



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

7 February 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

A giant has left the stage. We start our new school year without someone whose influence in our Marist world has been unparalleled and defining, someone who has impacted immensely on how each of us now appreciates his or her own role as a contemporary Marist in today's Church and world.

Because he had not been in an active leadership role in the Australian Church since 1976, the year in which he was first elected to the General Council of the Marist Brothers, and because he completed his term as Superior General back in 1993 – a generation ago – the majority of Marist educators around Australia are unlikely to have met Brother Charles Howard, and many indeed may have not even heard of him. That's a regrettable but inevitable function of old age. But, known or not, the legacy of this outstanding son of Champagnat will long be with us. We should be grateful.

For the title of his message to the Marist world on the passing of Brother Charles¹, the present Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, drew a phrase from Brother Charles' Circular of 1989, on the occasion of the bicentenary of the birth of St Marcellin. Brother Emili urged us, as his predecessor had done a quarter of a century ago, to "be Champagnats for today". There is much that could be said of Brother Charles' contribution, but perhaps this offers the best window into it. Brother Charles' understanding of what it meant for us as Marists to live the spirit of the Founder in today's world encapsulates so much of his priorities and his imperatives: for world justice, for the needs of the young, for a renewed sense of the vocation of the Marist Brother, for an emerging vision of how lay people could embrace the Marist way, for Marist apostolic spirituality, for young Brothers.

Charles Howard was a Vatican II man, a champion of the spirit of the Council. He believed deeply in the renewal to which the Spirit was calling the Church in general, and us Marists in particular. Prominent among those calls was for lay members of the Church to reclaim the rights and responsibilities of their Baptism and to take their place in ordinary evangelising mission of the Church. For us, that revolutionised the way that we understood what it meant to be Marist: the majority role of Lay Marists in Marist life and mission, and the particular role of consecrated Brothers within that broader Marist project. We take that concept for granted these days – even if we are still working out the best structures to give it expression – but let us remember that we have no one more to thank for that vision than Brother Charles.

The 2012 school year begins without him still among us. There is a natural sadness in that, especially for those of us who were privileged to have known Charles personally. But the Marists of 1840 began their new school year without Father Champagnat. It is always thus. In each year, in each Province, and even in each school, we are challenged to carry on without someone who has written the story before us. This year, as always, the next chapter is yet to be written. And it falls to you and me to do it. Let us trust in the God who has called us to it, and let us do it with the confidence and the zeal that Marcellin and Charles, and all the Marist giants in whose footsteps we walk, would have us go about it.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

¹ To read the full text of this message, as well as the eulogies for Brother Charles, and much more on him, visit the international Marist website: www.champagnat.org.

COMING UP...

7 - 9 Feb MSA Leadership Team Planning
 8 Feb In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 8 Feb Newman College
 REMAR Team Formation
 9 Feb Living the Eucharist
 10 Feb In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 Northern Rivers
 12 Feb Champagnat Pilgrimage Information Day
 13 Feb Staff Spirituality Day, Marist College Emerald
 13 Feb of Melbourne-based MLF Team members
 with Regional Director
 14 Feb MLF Team Meeting
 15 Feb In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 Marcellin College Bulleen

16 Feb New Remar Helms Inservice - An Introduction
 to Marcellin's Life
 19 Feb Champagnat Pilgrimage Information Day
 20 Feb Spirituality & Leadership III
 20 - 24 Feb Retreat for Middle Managers
 20 - 24 Feb Regional meeting in Auckland for Marist Lay
 Coordinators in Oceania
 25 Feb In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 Forbes
 28 Feb In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 Brisbane
 29 Feb In the Champagnat Way : New Staff Induction,
 Macarthur Region
 29 Feb Twilight Retreat, St Michael's Daceyville

WELCOME TO....

A warm welcome to all staff who have joined our Marist family from the start of this year. A special word of 'welcome back' to three who have taken up significant leadership roles:

Pictured below from L to R:

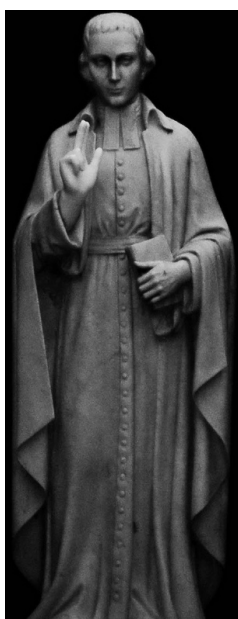
Frank Malloy, as the new Director for the Sydney Region

John Robinson, as Principal of Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park

Wayne Marshall, as Principal of Mt Carmel High School, Varroville.



STATUES OF ST MARCELLIN



Occasionally we get enquiries from schools about how to procure a statue of St Marcellin for their grounds. While some schools have taken the more adventurous decision to commission an original sculpture (including two schools in the last twelve months), many are pleased with the traditional, life-like one that comes from the original statue brought to Australia by the French Brothers at the end of the nineteenth century. Statues can be made from the mould of this one. Currently the mould is in the hands of a company based in Goulburn NSW: Meduni Garden Artistry.

www.mendunigardenartistry.com.au;
info@mendunigardenartistry.com.au

Or contact Mira Fraser at the Montagne Centre for more information.

NEW ROLE FOR BROTHER ROBERT



Brother Robert O'Connor has taken on a new specialist role within the Mission and Life Formation team this year, offering spiritual direction, personal accompaniment, and professional support for those in leadership of Marist schools. Principals should feel welcome

to make contact with Brother Robert directly to discuss ways in which he may be able to assist them in their leadership or be involved in a task or project:

robert.oconnor@marists.org.au

AUSTRALIAN MARIST PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE

A reminder about the dates for this year's conference, the first national one under the MSA banner:

9.00am Tuesday 14th March – 2.00pm Wednesday 15th March.

