



MSA Newsletter

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

From Brother Michael Green

19 August 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Did you see that they blew up Jonah's grave last week? Not Jonah from Tonga, but the Prophet. The Old Testament guy. Nothing left of it. Gone.

IS did it. In Mosul – the ancient city of Nineveh. Jonah didn't fit their fundamentalist Sunni narrative, apparently. Nor, of course, do the shrinking number of Christians there who, for the first time in the best part of two millennia, have not been able to celebrate the Eucharist in this ancient city.

A nasty thing, power. It's different from authority. Authority is what Jesus had, indeed what the figurative Jonah had. Prophets speak with authority, and that can rile people in power. Sister Jan Barnett RSJ did that last week when, with eight others involved in the radical activity of a prayer vigil outside Joe Hockey's office in North Sydney, she was arrested. Jan and her friends were doing what an increasing number of people are doing around the country: expressing their deep dismay at the forced detention of children, and calling our leaders to account. How can a humane society lock up kids? They weren't using arms or violence to achieve their purposes. They were praying. And they were briefing the media. Modern day prophets.

"Prophet" is perhaps a designation that we may be reluctant to use about ourselves. We may think it somewhat presumptuous. Understandably so. But, if we can put aside our instinctive Australian suspicion of claims to grand titles, let's stay with the concept. In his most recent Circular to Marists around the world, the Superior General, Brother Emili, urged us all to be prophets. Prophets and mystics. They go together, really; you can't be one without the other, at least not in a Christian sense. To be a prophet is simply to bring the mind and heart of God to our lived experience, and to the people with whom we share this time and place. But to have some sense of the mind and heart of God, self-evidently one must spend time with God, one must be alert to the deeper realities of humanity, of creation, of oneself. One must be a mystic in that sense.

Prophets can expect a rough time. Even poor old legendary Jonah is still having a hard time of it. Prophets are often up against powerful hegemony and a prevailing narrative that just don't get concepts such as mercy, forgiveness, humility, and service. Power often prevails over authority. Even though we believe such victories to be pyrrhic and hollow, people are hurt by them. Right now young people are being hurt, and in our own front yard.

As educators of the young, as Christian educators, we are called to be mystics and prophets. Sure, with a little "m" and a little "p", but no less genuine for that. Indeed, there is arguably nothing more important for us to be, if we are to teach with authority.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



COMING UP...

- 17-20 Aug Footsteps 1 programe, Mittagong
- 21 Aug #serve program, Notre Dame College, Shepparton
- 22-24 Aug New Models of Animation, Governance & Management Regional Meeting, Mittagong
- 25 Aug #serve program, Catholic College Sale
- 25-28 Aug Staff spirituality days, Trinity College, Beenleigh
- 27 Aug MSA Regional Council Meeting Brisbane
- 29 Aug MSA Regional Council Meeting (Melbourne)
- 1 Sept Marist Centre Sydney Family Day

- 1 Sept Red Helmspersons' Inservice (Melbourne)
- 3-6 Sept Contemplative Retreat, Mittagong
- 5 Sept #serve program, Trinity Catholic College, Auburn
- 7 Sept Father's Day
- 8 Sept Remar Ministry Team 2015 Applications Close
- 9 Sept Next Gen 1 programme, Brisbane
- 11 Sept Next Gen 2 programme, Melbourne
- 11-12 Sept MYM Leaders Retreat, Mittagong
- 14-17 Sept Footsteps 1 programme, Mittagong

WELCOME TO OVERSEAS MARIST VISITORS

This week the Marists of Australia welcome a number of fellow Marists from around the Pacific region and also further abroad. They are here for visits and a regional meeting associated with what is called the "New Models Project." This is a major initiative of the Marist Brothers which aims to explore new paradigms for how the Marists of today – a much more inclusive group than the Brothers alone – might be able to govern, manage and enliven Marist life and mission.

