



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

I long ago formed the view that the hunter-gatherer gene in me must be recessive or damaged. Perhaps this is why Pokémon GO leaves me puzzled.

Not how to play it; that's straight-forward enough. What bewilders me is why anyone would. Any sensible, rational adult, at least. Why would I want to contribute even more of my life's details to Google's great data-grab of my life? Why would I give over so many of my precious waking hours, phone in hand, to pursuing something so pointless? Why not be doing something much more purposeful such as a watching an engrossing game of footy?

Decisions about how we use our time and channel our energies are not always logical.

I am told there's a PokéStop at the front gate of our house. Who knows why? People gather, devices sweeping the air, earnestly searching for something that isn't actually there, and finding it. They seem quite focussed. Not all of them appear to be enjoying it, but they do seem more upbeat and sensate than the grimacing joggers in the park across the road. They also puzzle me.

Others, I'm sure, are puzzled by how you and I use our time: why we would make space during a day – both on our own, and with our colleagues and students – to be still and pray; why would we take days out the school year to run camps and retreats to nurture the spiritual lives of our students; why would we go to a church for an hour on weekends. They may not see a value in this use of time because they do not really understand what we are doing, or why.

Perhaps they misunderstand us as seeking solace by escaping into some virtual world. There is, however, nothing virtual about a Christian spirituality. Indeed, there is nothing so real. The developers of Pokémon GO – who have seriously increased the size of their bank accounts in the last six weeks with this twist of gaming – brag of bringing the virtual and the real worlds together in their new product. But at the end of the day, it is still nothing. Your avatar doesn't exist. Nor does anyone else's. Nor do Pokémon.

What we do in prayer, worship and our spiritual quest is try to be attentive and responsive, albeit in our limited and sometimes misdirected ways, to the God who dwells in the heart of each of us and all of us, and of all creation. The closer we get to that, as St John tells us, the closer we come to appreciate that that heart of life is love. And there is nothing as real as that.

Sometimes it's not as diverting as gaming, but it's a lot more rewarding when it's found.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

22-23 Aug	MSA Regional Council meeting, Melbourne	29 Aug	Our Daily Bread: Kogarah
24-26 Aug	Being Marist Conference: Melbourne	30 Aug	Directors' Forum
25 Aug	Our Daily Bread: Shepparton	31 Aug-3 Sept	Marist Contemplative Retreat: Mittagong
25 Aug	MSA Regional Council meeting, Brisbane	2 Sept	Our Daily Bread: Auburn
25 Aug	In the Marist Way: Marist Youth Care, Blacktown	5 Sept	Marist Leaders Next Gen1: Brisbane
26 Aug	MSA Regional Council meeting, Sydney	6 Sept	Association Council meeting, Marist Centre Brisbane
26-28 Aug	Remar Gold Retreat: Sydney	9 Sept	Remar Red Helm Inservice: Victoria
27-28 Aug	Marist Educational Leadership programme: Canberra	16 Sept	Marist Leaders Next Gen1: Melbourne

PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to **Seb Spina** on being confirmed as Principal of **St Francis de Sales College, Leeton**. Seb has been Acting Principal this year following Brenda King's move into the Wagga Wagga CEO at the end of 2015. He has now been offered and accepted permanent appointment. Congratulations, Seb!

At the start of this term, **Bernard Burgess** was invited to step up to the Principal's role at **St Peter's Campus of All Saints College, Maitland**, until the end of 2017, following Michael Blake's move to Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood. Congratulations also to Bernard!

For the rest of this year, **Ann Rebgetz** will be Acting Principal at **Trinity College, Beenleigh**, while Catherine Thompson acts in the role of Area Supervisor at Brisbane Catholic Education. A warm welcome to Ann who joins our Marist family for these months.

TEAM MEMBERS 2017

Two positions are currently being advertised for the Marists' Mission and Life Formation Team next year – one based in Melbourne, and one in Sydney. If you are someone of faith, creativity and generosity, an educator with a passion for bringing the Gospel alive for colleagues in fresh and engaging ways, then we invite you to consider applying for one of these two positions.

If your present employer is agreeable, it may be possible to arrange a one or two-year secondment. Alternatively, ongoing appointment can be considered. Follow this [link](#) for more information or visit the [MSA website](#).

Contact: Tony Clarke, Director of Formation
E anthony.clarke@marists.org.au

Closing date: Friday 2 September

LEADERSHIP COURSE

The Institute of Coaching in Leadership has a day-course coming up on 5 September which may be of interest to Principals and/or Deputies. For more information follow this [link](#).

PRINCIPAL 2017



CHANEL COLLEGE, GLADSTONE

With the appointment of Sharon Volp to a new role next year, an opportunity exists for another Marist educator to take the reins of Chanel College in Gladstone in 2017.

Chanel is a school of the Diocese of Rockhampton and the recruitment process is being managed by the Catholic Education Office. Information is available from the [CEO website](#).

