



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

14 October 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Whatever your view on the merits or otherwise of the US's rounding up a posse to ride out to lynch the bad guys in Syria and Iraq, there seems to be a general lack of clarity as to what the group should be called, what its proper name might be. Who are these people? Do we call them ISIL, ISIS, IS, Islamic State, or Daish? Or perhaps Tony Abbott's more dramatic moniker for them: the "apocalyptic death cult"?

It's reasonable to suspect that generating some brand-confusion is at least partly deliberate on their part. Naming is powerful, particularly when it's done by someone else. In ancient and medieval literature, especially in mythological and legend literature, the right to know a name, or more to bestow one, often infers the authority of one person over another. We know, of course, that in the Hebrew Scriptures – and in parts of Judaism to this day – there is an avoidance of a name for "God". Indeed, many Jewish people would find it disrespectful, if not idolatrous, to presume to name God. Even in our own contemporary Western culture we retain care and respect for people through the use of titles rather than first names: "Sir" rather than "Tom", "Father" rather than "Harry". In John's Gospel, arguably the one with the most significant place for Mary, she is not named personally; she is "the mother of Jesus".

In the Book of Isaiah, for God to call each of us by name, or to carve that name on the palm of his hand, is very strong metaphorical language.

So it falls to us who, like Mary, seek to "magnify the Lord", to know the names of the young people in our care. Not merely to know their faces, but to be able to greet each of them by name. It's in our DNA as Marists to make a focussed effort to do that, and to create schools where every student can feel as he or she comes through the gates each morning, "They know me here. People know who I am. They call me by name."

The kind of relationship that St Marcellin wanted between teachers and students started with such naming knowledge, but it went further. Any healthy interpersonal relationship that is to be educative and evangelising requires what Marcellin called, and what we still call in our Marist tradition, "simplicity". He meant no game playing, most especially power games. Be a person not a function, he would have said. Be yourself; allow yourself to be found. This implies – to the extent that it is appropriate between adults and young people – transparency, openness and genuineness of relating: what you see is what you get. As the Founder wrote to Brother Barthélemy, "You will have many copies of yourself." He knew Barthélemy well; he was a man who struggled to assert his authority in the classroom, and tended to be critical of everyone – his students, his superiors. But Marcellin called him to the essence of his ministry as a teacher and invited him to reflect on the kind of person he was and manner of his relationship with his students. Marcellin would ask the same of us.

The God who calls us by name, is also the God who reveals himself to us. We can call him Jesus. We can name him. We can know him.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

- 12-15 Oct Living Champagnat's Vision programme, Alice Springs
- 13 Oct Next Gen 2 programme, Brisbane
- 13 Oct SA/WA/ACT schools resume
- 16-17 Oct Next Gen 1 programme, Sydney
- 17-19 Oct Red Leadership Camp #2, Bacchus Marsh VIC
- 18 Oct Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Brisbane
- 24-27 Oct Young Marist Formation programme, Mittagong
- 31 Oct-2Nov Red Leadership Camp #3, Stanwell Tops NSW

- 4 Nov Melbourne Cup Day - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 7 Nov Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner, Sydney
- 10 Nov #serve program, St Gregory's College, Campbelltown
- 10 Nov MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Brisbane
- 10-15 Nov Marist International Network of Institutes of Higher Education
- 13 Nov #serve program, Marcellin College, Randwick
- 13-14 Nov MSA Regional Council Melbourne
- 18 Nov Mission Council meeting

MARIST TERTIARY AND ONLINE COMMITTEE



Our Marist Tertiary and Online Committee met at Mascot on Tuesday 7 October for its second meeting for the year. Present were, as photographed from left, Prof Tony d'Arbon, Dr Michael Green, Dr Helga Neidhart, Dr Gayle Spry, Mr Peter McNamara, Mr Tony Clarke, Prof Peta Goldberg, Dr John McMahon and Br John Cantwell. Our meeting discussed the changes in the Australian Qualifications Framework for 2015. These changes have necessitated our applying to ACU for reaccreditation for Footsteps 1, Footsteps 2, the Marist Pilgrimage and accreditation for a new program on Marist Educational Leadership.

Enquiries about gaining credit for Graduate Certificate, Post Graduate Certificate and Masters Units at ACU, BBI and NDU can be made by contacting Br John McMahon at john.mcmahon@marists.org.au.

LAVALLA MAGAZINE AND CHAMPAGNE JOURNAL



The third issue of the Lavalla and Champagnat journals for 2014 have been printed and are in the process of being delivered to schools and communities, but you can read it today on the MSA app and/or website.



