



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

26 July 2011

Dear Members of the Marist Family

A page turned. The story continues.

The theme of the AMSA Conference earlier this month – “Turning the Page” – defined the gathering on a number of levels. It shaped the first-class presentations that so effectively engaged our minds and hearts: on emerging Marian theology, on new imperatives for Marist school leadership, on re-interpreting the pledge of Fourvière for our times, and on how to undertake the Marist project in, as Fr Gerry Arbuckle put it, the “world of the Simpsons”. The five keynote speakers challenged us to know and to understand more deeply the shifts in the cultural, social, educational and ecclesial contexts in which we are called to incarnate Christ today. And they are indeed shifting.

On another level, the conference was the sixth and last one to be held under the “AMSA” banner. Next time we gather it will be as members of “MSA”. Another change. There was, therefore, a happy/sad aspect to the days together and, like all processes of change, it evoked a mix of pride in what has been, some regret for letting it go, and an anticipation of what could be next. There were good words and rituals put around all of this at the conference, and now we move on. At a personal level it was particularly poignant for me: having been one of those who imagined AMSA and was an architect of it, I now find myself cast in a similar role for its successor.

This month marks another milestone: the mid-point of the three-year establishment phase for MSA. As we have moved through the past eighteen months together, we have continued to nuance how we should best understand the *raison d'être* of the new body, and the new relationships and structures that will best serve its purposes. I think we are well on track with that. Indeed, I'd like to feel that we are well ahead of where we might have hoped to be.

It has always been thus in our Marist story: changing and adapting, building new structures and strengthening existing ones, evaluating and re-evaluating, responding to emerging needs and evolving circumstances. There has never been a time of any sustained length when things remained the same. Indeed, it has been a mark of our vitality, and possibly the major factor in our enduring relevance to the Church and our effectiveness with young people, that we have had a readiness and even an instinct for change. During the short twenty-three years between inviting his first two recruits in 1817, Marcellin led perennial change – La Valla, extensions at La Valla, the Hermitage, additions to the Hermitage, demolition and changing of plans at the Hermitage, and three quite different Rules. It was a spirit that his disciples caught. Before the next two decades had finished, they had left the Hermitage to move the General House to Lyon to a grand new complex that they had newly imagined and built. By that time there were over two thousand Brothers, hundreds of schools, several novitiates. They began to articulate and to define the Marist way in a series of books, training manuals, and other publications. Things were growing in size and complexity. It took imagination and decisiveness to lead and to support it, without losing its essence and the graced intuitions of its founding. “Creative fidelity” Paul VI was later to describe such a spirit.

Jump forward to Australia 2011. We Marists, you and I, are faced similarly with growth and increased complexity in our Marist project. The family of school communities that draw on Marist spirituality and Marist educational practice to help to shape their identity and to animate their mission has never been bigger or richer. The deepening and more inclusive sense of who have a call to be Marist, to take their places in this spiritual family, is the blessing of the Spirit for our day. Again the challenge is to be imaginative, to be bold of action and broad of vision, and to be creatively faithful.

That is the basis on which I hope we can imagine and build this next chapter of the Marist story.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

6TH BIENNIAL AMSA CONFERENCE

Marists from all over Australia, and beyond, gathered on the warm and picturesque Gold Coast for the 2011 at the beginning of July. Congratulations to the organising committee for putting together such a stimulating and enjoyable conference.



Pictured (Left to right): Les Allen (Tasmania), Miriam Unga (A keynote Speaker at the Conference) Marco di Cesare (Lavalla Catholic College), Br Julian Casey

Prayers Please.....

Brother Ken Eaton, Marist College Ashgrove, who died recently.

Sam Puglisi, Principal of Mt Maria, Petrie QLD, who continues to convalesce after surgery.

Dr Bill Sultmann (Executive Director of Catholic Education Services, Cairns), who is having two months of radiation therapy.

Welcome Back...

Brother John Hilet (Red Bend Catholic College) and **Ross Tarlinton** (St Joseph's College) **Erica Pegorer** (Lavalla Catholic College) after their respective periods of study.

MARIST JOURNALS

The latest edition of *Lavalla* and the *Champagnat Journal* should now be in schools.



