

MARIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Dear Marists

Last Sunday was Child Protection Sunday. There is a certain sad irony in this falling immediately after the conclusion of the Newcastle Royal Commission Hearing, where the actions and responses of the Marist Brothers were under such close scrutiny.

There is no denying or minimising the fact that terrible things have happened to children in circumstances and situations where they should have been protected. Catholic Education, Marist education is about development and nurturance, about loving respect and encouragement. How these things could have happened in our schools and institutions is virtually beyond comprehension.

In my statement to the Royal Commission last week, I acknowledged the crimes of the past and the deficiencies of our response to those who have suffered. I also gave this assurance:

"Our commitment today is what it should have been in the past: full cooperation with authorities, thorough, professional and effective processes and protocols to protect children and ensure their safety, compassionate responses to victims. We ask forgiveness for ourselves in our failures and hope for healing for the victims of past crimes".

I firmly believe this is the reality.

One indicator of this is the newly developed [Child Protection Standards](#) recently issued by Marist Schools Australia. I believe you will find them comprehensive in their scope and demanding in their compliance requirements. Contemporary policies, standards and processes are essential; however more important is ongoing vigilance. As the Royal Commission has shown time and time again, and as has been reinforced by the media coverage of current episodes of child abuse and neglect, we can never take the safety and protection of children for granted. We can never be complacent!

You might like to pray this [prayer](#) during this week.

Br Peter Carroll



CONGRATULATIONS!

I am delighted to announce that the new **National Director of Marist Schools Australia**, replacing Br Michael Green in January 2017, will be **DR FRANK MALLOY**.

Frank is currently the MSA Regional Director for NSW and ACT. His personal qualities and his combination of professional expertise and experience admirably equip him for this significant role.

The full announcement is [here](#).



WATER INTO WINE

SARAH NOWLAN | RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE, FORBES

Sarah Nowlan is a teacher at Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes. Recently, she had the privilege of accompanying a group of four students, together with Steve Hooper, to join in celebrating the Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge in Lyon. As part of the pilgrimage experience, the group would gather at the end of each day for prayer and reflection, particularly drawing on the gospel of the day. Below, Sarah shares a piece she jotted down towards the end of the pilgrimage:

If you were to end a pilgrimage the same as when you began, it would not be a pilgrimage, merely a trip of sorts, or a holiday.

Throughout our pilgrimage, transformation has softly reverberated on each step of the journey. We have entered into the depths of ourselves where we have been stirred, provoked and challenged.

What is the essence of the identity we share?
How might we share this gift?
How does that manifest into who I am?
What practical or concrete contribution might I give to the Marist charism?

The gospel of the bicentenary mass retold the Wedding at Cana and I couldn't help but think that this story had somehow been 'following' us on our pilgrimage. This miracle, which required the intervention of Mary, has taken on (for me at least) a

personally unprecedented clarity.

While we were at the Louvre, we viewed the artwork by Veronese (1562-1563), it told the story of much more than a wedding and was so impressive.

Later at the Hermitage we saw a simple artistic interpretation of the same text, water being turned into wine.

Then to hear the story during the Mass, the emphasis that came through for me was that the water is us, which has been changed into something richer, deeper and graciously shared as a tonic through human existence, experience and celebration.

It is with a refined spirit that we depart, fortified in our commitment. That we may be such as we appear and appear such as we are, as an authentic expression of the Marian face of the Church.



BEING MARIST CONFERENCE

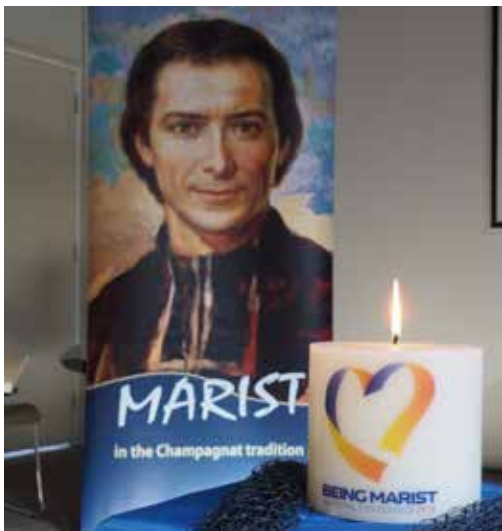
24-26 AUGUST 2016

by Elizabeth Hunt | Sacred Heart College, Mitchell Park

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the **Being Marist Conference**, a gathering of support staff from Marist schools across Australia. This was a chance to get to know others and their involvement in our schools, as well as learn more about the way of Mary and Marcellin and applying this to our way of living the Marist charism.

