



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

30th October 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Does it all feel to you rather American and somewhat alien – the carved-out pumpkins, the trick-or-treating, the medieval costumes, the scary teen movies? What do make of the creep of Halloween frippery into our lives?

Perhaps it's smart marketing, perhaps it's the seep-out influence of Hollywood, or perhaps it's our ritual-starved urbanised society trying to grab onto whatever it can to jolly us along through the year. Whatever the more immediate causes of its Australian inculturation, or its longer term origins in the mists of pagan Celtic festivals or Gaelic Christianity, it seems that Halloween is now one of the annual excuses for our young people to have some fun. And from supermarkets to nightclubs, many seem to be ready to make a buck out of it.

So let us go with it. After all, it's not a bad teaching point. It would be well that young people were able to join the dots between Halloween and the great the Christian feast of All Saints ('All Hallows') which it heralds. That young Halloweeners involve themselves in a bunch of fairly nonsensical activities which nonchalantly dance around deathly, dark and demonic themes, actually puts them on fairly solid theological ground. The Feast of All Saints is all about Christ's triumph over death, about the hope that is born of the promise of eternal life – the essence of our faith. It's a night to be arrogant with the devil.

But it's also a night to be humble before God, to be mindful of our mortality. So many of the traditions of Halloween are sourced in medieval spirituality's *memento mori* preoccupations. The period of Halloween's re-branding as a Christian event paralleled a large amount of death and mortality as subjects for art. If you're in Melbourne between now and January, you could treat yourself to the latest exhibition at the NGV: *The Four Horsemen – Apocalypse, Death and Disaster*. It brings together the NGV's collection of works on this general theme, particularly from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Fascinating stuff.

We know that young people – especially young men – often live and behave as if they are indestructible. Immortal. Part of that comes simply from their being young, testosterone charged, and with brains that haven't finished connecting all their internal wiring. But another part comes from the ways in which we insulate ourselves and our young from the confronting reality of death, and indeed from the fragility of life. But of course, it is not only the young. So often it is people in power, people with wealth and position and privilege, people puffed up with their own self-righteousness, who can have trouble with what really on offer for us.

Halloween didn't get a mention during the Synod on the New Evangelisation which has just finished its deliberations in Rome. If it did, I missed it. (Now, now, hush those cheap jibes about pointy hats and funny outfits!) But what we who live and work close to youth culture know, as effective evangelisers have known throughout the history of the Church, the Gospel can often be most effectively preached in and through existing cultural celebrations and mores. I think, nonetheless, I'll be leaving the pumpkins and the masks to others.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

30 Oct	Oceania Partnership Commission - Melbourne
31 Oct-	Prayer Workshops with Faith Formation
2 Nov	Team and Staff - Newman College Perth
1 Nov	Masters of the Spiritual Life - Mitchelton
8 Nov	MLF Team Meeting - Drummoyne
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



INTERNSHIP WITH THE GENEVA OFFICE OF MARIST INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION

For more information about this internship please visit the MSA website, www.msa.edu.au

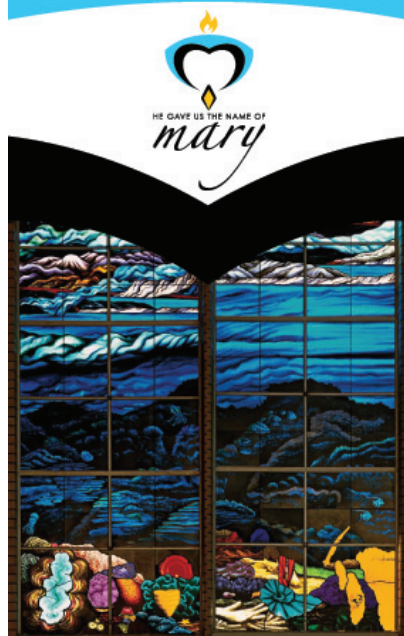
PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS 2013

Congratulations to:

- **Patrick Colley** on his appointment as the next Principal of St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach, and
- **Mark Tuffy** on his appointment as Acting Principal at St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas for 2013.

MARIST SCHOOLS CONFERENCE:

28-31 JULY 2013



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2013

As has been the case in Sydney 2008 and Madrid 2011, next year's World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro will be preceded by an international gathering of Marist youth. Each Province has been invited to send ten participants, to be hosted by the three Brazilian Marist Provinces. At the last Mission Council meeting, it was decided that here in Australia our ten participants would be chosen entirely from post-school youth who are involved in our Young Marist networks and would be able to contribute to these on their return.

Marist Schools are advised therefore to participate in WYD through their local dioceses.

MARIST MINISTRIES MASS AND DINNER, BRISBANE

Over eighty people gathered for the annual Mass and Dinner for the Brisbane region held at Marist College, Ashgrove, the Saturday before last. Music for the Mass was provided with great energy and talent by the Young Marists led by Christian Nobleza. A tasty dinner was prepared by the College staff and served by its students. The '2012 Christmas Menu' for Marist Solidarity was launched by Brother Allen Sherry at the start of the dinner. Later there were special awards to retiring Principals and to long-serving members of staff nominated by each school.

