



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

4 June 2013

Dear Brothers, Friends and Colleagues

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your perspective, Marcellin never agreed to have his portrait painted. It wasn't about him, he would have protested. And, because he lived long before the present snap-happy age when it takes no time at all to find almost anyone's image on a social media site somewhere, we don't know for sure what the Founder exactly looked like.

That hasn't stopped numerous artists having a go at painting or sculpting him. The results – like the entries for the annual Archibald Prize – range from attempts at true-to-life representations to others that are much more abstract and multi-layered. Some very. Opinions vary. No doubt you have some examples of Marcellin images in your own school, and you would have your views about them. Sculptures have proved quite popular in recent years.

Marcellin iconography has been something of a controversial field since the very first contribution – that by local Saint-Chamond artist, Joseph Ravery, whom Marcellin had had busy doing murals and paintings for the chapel at The Hermitage in the late 1830s. Not that you can blame poor Monsieur Ravery too much; after all, his subject had just died after a prolonged battle with stomach cancer and wouldn't have provided much radiance or robustness propped up in a chair later that day. So, it is perhaps a little surprising that when he was presented with the completed work a few months after Marcellin's death, Brother François welcomed its arrival so appreciatively. In fact, he ordered another two copies of it.

A brief entry that Brother François made into his personal journal later that evening gives us a more insightful way of understanding the role that an image of Marcellin might have played for his successor. François recorded that the painting had been received and he then wrote simply: "Be a living portrait".

What did he mean by that? It is first of all important to emphasise what he did not mean. He did not intend that he should somehow try to become a kind of clone of Marcellin, to copy his personality, his personal style, his likes or dislikes. No, it was not that all. François was quite different from Marcellin in so many ways, and he would have known that. He was more reserved, more introverted, quieter, less outward in displays of affection, did not fill a room like Marcellin did. And Marcellin, in educating François, never tried to make him a copy of himself. Rather, as any authentic spiritual master would do, Marcellin wanted his disciple to be his own person, his best self. So it was with all of that first generation formed by Marcellin. And so it is with us.

The diversity of Marcellin-inspired artistry is a good thing because it represents the diversity of people who have become disciples of Marcellin, not in order to follow Marcellin per se, but to learn from him a compelling way to follow Jesus, and an intuitively Marian way of responding to the Good News. Each of us, as a Marist, is on a personal spiritual journey that leads to and from an experience of this Good News of the love, faithfulness and justice of God. And each of us is called to take that journey as himself or herself, in his or her own skin, in his or her own time and place, with his or her own companions. So the dream of Marcellin – which was never about Marcellin – continues to live in us.

Happy feast day for Thursday!

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP . . .

3 June 125th Anniversary of Marist College North Shore
 5 June 90th Anniversary of Marcellin College Randwick
 10 June Queen's Birthday, Public Holiday
 11 June Mission Council Meeting, Marist Centre Melbourne
 14 June MSA Leadership Team meeting, Mascot
 16 June 60th Anniversary of Marist College Penshurst
 16-19 June Footsteps # 1, Mittagong
 23 June Marist Brothers' Jubilee Celebrations, Brisbane
 24 June QLD/NT School Holidays begin
 27 June iBelieve Programme, Leeton

28 June iBelieve Programme, St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas
 29 June Marist Brothers' Jubilee Celebrations, Sydney
 1 July NSW / VIC School Holidays begin
 4 July Staff Retreat Day, Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park
 7 July Marist Brothers' Jubilee Celebrations, Melbourne
 8 July ACT/SA/WA School Holidays start
 11 July iBelieve, St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville
 15 July John Therry Catholic High School Staff Spirituality Day, Mittagong

HAPPY CENTENARY TO THE MARISTS IN THE WEST

Last week, at St Mary's Cathedral, Perth, there was a Mass to celebrate one hundred years since the first Marist foundation in Western Australia. Two days ago, another Mass was celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury, to mark the centenary. Today, Marcellin's dream is being realised by Marist educators in three schools in the West: Newman College, Perth; St Joseph's School, Northam; and Bunbury Catholic College.



HOLIDAY PROGRAM SACRED HEART COLLEGE, JOHANNESBURG

The *Three2Six* program run by a Marist school, Sacred Heart College, in Johannesburg, South Africa provides an education bridging program for children who have been denied access to local public schools. Most of the children are from Central Africa and live in very difficult conditions, their families struggling for survival.

Australian volunteers (over 18 years of age), interested in supporting young refugee children in South Africa to access education, life skills and fun are being sought to assist with a two week holiday program in Johannesburg from 25 August - 7 September 2013.

Please make this known to younger staff members at your school and ex-students who may be interested. An overview of *Three2Six* done by AFP media outlet is provided [here](#). For a look at an advocacy film produced during the August holiday program click on the link provided: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd8XeI0_EZ4.

A copy of the program flyer can be found [here](#).



For however it is being celebrated in your Marist community, we wish all our readers rich blessings for the

*Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat
6th June*

May the spiritual and apostolic intuitions of the Founder continue to inspire and guide us to make Jesus Christ known and loved by young people, in the hope that all of them can become the good Christians and good citizens they can be.

