

MARIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Dear Marist friends,

"Greed is good."

Some of you, like me, will be of an age to remember those words from the classic 1987 movie *Wall Street*. You may also recall smirking and mocking the phrase, thinking how ridiculous to put such an idea into words, who could possibly believe that?

Now, 30 years later, it appears that *'the greed is good'* philosophy has won. I don't mean the one-dimensional idea of greed, as desiring and accumulating wealth. I'm speaking of a more multi-faceted, pervasive notion of greed, where we want more - of everything: more experiences, travels, the newest models of Galaxy or Apple devices, possessions, Facebook friends!! Evidence suggests that western society, at least but not only, is gripped by a desire for excess, where truth, honesty and goodness are sacrificed to personal achievement and getting one's way. I suspect that the post-truth phenomena is the political expression of such a philosophy.

So why is it that we're never satisfied, that we're innately restless? What is it that leads us to believe nothing is good enough as it is? Why are we so impatient for improvement, for something better, for more, always more?

From our Christian spiritual tradition we can interpret this as emanating from the fire of infinity, the *Imago Dei*, and is God's way of assuring us that we will not be satisfied with anything other than everything. In its best sense, greed assures us of the veracity of the maxim

of St Augustine, that our hearts will be restless until they rest in God. However, greed for the experiential, the material and the ego-centric, is a poor substitute for the divine!

The Christmas festival that approaches so rapidly, is a reminder that what we most need, we have; and that what we have is a pure gift from the God who is abundance.

The gift comes to us as a vulnerable and dependent child, born of transient parents, in a foreign land, in the poorest of circumstances, and with the power-authorities hunting him. And this is the self-gift of God; an extraordinary example of humility and love.

For us it is the time of year when we naturally focus on others; gather with them, give gifts, and express our gratitude in return. In fact, we need such reminders to assist us to recalibrate our greed obsessed culture.

So to all Marists, enjoy Christmas, treasure the opportunity, and remember that, with Mary, our task is to present Jesus to the world.

Blessings to you, your communities and loved ones for Christmas 2016 and New Year 2017.

Thanks to the Editor – Ms Bianca Buda

Since October 2015, Bianca Buda has been the editor and creator of the Association News. I'm sure you will agree that she has done a magnificent job, and month by month, produced an attractive and informative newsletter for Members. From next year, the task will move to **Joe McCarthy** and **Tracey Doublet**.

I would like to express my personal and our collective appreciation to Bianca for the very fine work she has undertaken on our behalf over the last 14 months.

A LETTER FROM THE *Leaders of Oceania*

November 2016

Dear Champagnat Marists,

Kia ora, Bula, Talofa lava, Mauri o, Gutpla dei, Gutfala, Halo, Bonjour, Greetings to you all.

We are writing to all Champagnat Marists to bring you up-to-date with the developments and outcomes from the recent meeting of the Councils from the three Administrative Units.

In 2017 we will celebrate the bicentennial of the foundation of the first Marist community. This is a time of new beginnings as we enter into the third century of Marist life and mission. We are also very conscious of our Marist history as it was Fr Champagnat who missioned the first Brothers to Western Oceania in 1836.

The Provincial Council of Australia, the District Council of Melanesia and the District Council of the Pacific met together on 16 October at Mittagong to discuss future collaboration in the Oceania Region.

Together, as a Region, Champagnat Marists in Oceania currently serve 65,000 children and young people which comprises approximately 10% of our international Marist mission. We operate 88 schools, as well as a number of other educational and social ministries, undertaken by 329 brothers and 7,110 laypeople.

One of the challenges we face for the future is the sustainability of our Champagnat Marist mission in the light of changing circumstances. The geographical extent of the Region is large with the attendant challenges of distance, communication and visas across national boundaries. However, while facing challenges, we also see a window of opportunity at this time as we move into the third century of Marist life and mission.

The road ahead

In March 2016, the Oceania Council met with the International Mission Commission to explore ways to enhance the vitality of our Marist mission in this part of the world. A Think-Tank, comprised of brothers and lay people, was asked to identify initiatives that could increase collaboration across the Region.

On 16 October the Councils of the three Administrative Units met to discuss ways to work more collaboratively as a Region and developed ten initiatives that will be implemented from 2017.

Initiatives

Below is a list of each initiative with a brief statement of its goal and the year in which it will be implemented. More information about each initiative will be communicated as they are developed and implemented.

