



# MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

There is something that needs to be expunged from our Marist lexicon. In fact, let's list it on the Syllabus of Errors, if such a thing still exists. The word is just wrong. Actually, I could say it five times: wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong. Those who know me well would attest to my quickly morphing from an otherwise calm and reserved Little Brother of Mary to a screaming lunatic at the mention of the term.

I'll put it in little type to minimise the heresy: *pillars*. It is difficult to source why and when this misappropriation happened of Chapter 5 of the document *In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, A Vision for Marist Education Today*. You know it: the chapter that describes five characteristic traits of a Marist ministerial style. But it did. To me it is always an annoying misinterpretation, a misleading skewing, and an unfortunate demeaning of what was a landmark Marist reference text.

There is no mention of the p-word in the chapter. Not one. Indeed, it doesn't even quietly imply that there is anything foundational or essential about the five characteristics it describes. Those who are aware of other Marist texts would know that authors have come up with other ways of describing a distinctive Marist style: a French publication on Marist education names eight characteristics; a Brazilian one chooses twelve; a Spanish text has a whole chart of traits, sub-traits, and complex links among them; Marcellin thought there were just three. All are valid.

But all are only descriptive, figurative, a way of trying to capture the expressing of something which is more fundamental. They offer ways of encapsulating what Marists see as characteristic of their way of doing evangelisation through education, of sowing seeds of gospel hope with young people. The characteristics do not name the essence of Marist education; that happens in the previous chapter. And they are certainly not the foundation stones on which that essence rests. Another Marist reference document gets much closer to that – *Water from the Rock* – in its attempt to unpack Marist spirituality (which it does by naming six elements).

Three, five, six, twelve – the numbers are a little beside the point. The thing that is important is the WHAT of the essence, the source, the basis. And that's a Marist's personal experience both of the love of God and love of young people in need. It is a love that comes from and leads to God. That's what is foundational to Marist education. If whatever words we use to describe how that is expressed only reflect a cultural style then, as St Paul tells us, our efforts will be little more than a clanging bell, an empty gong.

This week culminates with the Feast of St Marcellin – which Australian Marist schools always celebrate liturgically and socially in grand style. And that's great. I'll have the opportunity to join two schools for their Masses later this week, and I look forward to it. But style is not on what we build. St Marcellin would gently remind us of the first two words of Psalm 127:

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## COMING UP...

5 June	justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, St Joseph's College	19-21 June	Joey's Blokes' Weekend Retreat, Mittagong
6 June	Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat	22 June	NT Holidays Commence
8 June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday (all states except WA)	26 June	justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Lavalla Catholic College
9 June	justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Marist College Kogarah	29 June	NSW/QLD/VIC Holidays Commence
10-12 June	Marist Leaders: Mystics and Prophets, Melbourne	29-30 June	Asia Laity Commission Meeting, Sri Lanka
12 June	justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, Warragul	29-3 July	Pruning Retreat, Mittagong
14-17 June	Footsteps1: Making Jesus Known and Loved, Mittagong	6 July	ACT/VIC/SA Holidays Commence
15 June	In the Marist Way, Marist Youth Care	13 July	justLOVE: Hearts Without Borders, St Augustine's College

For however it is being celebrated in your Marist community, we wish all our readers rich blessings for the



### Syrian Marists Give Testimonies in Video Message for Feast of St Marcellin

The Superior General is challenging Marists to leave their comfort zone using testimonies of Syrians in his [VIDEO MESSAGE](#) for the feast of the Institute's founder on June 6.

Brother Emili Turú interviewed three Syrian brothers on tape during his trip to Lebanon, where the Marist European Conference took place from May 10 – 14, with the hope of encouraging Marists to “take risks.” The video includes testimonies of brothers Georges Hakim, Georges Sabe and Bahjat Azrié, who travelled from Aleppo to Beirut, and speak of their work and the current situation in the war torn country. It also includes testimonies of two young female volunteers, a Christian and a Muslim, who speak of their work with the Marists in Syria. Brother Emili released his first video message for the feast of St Marcellin last year to mark the start of the three-year preparation for the Institute's bicentenary in 2017.

In this year's message, Br Emili also expresses gratitude and support to Marists who are in dangerous or difficult situations worldwide.

# Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

## MARIAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE GRIFFITH NEW VISION & MISSION STATEMENT



Br Michael Akers, Sr Theresa Foley, Sr Shirley Garland and Sr Rita Savage

On Friday 25 May, the students, staff and parents gathered for the blessing and unveiling of a new statue of Mary, before a new vision and mission statement was announced at the annual Patronal Day mass. Acting principal, Christie Scoble, explained that the new vision and mission statement was the outcome of a whole community effort of staff, parents, students and the Catholic Education Office.

## justLOVE - HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARKES



Julie Herring, Tami Hennock, Katie Bland, Jessica Ross



Front: Virginia Rice, Nicole Westwood, Melissa Kupkee, Rachael Jones. 2nd Row: Jessica Ross, Julie Herring, Anne-maree Searl, Annette Kearney, Tami Hennock. 3rd Row: Beverly Berger, Skye Harris, Anita Rusten, Judi Cannon, Denise Gersbach, Katie Bland. Standing: Shane Noonan, Sue Caldwell, Kristan Nichols, Bernadette Clowry, Michael Somers, Donna Payne, Vicki Cavallaro, Kathy ten Cate, Helen Airey, Torin Hando, Andrew Berger

## DEEPENING MARIST CHARACTERISTICS LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE, TRARALGON



Lisa Williams, Peter Flahavin, Michael Archipow, Joanne Alford (behind Rita Nainie) and Rita Nainie

Gail Coates and John McMahon led the first of four sessions on 'Deepening the Marist Characteristics' with leaders and staff at Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon. This session focused on Presence.

## justLOVE – ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE, HAMILTON



Amanda Calvi, Cecelia Millen, Debbie Docherty, Kirsten Hopkins  
Background: Vina Gibson, Phil Oke



Chris Henry, Richard Rocca, Luke Sibert, Michael Ward

A wet and windy Hamilton day did not deter the SFX staff from spending some reflective time together on the justLOVE program. Many of the staff had been on their Yr 12 retreat that week, so were already primed for some adult spirituality. Good discussion and sharing of thoughts ensured that the morning flowed well and was engaging.

justLOVE  
hearts without borders

## BLESSING AND OPENING OF NEW BUILDING, EAST TIMOR BAUCAU



*“The hope that education brings to the lives of the young people.” – Brother Peter Corr fms*

Recently a memorable day in the life of the people of Baucau and indeed for the people of Timor-Leste occurred with the Blessing and Opening of the new building at the The Instituto Católico Para a Formação de Professores (ICFP), in Baucau.

In his address on the occasion, Brother Peter Corr, as Director of ICFP, acknowledged those who made the vision of a new learning and teaching facility a reality. Br Peter made mention of the Bishop of Baucau, for his support and commitment to the Marist Brothers and to the people of Timor; to the Marist Brothers for their provision of Brothers and funds, searched through Marist Solidarity. Br Peter also thanked the Brothers who had been Directors of the ICFP before him.

Thanks were also offered to the overseas donors and the work of Brother Allen Sherry and his Marist Solidarity Team in their securing of funds from a number of supporters including MSA schools. Without the support of these schools, local donors and international funders the students of the college would not have had such great success.

Br Peter said that all these organisations and individuals have made big commitments, trusting that the result of their support would be the qualification of much needed teachers and an improvement in the daily lives of many Timorese into the future. These teachers are helping to develop the education sector in Timor-Leste.

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## MARIST CONNECT

The Marist Youth Ministry team Sydney held its Marist CONNECT gathering on Friday 8th of May. CONNECT is an event that is held once a term for Marist schools around the same geographical areas. There are usually 3 Marist Connect gatherings at Eastwood, Randwick and Macarthur, but Term 2 was unique as it brought all the students together.

The evening proved to be a resounding success with over 60 students present from 12 different Marist Schools across Sydney.

The theme of the night was inter-religious “Dialogue” with guest speakers from the Columban Mission Institute; Fr Patrick McInerney and Ms Ashleigh Green.

Thank you to Marist College Eastwood for being wonderful hosts led by Mr Daniel Delmage. We also thank the brothers, lay Marists and staff for their involvement on the night.

More photos can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mymsyd>

