



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

22 May 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

The first “Council” of the Church in Jerusalem was marked by conflict and disagreement about who was in and who was out, and why. Two thousand years later and we’re still at it. These last couple of weeks of the Easter season, when our daily Scripture readings have drawn heavily from John’s ‘Last Supper Discourses’, so rich with Jesus’s call to unity, to love, and to peace, you may have been like me in seeing these readings in an uneasy counterpoint with the debates that threaten to divide the Church. So much of our intra-Church discourse seems to be about who’s right, and what The Others who aren’t right should do to get right.

Enter Mary. Of all the qualities we extol in Mary, we don’t usually concern ourselves with her orthodoxy. We speak of Mary’s faith, her joy, her trust, her readiness to set out, her pondering, her resilience, her maternity, her discipleship. Even under her title *Sede Sapientiae* (Seat of Wisdom), it is to something deeper than doctrinal correctness that we refer. The Marian principle of the Church – its most fundamental principle according to John Paul II – is not essentially about doctrine, or hierarchy, or about rules of membership. It is about discipleship and unity, centred on Christ risen.

The Ascension, celebrated in the Australian Church last Sunday, is the subject of an ancient icon which is not so much about the Ascension at all, but about a way for the Church to understand itself. The ecclesiology that is visualised in this icon is one promoted by the theologian Hans Urs von Balthazar and drawn on by Brother Emili Turú in his recently published Circular *He Gave Us the Name of Mary*.



There are many things that can be said about this icon, but let us mention just one: the Marian principle on which it pivots. Mary is at the centre of the apostles as first disciple. She holds them in harmony and aligns them with Christ. She grounds the presence of the Divine in their midst.

As Marists, we are called to be the same. At the core of the founding inspiration of the Marist project was this intuition: that the healing, the renewal, and the upbuilding which the Church of nineteenth century France sorely needed was best sourced in a Marian approach – being in the midst of people, nurturing, gathering, reconciling,

forgiving, educating and, above all, being Christocentric. Let us go in haste with Mary to do this for our school communities.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

20 - 23 May	Footsteps2 #11, The Hermitage Mittagong
23 May	Montagne Centre Staff Formation Day
28 May	Mary the Mature Disciple (3)
30 May	Religious Leadership (Leadership Team), ST Gregory's College, Campbelltown
5 June	Noosa Marists Core Group Meeting and Evening Prayer Meeting
8 June	Marist Collections Uncovered / Workshop, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
12 June	Spirituality & Leadership III, Berne
15 June	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Montagne Centre, Brunswick

17 - 18 June	Student Coordinators' Retreat Day, St Francis Xavier College
19 - 24 June	Shared Joint Formation Experience
28 June	Staff Retreat, Sacred Heart College
18 July	Twilight Retreat, St Michael's Daceyville
22 - 25 July	Footsteps #02, The Hermitage Mittagong
25 July	Montagne Centre Staff Formation Day, Brunswick
29 - 30 July	Studies Coordinators' Retreat Day, St Francis Xavier College
30 July	Marist Pedagogy (1), MArist College Kogarah

NEXUS : VOLUME 7

Here is the link to the latest volume of "Nexus", the occasional newsletter on the development of the new Australian Province:

http://gallery.mailchimp.com/0f1a46d014c78d3e7f6c24fca/files/Nexus_Newsletter_Vol._7_email_.pdf



RESOURCES for the FEAST of ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT 6 JUNE

Late last week schools should have received the prayer cards they ordered as well as a complimentary purpose-made video to assist in celebrating the 2012 Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat. The disc contains several formats of the video as well as suggestions for some spoken content for an address in a whole school assembly or pre-eucharist setting contained in an interactive PDF. You'll also find this PDF as well as all the other resources at www.msa.edu.au. The video will be available on YouTube searchable using the keywords "maristaus young 2012". And how about jumping onto twitter (establishing an account is easy) and making a comment about the video once you've seen it by searching #maristaus or looking up @MaristAustralia.

VISIT FROM BROTHER JOÃO DO PRADO

For the last six weeks Brother João Carlos do Prado has been visiting Australia. Brother João is Director of the Office of Mission at the Marist Brothers General House in Rome.

He is originally from Brazil

During his time in Australia Brother João has been improving his English by taking an English course in Sydney. He has also taken the opportunity to visit a number of schools in QLD, NSW and VIC and to run a workshop on the new Marist document *Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth*.

He is pictured below with the MSA Regional Director in Melbourne, Paul Herrick.



'New Horizons'

in
Vietnam



BECOME A MARIST VOLUNTEER IN VIETNAM

To find out more about becoming a Marist Volunteer in Vietnam see link below:

<http://www.msa.edu.au/storage/21052012%20Australian%20Marist%20Volunteers%20-%20Vietnam%20-%20New%20Horizons%20A3%20revision%204.pdf>

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



26-29 AUGUST 2012 - ALICE SPRINGS - NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Central Desert is a far cry from the rambling hills of France where Champagnat began his project. A desert experience where one can touch into one's own heart I am sure was not envisaged in his visioning!

