



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

20 August 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

With Collingwood seeming to be safely bundled away by Hawthorn, my finger found itself on our Community television's remote control surfing for an alternative that might provide a suitable Friday evening diversion after a full week. Quite unusually for me, I was nabbed by something on the classic movie channel TCM.

It sounds a little sad, doesn't it? Home alone on a Friday night, sitting in front of a ho-hum Hollywood dud, made fifty years ago, with a clunky screenplay that murdered the novel on which it was based, and a B-grade cast of nobodies delivering their lines in stilted and robotic blandness for three hours. Even Bill Collins would have turned it off and gone to bed. And then to want to write about the experience? But stay with me.

The movie was *The Cardinal*, based on the novel of the same name by Henry Morton Robinson. Do you know it? Maybe not. It is set in the first half of the last century, the main character a Boston priest by the name of Stephen Fermoye. I had read the book as a boy. I guess I was thirteen or so at the time, and I was somewhat captivated by Father Fermoye – in the way that boys of that age seek their male heroes. He was an inspirational mix of someone of intellect, bravery, adventure, principle and faith. He wrestled with a Hobson's choice when having to decide between saving his own sister's life or approving a very late termination of her unplanned pregnancy, he courageously took on the Ku Klux Klan in the deep south, he came face to face with the ugly betrayal of Nazism in Austria, he stood up to abuse of authority in the Church, and he struggled with his own belief, his commitment to be a priest, and a love affair. He nearly starved, he was beaten up and tortured, he was both humiliated and feted, he made the most of opportunity, and finally he got a red hat. A sort of boys-own clerical super-hero.

The movie – which I never knew existed – was a typically smulchy Hollywood sanitisation of what from my late boyhood I recall as rather gutsy and raw novel. There were no tolling bells or angelic background choirs in the imagery that the text evoked in my mind. No hoards of extras on the set, outfitted in everything the costume department's religious section could muster: crimsoned bishops with bejewelled rings, nuns in full-flowing habits, Cistercian monks, and genuflecting women in black mantillas. Lots of Latin and lace. Rather, the characters which I remember most from the book were three very human priests: Fermoye himself; an old and much loved pastor who had been punted to the poorest and remotest rural parish; and a young and resilient African-American pastor taking a stand on racism and injustice. The heroism of each was different but in each case it was done quietly, humbly and selflessly. And it was done wherever each found himself, with the people and the problems of that place.

The Hollywood perception of the Church in the movie was an outsider's view. It caricatured its otherworldliness, its privilege, its mysteriousness, its disconnection, its hypocrisy. The insider's experience was different. It was real, grounded and relational. You and I are insiders. The Gospel ministry which we know – as teachers, as counsellors, as youth ministers, as boarding supervisors, as coaches, as Brothers, as mentors, as nurses, as chaplains, in whatever roles we have with young people in school – is all about the day-in day-out effort to help the Kingdom come, here and now, with these people, in the this place. Largely it is unheralded work. Largely it might be described as ordinary. We in schools – and others in health care, in social welfare, in solidarity initiatives, and in the countless other services undertaken by people who give their lives to make Matthew 25 real – know a Church that Hollywood and the tabloid media never really quite get. Or, perhaps they do understand, but they judge that it won't make them money.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

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|------------|--|------------|---|
| 21 Aug | Marist Schools Oratory 2013, hosted by Marist College Eastwood | 19-20 Sept | Spirituality & Leadership 1, Red Bend Catholic College Forbes |
| 28 Aug | MSA Brisbane Regional Council Meeting | 20 Sept | MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Marist Centre Sydney |
| 30 Aug | MSA Sydney Regional Council Meeting | 22-29 Sept | Province Retreat |
| 5-6 Sept | MSA Melbourne Regional Council Meeting | 30 Sept | MLF/MSA Regional Meeting, Melbourne |
| 5 Sept | Melbourne Marist Core Group, Marist Centre Melbourne | 4 Oct | Opening & Blessing of Marist Centre Brisbane |
| 11 Sept | Next Gen 2 Programme, Melbourne | 11 Oct | Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Melbourne |
| 13 Sept | Bunbury Retreat Day | 13-16 Oct | Living Champagnat's Vision, Alice Springs |
| 15-18 Sept | Footsteps Programme, Mittagong | 17-18 Oct | Next Gen 1 Programme, Sydney |
| 16 Sept | Staff Formation Day, Marist Centre Melbourne | 20-23 Oct | Footsteps Programme, Mittagong |
| 17 Sept | Mission Council Meeting, Melbourne | | |

