 31 January all Marist Youth Ministry staff gathered at the Edmund Rice Centre in Melbourne for their annual MYM Formation. From across the three MSA regions, sixteen staff members, gathered for a time of formation through reflection, practical training and workshops.

Ryan Gato (MLF) facilitated an engaging presentation on the theme for the year: *“One Wild and Precious Life”*, while Jack Stammers shared about being a Young Marist in today’s society. Furthermore various MYM staff ran workshops around *“Social Media”*, *“God’s Love”* and *“Vocation as a Youth Minister”*. There were several moments to reflect on our MYM Strategic Plan and what that would look like in the different MSA regions. On the last day Rhyannon Elliot (Catholic Care Melbourne), facilitated a workshop on *“Building a Child Safe Environment”*.

MYM Sydney: Br James Hodge, Emma Gallagher (St Patrick’s Dundas, 2019), Ashley Doueihi (St Patrick’s Dundas, 2019), Vaiata Hehea (Trinity College) and Jenifer Miller, Regional Coordinator).

MYM Brisbane: Paddy Hoey (Marist College Ashgrove, 2016) and Adam Burns (Trinity College Beenleigh, 2007) as the newly appointed MYM Youth Minister.

MYM Melbourne: Zack Pizzigrilli (Assumption College, 2016), Sara Petruzzella (Sacred Heart College, 2015), Edwin Bakker (National Coordinator), Ella Beveridge (Assumption College, 2018), Lachlan Scott (Marcellin College, 2017), Gilbert Mein (Admin Assistant) and Daniel Litjens (Newman College Churchlands, 2016). Sara will be based at Sacred Heart College Somerton Park, while Daniel will be based at Newman College Churchlands.



Edwin Bakker
National Remar Coordinator
Marist Youth Ministry

2019 Marist Youth Ministry Young Adult Philippines Pilgrimage

After spending two valuable days forming our own faith community at Eastwood in Sydney, eight young adults accompanied by Br Doug Walsh FMS, Anthony Mackett, Assistant Coordinator (Parramatta Marist, 2014) and Mrs Jeni Miller, Coordinator (MYM Sydney Regional Coordinator), to Manila for a 2 week pilgrimage from 2 – 14 December. We visited many places over this time; San Jose Orphanage, Bahay Aruga for children with cancer, women in Pasig City Jail, Angel Presence School, Bagong Barrio, Kuya Centre and surrounding areas. The pilgrims very much enjoyed bantering with young brothers from all over the world at Marist Asia Pacific Centre, known as MAPAC. In preparation for their time in the Philippines, the pilgrims prepared lessons on Australian themes and raised money to donate to different Filipino charities.

Overall, the experience lead pilgrims to 'a change of heart and mind'. In the words of Br Doug, "We started to understand that we are all God's people and are one family. We are united in faith and realised that for the people we encounter, it is a constant challenge . We were enriched by sharing with them their reality of life." On working with children with hearing impairments, a pilgrim reflected,

Interacting with the deaf community. The group I was in, we weren't even doing anything, we were just sitting and they were teaching us sign language. We didn't go to change their lives. We were there to be with them and experience their lives. Everyone was so happy and it was such a simple situation. I learnt that you just have to be present, it's not always about doing something extreme.

On reflection of the pilgrimage, pilgrims wrote,

The Philippines pilgrimage was both an eye and heart opening experience that I would recommend to any young person who feels called to live a life built on relationship with the other.

Your eyes, ears and hearts will be open in encountering your brothers and sisters who live similar yet different lives to you and how they experience joy in their struggles.

A cultural, personal and religious journey that will change your world view.

For me personally, it was a privilege to witness the growth of 8 fine young Marist women and men; Amelia Watters, (Assumption College, Kilmore 2018), Ben Lawrence (Marist–Sion College, Warragul, 2018), Chloe Fenner (Trinity College, Beenleigh 2017), Ethan Cook (Marist College North Shore, 2018), Lachlan Scott (Marcellin, Bulleen, 2017), Lauryn Ferreras, (Saint Francis Xavier, 2018), Miraede Bhatia–Williams (Sacred Heart College, Adelaide, 2018) and Vaiata Hehea (Trinity, Auburn, 2017).



Jeni Miller
Regional Coordinator
Marist Youth Ministry NSW/ACT

2020 Queensland Marist Student Leaders Gathering

The 2020 **Marist Student Leaders Gathering** drew over 40 student leaders from eleven of our Marist schools in Queensland. During the three-day program, students were further immersed into the Marist-Christian tradition, spent time planning as teams and reflected upon their *“one wild and precious life”*.

Some testimonies from the students:

“I’ve always felt too quiet for anyone to notice me but the affirmations I received from my small group made me feel really noticed and appreciated.”

“I’ve realised I am actually capable of the position I have been elected for.”

“I feel as if weight has been taken off my shoulders and now have a better understanding of my strengths and weaknesses.”

“I will try and implement a visionary leadership style across the student leadership team. Talking about this in a group environment helped me to understand its importance.”

“I feel I have become more aware of the person I am and who I want to become.”

“(The Student Leaders Gathering) will help with dealing with some issues with my Year 12 students this year.” (Staff Member)

Adam Burns
Marist Youth Minister Brisbane

