



# MSA Newsletter

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



**From Brother Michael Green**

7 August 2012

Dear Members of the Marist family

The response of our fellow Marists in Syria to the crumbling situation in which they find themselves has touched the Marist world, not least here among the family of Australian Marist schools. As we go to press today, Brother Georges Sabé together with his two confreres and more than fifty other Marist volunteers – calling themselves the “Blue Marists” after the epithet given to Marcellin’s Brothers by the people of Saint-Chamond – are doing what they can to give hope and help to the families of Aleppo. The photos and written accounts of their work (see them on [www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)) are moving and inspirational.

But they are ordinary people. Like us. And they are working with ordinary youngsters. Like we do. Until very recently they were running an ordinary school. Like ours are. It’s their circumstances that have become extraordinary. They could have responded in a number of ways to that turn of events. They could have kept low. They could have left and returned when things were more secure. They could have waited to see how things might unfold before taking any big initiatives. The response they are choosing is one that Marcellin would have intuitively chosen: without hesitation to do everything they can to offer practical love to people, to sustain their faith and bolster their hope, to give them a vision for something better. To do it in simple and direct ways. To do it with humour and grace. To gather others around them. To entrust it to God.

A couple of years after Marcellin’s death, one of his fellow priests who had known him since seminary days wrote in a letter, “God chose him and said to him, ‘Champagnat, do this’ and Champagnat did it.” Simple. Just like Mary’s saying, “Let it happen to me as you have said.” Fiat! It’s being open to what God wants, and saying “Yes, it’s up to me to do make that happen. God wants me to do this.” That’s the Marist way, Mary’s way, Marcellin’s way.

The locals in Aleppo apparently have a name for the area where the Marists have taken over three schools as refuge centres. They call it the Hill of Our Lady. Mary’s hill. For it is indeed Mary’s work that they do: standing with, gathering, loving, encouraging, nurturing, being resilient, sowing seeds of hope. “Bringing Christ life to birth”, our Marist spirituality document *Water from the Rock* calls it.

Next week representatives from all over the country will gather at Mittagong for the first “Mission Assembly” of Marist Australia. Many will come from our schools; others from the range of other ministries and communities of the new Australian Province. It will be a world away from Aleppo, but in another sense we will be quite close to our fellow Marists there because we will be looking to the same God and seeking to be open to the same will. Like Mary, like Marcellin, we will be looking to see what God wants of us, and to say yes to that.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

- 7 Aug Mary, the Mature Disciple, St Francis Xavier College
- 9–11 Aug Proclaim 2012 - Conference on the New Evangelisation - The Concourse, Chatswood
- 10 Aug MSA Leadership Team Meeting - Drummoyne
- 12-15 Aug Mission Assembly
- 15 Aug SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION, Pastoral Feast Day of the Marist Brothers
- 17 Aug Petrie 25 Years Mass - Mount Maria College
- 17 Aug Rockhampton Diocesan Education Council
- 17 Aug Staff Spirituality Day - Red Bend Catholic College
- 19–22 Aug Footsteps #03 - The Hermitage Mittagong Teresa, Alice Springs
- 24 Aug Staff Formation Day - Marcellin College Bulleen

- 26–28 Aug Living Champagnat's Vision Retreat - Santa
- 27 Aug Marist Pedagogy (3) - Kogarah
- 29 Aug Marist Leadership: Next Gen I (s1) (SYD)
- 3 Sep Red Helms Inservice  
Overview of Marist Spirituality
- 3 Sep MLF Team Meeting - Marist College Bulleen
- 4 Sep MLF Team Meeting - Montagne Centre
- 5-8 Sep Contemplative Retreat - Mittagong
- 5 Sep Gippsland Evangelisation in the RE Clsroom  
- Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
- 6 Sep RE Teacher Teams. Evangelisation follow-up  
- Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
- 6 Sep Spirituality & Leadership II - Middle Mngrs  
- Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon



## SOLIDARITY with South Sudan SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR SOUTH SUDAN

From January 7th until March 1st, 2013, Br Bill Firman FSC, Director of Solidarity Teacher Education is hoping to find sufficient short – term volunteer tutors to work alongside the ‘permanent’ Solidarity tutors in order to deliver in-service teacher training programmes simultaneously at seven different locations. The subjects taught to be taught are English, Social Studies (includes Geography), Mathematics, Professional Studies (how to teach), Science and Christian Religious Education.

