



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

13 November 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

It is a fact not always appreciated by those in authority that among the least effective means for sharing information or for ensuring compliance is the method of decree or written notice. Any school principal knows this, as would any head of department or head of house or director of boarding: putting something on paper or in a memo can have zero effect. "What do you mean you didn't know? I put it up on the noticeboard." "It was in this week's staff bulletin." "I sent everyone an email about that." "It's on the intranet under 'staff policies'."

I was once chastised by an Italian when I ignorantly suggested that Italians needed better rules and laws to achieve more order and regulation. No, she assured me, Italy has some of the most noble and comprehensive laws of any country; people just don't take any notice of them.

Perhaps the Italian connection is where we sometimes go wrong in the Roman Catholic Church. We also have some of the most richly worded documents ever penned. But with what result? There's a lot more to making something a reality than posting it on the Vatican website.

To wit: last week's Message from the Synod on the New Evangelisation. Have you read it? Let me know if you have and I'll put a holy card for you in today's mail. I suspect that my postage bill won't be too high. Make yourself a cuppa or pour yourself a scotch and have a read: www.news.va/en/news/synod-message-to-the-people-of-god. Perhaps more might have glanced through the interview with Brother Emili Turú which was published on the Marist Brothers' website: www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=2580. Both are worth your reading, even though there is a bit of church-speak through which to wade in the first one.

The Message of the Synod begins with reference to a profound passage from John's Gospel (and interestingly a favourite of our own Founder): that of the encounter of the Samaritan woman with Jesus (John 4:5-42). It is a piece of Scripture that captures two essential elements that people such as us Marists who aspire to be effective evangelisers need ensure happen: genuine encounter with Jesus and genuine dialogue with people. It was exactly what the Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams said in one of the opening addresses of the Synod. And one of the places where this can happen most effectively, the Synod message recognises (#10) is in the Catholic school.

The bishops of the Synod have a particular message for our part of the world: "[We] greet the people of Oceania who live under the protection of the Southern Cross, [and] thank you for your witness to the Gospel of Jesus. Our prayer for you is that you might feel a profound thirst for new life, like the Samaritan woman at the well, and that you might be able to hear the word of Jesus which says: *If you knew the gift of God (John 4:10)*. May you more strongly feel the commitment to preach the Gospel and to make Jesus known in the world of today. We exhort you to encounter him in your daily life, to listen to him and to discover, through prayer and meditation, the grace to be able to say: *We know that this is truly the Saviour of the World (John 4:42)*." (#13).

If our Marist schools are to be authentically schools of the Gospel, then this is really our abiding challenge: that we who teach in them be people who have met Jesus along the road and have been forever changed by that meeting, and that we listen to and engage with love the young people in our care. This was Marcellin's way. If we learn anything from him, let us learn that.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

12-13 Nov ICW Formation Day for Facilitators -
Newman College Perth
13 Nov Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (s4) - SYD

1 Dec Mass and Dinner to mark the closing of the
Province of Melbourne
3 Dec MSA Leadership Meeting - Drummoyne
8-14 Dec Australian Province Chapter



MYC'S SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE STARTS IN MELBOURNE

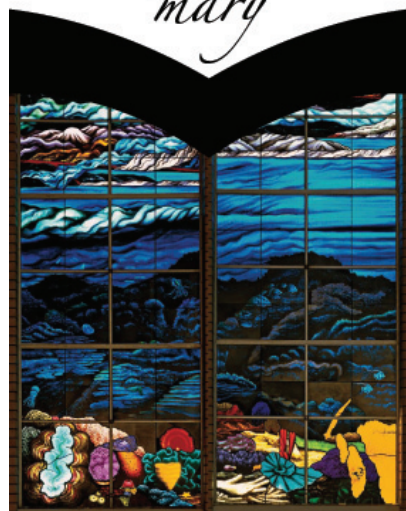
Last week saw the first intake of young people in the new training centre which Marist Youth care has started at the Montagne Centre, Melbourne. Ten chronically unemployed young men, aged between 15 and 21, have begun their initial four week skills training before moving to further training in the jobs they have been offered. Congratulations to Natalie Anderson, the MYC Senior Manager in Melbourne, on such a successful start.



ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SYDNEY

Frank Malloy will be on study leave from late March till early June next year. During these weeks, Peter McNamara will be the acting MSA Director for the Sydney Region.

MARIST SCHOOLS CONFERENCE: 28-31 JULY 2013



Brother Emili Turu at Conference!

We are privileged that from 28-31 July in 2013, Br Emili has agreed to join us at the inaugural Marist Schools Conference for the newly-formed Province of Australia. Br Emili, the Superior General of the Marist Brothers, recently released his first Circular, "He Gave Us the Name of Mary." In this, he reflects on the challenges facing the Marists worldwide, and these are the very same challenges which we seek to respond to in Australia.

The feature of the Cairns conference is that Br Emili will present a reflection to the conference which draws on the key ideas from his Circular. This is an opportunity not to be missed!

Please note that the venue, formerly the Sebel Cairns, has changed its name to the Pullman Cairns International.

Prayers please

The tragedy of **Greg Crowe's** death in a car accident last week continues to weigh heavily on the community of Santa Teresa and the many of our schools that have connections with *Ltyentye Apurte* where he was Principal. All the Marists of Australia offer their deep sympathy to Greg's family and the Santa community at this very sad time for them.

Yesterday, **Brother John Mullins** passed away in Sydney. He had been ill for some time with cancer. John served in a number of schools, mainly in regional areas and for many years as Principal. He was the Foundation Principal of Trinity College, Beenleigh and is fondly remembered in places from Cairns to Campbelltown. May he rest in peace.

ASSUMPTION'S NEW MARLHES HOSPITALITY CENTRE

The new Marlhés Hospitality Centre offers Assumption students and those from other schools in the region a great opportunity to gain experience in a commercial kitchen and working restaurant environment. It is named after the French town where St Marcellin was born.

On Wednesday, September 19, Mr Paul Herrick Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia, officially opened the centre, and it was blessed by Fr Grant O'Neill, Parish Priest of St Patrick's Kilmore.



Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

Term 4 has seen the team out and about meeting with Principals, RECs, Directors of Mission and other leaders planning programs and activities for schools for 2013 – on our theme for 2013 **iBelieve**.

As well, the whole team has been involved in extensive planning for the revamped **FOOTSTEPS II** program which begins in 2013. It will be a wonderful new look. A new one-off program – 2 hours or 4 hours – to be called **iBelieve** is also being planned and will be available for schools in 2013.

We gathered recently to recognise a number of significant events for the team: our final team meeting at Drummoyne; that Kevin Blyth after so many years of generous involvement in the ministry to Queensland schools with Jack O'Brien and then on to our MLF team, has chosen to ease up now that he has hit 80! He will be greatly missed.



Photo caption, from left: Brother Kevin Blyth with Tony Clark

We celebrated his big day as a team and also farewelled Michael Callinan as he heads off for renewal in December and Michael Flanagan who will take up Principalship at Forbes. The two Michaels have been extraordinarily capable colleagues and will be missed. We welcome of course two remarkably creative men to replace them on the team from 2013 – Tony Leon and Hubert Williams. We also acknowledged Robert O'Connor's 10 years on the team since finishing at Ashgrove in 2002 – but we'll keep him working a little longer yet!



Photo caption, from left: Bianca Buda, Carole Wark and Brother Michael Callinan

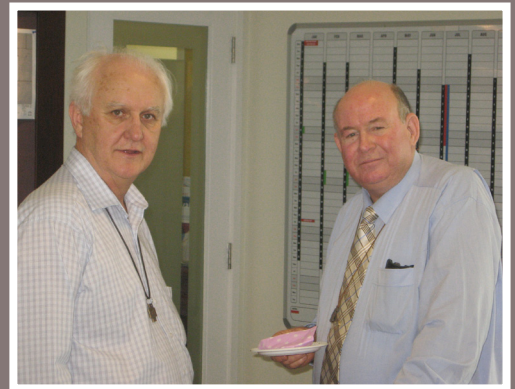


Photo caption, from left: Brothers Michael Akers and Michael Flanagan

iBelieve resources for 2013

In line with the Year of Faith, we have chosen "iBelieve" as the special theme for next year. As usual, we will be developing some resources for schools to use if they find them useful, particularly for commencement liturgies at the start of the year and for the Feast of St Marcellin on 6 June.

