

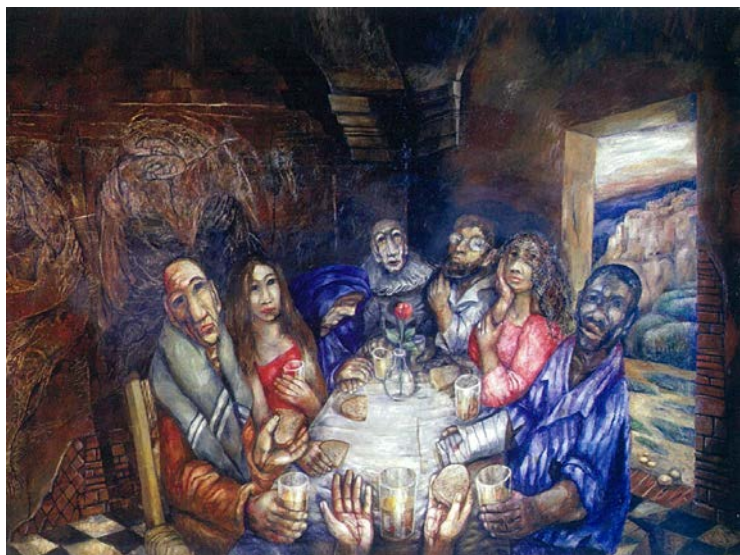
MARIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Dear Marist Friends

Sieger Köder was a German priest and religious artist. In his works he used images from Scripture and daily life to show that we can find God in everything – if only we have eyes to see! We can spend time looking for God in special, holy contexts, and fail to perceive God in ordinary, daily occurrences. Through his art-work, Köder reminds us that we most often glimpse God in the everydayness of life. God waits for us where we are.



One of his most famous images is reproduced above. Köder originally entitled it 'Meal With Sinners', but it is now known as 'All Are Welcome'. We are told that we should contemplate art in order to discover its meaning. If you examine this piece closely, you will discover its many elements and its richness: the seven characters gathered around the table: Jew, prostitute, beggar, clown, scholar, rich woman and injured foreigner – all representative in some way of the outcast and rejected. In the foreground, we see the hands of the obscured host. The bread that the host holds and the glass of wine in front of him convey clearly who the host is. In many of Köder's works, as in this one, the figure of Jesus is outside the scene – in the position of the viewer. In this way, Köder conveys his

belief that Jesus is alive today in us – the viewer. If you look again – you will see on the wall a sketch of the prodigal son: repentant son, loving father and resentful brother; and the other element in the painting: an open door and a road where a father or mother waits for a lost child.

In a small book of reflections on Köder's work, *Glimpses of the Divine*, Gemma Simmonds asks:

*"Who is invited to the Table of the Lord?
To whom does he reach out his hands
sharing a piece of bread?
Will we sit at his table, grateful for forgiveness?
Or sulk behind the door, unwilling to break bread with
such awkward companions?
These are not my sort of people!
But they are his..."*

22-28 August is Migrant and Refugee Week. In his message for this occasion, Pope Francis writes: "At the heart of the Gospel of Mercy the encounter and acceptance by others are intertwined with the encounter and acceptance of God. Welcoming others means welcoming God in person. Do not let yourselves be robbed of the hope and joy of life born of your experience of God's mercy, as manifested in the people you meet on your journey". This is exactly the message of Köder's image: **God can be found in the most unlikely places and people.**

As Marists we speak hopefully of a Marian Church and we proclaim the urgent need for our Church and society to be inclusive, accepting, nurturing and life enhancing. In reality, and in practice, how committed are we to this? Do we extend the hand of peace and friendship to the alien and the marginalised, the different and difficult? Let's celebrate Migrant and Refugee Week with a renewed commitment to welcoming the outcast and disadvantaged.