1. **Marist Education Oceania Network** - Form a network of Champagnat Marist education across the region and link in with similar regional networks - 2017.
2. **Vision for the Future** - All stakeholders have a clear and common understanding of the vision for Marist life and mission in the Region - 2017.
3. **Networking** - Provide the tools to enable sharing, networking and collaboration at all levels across the Region - 2017.
4. **Financial Administration Network** - Create a network for the service of Marist mission and its future - 2017.
5. **Communication** - Establish regular meetings of AU Leaders and Councils - 2017.



6. **Brothers Today Commission** - To strengthen the consecrated life of the brothers in the region - 2017.
7. **Asia Pacific** - Explore ways to collaborate with the Marist Region of Asia - 2017.
8. **Brothers and Lay** - Identify the strengths and weaknesses of partnership and plan for the next ten years - 2018.
9. **Edges** - To provide opportunities for brothers and lay to discuss possible mission initiatives -2018.
10. **Holistic Regional Formation for Leadership** - Ensure that Marists have the appropriate skills and knowledge to support their engagement in Marist life and mission - 2019.
11. **Youth Ministry** - Pastoral development of post-school young adults and evangelisation - 2019.

Like St Marcellin we are only too aware that 'unless the Lord builds the house we labour in vain' and that Mary, our Good Mother, has done everything for us.

We ask your prayerful support as we move together, lay and brothers, into the future of Marist life and mission in Oceania.

Br Peter Carroll
Leader of the Marist Association of St Marcellin
Champagnat (Australian Conference); and
Provincial, Australia

Br Jean-Marie Batick
District Leader Melanesia

Br David McDonald
District Leader Pacific

2017 a year for living dangerously
take a walk on the dark side... take up living contemplatively

You might like to take this up personally, or your local Marist group might like to take part in a workshop, or a Marist ministry might like to develop a group practice ...

Graham Neist is our advocate for living contemplatively in 2017. If you would like a walk on the **dark side** or to arrange a workshop - contact him on m | 0439 990 667 or graham.neist@marists.org.au

Contemplation is not something that is done alongside or before and after our everyday action. It's the doing itself that is contemplation because you yourself are so united with God that you are simply living the divine life; you are God living and doing you in the world. You are God's manifestation. *Beatrice Bruteau, 1997*



ANNUAL MSA MASSES & DINNERS

Throughout October to early December, the three regional MSA Annual Masses and Dinners were held to celebrate the end of the academic year and allow Marist Principals, senior leaders from Marist schools and members of Marist teams to come together to commemorate the year liturgically and socially.

During these occasions awards are presented to people chosen for **Outstanding Service to Marist Education**.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MARIST EDUCATION AWARD WENT TO:

BRISBANE

Paul McCaffery
Janelle Doohan
Brett Toombs
Czek Kersevani
Jennifer Elvery
Catherine Thompson
Marie Martin
Colin Connell
Sharon Volp

St Mary's Catholic College, Casino
Mt Maria College Petrie
St Augustine's College, Cairns
St Augustine's College, Cairns
Marist College Ashgrove
Trinity College Beenleigh
Marist College Emerald
Lavalla Centre, Rosalie
Chanel College, Gladstone

SYDNEY

Br Paul Bailey
Laurie Hicks
Brian Coates
Helen Peters
Eunice Dumas
Michael Wondracz
Lorraine Gudgeon
Wendy Breen
Jennifer Dove
Br Michael Hill
Joan Matthews
Nina Hreszczuk
Gerard Lobo
Br Tony Vaughan
Julia Lederwasch
Peter McNamara
Br Michael Green

St Michael's Primary School, Daceyville
Marist College Canberra
Marist College Canberra
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas
Parramatta Marist High School
Marist College Eastwood
Marcellin College Randwick
Marist College North Shore
Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville
Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville
Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park
Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park
St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
Marist Schools Australia
Marist Schools Australia

MELBOURNE

Peter Houlahan
Maureen Kurzman
Peter McCabe
Leanne Stokes
Br Terry Orrell
Adriana Bianconi
Max Harrup