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to people in our schools who have been appointed to leadership roles over the last month or so:

- Mr Andrew Bryson** Assistant Principal (Learning), Marcellin College, Bulleen
- Br Darren Burge** Principal, St Augustine's College, Cairns
- Mr Declan Donahue** Religious Education Coordinator, Marist College Penshurst
- Mrs Carmelina Eussen** Deputy Principal, Marist College, Penshurst
- Mr John Finneran** Principal, Marist College, Penshurst
- Br Mark Paul** Principal, The John Berne School, Lewisham

UPCOMING MARIST BEATIFICATIONS

On Sunday 13th October, 68 Marists (66 Brothers and 2 Lay) will be beatified in Tarragona, Spain. Each of them was martyred between 1936 and 1939 in Spain. Two thirds of the number were aged under 40. This is a major event for our Marist world, and one in which we are all called to support in prayer. A poster and a brochure giving details of those being beatified have this week been sent to the schools of the Province. Further information is on the champagnat.org site: <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=2908>

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PROJECT-BASED LEARNING?

Parramatta Marist High School is hosting an exciting Professional Development opportunity on Project Based Learning from 13 - 15 November 2013. To find out more, go to PBL World Australia: <http://pblaustralia.com/> for details regarding expressions of interest and registration.

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL MARIST GROUPS

At the MSA Conference in Cairns, a session was given over to launching our Province's participation in next year's International Marist Mission Assembly which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya. This is the second such Assembly, the first one taking place in Mendes, Brazil in 2007. Frank Malloy (MSA Director of the Sydney Region) is a member of the Planning Committee for the Assembly.

Extensive resources have been prepared for all Marists to join in the lead-up to the Assembly. As was explained at our launch, these resources are really ready-made for local Marist communities in our schools – both those which are well-established and those that are just starting. They are available on-line on the international Marist site: www.champagnat.org. Click on "Animation" then "Nairobi 2014".

AMC FORUM THIS WEEKEND



This coming weekend a significant event takes place at Mittagong – what is being called a "AMC Forum". It will bring together people who are animators of local Marist groups across the Australian Marist Community, together with a representation of others from school and other ministry leadership and from Province teams. One of the major topics for the Forum will be the proposed new association of Marists. Let us all have an intention in prayer for the Forum.

National Marist Faith Formators' Colloquium 2014

DATE CLAIMER

DATES

5.00pm Sunday, 23 March to 1.00pm Tuesday, 25 March 2014

VENUE

The Hermitage, Corner Old South and Bong Bong Roads, Mittagong NSW

ENQUIRIES

Tony Clarke
 Director, Marist Mission & Life Formation
 e tony.clarke@marists.org.au



Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Don't forget to register for
**LIVING CHAMPAGNAT'S
VISION on 13-16 October
2013 if you haven't already
done so!**

A programme that engages with the indigenous ministry of Marists in Santa Teresa, Central Australia. The exploration of education, culture, faith and spirituality within this desert context will highlight the significance of how these aspects are very significant to Central Australia life.

Commences: 1.00pm on Sunday, 13 October 2013
Concludes: 10.00am on Wednesday, 16 October 2013
Venue: MacDonnell Range Holiday Park, 3 Palm Place, Alice Springs + 1 night camping in desert
Cost: \$550.00 per person
Register: via your school's Booking Officer online at <http://msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes/>
Registrations Close: Monday, 2 September 2013

LCV is a programme that engages with the indigenous ministry of Marists in Santa Teresa, Central Australia. The exploration of education, culture, faith and spirituality within this desert context will highlight the significance of how these aspects are very significant to Central Australia life. Cost is \$550.00 per person.