With blessings for the month ahead,

Br Peter Carroll



CALLED TO MYSTICAL ATTENTIVENESS

JOE MCCARTHY | DEPUTY LEADER, MARIST ASSOCIATION

One of the short term priorities the people of the Marist Association have identified is 'to nurture a culture of spiritual formation'.

This is not new. It is something that Marists have committed time and resources to over the past 30 years. What it does highlight however, is a continuing thirst and yearning for spiritual renewal in our lives today. The line that frames this priority in the 'We Marists' document is instructive for where we turn our attention to begin to address this priority:

'Like Mary, we listen for God's invitation within us and among us to bring Christ-life to birth.'

God is at work in us and around us, always. Our task is to discover ways to 'wake up' to this gracious and loving presence in our life. In doing so, we take a step towards the abundance of life that is imagined in the gospel. In his book *Travelling Light* - your journey to wholeness, priest and author, Daniel O'Leary, says it like this:

'The challenge of spiritual life is not to make more and longer pilgrimages, to say more or longer prayers. It is to explore more deeply into what we already are.....The mystery is in me from the beginning, O Lord of all. Your being is my being. That means that I carry within me your creativity, your artistry, your beauty, your healing, your imagination.'

This is a powerful theology; an inspiring message. It is in the richness and depths of our everydayness - our struggles and joys, our doubts and insights, our domestic parameters, our achievements and failures - that we discover the mystery of our God. As O'Leary puts it, to explore more deeply into what we already are.

Children have this disposition in spades. Playing, colouring in, running, school, stories, prayer, and all else that bursts forth, is embraced as the abundance of life unfolding. God is quite naturally seen to be within and among all of it! Pablo Picasso's remark that 'every child is an artist; the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up' applies to the spiritual life too. Jesus' message to the disciples was to let the children come to him, challenging people to 'receive the kingdom of God as a little child would.' (Lk 18:17)

In July, at Marist College Ashgrove, Marists gathered for a conference that explored this mystery that is in us all from the beginning. The National Faith Formators' Conference was titled: *Growing a contemplative culture in a Marist School*. Facilitator and keynote presenter, Dr Maeve Louise Heaney, from Australian Catholic University, reminded us of the importance of a healthy and robust prayer life for nurturing a culture of spiritual formation: 'If

we do not find a way to have a personal relationship with God, our faith will empty!

As we nurture a culture of spiritual formation in the communities that we live and work, may we do so with the assurance that it is God who does the inviting. Together, may we discover ways to know and share God's creativity, artistry, beauty and healing within us and among us.

Our Marist spirituality document, *Water From The Rock*, reminds us that such discovery always points us back to mission - our work with young people:

'The more we come to know God, the more we come to know the deepest meaning of our lives. We grow in the knowledge that we are part of God's project for the world.' (WFTR, 60)



Rublev's icon of the Trinity invites the observer to sit at the table as the 'fourth person'; part of God's active presence in the world today.

NATIONAL FAITH FORMATORS' CONFERENCE

GROWING A CONTEMPLATIVE CULTURE IN A MARIST SCHOOL

In every religious quest for God there is a contemplative strand. Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane introduced the importance of prayer and contemplation to the delegates at the **National Faith Formators' Conference** held at Marist Centre Brisbane and Marist College Ashgrove on 24-26 July. The theme of this gathering was **"Growing a Contemplative Culture in a Marist School: Praying as Marists"**.

Archbishop Coleridge emphasised the vision of schools being places of prayer. Students have the right to know God, not just to know about God. This journey is one where paradox may be embraced, where poetic imagination leads to a connectedness with God. Contemplation is an element of this journey where we may be led to experience God in *'the thin silence'*, the experience of Elijah (1 Kings 19:12).

Dr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF facilitated the process for the faith leaders. With reference to the Marist commissioned icon of *The Ascension*, Dr Heaney noted the returning emphasis on Ascension Theology in the Church.

Experiences of finding God in liturgy and music were explored. Faith leaders imagine and create nurturing ways and means to bring forth a contemplative culture. God's Word continues to seek incarnation and as Mary continues to give birth to Jesus, so Marists seek to be part of this Marial process.



