Are you interested in being a Marist Association ACRATH representative?

Dear Prospective Member
Are you interested in becoming a member (and we really want members!).

- **Attendance whenever possible at the Monthly meeting** which is held at the ACRATH Office at Kildare Ministries, 54 Beaconsfield Pde, Albert Park from 10am – 12 noon on Thursdays. The dates for this year have been as follows – 12 February, **12 March**, 9 April, 14 May, 1 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 12 November. These dates are set the previous year and are rarely changed. It enables us all to put them in the dairy and keep the dates free as far as possible.

- Each February, we have a 2 ½ day Conference followed by the AGM which we like members to attend if possible.
  These Conferences have mostly been in Melbourne at the Passionist Monastery in Templestowe and are live-in where convenient. However next year it will be in NSW at Baulkam Hills. Airfares are subsidised by ACRATH, but members contribute to accommodation and meals costs. For the past two years it has been $250 for those living in and a smaller amount for those only having meals.

- These have been very instructive as we have competent speakers as well as input from amongst our own capable people. At the AGM Regional coordinators, the President and other Office bearers are elected for two years. So far these positions have been held by members of Religious Congregations and will probably continue for a little while yet as we don't have many lay participants. However this will have to change in the future. No pressure on anyone yet!

- In the early months it is enough for a person to attend and learn. It is a complex issue and it takes time to understand both the issues and then what one would be comfortable to contribute and there is no rush. Some people have taken a year or so before volunteering anything.

- Occasionally there may be a function/talk advertised which has been recommended by Project Respect or another NGO and if possible some attend. We also have a guest speaker maybe once a year and if possible the person would attend.

- Members volunteer to bring Morning tea for Meeting and prepare a Prayer to commence. This is not obligatory, but most are happy to oblige from time to time.

- Members who are interested in education, might participate in the education area by giving talks to students, adult groups such as Probus, Church groups etc. However any new person would work with another person in the beginning. PP's can be provided . Of course experienced teachers don't find this too difficult and only those who have time would be asked to participate – maybe only once every couple of months. It all depends on availability.

- Members who have time might volunteer to companion a woman who has been rescued from Prostitution. This would involve a coffee meeting in a café once very couple of weeks, maybe helping with medical, Centrelink etc appointments from time to time. It really depends on the needs of the woman. This is only done by a few of our members who are already experienced in some aspects. Not all have the time or the inclination, but it can be very rewarding. We have received a Conrad Hilton Grant which can be useful in helping women to procure necessary household items, educational items etc.

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