



MSA Newsletter

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

From Brother Michael Green

11 November 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

I've never really warmed to the painting, but I don't disagree with its placement: the enormous depiction of St Marcellin and the dying boy – Jean-Baptiste Montagne – which dominates the vestibule of the Provincial House at Drummoyne.

The artist, Paul Newton, had as his aim to paint an Australian Marist *pietà*. No problem with his subject: this event which occurred 197 years ago has been always seen, from the time of Marcellin himself, as something seminal for us, something defining of who, why and how we are as Marists. As recently as this year's Marist International Mission Assembly, the call was re-issued for us to seek out the "Montagnes of today". Two weeks ago, the three-year lead-in to the Marist Bicentenary was launched by Brother Emili Turú with the "Montagne Year", to run from November 2014 to October 2015. So, no issue with a Montagne motif!

It is well for us to prepare for our 200 year Marist anniversary by beginning with mission. Mission is where it began for Marcellin, and should for us. We gather for mission. We exist for mission. If we have some other starting point for our Marist life and identity, we'll never be Marist in the way that the Founder would have wanted it. A "Montagne Year" is appropriate, just as it is to have an image of the Montagne event at the front door at Drummoyne. My disquiet is with Newton's take on it. It is not the encounter as I would imagine it. Yes, there is deep feeling in Marcellin; yes, he is moved to his core; yes, he yearns with all his being to change the world for young people such as the seventeen year old Jean-Baptiste. But I doubt that the boy himself would have been privy to that raging passion, or felt the venting of it, as seems to be the case in the painting: Marcellin – rather than engaging his eyes with the boy – turns them pleadingly, achingly, urgently towards heaven. At least in my imagination, it would have been different from that. Marcellin would have been gentle with Jean-Baptiste, fully present to him, and he would have been joyful. His biographer tells us of the great privilege Marcellin felt at being able to prepare someone for death; it was the first time that he had done so.

There are several essential threads to the Montagne narrative, ones with which we Marists can spend time over the next twelve months as we take up Brother Emili's invitation to re-enter this foundational story and to allow it deepen our appreciation of what it means to be Marist. But let us take just two for now.

First, it is the encounter itself that is key. Marcellin meets Jean-Baptiste, just as Mary meets Elizabeth. Like Mary, Marcellin has left his own comfort space, gone out, to enter the space of the other, engaging the young person where and how he is, not where and how he would prefer him to be. He is present to him, personally and directly. Their relationship precedes and gives a context for any evangelising that might follow. It is not the other way around.

Second, Marcellin is moved principally by the boy's ignorance of the God who loves him and yearns infinitely for him, and Marcellin seeks to teach him. Jean-Baptiste would have had other needs – medical ones obviously, perhaps material ones (although indications are that his family's circumstances were relatively secure) – but Marcellin focuses his efforts on the opportunity for evangelisation. Again, like Mary, Marcellin doesn't arrive with just himself to offer; he brings Jesus with him. As the story of the encounter was told and re-told by the first generation of Marists, it is this on which it turned. It was not enough just to be there, but for that presence to have effect, and to have effect in terms of education in faith. From faith comes hope. And from both come love.

With tens of thousands of Marists in eighty countries around the globe, let us enter the 'Montagne Year' in this spirit.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



COMING UP...

12 Nov	MSA Regional Council Brisbane	24 Nov	MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Adelaide
13 Nov	#serve program, Marcellin College, Randwick	28 Nov	Marist Centre Melbourne Open Day
13-14 Nov	MSA Regional Council Melbourne	30 Nov-2 Dec	Student Leaders' Gathering, VIC
14 Nov	MSA Regional Council Sydney	1 Dec	#serve program, St Augustine's College, Cairns
17 Nov	Online Registration Opens for Marist Programs	8 Dec	In the Marist Way program, Marist Youth Care
18 Nov	Mission Council meeting	8 Dec	Staff Spirituality Day, St Patrick's Marist College
18 Nov	MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Sydney	9 Dec	Staff Reflection Day, Sacred Heart College
23 Nov	MSol Christmas Appeal Launch, Melbourne	8-10 Dec	MYM Full Retreat

PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS

These 2015 appointments were announced last week:

- **John Hickey** as Headmaster of **Marcellin College Randwick NSW**
- **Michael Connelly** as Principal of **Mt Maria College Petrie QLD**

Warm congratulations to both! Each comes from a long experience as a Marist educator.

MARIST MINISTRIES MASS AND DINNER - SYDNEY

Thanks to Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood, for hosting this year's Marist Ministries Mass and Dinner for the Sydney Region which was held last Friday evening at the College. Over 130 Marists who lead and support our schools, other Marists ministries and Brothers' communities gathered for a very enjoyable evening. The last of three Masses and Dinners (for the Melbourne Region) will be hosted by Marcellin College Bulleen on the evening of Saturday 6th December.



L-R: Wayne Marshall, Br Michael Akers, Mark Tuffy, Jason Scanlon, Angela Hay, Therri Ellison

AN OPPORTUNITY IN FRANCE

A teacher-exchange and youth formation program between a Marist Brothers' school in Australia and a Marist Fathers' school in France is being planned. It's an opportunity to deepen the sense of Marist charism and spiritualities for participants who ordinarily live and breathe in such vastly distinct locations – historically, culturally and linguistically.

...Same charism, different space...

So, for a couple of months, a staff member lives and works in the partnering school community and for a few weeks, a project for youth formation connects young Marists between their schools in France and Australia - friendship, fun and spirituality!

Benefits all round for the Marist family – globally!