The Faith Formators' Conference brought together 60 Marist leaders from across Australia, hosted on the grounds of Marist College Ashgrove. It provided a rich forum to explore what it means to nurture a culture of spiritual formation.

LT YENTYE APURTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SANTA TERESA, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Two members of the Mission & Faith Formation Team (MLF), **Paul Harris** and **Br Hubert Williams**, recently had the privilege of being members of the Santa Teresa Marist Community for a week. This enabled the team to better experience the unique qualities of the community.

Special qualities were present in the staff and students, in the classrooms and in the teaching activities. It is most interesting for "outsiders" to participate in the learning processes in the classrooms. Staff involvement was admirable in the presentation of *Our Daily Bread*, the program on prayer. The Executive of the school also participated in the program *Theology of Mercy*, a simple presentation in this Year of Mercy. Newer members of the staff also participated in the *In the Marist Way* program. Members of the school community were most welcoming.

Paul and Hubert were most grateful to be part of the community of Santa Teresa in the learning that is so important for us all. The multitude of green plants after 'good rains' was also a learning experience for the team: is this the desert?



Photo: Executive | Rosemary Palmer (Assistant to Principal Culture); Bernadette Christensen (APRE); Paul Wighton (Coordinator of Secondary Classes); Elaine Gorey (Liaison); Br Hubert Williams (MLF); Br Paul Murphy (Office Manager/ WHS); Anne Hazel (Inclusion & Curriculum Support); Br Daniel Hollamby (Principal); Justin Colley (Deputy Principal).



www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au



Latest edition of Solidarity Matters out now!

The August 2016 edition of **Solidarity Matters** has been released and features the latest news from our project partners across Asia and The Pacific.

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.

Our story from Samoa, details the success of a recent school-holiday program at the Marist Brothers' Primary School in Mulivai, which has provided one-on-one and small group tuition to support students wishing to improve their reading skills.

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

Click [here](#) to download a copy of **Solidarity Matters** and discover how Marist Solidarity in Australia is working to improve education outcomes in countries that need our support.

Please click [here](#) to subscribe to future editions of **Solidarity Matters**.



AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

Kate Egerton | Community Relations



Comes to Marist Centre Melbourne this weekend

Marist Solidarity's **EYES ON INDIA** photographic exhibition will be showcased this **Sunday, 21 August** from **5.30-7.00pm** at the **Marist Centre Melbourne**, which is located at 1 Dawson Street, Brunswick.

Featuring the work of acclaimed photographer and former St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton student, **Conor Ashleigh**, it follows his visit to the Marist Brothers' communities in India last year. If you would like to attend, please email tracey.doublet@marists.org.au or phone on **(03) 9389 3100**.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF YOUNG MARISTS AND WYD 2016

by Ryan Gato | Mission & Life Formation Team



As part of the **MYM World Youth Day Pilgrimage 2016**, our Australian pilgrims travelled to Lyon, France to participate in the **International Meeting of Marist Youth – Dare to Dream**. This exciting event saw over 400 young people come together from our four Marist branches to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière Pledge. The week allowed our pilgrims to establish strong relationships within the wider Marist community and to broaden their knowledge of each of the four branches – Marist Brothers, Fathers, Sisters and Missionary Sisters. A significant part of the event saw all young people travel to their respective Marist sites, for which our Australian pilgrims spent time in Lavalla and The Hermitage. The week ended in a Eucharistic celebration at the *Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière* to acknowledge the pledge made by our early Marists. Through the practice of prayer, small groups and communion, our Marist youth showed a passion and desire for a Church with a Marian face, one that is committed in service and attentive to all people.