During the Term 4 meetings with the Regional Director and MLF team member, this would have been discussed in greater detail.

Yesterday, schools should have received several items from Tony Clarke: 2013 Theme Reflection, 2013 Theme Scripture Readings, and 2013 Theme Music Suggestions

Copies of these documents, as well as some high resolution images for powerpoints or banners will also be available later this week on the *Marist Schools Australia* website: www.msa.edu.au





CHRISTMAS MENU OF POSSIBILITIES

Each Christmas since 2007, a menu of possibilities for assisting young people in Marist projects in the Asia Pacific region has been distributed throughout Australia.

Due to the generosity of our supporters in 2011, more families were housed in Manila, more students had

better access to quality education in Pakistan, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, and future teachers in East Timor's were supported in their desire to become educators among the young.

The projects in this year's Menu are but a taste of the scope of more than eighty projects supported by Marist Solidarity. Our team now works across fifteen countries and has recently expanded our concern into primary health care, as well as partnering with more local community initiatives for non-formal learning and initiatives with street kids in The Philippines. For copies of the menu,

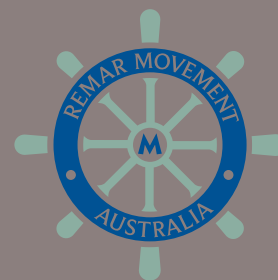
please contact the office, or please feel welcome to come along to one of our two remaining launches this year.

Melbourne Launch

on Sunday 25 November
Montagne Centre,
Brunswick @ 6pm
or

Adelaide Launch

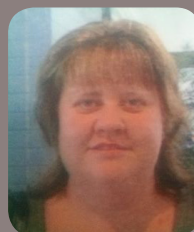
on Monday 26 November
Sacred Heart College Middle School,
Mitchell Park @ 5:30pm



REMAR

NEW COORDINATOR APPOINTED FOR 2013

This year brings to a close Simone Boyd's leadership of Remar, a period that has seen the programme undergo significant growth, strengthening and renewal. Simone's professional competence and her personal investment have been immense, and the fruits of her work speak for themselves.



Today we announce that Nicki Pitt will be the new Remar Coordinator from 2013. Nicki is currently the Director of Mission at Marist Regional College, Burnie, and Coordinator of Remar there. She will be moving to Melbourne to take up the role.

INTEGRATION OF 'MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY'

Planning for the new Marist Province of Australia – now less than four weeks away – has seen the re-imaging of each of the major areas of Marist ministry: schools, youth welfare, solidarity, and youth ministry. It is in the fourth of these that Remar sits. Concurrently in the Marist world internationally there is currently a major energising of youth ministry, both at school and post-school levels.

The primary name that in future will be used across the Marist world is to be "Marist Youth Ministry" and from 2013 here in the Province of Australia we will do the same. One of the key priorities for us will be the fostering of much greater integration between our school-level programme – Remar – and our various post-school initiatives. To this end, next year MYM will be led by a team of four core people: the Remar Coordinator and three MYM Regional Coordinators (based in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne).

One of this team will be named as the National Coordinator. They will be assisted by two Remar Ministry Teams (based out of Brisbane and Melbourne) and a couple of part-time MYM Assistants. All of them will be involved across the school/post-school spectrum.

2013 CALENDAR

The Remar team has completed detailed planning for next year's calendar – both individual school events and regional/national gatherings. Any school which requires clarity or confirmation should make contact with the team this week.