Exploring how the desert nourishes the soul as it has many generations before us is the journey to the heart, a desert experience, with its stark beauty, harsh environs, allure and mystique speaks of God's spirit alive and well! Contemplating on our 'desert' experience, the Marist world in context of the desert culture and history, will call participants to enter into this journey to the Heart and learn how to integrate this experience into their local ministry!

Limited places are still available in this Programme.



Robyn Rebbechi (Director of Faith Development, Marist-Sion College, Warragul) and Br Patrick Connell (Marist Vocations Team, Melbourne)



Marist College Ashgrove Year 12 students: L-R: Joe Byrne, Darcy Gannon, Jordan Cooke, Jason Rankin and Tom Millikan presented on their Post-Immersion experience.

MARIST LEADERS NEXT GEN I BRISBANE



What we leave the next generation to carry on with is critical! The meaning of traditions and the values attached to them are necessary for this new generation to work with in shaping their future and Marist future. James Taylor (Ashgrove) gave resonance to this as he indicated in his reflection on the importance of 'understanding the unique

structural and cultural components of Marist Schools' a key learning he has taken away from the Next Gen 1 Programme. Bishop Greg O'Kelly's recent comment, 'to help our young people mature we should guide them on what Teilhard de Chardin called that the most difficult of journeys, the journey within' has been taken up very seriously by the young people who shared their immersion experiences with the Next Gen 1 Brisbane participants of 2012. Our thanks must go to the young men for their deep sharing of their journeys and to all those who supported them in this.

BEARERS OF HOPE

Heads and Assistants of Key Learning areas accompanied by their Director of Teaching and M-Learning from Marcellin College Randwick entered into the second level programme of 'Spirituality and Leadership' where they explored how a leadership role in a Marist School can be a 'bearer of hope'.



*Front row: (left to right): Brother Michael Callinan, Jenny Dove, Hayley Spencer, Gillian Clarke, Anthony Burke
Middle Row (left to right): Peta Bourke, Amanda Conde, Chris O'Connell, Chris Shields, Jane Evans, Jeannie Sceivity, Garry McDonald, Annette Emms
Back Row (left to right): Andrew Howe, Matthew Fitzgerald*



AN ENCOUNTER IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

During the Easter holidays, a number of MSA schools embarked on immersion trips to Marist places in the Asia-Pacific Region. Marist College Canberra sent six Year 11 students and 2 staff to St Dominic's Rural Training College, Vanga Point, near Gizo in the Western province of the Solomon Islands for 10 days. This was followed by a short visit to St Joseph's Secondary College, Tenaru just outside of Honiara. The group was then able to spend some days experiencing the "city life" in Honiara which included participating in the ANZAC Day Dawn service with other Australians and New Zealanders – a somewhat different experience to what the students would have been familiar with back home in the nation's capital.



In recent years, immersion programs have become recognised as powerful tools for promoting a strong understanding of solidarity among students who are fortunate enough to be provided with such opportunities. At the recent *Youth Evangelisation: The Marist Way Conference* held in Mittagong, immersion experiences were understood as not only having strong foundations in solidarity and justice, but that they also have strong spiritual dimensions that can animate the faith life of young people in powerful ways. As Marist educators, we must be consistent in our message to the young people we teach, that at the heart of encountering other cultures is actually an encounter with Christ in each other.

In 2012, the MAPS office will be supporting 33 immersions being conducted by MSA schools who will connect with Marist communities across 15 different sites throughout Asia and the Pacific. If your school wishes to explore immersion program possibilities into the future please contact Paula McLoughlin on (07) 3137 1960 or email pmcloughlin@maristsolidarity.net.au.



FOUR SCHOOLS GATHER FOR THE FIRST BLUE RETREAT



Sacred Heart College Adelaide, Notre Dame College Shepparton, Penola Catholic College and Assumption College Kilmore were the first group

to experience the Blue Retreat in 2012. It is a program that focuses on the call to "Live as Christ's Disciples" in the presence of God's unconditional love.



"The 2012 Blue Retreat has been a highlight of my life and an event I plan to never forget. The friendships I have formed are unlike any others and the bonds I have formed with my own group have been increased immensely. The teachings of love, compassion and faith have opened many ideas in my mind and, although I came into the Retreat with a lot of uncertainty and doubt, it has given me a clear mind and I am happy to say that I know that I am leaving a better person. I am so thankful for all the opportunities and chances that Remar has offered me and the person it is shaping me to become is one I am proud to be."

Simon, Blue Rower
Sacred Heart College Adelaide