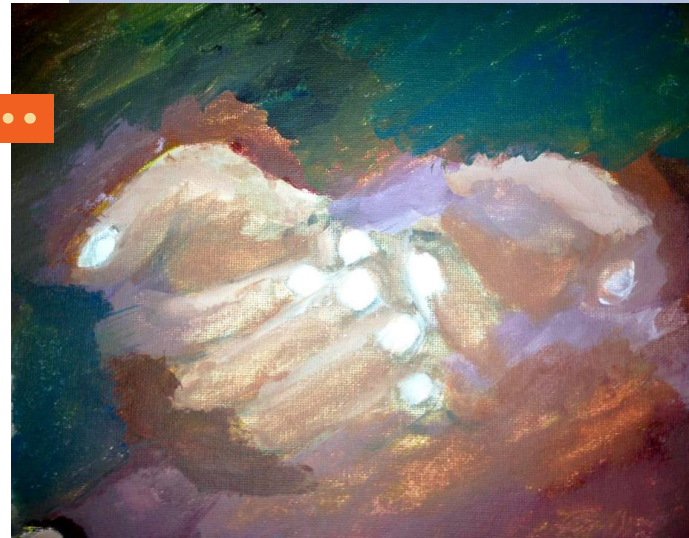
Marist-Sion College, Warragul
Assumption College, Kilmore
Sacred Heart College, Adelaide
Sacred Heart College, Adelaide
Newman College, Perth
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon



MISSION & LIFE FORMATION TEAM

If you Want

St John of the Cross



In 2017, we are delighted to welcome two new members to the
Mission & Life Formation Team:



FIONA DYBALL

Melbourne based

Fiona joins us from Marcellin College Bulleen where she has been the Director of Music and Ensembles, Choral Director, RE Teacher and Liturgist. Fiona has extensive experience working and volunteering in Marist ministries over many years, from her involvement as a REMAR Helm and the Youth Engagement Project. She is a gifted musician and facilitator who has presented numerous workshops, including those at the LA RE Congress in the USA and during her time with the US National Team for Music Ministry, directed by David Haas. Fiona recently completed a Masters of Theological Studies at Boston College in the USA and will be a wonderful new addition to our formation team.



ANDREW DUMAS

Sydney based

Andrew comes to us from Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich, where he has been REC and Assistant REC for a number of years. He is also the elected Co-Leader of Marist Laity Australia. Andrew has a two-decade long journey as a Marist, beginning with some time in discernment in Marist formation with the Marist Brothers in the late 1990s. Since then he has taught in several Marist schools, and has undertaken studies in Marist spirituality, theology, religious education and educational leadership. He has considerable involvement in faith formation, social justice initiatives and local parish. He too, will undoubtedly be a fine addition to the team.

If you want
the Virgin will come
walking down the road
pregnant with the holy,
and say,
“I need shelter for the night,
please take me inside your heart,
my time is so close.”
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime
intimacy, the divine,
the Christ taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us
is the midwife of God,
each of us.
Yet there, under the dome of your
being does creation
come into existence eternally,
through your womb,
dear pilgrim—
the sacred womb in your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help;
for each of us is
His beloved servant
never far.
If you want,
the Virgin will come walking
down the street pregnant
with Light and sing ...



180 PAINTING SERVICES | Painting a Way to a Brighter Future

Recently 180 Painting Services won the overall national winner of the 'One to Watch' category of the 2016 Social Enterprise Awards. Eight winners were selected from a pool of 26 finalists, judged by an expert panel. Congratulations 180 Painting Services!

ABOUT 180 PAINTING SERVICES

With unemployment amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) population at 16%, nearly three times the national unemployment rate of 5.8% (August 2016), Marist180 developed an innovative social enterprise solution. In January 2015, they established professional painting and decorating service *180 Painting* to focus exclusively on employing ATSI apprentices under 21 years.

To kick-start the enterprise, 180 needed to develop two crucial relationships to ensure sustainable supply and demand for the service, the first of which was with a Master painter who could ensure 180 Painting delivered work to a commercial standard.

Marist180 worked with an industry expert who was looking for the right opportunity to leverage his expertise to run a commercially viable social enterprise that would create employment for marginalised communities.

"The next step was to identify an organisation (customer) that would benefit from such a service, have the ability to commit to a large volume of work to sustain the enterprise, and value the employment of at-risk job seekers," said Adam Makepeace, Senior Manager of Employment and Training Services at Marist180.

Marist180 soon identified their second major partnership opportunity with Programmed Facility Management, the holder of the NSW Community Housing Maintenance contract in Western Sydney.

"Programmed had a desire and a commitment to increase the Indigenous participation in their workforce and amongst their subcontractors," says Makepeace.

With these two partnerships in hand, Marist180 was able to create a sustainable process to provide a 26 week skills training program for ATSI youth and develop a pipeline of Indigenous painting apprentices.

Each 180 trainee apprentice works alongside a Master Painter who supervises them on commercial projects that can range from community housing maintenance, residential and commercial painting, colour and design consultations, wallpaper application, graffiti removal and artistic murals. Through this process, they are able to fulfill all first year painting apprenticeship requirements.