The second part of our pilgrimage was **World Youth Day** where we ventured to Kraków, Poland, the homeland of John Paul II. This particular part of Poland holds an important place for many saints, but

particularly for Mary. Mary carries the title of the 'Queen of Poland' and is venerated in numerous paintings and figures. In Kraków, together with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, 2.8 million pilgrims from around the world gathered around the image of the Merciful Jesus, where we contemplated the mystery of Jesus, Crucified and Risen, who continuously shows us the mystery of Divine Mercy. The week saw our Australian pilgrims participate in numerous events, including Catechesis, Stations of the Cross, Australian Gathering and of course the Vigil Mass and Final Mass at Campus Misericordiae. Here we were challenged by the many words spoken by Pope Francis, in particular his hope of imitating Zacchaeus in Jericho, (cf. Lk 19:1-10) of continuing to meet and invite Jesus into our homes; "World Youth Day begins today and continues tomorrow, in your homes..". We pray for all our young people, that Christ enters their homes and dwells in their daily lives, their relationships and hopes and dreams.

A special thanks goes to the Marist Association for all their support, guidance and prayers during this time.



MYM Pilgrims at the International Meeting of Marist Youth - Dare to Dream



MYM Pilgrims with Superior General, Br Emili Turú

BICENTENARY OF THE FOURVIÈRE PLEDGE

Over 250 Marists gathered in the *Holy Name of Mary Parish Church* in Hunters Hill, Sydney on 23 July to remember the *Fourvière Pledge* made 200 years ago. Marists gave thanks for the many blessings received and recommitted themselves to doing Mary's work in the midst of today's Church and world. **Fr Kevin Bates SM** led the celebration of the Eucharist.

Scrolls were placed on the church altar, reminiscent of the original pledge placed on the altar back in 1816 by the small group of young men, who climbed the 800 steps to the *Shrine of the Black Madonna* in the *Chapel of Fourvière*.

The Scrolls here contained the [Statements of Commitment](#) of the six branches of the Marist Family who were present at the celebration: **Marist Fathers (SM)**, **Marist Sisters (SM)**, **Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM)**, **Marist Brothers (FMS)**, **Marist Laity Australia (MLA)** and the **Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat**.

At the end of Mass, the [Statements of Commitment](#) were signed by the Leaders of each of the Marist branches to formalise the commitment. **Br Peter Carroll** signed as the Provincial of the Marist Brothers and as Leader of the Marist Association.

The celebration continued with a buffet luncheon in the Br Emilian Hall at Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

Our special thanks to Carole Wark, Br Michael Akers and the Bicentenary Committee who superbly organised this momentous celebration!





A CALL FOR MARIST VOLUNTEERS!

International communities for a new beginning of Marist life and mission

Each Region of the Marist world (two in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania) has been asked to identify two possible sites for such a community. The living circumstances of the community and its ministry, including their financing, are the responsibility of the Region.

The first group has completed a preparation program and have been assigned by the Superior General to begin in September this year. They developed their own vision and commitment (refer page 3 [here](#)).

WHO? Marists, brothers or lay, willing to commit to intercultural living and a group ministry among and for vulnerable children and young people anywhere in the world.

HOW LONG? Members of **Lavalla2007** communities make a commitment for at least two years.

PREPARATION? A two month program (May – June) in which participants experience life in small groups and follow a series of workshops on relevant themes. The program is designed to assist the participants and the international Marist leaders to discern readiness and capacity.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST? Applications are considered in September for the following year. Participants are required to have the endorsement of the local Provincial.

CONTACT: Br Chris Wills at cwills@fms.it or Br Peter Carroll at provincial@marists.org.au.

UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL PICTURE OF MARIST LIFE

The **Secretariat of the Laity** is one of the working committees of the General Council, exploring ways to grow Marist life, particularly through the lens of lay Marists. In recent years, Tony Clarke has served as one of two co-directors of this Secretariat. In October this year, Tony finishes his term in this role. Br Emili Turú, Superior General, has announced that **Kate Fogarty**, current Principal of Assumption College, Kilmore, will take up the role of co-director. It is exciting that someone from the Province of Australia continues to contribute to and shape this dialogue at the international level.

