



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

3 December 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

When something written by the Pope gets a favourable page three splash in *The Age* – a broadsheet not historically known for showing too much favour to things Catholic – then it may be reasonable to conclude that this new Pope is not only speaking (they all do that) but that people are listening. And not only those who are paid to do so.

Of course, the media are past masters in extracting, decontextualising, and then sensationalising little bits and pieces of longer documents. The release of *Evangelii Gaudium* last week didn't provide too much for the Fairfax journalists in that regard, other than prompting some predictable comments about women priests, abortion, and reform of Church structures. Unfortunately they seemed to miss the paragraphs on human trafficking and the need for countries to open their doors to the persecuted and the vulnerable. And they might have made something glib out of what the Pope said about long, boring and irrelevant homilies from preachers caught up in their own self-importance.

But this first major document from the pen of Francis, so freshly and richly written, is not essentially about any of those things. Perhaps the Holy Father's key message is best captured in its first two words, the name by which it will always be known: *Evangelii Gaudium*. Blissfully free of the dense language that can be so typical of Vatican documents, this one comes straight from the heart of its author. He speaks to us personally and pastorally, but no less powerfully for doing so. He reminds us that joy and the Gospel are intrinsically linked. "Rejoice!" is the angel of God's first word to Mary, and also to us. It is a compelling and impelling joy, one that fills our hearts, and urges us with Mary to go out in haste with news of justice and of mercy and of faithful love. Those phrases sit easily with us Marists, don't they? That shouldn't be surprising; the Pope ends by saying that the work of evangelisation is basically Marian. We Marists should be experts in it, then!

Maybe so. But we Marists, no less than everyone else in the Church, deal with the same factors that can compromise our effectiveness and deaden our enthusiasm for mission. Francis names them: selfishness, spiritual laziness or shallowness, sterile pessimism, ambition and careerism, lack of a genuine missionary spirituality, internal divisions and bickering, being out of touch with poor and vulnerable, and an absence of a primary relationship with Christ. Balancing that, however, he expresses his deep gratitude to the great majority of people who daily give their lives in love, making special mention of those who dedicate their lives to the education of the young.

As Advent begins and we come to the end of this school year, with Pope Francis let us rejoice in the wonders that have occurred in our midst. Let us, with the shepherds, welcome with joy the Christ-life that has come to birth in and around us in 2013. Let us, with Mary, be filled with the quiet joy that such birth and growth brings.

One of the richest lines of *Evangelii Gaudium* for me was this simple statement: *I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here* (#273). Let us return for 2014 renewed for the mission which is who we are.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

3-10 Dec	Marist Cricket Carnival, Notre Dame College Shepparton VIC & Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park SA
4 Dec	Marist Solidarity Christmas Gathering, Sydney
5-7 Dec	Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Melbourne
11-18 Dec	Marist Cricket Carnival, Newman College, Churchlands WA
13 Jan	MSA Office Reopens
24-26 Jan	Student Leaders Gathering, Marist College Ashgrove QLD
11-12 Mar	Principals' Conference, Mittagong

MARIST MINISTRIES MASS AND DINNER - MELBOURNE



The Melbourne region of the Australian Marist Community gathered for the annual Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner on Saturday evening at Marcellin College, Bulleen. Yet again, this annual event was a joyous occasion as the Marist clan gathered to give thanks for our work over the past year for the mission of the Church. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement of Mary, much has been accomplished for which we are truly grateful. The Mass was led by Father Kevin Henessey, leader of the Passionist Community in Melbourne and Father Kevin

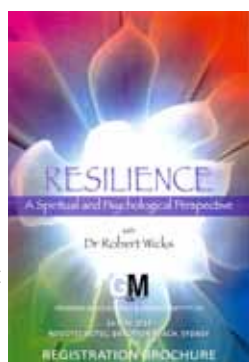
McIntosh, a former student of Immaculate Heart College. It was a prayerful beginning for both the season of Advent and our Dinner which followed. During the evening presentations were made by our Provincial Brother Jeff Crowe and Brother Michael Green to Erica Pegorer who is finishing as Principal of Lavalla Catholic College and taking up the role of Executive Officer for Kildare Ministries and also Marie Dorrington who has made a significant contribution as a consultant to both the Champagnat Education Council of the former Melbourne Province and has recently been appointed to the Lassalian Education Council. Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to Rob Crothers (Neman College), Deacon Mark Kelly (Marist-Sion College), Robyn Rebecchi (Marist-Sion College) and Alby Van Berkel (Lavalla Catholic College) for the significant contributions to their local communities. The evening was a great success, marked by our Marist values of generosity, hospitality and family spirit.



RESILIENCE: A SPIRITUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

A Conference presented by Governance & Management Pty Ltd

Schools that have a professional development day may be interested in this conference. Follow this [LINK](#) to the Registration Brochure.



Notices and News

CONSULTATION FOR A NAME FOR THE MARIST ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA

We are conducting an electronic consultation to assist in finding a name for the Marist Association. You can find the consultation form as well as information about the Association and why we are developing it [here](#).

The consultation will close this Friday, 6 December 2013.