Brother Michael Akers and Paul Harris took us on a wonderful journey. We listened, we participated in activities and we embraced the examples set for us by Marcellin. It gave us a chance to see how each one of us can make a difference to the lives of others, even if in a small way. We are all part of the Marist family and our outreach to others is so important.

For me personally it was a renewal of my Marist spirit, and I felt a true sense of belonging to a wonderful organisation. I have returned to my workplace enthusiastic about my job and its role and hope to make a more conscious effort in following Marcellin's ideals.





AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au



Kate Egerton | Community Relations

MARIST SOLIDARITY CEO SAYS SUPPORT STAFF ARE THE FIRST FACE OF MARIST

Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) Chief Executive, Brother Allen Sherry FMS, was recently a special guest of Marist Schools Australia's (MSA) **Being Marist Conference** for support staff of the Marist centres and schools.

Brother Allen spoke about the AMS team's experiences of being received in our Marist schools and the important role support staff play in carrying out their tasks as the "first face of Marist" experienced by MSA students, their families and visitors.

Brother Allen quoted from television personality Ms Noni Hazlehurst's '[Hall of Fame' speech at the 2016 Logie Awards](#), which he said, in his experience, captured the spirit of how support staff in our Marist ministries undertook their roles.

In her speech, Ms Hazlehurst pitched for a television channel that featured "nothing but stories that inspire us and reassure us and children that there are good things happening and good people in the world".

She called for programs that addressed the "overwhelming imbalance that counters bad news with good, that encourages optimism not pessimism, that restores our empathy and love for our fellow human beings and the earth, that redefines reality that heals our hearts".

Brother Allen affirmed Ms Hazlehurst's call to restore our empathy and challenged participants at the conference to respond to this call and create "safe harbours in the storms of a Marist school".

He also quoted Brazilian Bishop Emeritus and poet, Dom Pedro Casaldaliga, who said, "*At the end of the journey they will say to me: Have you lived? Have you loved? And I, without saying a word, will open my heart filled with names.*"

Brother Allen addressed guests on Thursday, 25 August at the Melbourne restaurant 'Stone Mill 347' in Brunswick.

BR ALLEN SHERRY NOMINATED TO FMSI BOARD

The Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, and his Council, after a external review by a senior Oxfam Spain consultant, have passed the administration of FMSI Rome and Geneva to a new board of governance. FMSI is the congregation's official Non Government Organisation (NGO) for project funding and management and also advocacy for the rights of the child. It has offices in Rome and Geneva and a team of 6 people. A new lay General Director has been appointed to take up the position in January 2017.

The new members nominated for the FMSI board of governance are Br Michael DeWaas (General Counselor and President), Brother Libardo Garzon (Econome General), Immaculada Maillo (Spain), Jimena Djuara Grignani (Brazil), Gianfranco Cattai (Italy) and Br Allen Sherry (CEO of Australian Marist Solidarity, Brisbane).

This appointment completes a circle for Br Allen as he was for eight years the initial director of BIS, Rome the forerunner to the creation of FMSI. He is currently in his sixth year as CEO of AMS and 20th year of ministry in the funding for mission sector.



REFLECTIONS OF THE WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE

In July, eleven young Marist adults took part in a three-week Pilgrimage that began with the International Gathering of Marist Youth in Lyon, and ended at the World Youth Day event in Krakow. It was a wonderful MYM initiative, led by Ryan Gato (MLF Team) and Sally Hood (MYM Regional Coordinator, Brisbane). Br Neville Solomon attended as guide and spiritual formator. Below are some reflections from some of the pilgrims at the completion of their journey.....

"The Marist Pilgrimage was a wonderful experience for me. It allowed me to deepen my relationship with God and with my fellow pilgrims. The nature of the pilgrimage presented me with the opportunity to improve my ability to be merciful to myself, my fellow Marists, and other pilgrims we met. Pope Francis' message for the youth of the world really resonated with me and I have made a concerted effort to 'get off the couch', live life and enjoy my life. I am so fortunate in life to have so many opportunities, and even though I am still away from home, I have already found moments where I can try and carry out the mission Pope Francis has charged us with. Those moments have always been present but I have found a new strength to get out of my comfort zone and be called to act. The message of mercy has probably had the biggest impact on me from WYD as well as that of 'living our life' and being in communion with our neighbours."