Click [here](#) and scroll down to read the most recent newsletter from the Secretariat of the Laity, which provides an international picture to Marist life.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

Br Mark O'Connor FMS suggests that God is within each of us – closer to us than we are to ourselves. Click [here](#) to enjoy the read.

SPIRITUALITY AND PRACTICE

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DECEASED

BR THOMAS MAHER

RIP 24.07.16

MARY GRAINGER

sister of Br Gerry Burns | RIP 23.07.16

PATRICIA PHARR

sister of Br Ralph Arnell | RIP 22.07.16

JIM STEELE

brother of Br Gerry Steele | RIP 31.07.16

BR LAURENCE TOOHEY

RIP 05.08.16

PETER SULLIVAN

father of Br Bill Sullivan | RIP 05.08.16

BR LUKE SAKER

RIP 08.08.16

COFFEE WITH A LOCAL COORDINATOR

Peter Chalkley

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE, SHEPPARTON | VIC



MARIST SPIRITUALITY //

How did you first get involved with the Marists?

My first connection with the Marists was as a student at Marist Brothers Bendigo in the 70s. It was the same school that my father and my grandfather had attended previously.

My involvement and connection with the Brothers while at school was very positive, and this led to me making a decision to join and become part of the Marist formation program at age 20. My time as a Marist Brother was both fulfilling and rewarding and in particular, my ministry and involvement with Aboriginal young people in Central Australia. However I came to a decision to leave the Brothers in 1990.

In 2004 my involvement in Marist ministry recommenced when I was appointed Director of Faith and Ministry at Notre Dame College in Shepparton. I consider myself fortunate that this involvement continues to the present with my role as director of the McAuley Champagnat Program here at NDC.

Is there an experience or event you have had in your journey as a Marist that stands out?

A significant experience in my Marist journey occurred while having the opportunity to attend the Marist Pilgrimage to Champagnat country in 2003. I have a clear memory of a misty, April morning when we visited the remains of the Montagne house under the guidance of Br Francois.

I recall praying quietly as I walked back to the bus. I pondered on what my own Marist experience would look like going forward. But I had a clear sense on that day of having a desire to walk in the footsteps of Marcellin, 'to make Jesus known and loved' but particularly to have an involvement with those on the margins; with those most in need.

For you, what is one important value of being Marist?

Courage! It is difficult to highlight one value of being Marist. A Marist spirituality is the lens through which I make sense of the world. But at this moment in time, I value the courage and the hope that each of us might be 'game changes' in further expanding the Marist mission in our world.

THE ASSOCIATION //

Who or what encouraged you to join the Marist Association?

Joe McCarthy and Peter White were strong advocates of the Association and encouraged me to join.

What are people in the Association doing in your local area to build community with each other?

We meet approximately 4 times a year in prayerful reflection. This is done with some shared hospitality around a meal. It is a relaxed, prayerful and enjoyable space. There has been some initial discernment about a collective action that we might involve ourselves with. Notre Dame College presently sends a group of students to Baucau in East Timor each year. There may

be an opportunity for us to link with this Immersion Group at some point to have a practical involvement in this part of the Marist world.

Interest in joining the Marist Association seems to be growing.

Why do you think that is?

Men and women who call themselves Marist are confident that the Association is already an avenue to genuinely deepen their Marist spirituality. There is also a strong hope and belief (and humility) in accepting the invitation to share co-responsibility in the shaping of the Marist Mission in this part of our world, at this moment in time.

AT HOME //

Tell us something about yourself.

My wife, Tricia, would suggest that I have an unhealthy interest in football! I still have an active involvement through umpiring which is a delightful way of having a connection to my son's football. I also have a love of many outdoor pursuits and in this region of Victoria, sitting on a river, in a tinny, fishing and striving to catch a Murray cod is a source of great joy!

What word/phrase best describes you?

Passionate!