At the end of this week, the Project Team from Rome will be meeting at Mittagong with representatives from around the Australian and Pacific region. Prior to that they will be visiting a sample of our schools and other ministries, and meeting with Province personnel in the Marist Centres. The twin aim of the visits and the meeting is for the Project Team (a) to provide a briefing on the Project to local leaders, and (b) to learn more about the Marist reality in this part of the world.

Thanks to all those who are hosting our visitors.

YEAR 11 MARIST FORUM IN QUEENSLAND

Forty-five Year Eleven students and staff from Chanel College Gladstone, Marist College Ashgrove, Mt Maria College Mitchelton, Mt Maria College Petrie, St Peter Claver College Riverview and Trinity College Beenleigh recently gathered at the QCCC, Brookfield for the annual Year 11 Marist Forum.



The weekend invited your young people to engage in listening and shared dialogue around contemporary issues of justice, as well as conduct a public forum on how they can become agents of change in their own school and local communities.

Our two keynote speakers helped to broaden the students' understanding of justice and solidarity. Peter Arndt from the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace spoke about the current plight of refugees and asylum seekers and Ashley Bulgarelli from Marist Volunteers Australia inspired the students with his passion for international development through his personal stories as a volunteer in Ghana, and now working with Australian Marist Solidarity.

Thanks to Sally McEniry (MYM Regional Coordinator) and Brother Greg McDonald (Vocations Coordinator) for organising the event.



LAVALLA AND CHAMPAGNAT PUBLICATION DATES 2014

First Edition

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Second Edition

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Third Edition

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#SERVE PROGRAM
Maitland



Chris South and Sarah Elliott getting a bit arty during the #serve program at St Peter's Maitland.

FOOTSTEPS: MAKING JESUS
CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED



(L-R) Charlene Sim (Marist Centre Sydney), Rachel Noble and Katie Bucknole (Marist College North Shore) celebrate the French-themed dinner during Footsteps 1.

#SERVE PROGRAM
Ashgrove



Support staff at Marist College Ashgrove celebrated the Feast of the Assumption by gathering as a group to participate in the #serve program.

#SERVE PROGRAM
Riverview



The teaching staff of St Peter Claver College, Riverview in Queensland enjoyed the #serve program by fully entering into the spirit of the program.

#serve
oneanother



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

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY BRISBANE JOINS MSOL FOR: a Winter Conversation



It hardly feels like Winter here but with blinds drawn and a digital fireplace provided by the MSol team, the atmosphere was set for our first Winter event in Brisbane. The evening, which was co-hosted by the MSol Team and the Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) Team from Brisbane.

The younger members of both teams were interviewed about their experience of our MSol projects and their impact on local communities in Asia and The Pacific. MYM Brisbane's Regional Coordinator, Sally McEniry



shared on Kuya's work with street kids in The Philippines, Nicolas Nunez on the Lavalla School for those with disabilities in Cambodia, Ashley Buglarelli on the Marist Teachers College in Timor Leste and Michael Coleman on St Joseph's College in Mabiri, Bougainville. The four young team members spoke of their experiences and shared their stories giving an insight into the life around MSol projects in Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The night was successful and in the words of one of our older affiliated members...

"In a world of so much disorder, it was a joy to hear of so much good work being done by Marists overseas and the support the young people give them through the Brisbane office."

Michael Coleman, MSol Team – Brisbane



REMAR GOLD RETREAT

The Remar Gold (Yr 12) Retreat was held from August 8 to 10 at Phillip Island - an amazing experience for the 12 schools involved, with 153 Gold Rowers, and 50 Helmspeople, Brothers, Remar Team, and Young Marist volunteers attending.



The Retreat included various elements, including fun outdoor-ed activities to reconnect with friends, through to various prayer and mentoring experiences on the Saturday evening. A highlight for many was the concluding Eucharist on the Sunday morning, with a sermon that included the Priest rapping about his life journey!



Overall the retreat's success was due to the hard work and organisation of the Team. The next major events will be with our Red (Yr 10) Leadership Camps in October - two in Melbourne and one in Sydney.



Br Rod Thomson
 Remar Coordinator