



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

From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

Responding to the voice of the Spirit

The document *Anointed and Sent* presents a common vision of the Australian Catholic Bishops for animating and nurturing the spiritual life of young people. In the foreword, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the Bishop Delegate for Youth, explains:

Anointed and Sent addresses the whole Church as it seeks to connect better with young people and to ensure they encounter Jesus Christ in and through them. It calls faith communities proactively to engage with young people as they grow in faith and help grow the faithful. By opening our hearts and doors to young people and responding to the voice of the Spirit within them, the Church is continually re-activated for her mission.

We Marists have long been committed to Youth Ministry. Documents such as *Evangelisers in the midst of Youth* and the REMAR programme have been enormously influential here in Australia and overseas. As previously reported, recently the Marist Youth Ministry Team held a Youth Ministry Formators Conference for two days online. There were 60 participants, whose energy and engagement reflected close alignment with the aspirations for Youth Ministry of the Australian Bishops and we Marists.

The new Marist Youth Ministry Programme, *Game Changers*, which was launched in 2020 is proving to be extremely popular with Marist Schools. The design of the Programme was led by then MYM National Coordinator Brother Greg McDonald in 2018 and 2019, following broad consultation. The current National Coordinator, Edwin Bakker and his committed Youth Ministry Team have, despite COVID restrictions, worked successfully with schools in engaging young people with this voluntary Faith experience. The combined efforts of the Marist Youth Ministry Team with many strongly committed, generous teachers and staff members in our schools, have opened “*hearts and doors*” to growing numbers of young people by “*responding to the voice of the Spirit within them*”. In 2020, 15 schools were actively participating in the Game Changers Programme. In 2021 we have 20 schools involved. For 2022, there are 25 schools intending to participate.

In contrast to these heartening signs of the Spirit at work, during this past week, the attention of Australians has been directed toward appalling behaviour by men and boys towards women and girls. Allegations of criminal behaviour in Parliament House, have sent shock waves around the country. Reports by literally thousands of young women of sexual abuse in their teenage years by male peers has thrown a glaring light on illegal and morally unacceptable behaviour requiring careful honest analysis, and deep reflection by parents, families and schools. Central to these crimes and wrong doings is an abandonment of respect for another person in pursuit of self satisfaction at another’s expense. As Marist educators, working in schools founded on the person of Jesus Christ, we must continue to demonstrate our commitment to the dignity of every person and strive always at every opportunity to make Jesus known and loved.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MARIST MISSION COMMISSION ON "LEADERSHIP AND THE MARIST MISSION"

Dear friends, cordial greetings from Rome.

We have begun Lent and we feel united to all Christians in this journey of prayer, charity and renunciation. I wish you all that it may be fruitful and transforming.

I am enclosing the message of the International Marist Mission Commission on leadership and mission. I would be grateful if you could pass it on to your local and provincial mission teams, as well as to the regional ones.

We wish to address with this reflection some of the key issues for the present and future of Marist mission and vitality. We note an urgent need to address it seriously at all levels of leadership, management and government of the Institute.

The Commission has assumed an itinerary that includes several topics of reflection that will be sent during the following months with interesting thought-provoking contributions in harmony with the calls of the XXII General Chapter and the current context.

Thank you very much.

Published on 17 February on the Marist Institute's website:

[Leadership and our Marist Mission – Message from the International Mission Commission – Champagnat](#)



Br. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Blanco
Vicar General
Institute of the Marist Brothers

(Frank Malloy is a member of the Marist International Mission Commission.

The Commission is looking forward to the Australian reflections on key issues for the present and future vitality of Marist life and mission.)

REMINDER

LAVALLA MAGAZINE

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia.

The cut-off date for contributions for the next edition of Lavalla is **Wednesday 31 March 2021**.

All submissions should be sent to Br Michael Flanagan
(michael.flanagan@marists.org.au).

2021 School Campaign



Don't forget to check out our resources and campaign to raise money for the Marist Foundation Timor-Leste.