Registrations for this programme are to be made online through your Principal/REC at <http://msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes/>
For more details regarding the programme, please contact Br Mark Paul on 03 9389 3175 or at mark.paul@marists.org.au

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION



Sophia Morgan reading the Prayers of the Faithful at the St Michael's Primary School mass for the Feast of the Assumption.

MARIST LEADERS: NEXT GEN I BRISBANE



Our leaders of the future from the Brisbane Region gathered at the new Marist Centre Brisbane for the Next Gen I programme. Pictured are Emma Galea from St Peter Claver College, Riverview and Andrew McEwan from Trinity College, Beenleigh.



*Marist College Pagewood
L-R: Mark Gilmore, Patricia Green, Pia Nigro, Warren Williams*

**IBELIEVE
PROGRAMME**



*Red Bend Catholic College Forbes
Busy creating their news item, Wendy Baker and Jenny Grogan*



Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity (MAPS)
Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS)
Marist Volunteers Australia (MVA)

MSol IMMERSIONS WORKSHOP AUGUST 4 – 6



Brisk Mittagong winds did not dampen the energy of the twenty-six of us gathered for the MSA Schools' Immersion Workshop. Seventeen MSA schools were represented and teachers ranged from those yet to lead an immersion to the highly experienced. One goal was to facilitate a process of sharing experience levels with a particular focus on risk assessment, evangelization potential and appropriate staffing selection. With Br Graham Neist as facilitator the workshop covered the planning stages through to implementing and debriefing of immersions.

Br Tony Leon, of the MLF team, energetically introduced stereotypes of the Majority World's peoples and different development methods. Br Allen Sherry of MSol continued with twelve paradigms of immersion ranging from the controversial "Slumdog Tourism" model to our MSA schools movement to "Marist presence". This opened up lively reflection on current practices. We were fortunate to also gain an in country community perspective from Br Brian Kinsella of MSol who has recently joined the team after 6 years ministry in Pailin, Cambodia. At various stages experienced staff formed panels on topics across the elements of the school immersion cycle (a new MSol template) making for informative conversations.

The workshop concluded with a session led by Catherine Hannon on possibilities for former students with Marist Volunteering Australia (MVA) and Nehme Khattar on Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) offerings.

At the completion of the workshop all agreed that the goals were reached and that the experience was highly positive with possibilities for further discussion being recorded. Thanks must go to the team at "The Hermitage" Mittagong led by Br Tony Shears for their care of our group and Br Anthony Robinson's opening night Marist wine tasting.

If you were unable to attend the workshop and would like copies of the materials, contact MSol on msol@marists.org.au.

Michael Coleman
MSol Comms Team



REMAR NEWS

Over the weekend August 9 -11 we held our National Gold Retreat at Phillip Island. 130 Gold Rowers, their Helms and support staff gathered to celebrate their 3 year journey. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who attended this Retreat for their support, encouragement and enthusiasm. Your presence was appreciated. Congratulations to the Gold Rowers and their Helms from the following colleges:

- St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield
- Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows
- Marcellin College, Bullen
- Assumption College, Kilmore
- Notre Dame College, Shepparton
- Marist-Sion College, Warragul
- Catholic College, Wodonga
- Marist Regional College, Burnie
- St Patrick's College, Launceston
- Newman College, Perth
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs
- Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

Best wishes to all our Gold Rowers as they journey towards the end of Year 12. Remember, through the stress and challenges that may be presented to you over the next few months, to take time out to be still and silent. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.

On behalf of the Remar Ministry Team I would also like to thank the following people who supported us throughout the Retreat: Mark Gilbert (Post School Leader), Alyce Forrest (Post School Leader), Mario Frazzetto (MYM Regional Coordinator Melbourne), Cat Gaggin (Post School Leader), Br Michael Herry, Br Greg McDonald, Christian Nobleza (MYM Regional Coordinator Queensland), Sean Prien (Post School Leader), Jack Stammers (Post School Leader), Br Rod Thomson and Br Doug Walsh. Your presence amongst us over the Retreat was a true blessing.

Over the next two weeks, some members of the Remar Ministry Team will be presenting a "Remar Listening Tour" to schools and colleges in New South Wales and Queensland as we continue to expand Remar across our nation.



Nicki Pitt
MYM Coordinator - Remar

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