



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

17 September 2013

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Have you discovered 'The Pope App' yet? Yes, that's what it's called, 'The Pope App'. All you ever needed or wanted to know about what Pope Francis said or did today. A bit of a groovy innovation from our friends at vatican.va.

One of the things on the app has been the Holy Father's daily, and usually unscripted, homily at his morning Mass, but they seem to have quietly ditched that bit now. A little too unmanaged. He must be a minder's nightmare. 'What will he say or do next?' they would be wondering. Apparently he impulsively hopped behind the wheel of a priest's old car last week and went for a spin around the Vatican back streets, black-suited bodyguards not knowing what to do.

With such extensive reporting of what he says, and he says a lot, there is no shortage of Papal quotable quotes. It's probably their disarming honesty, their common sense wisdom, and their non-judgemental compassion that grab people. And their uncompromising challenge. Here's one:

We need a church capable of rediscovering the maternal womb of mercy. Without mercy we have little chance nowadays of becoming part of a world of wounded persons in need of understanding, forgiveness, and love.

What a powerful way to describe exactly what we Marists have been trying to live out in the Church since our foundation! Next week we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, the day on which St Marcellin and his fellow Marist priests made their first profession as Marists. They chose the day deliberately because to be the merciful face of the Church was the chosen way of doing "Mary's work" as they described it.

Theologians such as Hans Urs Von Balthasar have written about the "Marian principle" of the Church as being its basic orientation, its primary definition. They didn't know or use that theological term, but Marcellin and his founding Marists lived their whole lives out of the same intuition, and they yearned for the whole Church to do the same.

As we come to the end of another term, let us take a moment to think back on how effectively we have been genuinely Marist over these weeks – open, like Mary of the Annunciation, to the God who has sought to erupt in our heart; generous and selfless, like Mary of the Visitation, in setting out to the hill country to encounter the other in need; hopeful and resilient, like Mary of Pentecost, building a family of faith around us. And doing it all in the down-to-earth, practical and loving way that we have learnt from Marcellin.

I suspect that Pope Francis and Marcellin would have hit it off grandly.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

15-18 Sept	Footseps Programme, Mittagong
17 Sept	Mission Council Meeting, Melbourne
19-20 Sept	Spirituality & Leadership 1, Red Bend Catholic College Forbes
20 Sept	MSA Leadership Team Meeting, Marist Centre Sydney
22-29 Sept	Brothers' Retreat
23 Sept	NSW/VIC/QLD School Holidays start
30 Sept	ACT/NT/SA/WA School Holidays start
30 Sept	MLF/MSA Regional Meeting, Melbourne
4 Oct	Opening & Blessing of Marist Centre Brisbane

7 Oct	VIC/NT Schools Resume
8 Oct	NSW/QLD Schools Resume
11 Oct	Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Brisbane
12 Oct	Tenth Anniversary Celebration for St Teresa's Noosaville
13-16 Oct	Living Champagnat's Vision, Alice Springs
17-18 Oct	Next Gen 1 Programme, Sydney
20-23 Oct	Footsteps 2 Programme, Mittagong
25 Oct	Beenleigh Staff Retreat, St Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston
1 Nov	Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner, Sydney

VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER

Read the latest [newsletter](#) from the Province's Director of Vocations Ministry.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN RIO?

Read an account [here](#) from two of the Young Marists who were part of the Province of Australia delegation.



MARIST MINISTRIES MASS AND DINNER 2013

The annual Mass and Dinner for those involved in our Marist Ministries will be held in three centres this year – as usual in Brisbane and Melbourne, and for the first time in Sydney. Invitations from your Principal or Ministry Leaders.

- **BRISBANE**
11 October 2013
Marist College, Ashgrove
- **SYDNEY**
1 November 2013
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
- **MELBOURNE**
30 November 2013
Marcellin College, Bulleen

MARIST PRINCIPALS IN FINLAND



As part of a Principals' study tour from the Diocese of Sale to look at schooling approaches in Finland, the three Marist representatives Peter Houlahan, Erica Pergorer and Chris Randell were pictured yesterday in Helsinki. Note Peter's MSA tie!