"Our supervisors have a challenging job of balancing commercial obligations, providing ongoing skill training, and supporting apprentices through

regular personal and family challenges that can be encountered,” Makepeace continues, “but they get a huge thrill knowing they have been an integral part of a young person’s journey from unemployment to confident and skilled apprentice in just 6 months.”

Throughout their time with 180 Painting, each apprentice also works with an Aboriginal Employment Caseworker who assists with transitioning them into commercial painting firms to complete their apprenticeship once their training with 180 Painting is complete.

After their first year of operation, ten apprentices have successfully worked through the 180 Painting program with 75% continuing onto commercial employment.

“We see significant improvement in their routine, reliability and understanding of workplace

behaviours and expectations,” says Makepeace, “Apprentices begin to take pride in their work and their employment status, reinforcing the value of a job and its impact on their health, wellbeing and relationships with others. Apprentices leave our program armed with resilience and the ability to cope with challenges that lay ahead.”

From this solid base, in 2017 180 Painting is looking to diversify and offer a second trade, expand into Brisbane and Melbourne and to increase the number of apprenticeship places per year to support even more ATSI youth into employment.

“We have a significant pipeline of high profile work and expect to continue on our growth trajectory,” says Makepeace, “As the enterprise matures further, subtle changes will be made to the operating model to encourage the retention of some apprentices into leadership roles within the business.”



AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au



Ashley Bulgarelli | Projects & Partnerships Coordinator

A YEAR CLOSES; HORIZONS OPEN ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Many thanks for many of the Association members who partnered with Australian Marist Solidarity on project support in 2016. Across Asia and the Pacific the team in Brisbane is managing 147 projects in 18 countries and this is only possible because of our partners. The team in Brisbane was delighted to be able to meet many of you personally and thank you during the various Christmas gatherings in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Looking ahead to 2017 there are big things happening across Asia and the Pacific involving Marist Solidarity and our partners. In Timor-Leste the first Marist School will come into focus coinciding with the Marists’ bicentenary

year; ongoing developments in Cambodia mean that the village for children and young people with a physical disability is scheduled for construction; while further projects are expected to be developed in the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vietnam.

For more details check our website:
www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au

And for the December edition of Solidarity Matters:
<http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/solidarity-matters-december-2016-edition/>

Do Not Fear the Night

Mark O'Connor FMS

Christmas is a special time of year for most of us. There is a richness of life and colour. Hope is in the air. God is near. We hear sacred and joyful music. Even the most health-conscious among us tend to forgo self-discipline for family and work celebrations. And, of course, there are the joys of family and friends, of giving and receiving, community and friendship that are more poignant now than at any other time.

But while many experience these delights, others are overwhelmed by a deep loneliness and sadness at this time of year. Why? Perhaps because, while being reminded of the fullness of life and family, they instead find exposed empty spaces.

Christmas time is hard for many because we can struggle to negotiate this nearness of the bitter with the sweet, with all that we lack standing so close to this celebration of life and relationship. Yet such feelings are also an invitation to enter more deeply into the Gracious Mystery; for the emptiness we all feel at times can also be a gateway for celebrating its richness.

Christmas celebrates the kairós moment, when Jesus Christ, in all his glory and innocence, becomes one of us and comes as close as you can get to our 'messy' humanity. His birth was itself a cause of controversy. For Jesus was purposely conceived amid the sexual scandal of 'illegitimacy'. "We were not born of prostitution" was the taunt of Jesus' enemies, as narrated in John's Gospel.

The first news of his birth was given to shepherds, among the lowest social outcasts in that culture. They were not trusted by the locals at all! Jesus was born in the most impoverished conditions – without anesthetic, without medical assistance and amid animal waste.

Christmas therefore is a consoling reminder that God is finally with us in our brokenness and longing – our secret selfish desires, our depression, our family fights, our over-eating, our obsession with giving gifts, our grief over loved ones lost, our aching desire for healing in broken relationships, our desire to reconcile with that family member after so many years. God is with us in all this and can identify with our pain and loss.

Christmas is for all of us. Yes, for those who already know this joy, but especially for those who do not. Let our prayer be that of Karl Rahner SJ: "We must be quiet and not fear the night, else we will hear nothing. For the ultimate message is uttered only in the night's stillness ever since, through the gracious arrival of the Word into the night of our life, Christmas's silent night, holy night came down among us."