The Hermitage, Mittagong

(Evening meal and accommodation available on Monday 13th March)



MARIST SCHOOLS DIRECTORY 2012

Thanks for all the updated information for this year's Directory. This is now printed, and should arrive in schools this week.

MARIST CRICKET CARNIVAL



Congratulations to St Joseph's College Hunters Hill, St Gregory's College Campbelltown and Sacred Heart College Auckland, who were the winners of the 39th Marist Cricket Carnival.

Many thanks to Bunbury Catholic College, St Gregory's College Campbelltown and Sacred Heart College Auckland for hosting the Marist Cricket Carnival for 2011/2012.

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

QLD MARIST STUDENT LEADERS GATHERING 2012

How are you different because of this experience? What have you noticed about yourself?

"If anything, just realising how much hope and faith I have in the leaders, not just my own, but now with other Marist schools. It's just inspiring to know that there are so many kids filled with passion to change things and make a difference."



BROTHERS GATHERING IN JANUARY



The Brothers of the soon-to-be-created "Province of Australia" gathered for four days at St Joseph's College in Sydney. Over 180 Brothers were able to be there for

the event which was marked by great optimism, good will, and conviviality. During the upcoming months, the election of the First Provincial Chapter will take place, as will a process of sondage for the appointment of the new Provincial. The Province will be officially inaugurated during a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on 8th December.



Pictured above, then L to R: Br Bill Sullivan and Br Paul Murphy looking 'forward' to all that 2012 brings, Br Ben Consigli, the Gathering Animator busy 'animating', Br John Thompson, Br Paul Creevey with Postulant Ashley Higgins at the National Gathering

JOB VACANCY

VOLUNTEERING & ADVOCACY OFFICER

Further details available from www.maristsolidarity.net.au
or from contact below

Applications close 10 February 2012

Contact: Br Allen Sherry, mso@maristmelb.org.au
Phone: 07 3137 1960

FOOTSTEPS IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY 2012

The Mission and Life Formation Team has been working hard in preparing some new Programs for 2012. The first is the 'Footsteps' program which replaces the 'Sharing Our Call' and 'Sharing Champagnat's Vision' Programs. The program contains eight sessions across the three days assigned for the program. Naturally times for prayer and reflection are included in the program timetable. Tony Clarke has been leading the process for the development of this program and all members of the Mission and Life Formation Team have been involved.

The second newly developed program is the 'In the Champagnat Way' program which is a revised induction program for staff new to Marist schools. Brother Michael Akers has been overseeing the redevelopment of this program. People leading the program in 2012 met on Tuesday 24th January, 2012 at the Montagne Centre in Melbourne to discuss the new elements to the program and prepare for presenting the program in the year ahead.

Programs have begun apace across the country. Regional Directors and members of the MLF team have been conducting whole-of-staff days as well as induction days for new staff in Marist schools across the country.



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY TEAM EXPANDS ROLE

This year marks the second year of the National Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity (MAPS) Office located in Brisbane. MAPS will continue to provide a range of services for MSA schools including a kit for use in your solidarity educational and fund raising campaigns, school immersions advice, volunteer opportunities, advocacy data, and learning resources. The team's specific roles are: Paula McLoughlin (Secretariat, MSA Immersions link, Donor Relations); Christian Nobleza (Projects Officer and Publicity); Michael Coleman (MSA schools kit link, AMS desk, Accounts clerk) and a new person to be appointed as Volunteering and Advocacy Officer. Three part time volunteers bring invaluable experience: Br Lionel Charlton (Finance monitor); Br Marty Connell (Immersion Communities' link; and major projects) and Hamish McLoughlin (Intern). The two Marist Brothers' provinces, MSA and investments have supported the staff and office operational costs, and no donations are used for this.

The notion of a BIGGER PICTURE relies on staff joining the dots to the smaller pictures of individuals and communities in the developing world. Solidarity in the Marist tradition means we choose to stand with others who have less capacity to transform their reality and to work with them to create their own liberation. It is a noble task; a lofty ideal.

Thanks again for your anticipated generosity in upholding MAPS in your school community as your preferred agency for international development work.

Brother Allen Sherry FMS
Director of MAPS

FMSI NEWSLETTER

Our international Marist solidarity organisation is called "FMSI" (*Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale*). Its website is: www.fmsi-onlus.org (Click on "EN" in the top right-hand corner to get the English version.) Br Jim Jolley from Australia heads up the FMSI Office in Geneva.

You can subscribe to receive the FMSI online newsletter:

http://www.fmsi-onlus.org/nl_registro.php?accion=0

It could be a useful thing for staff to make known among students.



REMAR MINISTRY TEAM 2012



The Remar Ministry Team commenced the year with a four day training retreat. We are very excited to welcome: Alyce Forrest – Marist Regional College Burnie (former student)

Gabi Fulton – St Patrick's

College Launceston (former student)

Cassie Gawley – St Francis Xavier College Beaconsfield (former student)

Jack Stammers – Marcellin College Bulleen (former student)

Chris Walsh – Marcellin College Bulleen (former student)

Len Cooke – Assistant Co-ordinator (former teacher and Remar Co-ordinator at St Francis Xavier College)

In true Remar style, the team have already facilitated two Blue/Gold Embarkation Camp programs and have enjoyed the opportunity to meet Rowers in their first weeks in their new roles. For more information about the new team members, please access the "team" page on our website:

www.remar.org.au

We ask that you keep the team in your prayers as they begin to minister to young people across the country.