Further details can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser:

<http://www.msa.edu.au/storage/Appeal%20for%20short%20-%20term%20volunteers%20South%20Sudan.pdf>



## VOLUNTEER SCIENCE TEACHER REQUIRED IN MADIRI IN 2013 - CAN YOU HELP????



We are seeking an innovative and experienced secondary science teacher to travel to Bougainville in order to assist the science department of St Joseph's College. The school would like to have the support of a teacher who is passionate about their science and who could model for others how to teach science in a high school department with limited resources.

Further details can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser:

<http://www.msa.edu.au/storage/Science%20teacher%20for%20Mabiri.pdf>

## ADELAIDE FIRESIDE CHAT

Br Al Sherry recently led a dialogue with those who had participated in the Marist Pilgrimage which included Rwanda and Kenya.



Photographed above are: *David and Chris McCabe and seated Trevor Freeman and Jennifer Callanan*

## MISSION AND LIFE

### Footsteps I

The second of the Footsteps I programs for 2013 was held at The Hermitage, Mittagong from 22 – 25 July 2012. A factor which contributes to the richness of the experience is the opportunity for participants to connect and with likeminded Marists from across the length and breadth of the country, from schools which have a long Marist tradition to those just reconnecting with the Marist charism.

Thoughts from some of the participants following the experience:

*"It was great to stop and step outside and away from the 'daily grind'. It has been invaluable in renewing my spirit."*

*"Had a real sense of hope brought about by meeting so many people of like mind with the same goals. I'm encouraged to participate more in the school to make the Marist story known. I have begun to understand and 'unpack' the Marist charism."*



Hard at work enjoying the delicious food at The Hermitage:

*Jamie McIlroy from Marcellin College Bulleen, and Nick Otto from Mt Maria College Enoggera/Mitchelton.*



Hard at work in Session 3:

*Sheree Prendergast from St Joseph's Primary School, Murgon, and Nata Zirilli from St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.*

## REFLECTION DAY HAMILTON

Beginning on Sunday evening 29 July and concluding on Monday afternoon 30 July 2012, a group of nine Studies Coordinators from St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton took time out during the HSC Trials to reflect on the theme Building Community as Marist Educators.

The days were held at Fingal Bay and the beautiful weather allowed participants to engage with the stunning beach landscape there for some of their reflection time. In a school the size of St Francis Xavier's College it is difficult to spend time together sharing faith and life. All were grateful for the time we shared in relationship with each other as a community of Marist Educators.



Participants from left:

*Peter Brown, Tony Stone, Patricia Hales, Zina Zajac, Julie McLoughlin*

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The newly named Bishop of Ballarat is Fr Paul Bird CSsR, currently Provincial of the Redemptorists. Fr Paul is an ex-student and former College Captain of our School in Newcastle.



## HOPE CONTINUES TO GROW IN BOUGAINVILLE

Br Marty Connell (Liason for MAPS projects across Melanesia) has recently returned from a monitoring visit to MAPS sponsored Project Sankamap on the Island of Bougainville. He reports that the project team consisting Eugene, Lucy and David have been busy conducting short-term programs and courses to improve the teaching skills of young teachers in village-based elementary schools across the island.

Their efforts have been supported by the local Catholic Education Office and Horizont3000 (an Austrian NGO working in the area of educational development). The project team hopes that these young teachers are able to develop the necessary skills and confidence they need to become regular government employed teachers.

In addition to their work among the island's emerging teachers, the project team have also been involved with running events and activities for the youth of the local Tunuru parish. Over three hundred young people recently attended a week-long program during their school holidays, which was designed to teach skills around self-resilience and personal goal setting.



## SACRED HEART COLLEGE SOMERTON PARK SA

VACANCY  
Commencing 2013

### COORDINATOR OF MARIST MISSION

This position may be of interest to a staff member in the network who is contemplating moving interstate.

The role description is available on the college website (see link path below) from Friday 10th Aug 2012.

<http://www.shcs.sa.edu.au/sacred-heart-college-directory-employment.html>



## REMAR

What a busy few months it has been for the Remar team! We have just completed the Red Caravel Day and Blue Retreat programs across the country and have been blessed to work with so many inspirational young people who are seeking to live as Christ's disciples.

During the retreats, the team ministered to over 600 young people who all form a part of our wider Marist community. We give a heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff who support the program within their own school community, without whom, the program would not be possible.

This coming weekend we have a Gold Retreat for Year 12 students, a real highlight of their three year Remar journeys