The stained glass images in our Conference brochure are two of the magnificent windows that adorn the nave of St Monica's Cathedral in Cairns. In total, twenty-four windows covering 240 square metres tell the biblical story of creation. These particular two feature images of reef life; one of the great natural wonders of the world for which far North Queensland is so well known. Like a number of the other windows in the series, windows ten and eleven include features of the landscape in the areas that surround Cairns – Chillagoe, the Atherton Tablelands and Cooktown. The windows were commissioned by the current Bishop of Cairns, James Foley, and have become a local tourist attraction such is the scope and beauty of the works – they are indeed quite unique.

If you would like further information regarding the Conference, please contact Peter Houlahan, phoulahan@mscw.vic.edu.au.

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

WORKSHOP ON DOCUMENT: EVANGELIZERS IN THE MIDST OF YOUTH

On the 6th of September the MLF team and Christian Nobleza conducted a workshop in Brisbane for 22 staff from local Marist schools, and 4 young Marists. Br Mark O'Connor gave a humorous yet enlightened and challenging talk to kick the day off. (Mark is the Director of the Office of Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.) This was followed by a detailed look at the contents of the new Evangelization Document and discussion as to how we might implement some of the ideas into our local ministries.



ROCKHAMPTON DIOCESAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

On August 17 Br Michael Flanagan facilitated an input session on Spirituality for the members of the Rockhampton Diocesan Education Council. Br Jeff Barrington (Campbelltown) is a member of the Council and two Marist schools are in the Diocese, Marist College Emerald and Chanel College Gladstone.

PLANNING INTERVIEWS FOR 2013

At present the Regional Directors and members of the Mission and Life Team are visiting each school and discussing the possibilities and opportunities for next years programme of events and courses. They are productive and useful interviews and visits for all, and help targeted and strategic planning.

FINAL FOOTSTEPS PROGRAMME FOR 2012

Seven have been conducted this year: five of Footsteps 1 and two of Footsteps 2. They have been wonderful experiences for both participants and Staff, and the evaluation comments attest to their worth and profound personal value for all. The MLF team has spent many hours updating and crafting these programmes; successfully delivering seven has been rewarding and satisfying and more energy will be invested in the Footsteps programmes for 2013 to ensure maximum participation and learning for all.



Participants and Team at the September Footsteps 1 programme

The final Footsteps programme for 2012 was held 21 to 24 October 2012 at Mittagong. Thirty participants and seven staff enjoyed the peaceful environs of the Hermitage even though the weather was variable. At the celebratory dinner we marked in a special way Br Robert O'Connor's milestone of having been on the team of Sharing Our Call and Footsteps for 10 years.



Final Footsteps 1 programme for 2013, Mittagong, 21-24 October.



WEST COAST EAGLES AND MARIST SOLIDARITY AT LAVALLA CAMPUS, NEWMAN COLLEGE, CHURCHLANDS

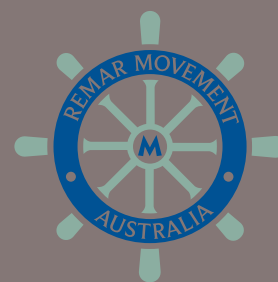
Congratulations to members of the Year 6 Football team at Newman College, Churchlands in Western Australia who won the Eagles Football Cup this year. Kim Hannah, Schools & Community Coordinator at West Coast Eagles, presented the College with a football signed by members of the Eagles AFL Team. Kim, a former Phys Ed Teacher from the Primary Campus at Newman College, enthusiastically supported the idea of raffling the football to raise money for Marist Solidarity. The Eagles have an ongoing project where players have been building a school and basic housing in a community in Cambodia. The MOPS (mothers of players) from the Eagles are soon to embark on a trip to Cambodia to follow up the work begun by the players two years ago.

This year students across all campuses at Newman College have been assisting young Cambodians where Newman College ex-student and Marist Brother, Brian



Kinsella, is working. Paillin is a poor town in Cambodia where Marists have established a Study Centre for outreach to the many students disadvantaged in their education possibilities due to very poor schools. The Football Raffle raised \$1312 and was won by Year 3 student, Taylor Simpson. This amount will be

added to the amount raised on Marist Day in August across the campuses and sent to Marist Solidarity.



REMAR

- With the second of the two national Remar Red Leadership Camps for Year 10 rowers this past weekend, the last major Remar event for the year has concluded. Last weekend's Red Camp was a huge affair, with almost 200 rowers gathering from all over the country. Once again, it was a highly successful and fruitful experience for all participants.



- Over recent weeks, individual Gold Caravels have had their Graduation Evenings, always very significant times. Our best wishes to all the Year 12s as they leave the Remar programme. We hope to see many of them continue in our post-school Marist Youth Ministry programmes in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

- Last week we announced the names of the seven Remar graduates who have been selected to be members of next year's Remar Ministry Teams during their gap year. In 2013 we will have a new team in Brisbane to complement the team in Melbourne. Congratulations to: Sam Crowe (NT), Jessica Barrett (SA), Rita Sargeant (WA) who will be in Brisbane-based, and Gilbert Mein (VIC), Connor Bradley (SA), Ellen Strochnetter (TAS) and Tshepo Ngwenya (TAS) who will be Melbourne-based.

- In the last two weeks, Team members have visited new Remar schools for 2013 – Marist College Emerald (QLD), Trinity Catholic College Lismore (NSW) and Trinity Catholic College Auburn (NSW) to meet with the College Leadership Teams and to speak with staff.

- Next week, the Team will begin a series of Red Recruitment sessions and Red Embarkation Camps in most schools. This will keep us on the road for a some weeks.