



MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

I recall a parent forum conducted when a student in Year 12. The Principal asked us, and our parents, to gather to discuss concerns about our year group's propensity to socialise most weekends at the expense of sleep and study. After 15 minutes of outlining some of the behaviours that had raised concerns, such as sleeping in class on Mondays and large numbers of overdue or sloppily completed assignments, a father stood to comment from the floor. As he was a leading Sydney Silk, the room went expectantly quiet. The respected legal man launched a most compelling case for the boys to leave the partying for a few more years until we had our school and further education complete. Murmurs of assent from adults throughout the room grew to cries of "hear hear" and "too right!". The Principal was beaming - the students were hearing it from school and parents - the forum was a masterstroke! As the Silk resumed his chair to thunderous parent applause, suddenly the room fell silent. The Silk's son, who had been seated next to him, stood and waited to address the gathering. He commenced by politely stating his strong opposition to the case made by his esteemed father. The essence of the son's argument was that \$1 spent at the age of 17 or 18 bought a person exponentially more enjoyment than \$1 spent when they were 30, 40, or 50 years old. He posited it was good sense and economically prudent for the boys to continue in our garrulous ways. As you can imagine the room erupted in cheering from the boys and restrained laughter from the parents and Principal. It is a memory I have carried into adulthood and middle age and reminds me of the great urge young people have to gather and celebrate. It is a reality recognised by successive Popes since John Paul II, especially in their ongoing support for World Youth Day and other Catholic Youth Festivals.

As the commencement of the Australian Catholic Church's Year of Youth fast approaches with the National Catholic Youth Festival to be held at Homebush in Sydney this term in early December, the phenomena of gathering large numbers of young people of faith, for prayer and worship, is one which continues to surprise. The rational side of the brain speaks loudly of the costs associated with participation overseas on World Youth Days, disruption to learning for students away from classes for extended periods of time, risk assessments in relation to supervision and accommodation, unreal expectations of engagement among young people whose families do not practice Catholicism in traditional ways, or a lurking suspicion that for most students, their interest is tied to possibilities of a romantic nature! However despite seemingly rational and reasonable arguments against them, these gatherings hold enormous possibilities for faith development in young people. The voice of the Spirit is rarely rational.

Pope John Paul II started gathering young people from around the globe back in 1986 when he called the first World Youth Day to be celebrated in Saint Peter's Square on Palm Sunday. Young people from Australia have participated in increasing numbers ever since. Research conducted by a number of Catholic educators including Anthony Cleary from Sydney Catholic Schools and John Robinson from MSA, indicate evidence of the lasting and positive impact of such gatherings for young people and their accompanying teachers in the development of their Faith. In 1996, Pope John Paul II described the purpose of youth gatherings when he wrote:

"A Youth Day offers a young person a vivid experience of faith and communion, which will help to face the profound questions of life and to responsibly assume his or her place in society and in the ecclesial community. How can we not interpret their massive, willing and enthusiastic participation, as a constant demand to be accompanied on the pilgrimage of faith, on the journey which they undertake in response to God's grace working in their hearts? Listening to young people and teaching them, requires attention, time and wisdom. Youth ministry is one of the Church's priorities on the threshold of the third millennium.

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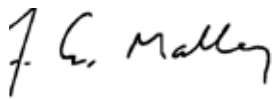
COMING UP...

15-18 Oct	Marist Solidarity Retreat	19 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering - Marist Centre Melbourne
20-22 Oct	Remar Red Leadership Camp NSW	24 Nov	MYM Super Connect - Marist College Eastwood
22-25 Oct	Footsteps1 - Mittagong	26-28 Nov	Student Leaders Gathering, Amberley
27-29 Oct	Care of the Soul Retreat Mittagong	2 Dec	MSA Mass and Dinner - Melbourne
27-29 Oct	Remar Red Leadership Camp VIC	3-5 Dec	Student Leaders Gathering, Mittagong
3 Nov	MSA Mass and Dinner - Sydney	From 5 Dec	Marist Cricket Carnival
6 Nov	AMS Christmas Gathering - Marist Centre Brisbane		

With their enthusiasm and their exuberant energy, young people ask to be encouraged to become "leading characters in evangelization and participants in the renewal of society" (Cristifideles laici, 46). In this way young people, ... are not only evangelized, they also become evangelizers who carry the Gospel to their peers, even to those who do not know the Church and have not yet heard the Good News."

We look forward to a strong Marist presence at the Festival in December and thank all schools who have made arrangements for their students to be involved in this important event in the life of the Church in Australia. The Marist Youth Ministry Team will be actively involved in leading prayer and other sessions throughout the time.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



THANK YOU

Lavalla Magazine and the Champagnat Journal

Thank you to the Marist schools and ministries that have contributed to the current edition of these publications. Both publications have now been circulated to schools. Please note, that given the fact that these editions are the first for 2017 – given illness and many other factors – they are longer than usual.

