



MSA Newsletter

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

From Brother Michael Green

13 May 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Are the tentacles of FOMO insidiously twisting upwards along the intergenerational ladder?

You know about FOMO – that arresting and obsessive psychological condition which afflicts generations towards the end of the alphabet? *Fear Of Missing Out*. Whether the exponential take-up of social media and always-connected mobile devices is the cause or the effect of the FOMO pandemic is moot, but there is no doubting its paralysing and diverting effects on people, especially young people.

I thought that I may have been largely immune until recently a confrere convinced me that I was indeed missing out on some compelling entertainment by ignoring the series *Game of Thrones*. I had had no attraction to it. Fantasy, sci fi, mythical beasts and magic – all that weird non-reality stuff has never captured my imagination. But, maybe this one was different. So many people seemed to be captivated by *Thrones*. Perhaps I was indeed missing out.

It was a simple thing to locate and to stream as many full episodes as I needed or wanted to watch, or to read any number of articles and explanations of its plot and characters, and its whole confected world. One episode, then another, then a few more just to be sure. FOMO. What a fatuous indulgence I found it to be! No I hadn't been depriving myself of anything. It was about nothing, not even good and evil, or heroes and villains – a kind of fantastical *Seinfeld* with a touch of salacious titillation thrown in to entice the viewer to one more episode. All hat and no cowboy. A waste of my time.

Perhaps the irony of FOMO is that it results in the very thing it tries so hard to avoid. All the effort and concern that is invested in seeking not to miss out on something, usually means that the sufferer hardly gets to commit to anything. At least not at depth or personal investment.

A motto shared by a number of our schools is "Age quod agis". One translation is: "Do what you're doing." A looser rendering might be: "Don't procrastinate. Just do it. And give it your all." Or looser again: "Bloom where you're planted." It really is the antithesis of FOMO. If Mary had had a motto, it might have been that; certainly a good one for a Marist school. Mary's "fiat" at the end of Luke's account of the Annunciation, and her immediate setting out to visit Elizabeth, is very much a full-hearted yes to life's invitations and challenges, that is seeking to take flesh in her there and then. No FOMO here, not with Mary.

Nor, we hope, with Marists.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

- 14 May MSA Regional Council Meeting, Brisbane
- 14 May Next Gen 2 program, Marist Centre Sydney
- 15 May Grad Cert program: Marist Pedagogy & Spirituality, Adelaide
- 16 May MSA Regional Council Meeting, Sydney
- 18-22 May Footsteps 2 program, Mittagong
- 23 May St Michael's Daceyville, 100th Year Anniversary Mass
- 23-25 May Year 12 VIC Marist Forum, Ferngully Lodge, Healesville
- 27 May #serve program, Marcellin College Bulleen

- 29 May MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne
- 30 May #serve program, St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
- 1-4 June National Business Managers' Conference, Mittagong
- 5 June #serve program, Marist College Emerald
- 6 June Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat
- 6 June #serve program, St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton
- 9 June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday, all states except WA
- 13 June #serve program, Marist Sion College, Warragul

LAUNCH OF MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY WEBSITE

The recently launched Marist Youth Ministry website has been designed by one of our talented Young Marists, Liam Desic, MYM Regional Assistant in Brisbane. Visit the website at www.maristyouthministry.com. The main audience for the website are young people between 15-25 and leaders, teachers and faith formators from different schools. The main menu is on the top right corner and a secondary menu is on the bottom of the page for those who want to know more information. We hope that this website becomes a hub for Young People and Young Marists who are ready to change the world, to 'GET INVOLVED' so they can become disciples of Christ. I invite you to share this address with your friends and families.



Nehme Khattar
National and NSW/ACT Regional Coordinator

REQUEST FOR PROOF READERS!

I am appreciative of the response to my request for 'proof readers' for Sisters and Priests from Africa and India who are studying Theology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. While many of these international students have a good knowledge of English, others struggle. The main problem is with grammar and punctuation. As a result of my first request for assistance, 15 students from Leuven are now 'paired' with Australian Marists. The students are very grateful for the help they are receiving, something which cannot be underestimated. Word has obviously got around as I have received another 10 requests from Sisters and Priests for help. The work is not too demanding and there is not too much to read. It mainly involves the reading of chapters from draft theses of the students. If you have some spare time and able to assist, please send an email to me at ppemble@gmail.com and I will put you in contact with one of the Sisters or Priests and you can take it from there! Many thanks for your consideration of this request.

Best wishes
Brother Peter Pemble

READ THE STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE ON ASYLUM SEEKERS [HERE](#)

MARIST TERTIARY

Professor Richard Rymarz will be coming to Australia to conduct two, two day, face to face Seminars later this year. The first will be conducted at the Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office from Tuesday 5th-Wednesday 6th August and the second at the Armidale Catholic Schools Office from Friday 8th - Saturday 9th August. The Seminars provide an introduction to Broken Bay Institute's online Course RELT6022 (Religion and Young People in Australia) which is taught as part of the Institute's and the University of Newcastle's Graduate Certificate and Master of Theology Programs. Cross institutional credit is available. Further information can be obtained from Cheryl Martin at cmartin@bbi.catholic.edu.au or 02 9847 0540.