STAFF FORMATION AT MCM



The second of this year's two staff formation days for the Province personnel based at the Marist Centre Melbourne was held last week. The day was given over to the message from the Marist International Mission Assembly. Three of the Australian participants – Jack Stammers (MYM), Sarah Nowlan (from Red Bend) and Brother Michael – spoke of their experiences

and led us through a consideration of the written messages of the Assembly. As is our custom, the MCM team Brothers from the Melbourne communities were invited to join in the day.



MIMA II

Our five Australian delegates Marist International Mission Assembly are all safely back home, full of stories of Africa and the experience of Marists from around the world. They were joined by two other Aussies – Brothers Tony Leon and Chris Wills – who are based in Rome. Over the upcoming weeks, there will be local meetings of the Marist Association in which the message of "MIMA 2" will be presented and discussed. You can read the letter from the Australians [here](#). The full message of the Assembly is being translated and will be published within the month.



(L-R) Br Tony Leon, Br Michael Green, Sarah Nowlan, Br Chris Wills, Jack Stammers, Br Jeffrey Crowe, Frank Malloy

Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

FOOTSTEPS I: MAKING JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED (14-17 SEPTEMBER 2014)



Stephen Versteeg (Marist College North Shore, left) and Barbara Wotley (Mt Maria College Mitchelton).



(Standing L-R) Justin Fitzgerald and Karen Hickling (All Saints College – St Peter’s Campus), Ryan Gato (Marist Mission & Life Formation); (Seated L-R) Michelle Linkenbagh and Jennifer Wood (Mt Carmel Catholic High School) with Bianca Fonte and Monique Cowled (St Francis de Sales Regional College)

ST JOSEPH’S COLLEGE MOTHERS RETREAT (8-9 OCTOBER 2014)



(Seated L-R) Mary Flannery, Helen Leaver, Lynne Lyons (Standing) Marea Hall, Angela Burke, Bernadette Flannery, Lisa McEvoy



(Seated L-R) Jenny Dunston, Michelle Karikios, Amanda McEnally (Standing) Jackie Yen, Joanne MacNamara, Trish Roberts

#serve
oneanother



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

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH MSOL AT A CENTRE NEAR YOU!



Last year we celebrated Christmas with our supporter network in a new way at Christmas Gatherings in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting our supporters and we're looking forward to doing it again.

Here are some dates to mark in your calendar:

- Brisbane:** Monday, 10 November 5.30 to 7.30pm
- Sydney:** Tuesday, 18 November 5.30 to 7.30pm
- Melbourne:** Sunday, 23 November 5.30 to 7.30pm
- Adelaide:** Monday, 24 November 5.30 to 7.30pm

It will once again be a great opportunity to meet with some of the team from Brisbane, to get an update on some of the major works and for us to thank supporters of our work in person. We'll also be launching the 2014 Christmas Appeal containing a range of new life changing projects to support.

We'll do our best to make sure all of our supporters do get invitations but to make sure you or someone you know gets an invitation please contact us on the details below.

Michael Coleman
 AMS Desk



Contact us for more information:
 P | (07) 3354 0600
 or
 E | msol@marists.org.au



The Marist Youth Ministry Team, Remar and the Vocations team were blessed to attend two of the most amazing Catholic youth events in Australia. We joined 1300 people in Brisbane at Ignite Catholic Youth Conference. We also met 400 youth leaders in Adelaide at The Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention where leaders gathered to share knowledge and ideas about how to encourage the participation of young people in the life of the Church. Not only were we all filled with the love of Christ, but further we followed the Marist way and felt a real sense of family spirit, journeying together to celebrate the gift of our beautiful Catholic faith.

Melissa de Sieno
 MYM Coordinator Melbourne



Marists at the recent Ignite Youth Conference in Brisbane

The first of our Yr 10 Red Leadership Camps was held last weekend at Phillip Island, with Rowers from Marist Burnie, OLSH Alice Springs, Marcellin Bulleen, Notre Dame Shepparton, Penola Broadmeadows, Lavalla Traralgon, and last but not least we were joined by our New Zealand Caravel from Marcellin College in Auckland, with Br Kevin King and two Rowers. Two more Red Leadership Camps to go, at Bacchus Marsh and Stanwell Tops near Sydney. Any Marists wishing to drop in to one of these camps, please contact rod.thomson@marists.org.au

Br Rod Thomson
 Remar Coordinator



St Marcellin (aka Tom Chalkley from the Remar Team) calling the Rowers forward to be Young Marists today



Each group announces their Caravel name. Here's Soul Jam, from Traralgon