



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

20 March 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

“Why evangelise?”

It was a question put to Marist Principals last week in a deeply insightful presentation from Daniel Ang, one of our guest speakers at the Mittagong conference. And a fundamental question it is. Why do we do it, at all? Why devote all the energies and resources that we do to this pursuit?

Daniel’s answer to his own question is in one way obvious, but it is also challenging. Indeed, it challenges us to our core: *[Evangelisation] arises from the fundamental conviction that God alone fulfils the deepest requirements of the human person. Our Christian witness, proclamation, dialogue, and service is fired by the conviction that it is the encounter with Christ that promotes human flourishing, opens us to the deepest horizons of our own being and every other with whom we share creation and a common vocation in the life of God.*

Earlier in the same session, another presenter, Dr Paul Monkerud, had reminded us of Greek etymology of “evangelisation” comprising two elements: “good” and “news”. Father Paul proposed to us that we need both elements in our work. Indeed, there nothing so intrinsically good and no news that is more compelling.

Why then, does the Church have so much trouble selling it? Why, don’t our students respond with unbridled passion and fervour? The goodness and attraction of the Gospel are somewhat compromised, of course, by would-be evangelisers such as us who do not always credibly or clearly radiate it, or who are not in situations where they can come close enough to young people to affect them deeply by what’s in their own hearts. Brother Mark O’Connor made a key point in his presentation that in his experience the most effective evangelisers were those who were closest to those with whom they worked. This was powerfully amplified by the two young Remar gap students who spoke of the significance of people and programmes that had allowed them to be touched in their hearts, and through those encounters to meet Jesus.

Our Marist way, at its best, has us do just that: creating opportunities to affect young people in and through relationships with them, and particularly relationships and programmes that lead explicitly to a Christ-encounter.

An abiding challenge, though, is to keep the flame of the gospel burning in our own hearts. All of us live in the same Western cultural milieu that has prompted the last two Popes to call for a “new evangelisation”: a milieu that has both fractured and muted the Christian meta-narrative. Without a culture that provides much scaffolding at all to Gospel living, we can slip into our own evangelical tepidity. Among the many benefits week’s conference was what it offered our school leaders in re-kindling their own passion for the Gospel. It was a rich experience: the dialogue and thought, the prayer and worship, the conviviality and companionship. It lifted all who were there.

This week, we have the first “Footsteps II” programme at Mittagong, the biennial “Being Marist Conference” in Melbourne, and a Marist delegation travels to the RE Congress in Los Angeles. Like the Principals’ Conference, they will be wonderful meetings of Marists. Next term’s conference on ‘Evangelisation of Youth, the Marist Way’ will be the same, so too the annual Marist Pilgrimage that leaves for France at the end of the month. As will all the programmes, courses and conferences for the rest of 2012. We need them. They keep our fires burning; they keep God’s fire burning in us. They are peal experiences that help to sustain our everyday lives and ministry. Our Marist story is indeed a wonderfully rich and evangelical one to enter, and our fellow Marists offer us a marvellous companionship for this gospel journey. They keep reminding us just why we do what we do, and they help us to do as well as it deserves to be done.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

18 – 21 Mar Footsteps 2, The Hermitage, Mittagong
 20 Mar In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 21 – 23 Mar Sacred Heart College Middle School
 22 – 25 Mar Being Marist Conference, Bulleen
 23 Mar LA RE Congress
 Inner West In the Champagnat Way : New Staff
 26 – 28 Mar Induction, Drummoyne
 Marist Patrimony II: Marcellin and his
 28 Mar Marvellous Companions, Mittagong
 29 Mar Twilight Retreat, St Michael's Daceyville
 31 Mar – Footsteps Review Meeting, Drummoyne
 21 April Champagnat Pilgrimage 2012
 2 April Mary, Mature Disciple, Canberra
 2 April RE Staff Day, Canberra

3 April Spirituality & Leadership III, St Gregory's College
 Campbelltown
 16 April CLRI (Presentation on Lay Life and Brothers)
 23 April Staff Spirituality Day, Leeton
 23 April Blue Helm Inservice
 26 April Living the Eucharist, Mitchelton
 30 April – Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (BNE), Lavalla
 1 May Centre Rosalie
 2 May Marist Leadership: Next Gen II (SYD)
 6 – 8 May Marist Youth Evangelisation Conference,
 Mittagong
 9 May MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Drummoyne
 14 May MSA/MLF Regional Melbourne Meeting
 15 May Spirituality & Leadership II
 (Randwick KLAs), Drummoyne

FIRST AUSTRALIAN MARIST PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE

Last week saw the first national gathering of Marist Principals at The Hermitage, Mittagong. Over two days, the principals of our schools met together to discuss the challenges and opportunities for evangelisation in today's Marist schools, and the various projects and plans that are afoot in Marist life and mission in Australia this year. The conference was augmented by some uplifting liturgy, warm hospitality from Brotjer Bill Tarrant and his team at the Hermitage, and glorious autumn weather. Guest presenters included Br Mark O'Connor, Daniel Ang, Fr Paul Monkerud and Anthony Cleary (all speaking on evangelisation), Br Allen Sherry (MAPS), Jack Stammers and Cassie Gawley (Remar Ministry Team), Tony Clarke, Br Michael Callinan, Br Robert O'Connor (MLF Team), Carole Wark (Lay Marists), and also Br Jeff Crowe and Fr Gary Perritt CP.