ACCREDITATION: TO TEACH IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL OR TO TEACH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Teachers who have completed Marist programs such as Footsteps or the Pilgrimage can usually obtain accreditation for these through their local Catholic Education Office. The process should be undertaken through the schools Professional Development Coordinator (or similar person). Usually there is a form to be filled out for the CEO with details of the program undertaken in addition to the names of teachers etc. A copy of the program should be attached to the application for accreditation. The CEO then determines the number of hours or points of accreditation that will be granted. Please note that there is wide variation in the number of hours granted from one CEO/diocese to another. Most religious organisations that operate at a national level are seeking to obtain one national level of accreditation across all dioceses. I have spoken to Ross Fox the Executive Director for the National Catholic Education Commission about this issue as have other organisations and it is on their agenda. I suspect that schools will be required to continue to work through their CEO's on this matter until a national agreement is reached by all of the players in this field. This will take time. In the meantime, if you need a copy of one of the Marist programs to attach to your application to your local CEO for accreditation do not hesitate to contact me on: tony.paterson@marists.org.au Alternatively, speak with your local Marist Regional Director at the Marist Centres in Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne. Their contact details are in the 2013 Marist Directory.

Br Tony Paterson

MARIST ADVENT PRAYER BOOKLET

A reminder that FMSI's Prayer and Reflection booklet for Advent is available once again this year. Among the reflections are some written by students from some of our Australian Marist schools, as well as other young people from around the Marist world. Follow this [LINK](#) for a downloadable PDF.

UPGRADING YOUR THEOLOGY CREDENTIALS?

Here is another opportunity for members of staff who may be studying for a Grad. Cert. or a Masters in Theology. Next year, BBI is offering a new online unit in Australian Catholic Church history. It will be taught by Marist Brother John Luttrell. Follow this [LINK](#) for more details.

MLF FAREWELLS BROTHERS MARK PAUL AND TONY LEON

With the closing of the year the MLF Team farewells two very valuable members, Br Tony Leon and Br Mark Paul. Both have contributed much to the programs and the presentation of these programs. We wish them every blessing and many fulfilling times in their new apostolates.



Br Mark has had many challenges throughout the years and special mention must be made of his vital work in the establishment of Marist presence in East Timor. Social Justice is certainly a focus in his life of service. Mark has been a team member in staff formations in southern schools until the formation of the Province of Australia. Next year Br Mark will be the Principal of The John Berne School,

Lewisham in Sydney. This is a very special area of service in the Marist educational apostolate. His pastoral concern will be well demonstrated at Berne.

Br Tony has been a dynamic presence in the schools. His creative gifts have been of benefit to our students, staffs and over the years the MLF Team. Tony is finishing a well-deserved sabbatical during which he has tramped the pilgrim road to Compostella, Spain. His recent blog photo is from Roselle Catholic High School in New Jersey, USA. Tony has been enthusiastically presenting vocation presentations in Marist schools in NY and NJ. Tony will be joining the Marist General House in Rome where his creative and enthusiastic energies will be called forth to proclaim the Marist passion. We have been blessed by these two Marists and their presence, ideas and contributions have been of great value in the functioning of the MLF Team.

Brother Hubert Williams
Mission & Life Formation
Team



L - R: Brother Tony Leon with Brother
Danold Richardson of Roselle Catholic High
School, New Jersey

MARIST PRESENCE AT THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL



The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is on this week, from Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th December. The Festival will be a gathering of over 3000 Catholic youth and young adults, from year 9 to 25 year olds, taking place at the Melbourne ACU Campus and Festival Hall. Possibly over 200 of the 3000 participants will be Marist students and ex-students, and so we will have a Marist presence at the Festival with an Expo Stall and two workshops run by the Marist Youth Ministry and Vocations Ministry teams, providing the opportunity for Young Marists from around Australia to connect.

FROM *EVANGELII GAUDIUM*

*Mary, Virgin and Mother
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,
welcomed the word of life
in the depths of your humble faith:
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
help us to say our own "yes"
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
Filled with Christ's presence,
you brought joy to John the Baptist,
making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
you sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
with unyielding faith,
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.
Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.
Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,
that she may never be closed in on herself
or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.
Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.
Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,
pray for us.
Amen. Alleluia!*

Pope Francis

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

UNTIL 14 FEB 2014

FOR 2014 PROGRAMMES

Online registration opened last month for next year's programmes. It can be done through the MSA website by following this link:

<http://msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes/>

Instructions for making the bookings were sent out last week.

Here is another link to them:

[Quick Instructions for Bookings Officers](#)

MARIST SOLIDARITY CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Christmas is a time for our imaginations to take hold and to see endless possibilities. Being Marist and in solidarity with children at risk challenges us to see something beyond our own needs and to see the possibilities that can change the world.

This Christmas Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) launches its first national Christmas appeal pack. It will be distributed at all launch events and to all Marist communities across the country. In this pack you will find five key projects but six different ways to make this Christmas a *Season of Solidarity*.

If you would like to receive an AMS Christmas pack contact our team at ams@marists.org.au or via the website. www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au



Michael Coleman
MSol Team – Brisbane

2014 MARIST SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



The 2014 Marist Solidarity Campaign is set to arrive in schools in February next year! Keep an eye out for it, as we'll be providing fresh insights into the way we work and how the people you support gain the most out of your fundraising efforts.



REMAR NEWS

2014 MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY REMAR MINISTRY TEAM GETS INDUCTED!

The 2014 Team met last Monday evening for a shared meal and some serious competitive laser tag action! It was great to be amongst the energy, excitement and joy as the team discussed their hopes for next year. I would like to thank the Nicholson Street Brothers for their kind hospitality in looking after the team Monday night. Huge thanks to Connor and Rita who joined us for the evening celebrations.

Tuesday morning commenced at 9:00am and it was obvious that sleep was not high on the agenda the night before! Our 2014 Team have quickly discovered the importance of a good night's sleep! Throughout the day the team joined together for prayer opportunities, team building and were given a general induction into their new roles. I would like to thank Mario and Br Pat for sharing the day with us.



We wish the 2014 MYM RMT all the best as they begin preparations for moving out of home and in to their Melbourne and Sydney communities.

Nicki Pitt
MYM- National Remar Coordinator