For more information on the program, please contact [Felicity McCallum@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Felicity.McCallum@syd.catholic.edu.au)



2014|2015

Montagne

LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTAGNE YEAR

Click [here](#) to read the letter of Brother Emili Turú SG to mark the beginning of first of the three years of preparation for the Marist Bicentenary in 2017.

LIVE MARIST NEWSLETTER

Read the Spring edition of Live Marist, the Vocations newsletter for the Australian Province of the Marist Brothers.



MYC ORATION

[Exclusive Fundraising Dinner](#) hosted by the Commonwealth Bank for Marist Youth Care.

Join Phil Waugh and HG Nelson in Conversation on Thursday 4th December 6pm for 6:30pm start. Commonwealth Bank Level 19, Tower 1 Darling Park 201 Sussex Street Sydney. For further enquiries email: events@maristyc.com.au or call 0400 881 779

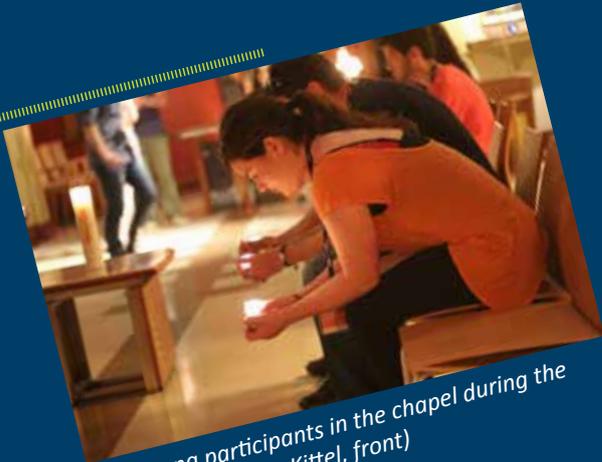
SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE YOUTH

Conor Ashleigh – a talented documentary photographer and filmmaker and active Young Marist – is organising a workshop in January for Afghan and South Sudanese youth in Sydney, and has launched a crowd-funding campaign 'Seeing Summer' so that it can happen. Schools and other readers of the MSA Newsletter are invited to support it.

Read more here: <http://startsomegood.com/seeingsummer>

FOOTSTEPS FOR YOUNG MARISTS (24-26 OCTOBER 2014)

During the end of October around 30 young adults came together from across the country to participate in the Footsteps for Young Marists programme at the Hermitage in Mittagong. During these days they explored the constantly changing youth culture and environments, and envisaged new opportunities to enhance the Marist ministry with young people. Inspired like Marcellin, the young people embraced Jesus' message of being agents of change and creatively discussed ways to bridge our faith and the contemporary world.



Our young participants in the chapel during the night prayer (Jules Kittel, front)



Gilbert Mein and Catherine Santos sharing their insights and vision for Young Marists.



(Standing L-R): Mark Gilber, Joseph McDonald, Daniel Royals, Jack Stammers, Dan Nguyen, Chris Fuller, Tim Alice, Kyle Rodgers, Nick Pearson, Alex Rathbone, Gilbert Mein (Kneeling L-R): Sally McEniry, Catherine Santos, Lucy Murrie, Mary-Anne de Luca, Courtney Redden, Melissa de Sieno, Jess Barrett, David Hood, Liam Desic



justLOVE THEME FOR 2015

Last week resources were sent to Principals and also to APREs, RE Coordinators or whoever is responsible for planning Marist faith formation supporting the Province theme for 2015 - justLOVE: hearts without borders. Included in these resources was a reflection on the theme, some suggested scripture, some hymns/songs, and a jpeg of the justLOVE image titled **The Passion of Christ** (from a collection of expressionist oil paintings by Stephen B. Whatley, a London-based artist).

#serve
oneanother



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

THE 2014 MARIST SOLIDARITY CHRISTMAS APPEAL HAS ARRIVED!



Keep an eye out for the fresh new Christmas Appeal.

We know it's early to be thinking about Christmas, but we also know that some of you have actually started the Christmas shopping. Last night marked the official launch of the 2014 Marist Solidarity Christmas Appeal in Brisbane.

We were delighted to be able to thank our supporters and provide a snapshot of the work carried out with such generous support. In order to continue this work five of our 46 development projects feature in this year's appeal.

- A **Marist school in the tea gardens** tackling modern slavery in Bangladesh
- A new **Inclusive Education program** for children with a disability in Cambodia
- The reconstruction of the **CIJ's St Damien Leprosy Clinic** in Timor-Leste
- The rebuilding of **staff housing post floods** in the Solomon Islands
- The **resourcing of St Marcellin Primary School** in Fiji.

Join the season of solidarity by supporting this year's appeal. For a copy of the appeal contact us on the details below of visit www.maristsolidarity.net.au/christmas-appeal.

We are looking forward to seeing more of our supporters at the coming Marist Solidarity Christmas Gatherings in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.



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 AMS Desk
 Contact us for more information:
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 E | msol@marists.org.au



FINAL REGIONAL REMAR CAMP

The final regional Remar camp for the year was held at The Tops conference centre, an hour south of Sydney, attended by Marist schools from Dundas, Auburn, Varroville, Beenleigh and Riverview.



Aerobics time



The boys from Beenleigh performing in the talent quest

These 70 students were led by the Remar Team to reflect on their call to build Caravels that are Christian communities reaching out in solidarity to those in need of the Gospel. A feature of the Yr 10 Leadership Camp is that St Marcellin appears in most sessions to tell some of his story, thus leading students to reflect more deeply on their own story of encounter with Jesus in their life experience, particularly in their ministry with the Montagnes of today.



RMT member, James Mein, rehearsing for the final Mass



Journaling

From now on the Remar Team will be mainly involved in assisting new Remar schools to recruit and form new Caravels for the journey.

Br Rod Thomson
 Remar Coordinator