As this is the last Newsletter for the Term, we take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter, and a restful break.



LAVALLA

Articles and photos this week!
Do you have a photograph and/or short article for the first issue of Lavalla for 2012 – something of your school community to share with fellow Marists around

Australia? This Friday is the cut-off date for submissions. Please email them to Brother Tony Paterson: tony.paterson@marists.org.au

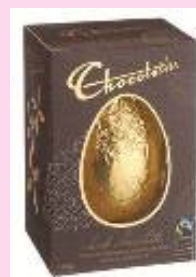
BE A GOOD EGG THIS EASTER

The Fairtrade Chocolate Easter campaign, an initiative of Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans), The Trading Circle and Stop The Traffik, is encouraging people to buy FAIRTRADE chocolate for Easter to help stop the trafficking and forced labour of children and adults for chocolate production.

For information Christine Carolan, National Projects
 Co-ordinator ACRATH
 Phone (03) 9645-5986 or at projects@acrath.org.au

CADBURY

The Fair Trade symbol appears in the top corner of the box



Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Participants of Footsteps - Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved Michael Fuller (All Saint's College - St Peter's Campus, Maitland) and Caroline Smith (Marist College Ashgrove)



Footsteps participants Trish Kratochvil (Marcellin College Randwick) and Heather Grady (Marist College Canberra)



Footsteps participants Ben Whiting (All Saint's College - St Peter's Campus, Maitland), Sian Burke (Mt Maria College Enogerra/Mitchelton) and Leanne Roberts (St Thomas More Primary School, Sunshine Beach)

FOOTSTEPS 2 MITTAGONG

As usual the members of the Mission and Life Team have been busy assisting schools and their staffs in the ongoing formation in Marist Spirituality. The replacement programmes for Sharing Our Call/Sharing Champagnat's Visionnow called Footsteps and Footsteps 2 have now been run at Mittagong for the first time each. Twenty six participants and the complete team attended the Footsteps programme (4-7 March), which had been completely and thoroughly revised...everyone thought it a complete success. One Participant had this to say:

Thank you so much for all your generosity, hospitality and hard work in making this an inspirational program that helps all those involved to rise to the challenge to follow Marcellin's footsteps in becoming disciples (the face of Jesus) to others through Mary.

The Footsteps 2 (18-21 March) programme was similarly well accepted and proved to be a powerful and inspirational journey for all. Twenty one participants and five staff endured the vagaries of Mittagong's weather to see the days completed successfully. One valuable feature added to these new programmes is a Mass celebrated in the late afternoon of the Tuesday by Fr Gary Perritt OP.

Other programmes offered have been the Spirituality and Leadership 3 at Hamilton to a group of twenty or so Middle Managers and two short courses to staff at both Ashgrove and Mt Maria. The S&P 3 programme concentrated the challenges of post-modernism and understanding the Marist face of the Church. The short courses consisted of input and discussion on the Eucharist, on Love of Work and on Prayer : each course was well attended, and considering that they are held either before school or after it, this says a great deal about the enthusiasm and sincerity of the people who take part. At the session on Prayer those of us old enough to remember actually sang a few verses of "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden"!! (The pleas of the younger ones to please stop ended the singing early).

PARTICIPANTS AT THE PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE 2012





MOVING FORWARD

It has been a busy fortnight for the MAPS office with some team members out on the road meeting with key stakeholders and conducting more schools visits. Others on the team continue to work on new systems needed for MAPS to become an even more responsive agency in the work of international aid and development. As reported in the last edition of this newsletter, Catherine Hannon has been appointed to the position of Volunteering and Advocacy Officer and the team is excited about the new possibilities beginning to emerge across these two important areas.



The MAPS Advisory Council has had its first meeting for 2012, and the members of this group through their knowledge and expertise in particular industries offer important insights about the direction our solidarity work needs to travel. Allison White, who is a senior manager for Ergon Energy and a member of the Advisory Council, has been instrumental in the development of a new strategic plan that reflects the growth and change the MAPS office has undergone in recent times.

As we move towards the end of Term One, we would like to express once more our thanks to members-schools of the MSA network for the way that the work of MAPS been promoted.



BUSY MONTH FOR REMAR



Nine Blue Embarkation Camps, nine Gold Embarkation Camps, four Red Embarkation Camps, two Red Recruitment sessions, one Principals Conference. The Remar Ministry Team have

certainly been busy in the first two months of their year. Their commitment to making Jesus known and loved has already touched the hearts of over 400 young people, with many more to come.



Please keep us in your prayers as we move into the next phase of the journey.