BEST WISHES TO NSW SCHOOLS

Most of our member schools in NSW have graduation and hand-over events during this week for their Year 12s, as is the common practice in that State. As in all schools, these are significant rites of passage not only for the students themselves, but also for staff, parents and the whole school community.

FORMATION DAY FOR MARIST CENTRE MELBOURNE

Yesterday, most of the Province personnel based at the Marist Centre Melbourne had a staff formation day. As is the norm for a group that is often on the road, several could not be present (some at the current Footsteps programme at Mittagong, and another on an interview panel in Perth), but a very successful day was held, with a mix of faith formation, vision-setting and more practical matters. Thanks to Joe McCarthy and Br John McMahon for their leadership of the day.



iBELIEVE

Trinity Catholic College Auburn



L - R: Br Ray Arthur, Melissa Khoury, Brendan Boidin



Staff of Trinity Catholic College

Notre Dame College Shepparton



Meredith Lia and Lisa Mei (Shepparton)

**IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY
DAY**

St Joseph's School Northam



L - R: Glen Dunkerton, Renee Marasco, Michelle Izzard, Melissa Riley

**CONTEMPLATIVE
RETREAT**



Luke Morwittch (Marist College Canberra) and Lionel Williamson (St Augustine's College, Cairns) at the Marist Contemplative Retreat on 4-7 September 2013



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

ST MARCELLIN PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION: COMPLETE!

Vanga Point, Solomon Islands



Double Classrooms Completed in June 2013

At the end of 2011 the community of Vanga Point in the Solomon Islands approached MSol to expand the school beyond grade 5 and up to grade 8. To do this a new toilet block, double classroom block and staff housing were needed. At the time St Marcellin Primary School provided education for 42 students. On completing Grade 5 the 10-year-old children would need to travel at least 10 kilometres across rivers or open ocean to attend Grade 6 and above. The situation was difficult and the need was pressing.



It was because of the first contributions from our Marist Schools Australia network that another development funding agency agreed to partner the project and provide significant financial support. Construction began last year and was carried out by St Dominic's Rural Training Centre, another MSol funded school in Vanga Point, Solomon Islands. The expansion is now complete with staff having moved in and classes already started (photo above). The project was a wonderful collaborative effort with the local community, culminating in fully functional facilities that will ensure the continuation of the education opportunities in the area.

The community at Vanga Point thanks the Marist Schools in Australia that expressed their solidarity by contributing toward the project. Your support through MSol and now and in the future is vital.

Michael Coleman
 MSol Team – Brisbane

For more information or to support a project like this one contact us on msol@marists.org.au.



REMAR NEWS

RED HELMS REUNITE

Recently our Red Helms gathered for their second 2013 Helm In-service. These in-service training sessions provide Helms with the opportunity not only to network with each other, but also give time to ensure that the integrity and vision of Remar is maintained.

The Melbourne Remar Ministry Team Crew led us in prayer and facilitated 'games and quick starters'. This provided the Helms not only with six new games that they can share with their Rowers but also provided us with great laughs!

We took some time to look at 'Images of God'. Within this session time was allocated for us as adults to examine how we personally see God and to consider how our language and use of metaphors present images of God to Rowers. Brother Pat Connell also shared his thoughts and insights on this topic with us.



Red Helms 2013

Our Red Rowers across the Country are busily preparing themselves for their upcoming Red Leadership Camps which will be held in October. This camp provides Rowers with an opportunity to meet others from across state borders. It aims to strengthen the Rowers understanding of Christian life, built around the four spokes – faith development, ministry and service, community and leadership. Rowers are challenged to reflect on their personal call to be a Christian leader by "sailing away from mediocrity" with "dedication and sacrifice". The Remar Ministry Team looks forward to reconnecting with the Red Caravels throughout these camps.



Our Red Helms are put through an intense game workout but the Melbourne Remar Ministry Team Crew!

Nicki Pitt
 MYM - National Remar Coordinator

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