



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

11 February 2014

Dear Brothers, Friends and Colleagues

Time was running out, I was assured last week by an unsolicited email from hotels.com, for my “Valentine’s Day Escape”.

A curious expression.

An implication is that love is something that happens in exotic places and in out-of-the-ordinary ways, and requires roses. You need to escape from your day-to-day life to find it and to fire it. I guess that’s as good a sales pitch as any if you are in the business of flogging hotel rooms in such places.

Our business, as Marists, is love, but our places for loving tend not to be exotic or out of the box. They are classrooms, and school yards, and dormitories, and counselling rooms, and playing fields, and tuckshop queues. They are today. They are here. Love is our starting point as educators of young people, St Marcellin tells us, as it is also our means, and our goal. And to unpack what that meant, two of Marcellin’s favourite pieces of advice to his early Brothers came from directing them to 1 Corinthians 13 and 1 John 4:7-8. It would be well for us, as Marist educators, to spend some time in prayerful reading of these Scriptures as we take up our responsibilities for the new academic year. Our Founder would be pleased with that; we would be putting our hearts in the space that he believed was the only place for someone who presumed to be an educator, in whose hands the life of a young person was to be entrusted. It was the surest way to lead to God.

The Province theme for our ministries this year – #SERVEoneanother – is sourced in this kind of heart-space. It leads us into a love that is grounded, faithful, humble, resilient, forgiving, believing, other-centred, and truthful.

Truthful. Marcellin called it simplicity, and some Marist scholars have seen this trait as Marcellin’s most defining. It carries a sense of transparency of purpose, lack of pretence, no games of power, an absence of masks; it presumes a starting point of trust and belief. It makes for joy. It sows seeds of hope.

In writing to one of the first Brothers, Marcellin ended his letter with the powerful exclamation: “How much good you can do!” Indeed, how much good will bring 2014 bring for the young people in our care!

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

11 Feb In the Champagnat Way, All Saints College, Maitland
12 Feb In the Champagnat Way, Marcellin College, Bulleen
16 Feb Middle Leaders' Retreat, Mt Maria College, Mitchelton
18 Feb In the Champagnat Way, Marist Centre Brisbane
21 Feb In the Champagnat Way, Newman College, Perth
21 Feb In the Champagnat Way, St Augustine's College, Cairns
21 Feb In the Champagnat Way, Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon

24 Feb #serve program, Marist College Ashgrove
24 Feb Directors' Forum, Marist Centre Sydney
26 Feb In the Champagnat Way, Mt Carmel Catholic College, Varroville
11-12 Mar MSA Principals' Conference, Mittagong
13 Mar MSA Regional Council Meeting, Brisbane
13-14 Mar MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne
14 Mar MSA Regional Council Meeting, Sydney

WELCOME

A warm welcome to all new staff joining a Marist school for the first time this year. You have become members of a great spiritual family of the Church, in eighty countries around the world, and we all hope that you come to feel quickly at home among us.

A special word of welcome to those who have taken up positions of leadership as Principal in Marist schools in 2014:

- **Carmen Cox** at St Joseph's School, Northam WA
- **Tony Duncan** at Marist College North Shore, Sydney NSW
- **John Finneran** at Marist College Penshurst NSW
- **John Freeman** at Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon VIC
- **Brother Matthew Green** at OLSH Catholic College, Alice Springs NT
- **Angela Hay** at St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas NSW
- **Maria Urbano** (Acting) at Marcellin Technical College, Adelaide, SA

NEW ST MARCELLIN ICON UNVEILED

Last Friday afternoon saw a special Marist gathering at the Catholic Education Office in Sydney. The occasion was the blessing of the main board room at the CEO which has been named the "Marcellin Room". A feature of the room is a stunning icon of St Marcellin by Sydney iconographer Michael Galovic.



This icon was commissioned jointly by the ten Marist schools in the Archdiocese and unveiled on Friday. It was blessed in a special service by Bishop Peter Comensoli who is Chair of the Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Board.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

The recent bush fires in Victoria, the worst in five years since Black Friday, have impacted upon the communities of both Assumption College, Kilmore and Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon.

A fierce grass fire swept through Kilmore on Sunday causing the evacuation of the boarding house. Seventy-five boarders and staff were bussed to Seymour and spent the night at the clubrooms of the Seymour sports ground. On Monday, it was decided to close the school and the boarders were sent home. The situation is still serious and the school remains closed. Whilst the College has not been impacted upon by the fire, it is within a few kilometres of the property. With the majority of staff and students coming from surrounding areas and with many roads closed, the school will remain closed until it is deemed safe for it to be reopened.