APPOINTMENT OF NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Frank Malloy will take over from Brother Robert as Regional Director in Sydney from the start of 2012. It's a warm 'welcome back' to a full-time role within the Marist family for Frank who was Principal at

Marist College Eastwood between 1999 and 2003, and on several Marist committees since that time.

COMING UP...

- Fri 22- Sun 24 July
- Mon 25 - Tue 26 July
- Wed 26 July
- Thu 28 – Fri 29 July
- Sat 30 July
- Sun 31 July – Wed 3 Aug
- Thu 4 Aug
- Thu 4 Aug
- Thu 4 – Fri 5 Aug
- Sun 7 – Wed 10 Aug
- Mon 8 Aug
- Mon 8 – Tue 9 Aug
- Fri 12 – Sun 14 Aug
- Fri 12 – Sun 14 Aug
- Mon 15 August
- Mon 15 – Tue 16 Aug
- Tue 16 Aug
- Tue 16 Aug
- Fri 19 Aug
- Fri 26 – Sun 28 Aug
- Remar Blue Retreat (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Alice Springs)
- Remar Red Caravel Day (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Alice Springs)
- Planning meeting for a representative Principals group to look at future programmes (Drummoyne)
- MSA Regional Council (Melb) meeting at Bendigo
- Blessing and Opening of new Science Centre at Marist College Ashgrove
- Sharing Our Call 1/Sharing Champagnat's Vision (The Hermitage, Mittagong)
- Spirituality & Leadership II (The Hermitage, Mittagong)
- Blessing & Opening of new Performing Arts Centre at Marcellin College, Bulleen
- Liturgical Music Workshop (St Mary's, Casino)
- Sharing Our Call 1/Sharing Champagnat's Vision (Millgrove, Melbourne)
- Meeting of Province Mission Council (Montagne Centre, Melbourne)
- Retreat for KLA Coordinators (SFX, Newcastle)
- Shared Marist Life Retreat (Brisbane)
- Remar Gold - National Gathering of Year 12 Rowers (at Bacchus Marsh)
- Solemnity of The Assumption, Patronal Feast of the Marist Brothers
- Mary, the Mature Disciple (Marist Canberra)
- Marist Establishment Committee meeting (Montagne Centre)
- Marist Leadership, Succession Planning 1, (Drummoyne)
- Staff Formation Day (RBCC, Forbes)
- Year 11 Justice Forum (Toowoomba)

GOD'S MISSION ... MARIST MINISTRY AND SPIRITUALITY FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Monday 18th July was our annual Marcellin College Bulleen Staff Retreat/Formation Day. There was a real buzz of anticipation and conversation as the 140 staff climbed off the buses and gathered in the Treacy Centre.



Some of the Marcellin College staff

We were indeed privileged and blessed to have Tony Clarke and Br Michael Callinan from the Mission and Life Formation Team as our presenters for the first part of the day. Their theme, **God's Mission ... Marist ministry and spirituality for a contemporary world**, was engaging, stimulating, thought-provoking and challenging. They both left us wanting more.



Pictured (Left to Right): Mark Murphy (Principal), Tony Clarke, Gail Coates (Director of Mission) and Br Michael Callinan

After lunch, staff were able to choose from a variety of activities ranging from visiting the Melbourne Zoo, a Cemetery walk to meditation and Laughter Yoga. This was followed by a giant Trivia Quiz which really brought out the 'fighting spirit' in many! As a staff we then walked to St Carthage's to celebrate Mass together and the day ended with us sharing a delicious dinner back at the Treacy Centre. Thank you, wonderful Marcellin Staff and presenters, for a great start to Term 3.

Gail Coates
Director of Mission, Marcellin College Bulleen

MARY, MATURE DISCIPLE

This new programme developed by our Mission and Life and Formation team is a response to MSA member schools asking for "something more on Mary".