Best Wishes
Brother John McMahon

VOLUNTEER ABROAD IN A MARIST MISSION

Assistant to the Principal (Pakistan) - Marist Volunteers Australia (MVA) has a unique opportunity for an experienced individual to act as assistant to the principal in a newly-owned Marist school in Pakistan. The volunteer will be responsible for mentoring teachers, creating transparent administrative protocols and working towards the formation of staff in the Marist Charism.

Other Programs - Additional openings available include an English teacher in Vietnam (formal qualifications not required) and a jack-of-all-trades teacher for a program in Thailand supporting Burmese refugees.

For more information please contact Ashley at mva@marists.org.au or on (07) 3354 0600 and head to our brand new website www.maristvolunteersaustralia.com.au



MARIST YOUTH CARE PROJECT



Find out more about [Pink Lightning](#), an exciting Marist Youth Care initiative that will enable young women to undertake;

- Enrol in a certificate III in Beauty services
- Complete a two week preliminary program around confidence, new experiences and nails!
- Gain valuable work experience as casual mobile manicurists throughout the Melbourne CDB while being supported one hundred percent by Marist Youth Care, who will organise the work opportunities

MARIST PILGRIMAGE 2014

Pilgrims participating in the Marist Pilgrimage 2014 journeyed to many of the sacred places at the heart of our Marist story. An immersion experience to Marist Primary and Secondary schools and their Brothers' communities in Trichy, India, began our pilgrimage followed by a very special Easter in Rome at the General House and vigils at the Vatican. Our time at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage in France, literally walking in the footsteps of St Marcellin Champagnat, was the highlight of our pilgrimage. As a Marist family we entered into adventure and prayer and we learnt about and were inspired by our Founder and his early Brothers.



#SERVE PROGRAMME



Marist College North Shore



St Joseph's School Northam

Tanya Czernowski (foreground); Glen Dunkerton (background)

SJC MOTHERS' RETREAT

Another group of Mums with lads at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill gathered for 3 days April 1-3, at The Hermitage, Mittagong for some time-out and reflection, with good cheer and great company to boot! Learning more about Saint Marcellin and our Marist story were an added bonus. Many thanks from all the Mums to Brother Robert O'Connor for leading us through these days. Some smiling faces from these days together:



The SJC Mums at The Hermitage Mittagong

NEW APPOINTMENT MLF TEAM

... replacing Carole Wark ...

We are delighted to announce that **Paul Harris** will be joining the MLF Team in June 2014 after nine years of service at The John Berne School as Year 10 Co-ordinator and Faith Formation Co-ordinator.





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

Real people, Real stories... because young people matter!
KATILOSA, Baucau, Timor-Leste



"Our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active."
 1 John 3:18



Staff of KATILOSA provide assistance and training for parents in correct wheelchair positioning for their child.

KATILOSA, based in Baucau, Timor-Leste, is a locally run Non Government Organisation working to provide assistance and training for young people with a range of disabilities and their families. KATILOSA was set up and is now directed by Mr Laurentino Guterres, a passionate and generous Timorese man.

Recently a 15 year old girl with a hearing, speech and learning impairment shared her experience with those present at the KATILOSA Annual Meeting. This is what she had to say:

"When I started attending the group set up by KATILOSA in Baucau, I realized that I was not the only disabled persons in Baucau. I'm now taking part in the program of KATILOSA where disabled children like me try to convince parents to send their disabled children to school. I have learned that we have to raise our voices so that other children will not stay at home and deny their rights but they must go to school like non disabled children."

The project is generously supported by MSol supporters and donors in Australia and is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when our resources in Australia are partnered with local passion, ideas and knowledge.

For more information on Marist Solidarity and the work that we support please call 07 3354 0600 or email msol@marists.org.au.

Michael Coleman
 MSol Team – Brisbane



MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES 2014 GET REAL ALTERNATE SCHOOLIES IMMERSION



Calling all 2014 Year 12 students from Marist Schools!

Marist Youth Ministry is excited to launch the Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion to The Philippines. Lead by Sally McEniry & Br Doug Walsh, a group of Year 12 leavers from various Marist Schools across Australia will spend two weeks

immersed in Filipino culture, life & faith. The group will have a broad range of exciting experiences: visiting the slums of Manila, working in orphanages, engaging with the Marist Brothers from the district of Melanesia, meeting street children and their families, as well as relaxing in and touring around the beautiful sites of The Philippines! The immersion will take place from November 29th-December 13th. The cost is approximated to be \$2500, which is inclusive of flights, accommodation, food & spending money.

For any students that are interested, more details can be found at www.maristyouthministry.com/getreal. Let's encourage our young people to Get Real this year for Schoolies and have a meaningful experience that can positively shape their future!

Sally McEniry
 Marist Youth Ministry
 Brisbane- Regional Coordinator

REMAR TEAM CARAVEL DAY CAMPS

The Remar Team have just completed three Caravel Day Camps over the last 10 days, with schools from Kilmore, Bulleen, Beaconsfield, Warragul, Traralgon, Wodonga, Shepparton and Broadmeadows, and have 14 Camps to go over the next 7 weeks, the main ones being our Yr 11 Blue Retreats. A busy time from everyone, but the six Remar Team members are feeling keen and confident as they prepare for these. Red Caravel Days focus on the groups equipping themselves to be stronger Christian communities and starting some solid involvement in their service and social justice commitments.

Br Rod Thomson
 Remar Coordinator



Warragul and Traralgon Caravels, May 2014

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