Click [HERE](#) to read the message of the Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, for the feast day of St Marcellin

FAITH FORMATION AT ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE – WITH RE STAFF

Over recent weeks the RE staff at St Joseph's have been engaged in the Program: **MARY THE MATURE DISCIPLE**.

This ran over 3 sessions each of approximately 1 hour duration. This was a convenient way for the staff to engage in 'short-bites' rather than have to be replaced for 3 hours during a school day or to take up after-school time.

Staff able to attend found it a 'valuable, engaging' and helpful way to look at the Mother of Jesus in her historical and scriptural contexts.



Back Row: Stella Holmes, Sue Tracey, Lesley Maher, Fr Andrew Nee, Daniel Curran, Martin Valentine. Front Row: Mandy Bradridge, Debra Phillips, Br Tony Glassick, Bruce Carr, Br Charles Evans, Helen Smith, Anna Nasr. Absent: Darren Junea, Miles Newman, Sam Walker.

FOOTSTEPS 2 - MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED



L-F: Br Adrian Story (Marist College Ashgrove); Dana Barnsley (Trinity Catholic College Lismore); and Maurice Di Muzio (Assumption College Kilmore)



Roby Eaton and Bryan McKeough (Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park) and Donna Doyle (The John Berne School)

FOUNDATION PRINCIPAL FOR MARIST COLLEGE BENDIGO



We will be advertising from next weekend for the Principalship of the new Marist school at Bendigo.

Please click [HERE](#) to view the advertisement that will appear.

REFLECTIONS ON MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

WORKING WITH THE YOUNG, IN LOVE, IN BELIEF AND IN TRUST

The Southern Cross Introduction to Marcellin Champagnat

 mirrabooka press
A division of Openbook Howden

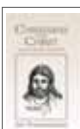
The Southern Cross Introduction to Marcellin Champagnat will be published this month by Mirrabooka Press.

An ideal resource for staff and students.

36 pages. \$3.50 (generous discounts for bulk orders)

To order call 08 81240000 or sales@mirrabookapress.com.au

View and order online – www.mirrabookapress.com.au



A book by Marist teacher Jim Timmermans. Google "Christians for Christ Jim Timmermans" to find out how buy it as an e-book or in hard copy.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY...

A YEAR LONG FOCUS



Young children in class at Ponte Leste

Although International Children's Day was celebrated last Saturday (June 1) Marist students in Australia are making children on the margins of life a priority everyday!

Through Marist Solidarity (MSol) many schools support children in projects throughout Asia and the Pacific. One example of the great support that MSA Schools provide is a primary school in Abafala, Timor-Leste (East Timor). With 233 boys and girls in attendance the school's dilapidated facilities have struggled to provide the safe learning environment that all children have the right to experience. The support of MSA schools has been crucial in enabling the local Timorese to provide a safe school environment for their children.



A classroom at Abafala Primary School in desperate need of repair.

This just one of many success stories that have been made possible by the partnership between MSol, MSA Schools and the wider public. To see where MSol is now operating go to:

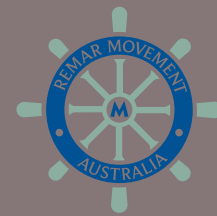
maristsolidarity.net.au/projects

For more information or if you would like to support a project as a school or independently contact us on:

msol@marists.org.au or via the website.

MSol Team Brisbane

(We will be moving from Paddington to new premises at Ashgrove soon. Watch this space for more details.)



REMAR NEWS

Since our last edition, we have facilitated our second Victorian Blue Retreat at Phillip Bay Island Resort. The following colleges participated in this Blue Retreat: Assumption College (Kilmore), Lavalla Catholic College (Traralgon), Marcellin College (Bulleen), Marist-Sion College (Warragul) and St Francis Xavier College (Beaconsfield)).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Helms and support staff who accompanied the rowers on these two retreats. The manner in which you are all Disciples of Christ through your everyday words and actions, are truly an inspiration to us all. I would also like to thank the following Post School Leaders who supported us throughout these two camps: Maddy Barnes, Henni Duivenwooden, Mark Gilbert, Karina Marcucci, Steven Oscari, Yohan Phillip, Jack Stammers, Sam Vinson and Chris Walsh. Your humility, loyalty and solidarity were appreciated by the team.



Last Tuesday (28th May) six team members traveled to Alice Springs to facilitate the Red Caravel Day Camp and Blue Retreat to our Red and Blue Rowers from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College. We had an amazing experience! Thank you so much for making us so welcome and for allowing us to share your camp and retreat with you. A special thank you to Br Matthew, Br Paul and Br Tony for your warm hospitality.

We depart Alice Springs Monday and head to Sydney where we will be spending time with Trinity College Red Rowers for their Caravel Day before heading to Adelaide where we will also spend time with the Red Rowers from Sacred Heart College for their Red Caravel Day Camp too.



Nicki Pitt
Coordinator
Remar