- [Campaign kit](#)
- [Poster](#)
- [Video](#)

You can access these materials, and lots of other resources, from our website at any time. We can also organise events for your students to connect remotely with our partners. We know how rewarding it was for school communities to speak directly with the students from St Louis in our online event between our Australian and Kiribati communities last year. We look forward to offering more of these opportunities in 2021.

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New LaValla director starts



On Monday 15th February Dr Nop Sothun began his term as the Executive Director of Marist Solidarity Cambodia. He takes over the position from Brother Tony Burrows, who will continue at MSC as the Assistant to the Director for Finance and Donor Relations. The Brothers, staff and students welcome Sothun to the "Lavalla Project" family and we look forward to working with him for the benefit of all the people who make up the work of Marist Solidarity Cambodia.

LaValla Project renovations



Throughout 2020, major renovations were also undertaken at LaValla to update facilities that were more than 20 years old. The most urgent areas in need of renovation were the girls' and boys' shower and toilet blocks.

With thanks to a generous Australian Marist family, we were able to refurbish both the girls' and boys' facilities. Plumbing was repaired and replaced where necessary and new fittings and tiles were installed. Safety handrails were also fitted in all shower and toilet rooms.

There were 10 combined shower and toilet rooms renovated in the girls' block and dormitories and six shower and toilet rooms, and six additional shower rooms renovated in the boys' block.

In conjunction with these facility improvements, we also continued our ongoing program of education and support of young Cambodians with disabilities. Their lives have been enhanced in so many ways because of your support.

On behalf of everyone here at LaValla School and Village, sincere thanks, and very best wishes.

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Late February Update

YOUTH MINISTRY IN MARIST SCHOOLS IS ALIVE AND WELL!

At the start of Term 1 each year, various Marist school staff members gather at the Hermitage in Mittagong NSW for the annual **National Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) Formators' Conference**. Due to Covid, this year's conference was offered virtually, opening it up to a larger number of staff members involved in Youth Ministry at their school community.

On Monday 15th February, around sixty school staff and half a dozen MYM staff members connected virtually for the two-day conference. **Professor Br David Hall FMS** presented two key-notes exploring the concept of being part of God's dream for the young people we journey with. Furthermore, workshops provided space to explore practical insights from a diverse group of presenters. Even though workshops and keynotes focused on general youth ministry topics, several sessions were dedicated to the participants appointed as Mentors for Game Changers.



Game Changers, a comprehensive Catholic youth ministry program, is currently running in twenty Marist schools. The **seventy Youth Groups**, with a combined **estimated 1,000 students**, meet fortnightly at their school and are led by a Mentor. Students also gather regionally with other Marist students at annual Regional Retreats and a Leadership Camp. The meetings across the six-year levels, developed by the Marist Youth Ministry team, are aimed to guide the students on their faith journey by exploring the stories of Jesus, Mary and St Marcellin and focusing on topics such as identity, service and vocations in an engaging and relevant way.

The National MYM Formators' Conference is the primary approach by which Marist Youth Ministry supports Mentors on their journey. Feedback indicates that connections between and listening to stories, ideas and insights of other Mentors made the conference a success. Marist Youth Ministry endeavours to continue this journey with the Mentors by offering **three MYM Formators' Workshops throughout the year**. Providing a place of formation and support for Mentors is essential in the strengthening of a vibrant youth ministry presence in our schools.

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Formators' Conference



breathe
the Spirit of life

For more information about **Game Changers**, please check out www.maristyouthministry.com or contact **Edwin Bakker** at edwin.bakker@marists.org.au.



MYM QLD/NT

Year 11 & 12 Regional Retreat Days



The recent Hermitage Retreat Day held at the Marist Centre Brisbane brought together thirty students and four staff from **Trinity College Beenleigh** and **Marist College Ashgrove**. The day included activities, discussion, prayer and reflection. Students were able to deepen their self-knowledge in order to better serve their Game Changers groups and school communities.

Regional Retreat Days are a key feature of the **Game Changers** program. These days enhance the Game Changers experience, providing an opportunity for students to network and dialogue with one another. Students come away with a sense of shared identity, as well as new ideas or views they gain from their interactions with other Marist students.

Adam Burns
Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane



*Want to learn more
about Game Changers &
our events?*

Head to our socials!



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