



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

25 February 2014

Dear Brothers, Friends and Colleagues

Here's something simple to try for the new school year.

It is a way to begin a class, an assembly, a liturgy, a meeting, any gathering really – a way that Saint Marcellin recommended. Indeed, it reflects an attitude of soul very much of the essence of the Founder's spirituality.

Included in the Brothers' draft Rule of 1830 were some specific requirements for how the Brothers were to conduct their schools. The instruction to those in charge of the boarding students was to begin the day by greeting the students with these words:

"Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God."

And the students' were to respond with: *"Let us pray to him to come to live in our hearts."*

Modern day boarding supervisors may well question the efficacy of this practice with sleep-comatosed boys first thing in the morning, and perhaps their forebears in the early nineteenth century also had limited success with it as a catechising stratagem: it didn't survive into the Rule that was published in 1837. But let us stay with what Marcellin's intuition might have been, and what significance it could have for our school culture today.

A sense of living each day in the "presence of God" was a major aspect of the kind of French spirituality in which Marcellin was formed, and now a core element of our Marist spiritual heritage. He wrote once, when in Paris, that he felt as close to God in its muddy and strangled streets, as he did in the tranquillity and remove of The Hermitage. His successor, Brother François, often took up the same theme in his writings, one of his favourite passages of Scripture being Acts 17:28: "for it is in Him that we live and move and have our being." Marcellin and François, hard-working and grounded as each was, had also cultivated a deep sense of the mystical in his life, a spiritual awareness of being part of the great mystery of God.

So much of our students' highly sensory lives are usurped by the immediate and the concrete. Our schools often exacerbate this through their regulated days, bells, announcements, and deadlines for everything. Indeed, there are few things more chronologised than a school. The ancient Greeks had two words for time – both of which appear extensively in the New Testament – *chronos* and *kairos*. The first refers to simple chronological time, the second to something of a higher plane – the opportune moment, the right time. It was used by Biblical writers to mean "God's time". With all our efficiency and organisation, we typically do well with the former; how do we go with the latter?

It is a challenge for us to create a sense of *kairos* in the often frenetic pace of our school days, but if our schools are to be "Kingdom places", then it is a challenge we must embrace. Of course we do it in many ways: the religious imagery and symbols in various spaces around the school, the presence of a chapel or prayer room (it is hoped with its doors always open!), the moments of prayer during the day, the great liturgies at different points of the year, and even in the softness and aesthetics we try to build into school environments. But much of that can be passive, with a hope that students and teachers may be affected in a kind of osmotic way. It can be a bit hit-or-miss.

Marcellin would have urged us as educators to be a little more pro-active, each day, in teaching our students to create the space and time for God. Perhaps his little invitation-and-response from 1830, followed by a minute's silence, may just be the ticket.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

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| 5 Mar | iBelieve, St Patrick's Primary School, Gympie | 13 Mar | MSA Regional Council Meeting, Brisbane |
| 6 Mar | In the Champagnat Way, Notre Dame College, Shepparton | 13-14 Mar | MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne |
| 7 Mar | In the Champagnat Way, Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta | 14 Mar | MSA Regional Council Meeting, Sydney |
| 7 Mar | In the Champagnat Way, Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood | 16-19 Mar | Footsteps 1 programme, Mittagong |
| 10 Mar | Labour Day - Public Holiday, Victoria | 20 Mar | In the Champagnat Way, Sacred Heart College Middle School, SA |
| 11 Mar | In the Champagnat Way, Catholic College Sale | 21 Mar | In the Champagnat Way, St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas |
| 11-12 Mar | MSA Principals' Conference, Mittagong | 23-25 Mar | National Marist Faith Formators' Colloquium, Mittagong |

EAST TIMORESE STUDENT BEGINS AT ASHGROVE

Sebastião Dos Santos, for the next four years has taken up a tuition and boarding scholarship offered to him by Marist College Ashgrove.



LIVEMARIST VOCATIONS NEWSLETTER



To read the Summer edition of the Vocations Newsletter please [click here](#).

A REQUEST FROM BROTHER PETER PEMBLE IN BELGIUM

Greetings to everybody from the *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, and a request to which you or someone you know may be able to respond. Many of my fellow theology students are priests from India and Africa. All their courses at KUL are in English, and some struggle with grammar, punctuation, paragraphing, etc. Over the past couple of years I have assisted them by reading their work and making suggestions for improving their English.