Lavalla Catholic College in the Latrobe Valley has also been affected by bushfires in the area with many roads closed and access for both staff and students limited. As a result classes were suspended on Monday, however the College remains open for those who are able to access the school. As members of the Australian Marist Community, we assure both Michael Kenny, Principal of Assumption and John Freeman, in his first weeks as Principal of Lavalla and their respective communities our prayers and best wishes at this very difficult time.

THREE2SIX, JOHANNESBURG

The Three2Six program is run by a Marist school, Sacred Heart College, in Johannesburg, South Africa, providing an education bridging program for children who have been denied access to local public schools. Click on the following links to learn more about their three2six holiday programme.



- [326 Holiday Program 2014 flyer](#)
- [326 Holiday Program 2014 sponsor flyer](#)

IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY: NEW STAFF INDUCTION PROGRAMME

Marist College Canberra



Tehani Wessley, Chris Brennan and Joanna Vanderzaa



New Staff of Marist College Canberra

#SERVEONEANOTHER PROGRAMME

The John Berne School Lewisham



Br Chris Hogan and Tanja Kosovski



*Kim Brady, James Le Huray
and Nicole Arathoon*



*L – R Carmel Ryan, Cathy Buxton, Marcus Williams, Dr Al Strangeways,
Cameron Turnbull, Carole Wark*



L-R Br Paul, Viv Petit, Zoe Smithies, Ali Gallio

#serve oneanother



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

2014 MARIST SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



The Marist Solidarity Campaign for 2014 will officially launch on Facebook and on our website (www.maristsolidarity.com.au) and be received in schools later this week.

We are still receiving many generous donations raised last year by our MSA School communities. This support has definitely exceeded our expectations. Throughout 2013 it was encouraging to see the level of awareness, in Marists in schools, of our world's inequalities and exciting to see the creative ways in which Marist students across Australia are working together to address this.

These young Marists in Australia stand in a unique position. Their actions of solidarity with the marginalised young people in Asia and the Pacific are causing a noticeable shift not only in the lives of individuals but in communities of hundreds of people. All because of programs providing training and education in schools, study centres, health centres and universities and all because we recognise that young people matter. This forms the focus for our year in solidarity and it can be summed up in 4 statements:

Jesus told his disciples to "let the children come to me"
 ...because for Jesus, young people matter!

Marcellin Champagnat made young people a priority,
 especially those on the margins,
 ...because for Marcellin, young people matter!

Pope Francis welcomes young people to his side
 even when his bodyguards try to send them away
 ... because for Pope Francis, young people matter!

Marist Solidarity wants to bring all young people
 to the centre, from the margins,
 through access to education
 ... because for Marist Solidarity, young people matter!

In light of this we invite you and your school community to join the Australian Marist Community in supporting over one hundred projects across Asia and the Pacific Islands this year... because for Marists, young people matter!

Br Allen Sherry fms (E.D. of MSol)
 & Michael Coleman
 MSol Team – Brisbane



#NEW#BEGINNINGS#2014 @MARISTYOUTHMINISTRY

The MYM team 2014 held their inaugural beginning of year formation week titled "The Joy of the Gospel" at The Hermitage, Mittagong from Tuesday 14th to Sunday 19th of January. The team made up of the Remar Ministry Team and the Post-School team engaged formative experiences including; Spiritual, Marist, Community, Youth Ministry and professional standards sessions. The retreat was led by a number of Marist Brothers including the Principal, Br Jeff Crowe who was present for the Commissioning of the MYM Team. As we embark on a new journey in Marist Youth Ministry, we thank you for your support in 2013 and hope that the year ahead is filled with the Joy of the Gospel in your area of ministry.

Nehme Khattar
 MYM National Coordinator



Tiffany Roma, Melissa De Sieno, Paige De Ravel



Remar Sydney Crew:
 Ashely Cipriani, Michael Lane, Tegan Perkins, James Mein



Top: Left to right – Tom Chalkley, Amanda Hance, Stefan Versace, Paige De Ravel, Connor Bradley. Bottom: Left to right – Mary-Anne De Luca, Kalen Grondin, Melissa DE Sieno