Additional advice could be sought from Brother Neville Solomon, the MSA Regional Director in Queensland:

E neville.solomon@marists.org.au

Applications close 29 August

LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL FINAL EDITION 2016

The date for the final edition of Lavalla and the Champagnat Journal for 2016 is as follows:

Cut-off date for all content is **Wednesday, 14 September 2016**.

This should be emailed to Brother Tony Paterson at: tony.paterson@marists.org.au. A preference for WORD documents and high resolution photographs (jpg) is important. Names with photographs would be gratefully received and this needs a clearance from parents/guardians if students are involved. Usually the blanket permission that parents sign at the commencement of the year in most schools in most states and territories is fine but there is some variation, and principals are in the best position to decide.

Circulation to schools will be made in Week 1 or Week 2 of Term 4.

Any variation to quantity required or changes in addresses should be sent to Brother Tony Paterson as soon as possible.

Contact: Brother Tony Paterson
E tony.paterson@marists.org.au

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MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



MARIST TERTIARY ACTIVITIES

Marists currently participating in two Marist Tertiary programs

1. MARIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The first of two weekends of this annual program was held on 6th and 7th August, 2016 at Marist College Canberra. Thirteen participants from Canberra, Forbes, Melbourne and Sale gathered to study the meaning of leadership, Marcellin Champagnat's leadership, the theological dimension of leadership and the emotions of leaders. Some are participating so as to meet the requirements to be able to apply for credit for a Unit in the ACU Masters in Educational Leadership program, some for accreditation purposes and others simply to help them develop their own Marist leadership skills.



Alex Abbey, Nick Moloney, Joshua DiPietro, Leanne Harrison, Pauline Bellofiore, Jennifer Croker, Eamonn Moore



Nick Moloney, Jennifer Croker, Lorraine Gannon, Jim Sutton

2. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE UNIT IN MARIST METHODOLOGY

Eighteen staff from Marist Schools in Adelaide are undertaking this biennial Graduate Certificate program over a six month period during 2016. Overall twelve themes are addressed, the most recent of which have been on the Scriptural Foundations of Marist life and mission, Marist Spirituality and Prayer. This Unit in Marist Methodology is one of four that make up the complete Graduate Certificate Program accredited by the University of South Australia and coordinated by Catholic Education South Australia.

Further information is available at the [Marist Tertiary Education website](#). Resources used can be accessed from the [Marist Blog](#).



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

LATEST EDITION OF SOLIDARITY MATTERS IS OUT NOW



solidaritymatters AUGUST 2016
Marist Solidarity... working in partnership for change.
The stories behind the projects where solidarity matters.

The August 2016 edition of *Solidarity Matters* has now been released.

It features the latest news from our project partners throughout Asia and The Pacific, where we are working in global solidarity to improve development and, importantly, education outcomes.

In Timor-Leste, we report on the small-scale, high-impact initiatives that are providing young people much-needed skills, such as computer training, to improve their ability to study and learn.

We feature the work of Timor-Leste project manager Brother Tony Clark, who is working in partnership with local young people to transform their fresh ideas and perspectives into reality.

Our story from Samoa, highlights the success of a recent school-holiday program at the [Marist Brothers' Primary School in Mulivai](#). Here, students wishing to improve their reading skills received one-on-one and small group tuition thanks to the generous cooperation of 14 volunteer teachers, including seven Marist Brothers.

In Fiji, we report that, thanks to our Australian supporters, the recovery from Cyclone Winston is making good progress, but more support is needed to replace the severely damaged roof of the Marist Brothers Primary School in Suva.

In other news, former Marist College Canberra student Max Aichinger, reflects on his recent two-week internship at the Marist Solidarity headquarters in Brisbane.

To receive a copy of *Solidarity Matters* please email maristsolidarity@marists.org.au or phone us on (07) 3354 0600.

Alternatively, click [here](#) to download a digital copy or sign-up to [subscribe](#) and receive future editions of *Solidarity Matters*.



THE MARIST WAY TO WORLD YOUTH DAY

Our 14 Young Marists have just returned home from a three-week pilgrimage to WYD in Krakow, Poland. Following our time celebrating at the International Meeting of Young Marists in Lyon we made our way to the beautiful city of Krakow. The week-long WYD celebration was jam-packed with opportunities for us to all dive deeper into the richness of our Catholic faith. The numerous events on offer meant that each day we were presented with another experience in which we could encounter our merciful God.



The culmination of the overnight Vigil and Papal Mass was a visual reminder of the internationality of our Church. Gathered with approximately 2.8 million other pilgrims, we were in awe of God's work in calling us all together in His name. In his homily Pope Francis challenged us to be a generation that believes in a new humanity. Echoing the words of St. Pope John Paul II he encouraged us that "people may laugh at you because you believe in the gentle and unassuming power of mercy, but do not be afraid". Returning home we take up that challenge. We pray to be the hands and feet of Christ, and for the courage to believe in the gentle and unassuming power of His mercy for all peoples.

Sally McEniry

Group Leader of Young Marist pilgrimage to WYD
Regional Coordinator of MYM Brisbane



Next Issue: 6 September 2016