"The Marist Way to WYD Pilgrimage provided me with the priceless opportunity to stop and reflect on my personal sense of being Marist in our world today and to deepen my understanding of my own faith and relationship with Jesus within the context of the universal Catholic Church. A highlight was the opportunity to interact, network and build community with Marists from all over the world, including the five branches of the charism, and to be inspired by the many powerful stories from so many countries of passionate Marists who are living Champagnat's dream to ensure that Jesus Christ is known and loved by young people, especially the marginalised, and that they are invited to connect with and strengthen their faith."

"WYD was an amazing experience and opportunity to develop and deepen my faith in God. It was a time to be challenged, not just in faith but also in many aspects in life. The Pope's address at the Saturday Vigil was a moment that really struck me and spoke to me. "Trade in your couch of comfort for a pair of walking shoes". Hearing that message really encouraged me to go out into the world and be the change in the world that I want to see. From this, I believe that we are all called to be daring, to take a leap of faith and step out from our place of comfort to bring the Good News to the world."

"WYD challenged me and gave me the opportunity to step aside from everyday life and really nurture my relationship with God. To listen to where I am being called and how I can be more merciful towards others. I really appreciated being able to see the young church in action on a global scale. Overall the week has helped me continuously as the question 'Am I living or just existing?'"

"WYD was a challenging and insightful experience for me. I am yet to know the full impact, but I feel called to live my life more closely aligned to the Beatitudes. I especially embraced the teachings of mercy and can see how vital it is in this world. The week helped me in my own journey to understand what it means to be a humble servant and to tread lightly on my walk with my brothers and sisters. I was also able to reconnect with friends from all over the world, which only affirmed that I am not alone in the mission within the universal Church. I enjoyed the chance to celebrate being a young person of faith!"





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 **Lavalla200** 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.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

During this year, one of the modules for the 'Our Daily Bread - Praying as Marists' Formation Programme was that of Prayer & Music.

There is magic and power in music that we will never fully comprehend. It has currency at all ages of our life, even though our preference for style and type may change. The same can be said about prayer. Experiences of communal or personal prayer can affect us deeply. Prayer can move us; shift our mood; alter our feelings; demand our attention. Music can too. Woven together, they create the perfect storm and invite us to transcend our ordinariness and our small horizons.

The following article explores this from the perspective of a person attending his friend's funeral, and the role the music played at that ritual....

"Spiritual music has always flexed its muscle in my soul; it still does in ways that other forms of communication can't. It has always called me, compellingly, to share in the voices, the power and the prayerfulness of the music. For me, the music and lyrics in hymns are powerful slants of spiritual sunshine."

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



DECEASED

MARY FORD

sister of Br Hugh Reilly | RIP 19.08.16

NORMA SPEARE

mother of Br Robert Speare | RIP 27.8.16

PATRICK CASEY

brother of Br Julian Casey | RIP 31.08.16

BETTY TRIADO

sister of Br Brendan Feehan | RIP 3.9.16

LIZ PATERSON

sister-in-law of Br Tony Paterson | RIP 3.9.16

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

KEVIN DILLON

brother of Br Bill Dillon

COFFEE WITH A LOCAL COORDINATOR

Mary Ivancic

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK | NSW



MARIST SPIRITUALITY //

How did you first get involved with the Marists?

My brothers went to Marist schools, so I heard a little about Marists from them, but I really got to know Marists when I started working at Marcellin College.

What has surprised you most about working within the Marist organisation?

It was a number of years before I learned all about the different Marist projects. I was aware that Marists taught in schools but did not know about all the different solidarity projects or youth projects – they are fantastic!

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

For me, one of the most important Marist values is family. My life is my family, not just my immediate family, but also those around me. I strongly believe that helping each other makes our own lives more whole. It is important to me to make sure that the people I love and care about know Jesus, know God. When I was very young, I was taught to fear God, but through my teenage years, I was reminded that Jesus is my friend and Mary, His mother, is my mother too. This has been fundamental to my own faith and I want to share this with those I love. To Jesus through Mary.

THE ASSOCIATION //

Who or what encouraged you to join the Marist Association?

I became involved with the Marist Association because I wanted to share in the spirituality with like-minded people, and also to be able to invite others to join us. I want to share Marist spirituality.

Interest in joining the Marist Association seems to be growing. Why do you think that is?

People are enjoying our get-togethers (with the food offered!) but also realising that they can share their own personal experiences and it isn't all about bible stories. With discussion, we can voice opinions and thoughts and share how our lives have been unknowingly affected by our faith.

AT HOME //

Tell us something about yourself.

I love spending time with my family, my four beautiful children who are growing up very quickly, with my brothers and their families and my parents who are aging too fast. We love to get together over a BBQ and spend time on (and in) the water.

I enjoy cooking for my friends and just sitting and talking!

When I have time to myself, I love to read!