I would like to invite my fellow Marists, who may have some extra time, to assist with this little project. There is no expectation to comment on content, although this aspect of the task may be of some interest. The process would be fairly simple: the priest would email material to you, which you would read and 'correct' where you thought necessary.

If you are interested, please email me at ppemble@gmail.com and I will put you in contact with one of the priests and you can take it from there!

LAVALLA AND CHAMPAGNAT PUBLICATION DATES 2014

First Edition

Cut Off for Content: Friday, 11 April 2014
 Publications circulated: Monday, 28 April 2014

Second Edition

Cut Off for Content: Friday, 27 June 2014
 Publications circulated: Monday, 14 July 2014

Third Edition

Cut Off for Content: Friday, 19 September 2014
 Publications circulated: Monday, 6 October 2014

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2014 NETBALL COACHES' HANDBOOK
ORDER FORM AVAILABLE HERE

The new #Serve program was launched this year with simultaneous presentations at OLSH Alice Springs & Santa Teresa, the John Berne school and Marist College Canberra on Wednesday 29 January. Most recently, the same program was presented at Marist Centre Sydney for the staff professional development day. Another wonderful occasion for staff involved in Marist mission was the symposium lead by Fr Tony Gittins in Melbourne. The focus of Fr Tony's input was on how to build communities of practical compassion.

#SERVEONEANOTHER PROGRAMME Marist College Canberra



Jarrod Schindler with Christine Walker

#SERVEONEANOTHER PROGRAMME Marist Centre Sydney



Brother Greg McDonald, Bernard Kenna, Frank Malloy, Min Dixon

FATHER TONY GITTINS SYMPOSIUM Melbourne



Father Tony Gittins

Amanda Hance, Frank Malloy,
Brother Allen Sherry, Peter McNamara

IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY PROGRAMME All Saints College - St Peter's Campus Maitland



Marian McKinley and Raeleen Austin

#serve oneanother



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

A NEW FACE FOR MARIST VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA



Last month Marist Volunteers Australia (MVA) officially moved to Brisbane and Ashley Bulgarelli was appointed as the new Coordinator. He has settled in well with the MSol team at the Marist Centre Brisbane. Ashley is an ex-student of Marist College Ashgrove and has spent two years living in Ghana where he worked in education and health and with local people to form a new NGO. He certainly knows what it means to be a volunteer.

Ashley has hit the ground running and is busy preparing several volunteers for their upcoming time abroad. MVA currently has seven volunteers serving in places like Cambodia, Switzerland and Vietnam and a diversity that includes teachers, newly graduated students, a radio presenter and both men and women. It just goes to show that there is no such thing as a 'typical' volunteer.

Applications are now open for 2015 volunteer opportunities both long and short term. Interested individuals are encouraged to make contact with Ashley on 07 3354 0600 or at mva@marists.org.au.

Ashley will now also be coordinating immersions to the Asia and Pacific regions from schools in the Marist Schools Australia network. This ensures that projects are not overloaded and that both hosting and visiting groups gain a positive experience. If your school is sending an immersion group this year, or is looking to establish a new immersion program next year, please contact Ashley for more information or to register your dates.

Michael Coleman
 MSol Team – Brisbane



INTRODUCING THE 2014 REMAR MINISTRY TEAM

The 2014 Remar Ministry Team consists of eight young people who are working under the banner of Marist Youth Ministry, focusing mainly on the formation of Marist high school students around Australia. Here is a brief introduction of the team members...

Melbourne Remar Ministry Team



Tom Chalkley is originally from Notre Dame College in Shepparton



Paige De Ravel last year attended Assumption College in Kilmore



Amanda Hance comes from Marist-Sion College in Warragul



Stefan Versace calls Newman College, Perth home

Sydney Remar Ministry Team



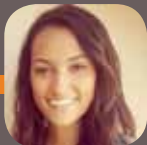
Ashley Cipriani is originally from St Francis Xavier College in Beaconsfield, a non-MSA school



Michael Lane last year attended Marcellin College in Bulleen



James Mein comes from Penola Catholic College in Broadmeadows, another non-MSA school



Tegan Perkins calls Newman College, Perth home

Along with Br Rod Thomson and his assistant, Connor Bradley, we minister in 19 schools around the Province with Remar students, plus also assist MSA schools in running Leadership Days with their senior. We look forward to meeting you as the year progresses!



Back: Left to right – Michael Lane, Stefan Versace, James Mein, Tegan Perkins and Paige de Ravel.

Front: Left to right – Brother Rod Thomson, Ashley Cipriani, Connor Bradley, Amanda Hance and Tom Chalkley