The next edition will be circulated early in 2018. I already have information being submitted, and any further contributions can be sent to me via email: tony.paterson@marists.org.au

I will be away until 15 November on a St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross pilgrimage as well as looking at a number of Archive Centres that will hopefully be good professional development for me as we continue to develop the Australian Marist Archives.

Thank you again and enjoy Term 4!

Br Tony Paterson



The 2018 Marist Association Programs & Events booklets have been printed and distributed to school Principals. Details can also be found on the MSA website and app.

There are several new items for 2018 which are described in the booklet, along with the more well-established ones. The theme for next year is taken from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you ... to give you hope and a future".

As usual, resources will be available to schools for the beginning of the year for those who want to use them to help to plan commencement Masses, staff days, and other events at the beginning of the new academic year.



MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



FOOTSTEPS 2, 10 - 13 September 2017

Our Footsteps2 program drew participants from 15 Marist schools across the country for three days of shared experience, prayer and deepening one's knowledge of the Marist journey.



AWAKEN - CARDIJN COLLEGE, NOARLUNGA DOWNS

The Marist story plays an important part in the Awaken Staff Spirituality program.

Cardijn College, Noarlunga Downs and the Marcellin Tech campus, gave witness to this story in the discussion around gratitude, community and the elements that make up this Christian community in the spirit of Joseph Cardijn and St Marcellin Champagnat at their recent Staff Spirituality Day.

AWAKEN - MT MARIA COLLEGE, MITCHELTON

Working closely with Mt Maria College staff while they reflected upon the Catholicity of their school we enjoyed the Community Story component of our Awaken Program. In a school where the feeling of community is palpable it was an opportunity to look a little deeper into how they engage with themselves and their students.





AUSTRALIAN Marist SOLIDARITY
working in partnership for change

– Christmas –

EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

BRISBANE
Monday 6 November
5.30pm - 7.00pm
Marist Centre Ashgrove

MELBOURNE
Sunday 19 November
5.30pm - 7.00pm
Marist Centre Brunswick

All RSVPs to Kristen.McLean@marists.org.au
(07) 3354 0600

www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au

AMS is pleased to announce our Brisbane and Melbourne Christmas gatherings for 2017.

Australian Marist Solidarity would like to invite our friends and supporters to our 2017 Christmas gatherings in Brisbane and Melbourne. For the event location or to RSVP please see the flyer.

Tony Skinner

Communications & Local Partnerships Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity



YEAR 11 MARIST FORUM

The annual Year 11 Marist Social Justice Forum proved to be another wonderful experience for all, but especially the students who were able to connect with the other students from Marist schools in Sydney and the ACT.

Held on the last weekend of Term 3, guest speakers helped to increase awareness of different social justice issues in contemporary Australian society. Speakers from CatholicCare highlighted the issue of Domestic Violence whilst Sr Noelene Simmons from Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans (ACRATH) highlighted the modern slave trade industry, the problems of slavery in our supply chains of the clothes and mobile phones we buy. She emphasised the buying of Fairtrade products and the certified trademark that companies use to sell such items as chocolate! Students also took part in a simulation game called 'Basti Life'. 'Basti' means slum, and through 'playing' the game, students said, *"Basti-life was enabled us to resonate with the hardships by communities in developing nations"* and *"Basti Life was really challenging because at first, I wanted to give up on the activity. But, after completing the activity I could understand (even just a little) the type of struggle that those in the slums experience every day"*.

Lastly, the Forum activity itself is always a winner as students get a chance to voice their concerns regarding 3 social issues that have been voted upon by themselves. Their passion was evident in the three issues chosen, which were mental health issues for males, racism (particularly against Indigenous people) and lastly, the gay marriage debate. A student said, *"The Marist forum allowed me to hear different perspectives and we had a passionate conversation on important social issues. It has encouraged me to be more passionate at my school on my advocacy for social justice."*

Looking at the student feedback and the way students engaged in the weekend long program, we have achieved our aim of providing a formative opportunity for your students to grow from and take away ideas to address social justice issues. Student Feedback regarding the Forum included the following:

"Interacting and accepting the views of individuals whom have differing beliefs to mine."

"Shown me that I can make a difference in the world and encourage others to work together to make the world a better and more just place"

"Allowed me to see a variety of ideas and opinions regarding issues and potential solutions".

For more photos please see our **MYM website link**:

<https://www.maristyouthministry.com/marist-forums-home>

NB: Super Connect Gathering for Sydney Schools

24 November

Marist College Eastwood

5 – 7.30pm

Mrs Jeni Miller

Marist Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator



YEAR 11 MARIST FORUM



Marist 180 Community Wardrobe

MYM Sydney would like to thank all the schools that have collected clothes for the Marist 180 Community Wardrobe. This is a great collaborative project between 3 Marist Ministries and I am grateful for all the teacher/student/family support. Due to the enthusiasm and energy of students, the project's future looks like it is in good hands. The wardrobe is over flowing with clothes for young people who are in need and on the margins. Stay tune for the official Opening of the Wardrobe!