"It goes without saying that this woman of courage and strength who was so important to Marcellin should have a central place in our spirituality just as she did in his."
A Revolution of the Heart [Br Seán Sammon, previous Superior General]

The program looks at our knowledge of Mary: in scripture, in the history of the Church, in the life of Marcellin and especially in my Marist world of today. It is suited to a half or full day reflection and is very much an invitation to 'ponder' as Mary did, but in a contemporary setting. Different groupings of staff at Marist College Canberra, St Augustine's College Cairns and most recently the John Berne School in Sydney have already participated in **Mary, Mature Disciple**.

Br Robert O'Connor
MSA Sydney Regional Director

SPIRITUALITY DAY AT KILMORE



On Monday, 18th July, the whole staff of Assumption College Kilmore gathered for their Spirituality Day. Given calendar priority annually as a special day of nourishment and formation, this year's

program focused on two things:

Personal faith journey – noticing what is life-giving, naming deeper yearnings, acknowledging my connectedness to others, seeing God in the everyday events of life.

Marist journey – reflecting on my contribution to Marist life, understanding the growth of lay Marist involvement (what it triggers in me, what questions it raises for me moving forward).

The day provided staff with the opportunity to stop and reflect as a collective group before the rigours of the semester took root, and to be invited to engage more fully with the Marist charism, spirituality and mission that underpins all that happens in the school. Terry Cooney (Assumption College staff member: Director of Mission) and I led and facilitated the day which ended with a celebration of the Eucharist together in the beautiful ambience of the school chapel (pictured above).

Joe McCarthy
Lay Leadership and Formation

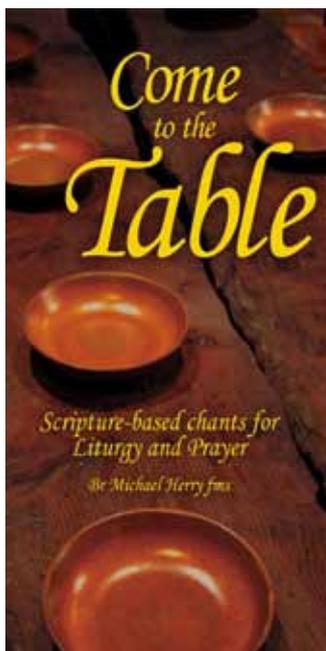


East Timor “Fireside Chat”

On Sunday evening (24th July) a large group of over seventy people gathered for a “fireside chat” at the Montagne Centre jointly hosted by the MAPS and Marist Lay Partnership offices. These fireside chats on Marist solidarity have become a regular fixture on the Melbourne winter calendar. Brother Al Sherry and Joe McCarthy collaborated in organising what proved to be an informative, engaging and enjoyable evening.

The topic this time was “What way forward is there for East Timor?” and the special guest was Dr Richard Curtain, who has a had long-term interest and first-hand experience in Timor. Richard was interviewed by young adults Ben Lakos and Susan Slattery, and took questions from the floor. He is a consultant in public policy with a focus on young people, skills and unemployment, and is currently working for UNICEF.

Among the gathering were contingents from MSA member schools Marcellin College, Lavalla College and Assumption College, as well as many others who are friends and supporters of Marist solidarity projects. The Assumption participants included some students who are preparing for their upcoming immersion in East Timor.



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Since the last newsletter, Remar has travelled to Perth (facilitating Red Caravel Day and Blue Retreat) and Tasmania (Blue Retreat). What an absolute privilege it

is to be involved in the work we do.



“This weekend opened up my heart to so many things I didn’t know or feel. I have learnt about myself, about how to remove those layers I have and not worry about what others think. I have learnt a lot about love and I really appreciated all of those stories everyone shared with us. I felt a sense of belonging, trust and love. The Remar Ministry team’s dramas probably affected me the most as I felt God being there with me and for everyone. Remar has changed my life and Blue Retreat has further changed my life. It has strengthened my faith, from someone who had faith, but did not trust, to someone who has full trust in God now, knowing he has a plan for me. I now love God.”

Katherine, Blue Rower, St Patricks College Launceston



“Every part of the camp built our Caravel stronger and taught us a lot. The one main point I learnt was that you do not have to be the loudest person to have the best leadership skills and that every type of ministry we do throughout our daily lives makes such a difference to the community around me and the world.

Meg, Red Rower, Newman College Perth.