Matthew Brennan, Principal of Parramatta Marist, helping students to load the MYM van with donations



Marist College Kogarah students



Marist Tertiary Programs Newsletter

Together we Learn and Grow

Newsletter 3 | October 2017

'In giving us Mary's name, Fr Champagnat wished us to live her spirit'. Const.4



A message from Br John McMahon...

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Brothers,

As we begin to prepare for 2018, it is pleasing to witness the increase in the number of participants taking our Marist tertiary programs. This increase normally follows successful participation in our Mission and Life Formation Programs. Our new tertiary program in 2018 titled 'Leadership from a Marian Perspective' will add a fifth program to our offerings. This program will be taught in Melbourne during May 2018.

We are seeking to build a more formal network of people studying Marist tertiary programs at university. It seems an online approach would be best. If you have any suggestions about how we might follow this through, or wish to undertake such a task, please let us know. Some have even suggested inviting schools to set up small Marist Tertiary Learning Centres.

We wish you well for the final term of 2017.

With best wishes

Br John McMahon

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

News

New Course on Mary

As Marists, Mary has a special place in our hearts. We continue to learn more about her and to understand the significance of her role in the life of Jesus. Across the centuries numerous devotions to Mary have emerged. Today, there is an increasing focus on the contemplative Mary and on Mary as archetype.

Our new course is titled 'Leadership from a Marian Perspective'. It will be taught at our Marist Centre Melbourne across two weekends: May 5-6, 2018 and May 26-27, 2018. We are in the process of seeking accreditation for this unit with Australian Catholic University at the Masters level (AQF Level 9).

The planned modules for this Unit are:

1. *Mary in the Gospels and the Christian Tradition*
2. *Mary and Vatican II: A Paradigm Shift*
3. *Marian Perspectives of Leading in a Contemporary Catholic School*
4. *Contemplative Leadership*

Further information can be obtained from
Br John McMahon at john.mcmahon@marists.org.au



ARE YOU STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY?

Why not use one of our programs for accreditation..

Universities offering Accreditation

- *Australian Catholic University*
- *University of Notre Dame*
- *University of South Australia*
- *BBI—The Australian Institute of Theological Education*

Marist Programs with University Accreditation

- ◆ *Footsteps 1*
- ◆ *Footsteps 2*
- ◆ *Marist Pilgrimage & Study Tour*
- ◆ *Marist Educational Leadership*
- ◆ *Marist Methodology for Catholic Education Program*

For further information visit our website
www.mte.org.au

Together we Learn and Grow

Marist Tertiary Programs



In this edition we are featuring Simon Martino

"I have been fortunate enough to participate in several Marist programs that have inspired me to explore further the role of the Church today. For my Master of Theology, I recently completed a unit that allowed me to explore a topic of my choosing. I was drawn to exploring the importance of living the Marian dimension of the Church. My experience and involvement with the Marists allowed me to research a topic that is important for the Church today but also something that I am passionate about. My participation in one of the Marist programs challenged me both professionally and personally. It helped me to better understand my commitment to the Marist charism as well as better understand the role the Marist story plays for the wider Church. The beauty of the programs I undertook is their commitment to dialogue and sharing of ideas that could be applied to my work. As I continue to develop my knowledge and continue my study, I will always look for programs that inspire and challenge. Thankfully the Marist programs not only do that but also encourage me in my faith."

We are featuring Raeleen Austin from All Saints College, St Peter's Campus, Maitland



"I was fortunate enough to be a part of the Marist Educational Leadership program in August. This opportunity was enriching to my personal and professional learning as we gathered, as fellow Marists, examining and challenging ourselves as to what it means to be a leader within our Marist context. The passion of our facilitators and each of the participants allowed for open and honest sharing and networking of resources and ideas. I would encourage anyone within our Marist communities to open yourselves to this level of learning and to grow in your understanding of what it means to be leaders in our own communities. Marcellin was challenged by the issues of his time and persevered to make a difference in the lives of the young people and so we are challenged to persevere in our contexts 'to make Jesus known and loved' for our young people. Take the challenge!"

Upcoming Programs

♦ **Marist Methodology Unit for the Graduate Certificate in Catholic Education**

Program Dates & Location

The Unit includes 12 two hour Sessions taught between May to September 2018, Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

♦ **Leadership from a Marian Perspective**

Program Dates & Location

Marist Centre Melbourne 5-6 & 26-27 May 2018



Marist Educational Leadership, Sydney 2017

'I am currently in Rome undertaking a renewal program at our Marist General House. Our program includes reflections on Marist spirituality and Marist life and mission, as well as pilgrimages to the Hermitage in France and Assisi in Italy. We have seventeen participants from across the Marist English-speaking world. Brs John Klein and John McDonnell from the United States are leading our program. Visiting speakers come to speak on different topics. Updates can be found at our Marist Blog: www.johnmcmahon@marists.org.au'. I look forward to sharing the journey with you. Br John McMahon

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Together we Learn and Grow