

# Dear Friends,

you are invited to “share the mission” by participating in Marist ministries and community life for either the first or second half of 2010, with the Santa Teresa Community.

If interested, read on, then contact Br Rod for more details ...

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## “Share the Mission”

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Young men are being invited to share in the mission of the Marist Brothers in Santa Teresa, in two five month programs in 2010, the first starting late January, and the second late July. This venture is an opportunity, for those drawn to living the Marist spirit and mission, to be involved in **service activities with indigenous young people** for half a year, while being supported by the local Marist Brothers' community. The program aims to assist participants in exploring their spirituality and life-direction. **[Applications now open!](#)**

**Contact Br Rod for details on 0428 627 478 or [rthomson@maristmelb.org.au](mailto:rthomson@maristmelb.org.au)**

### A “Share the Mission” reflection, by Ben Jackson

I have been in Santa Teresa now for 9 weeks as part of the Share the Mission program. Over those past 9 weeks I have felt all sorts of conflicting emotions about the things that I have experienced in this town. One thing that has comforted me is the deep realisation I have had here that all humans are interconnected and no matter how wide the cultural rift or tortured the history between two peoples our love can and will eventually conquer these barriers. ....That seems like a pretty huge statement in our modern, fractured and troubled society but I can honestly say that if it were not for my absolute faith in this statement my depression would know no bounds.



Another realisation that has come to me here is that many of the troubles we have created between indigenous and non-indigenous in this country are almost solely communications based. In other words Non-indigenous Australia rarely stops and listens to our indigenous brothers and sisters so that relationships between us are strained and full of confusion. This happens on a day to day basis on both a micro and macro level. Anyway..... my Santa experience so far has been a Godsend and I am slowly falling in love with the this place and the people that live here. There is something so simple and beautiful about the desert. It almost urges you to reflect on, acknowledge and praise the mystery that is life. I hope others will benefit from the experience the Marist's and the Santa Teresa school have so generously offered me.

*(Ben is from Sydney and wrote this while half way through his experience of living with the Marist Brothers Community at Santa Teresa, and, among other things, doing tutoring work with indigenous students in the school.)*

## “Share the gift” - by Will Kearvell.



It has been two months since I arrived in Santa Teresa, and in reality, they have been some of the most fulfilling months I have had in my short life. Over this time, there have been challenges I have had to contend with and certain things that have sparked something in me I could not have otherwise experienced in my own sheltered life away from Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa).

Above all, I have reached the realisation that the connection between all humanity far outweighs any issues of race, gender and politics. A man is a man; a woman, a woman. Nothing should command this simple fact, nor should anything hinder equality or the path of basic rights. Although, it is often not the case, even in our own 'lucky' country, non-indigenous people rarely take the time to listen to our indigenous brothers and sisters. A sad reality which keeps arising throughout the ages.

The place here is difficult to describe to someone who has not seen it. Imagine something simple but beautiful. In a town of 500, you could be here for fifty years and not learn half of what there is to know about the place or the people. Something tells me there are very few places like it in the world. Everyday you are reminded of the fragility of life, but also of the gift that life is as well. I could spend pages writing on the people here and of the landscape, but the only true way for it to have any effect is to see it for one's self. The barriers between our two cultures may be large, but I believe our faith can withstand this, and with faith comes hope. It may seem unrealistic or ridiculous even to some, but eventually we will overcome these differences and I pray everyday that this is the case. My time at Santa is showing me that this hope is well justified. I hope many more people will have the opportunity as I have had to experience what, so far, I can only say has been a gift.

*(Will is from Adelaide, an ex-student of Sacred Heart College, and wrote this when nearly half way through his experience of living with the Marist Brothers' Community at Santa Teresa.)*

## Some Details ....

### Vision and Goals

“Share the Mission” is a program for young adults to live and share in radical service in the spirit of St Marcellin Champagnat, the Founder of the Marist Brothers. In partnership with Brothers and Lay Marists, participants help to create a new style of community and grow as Young Marists.

Over a five month period, participants will:

- engage in some challenging and exciting ministries with disadvantaged young people in Santa Teresa
- explore personal values, prayer and spirituality
- experience shared living in a Marist Brothers' Community, and/or engage with and be supported by the wider Lay Marist community
- develop and deepen being a Young Marist while exploring future directions and possibilities for living the Marist life today.

Thus “Share the Mission” aims to be *a formation experience to help*



*young adults discern their vocation and direction in life by sharing in Marist life and mission.*

## **Requirements**

Participants are single men and women, normally 18 to 35 years, in good health, whose Catholic faith leads them to a sense of commitment to marginalised young people, and who feel called to do this as a “Young Marist”. Participants need demonstrated social skills, initiative, a sense of independence, openness to experiencing new cultures, and an ability to grow in leadership skills. (*Expressions of interest are also invited from Teachers who apply for vacant positions in selected institutions and who wish to be involved in a modified “Share the Mission” program – apply for more information*).

## **Length of Program**

Young Adults may apply for “Share the Mission” for either a 5 month or 10 month program. The next 5 month placement will run from **late January 2010**, followed by a **late July 2010**, placement. Being involved in “Share the Mission” for a 5 month period allows participants the option of fulfilling other plans for the rest of the year (travel / work / study options), while a 10 month program enables participants to develop further skills and personal learnings, as well as allowing participants to contribute more fully to community life and to their ministry with those they are privileged to serve.

## **Nature of Ministry**

The dream of St Marcellin Champagnat was that Marists would “never see a child without helping them realise how much Jesus and Mary love them.” In our call to “follow Christ as Mary did” Marists endeavour to live out these ideals by making a difference in the lives of poor children and young people on the margins of society, and we invite young adults to engage with us in these much needed ministry areas.

Through a consultation process, you will be assigned to either the Alice Springs or Santa Teresa Placements, where there are a variety of ministry areas, including tutoring indigenous children, running after-school sports programs, assisting with REMAR youth groups, working on school Retreats and Reflection Days, assisting with inter-school sports, organising youth liturgies, and supervising after school programs such as arts & craft, computer workshops, and swimming pool activities. Participants choose their preferred Placement, with the final decision for selection resting with program organisers.

## **Orientation Program**

A week-long Orientation Program at the start of the Placement will help participants to explore and understand the experience and what they could reasonably expect to achieve from it...

*... What are my hopes? What are my motivations? What are the expectations of those I'll be work-ing and living with? What particular skills do I have to offer that fit my Placement? How will this program help me to discern my path in life? What legal and safety aspects do I need to know?*

## **Support and Accompaniment**

Once in the Placement, participants will have a Mentor to welcome them, help them to be familiarised with their ministry, and to ‘walk with’ them over the coming months as they take initiatives and set themselves goals to achieve.

## **Expenses**

The Marist Brothers pay up to \$200 towards a participant’s transport costs, plus all costs for insurance and board. Participants engage in paid employment at their Placement for around 25 hours a week and to contribute towards food costs (\$100 / week).

## **Acknowledgement**

As well as the Orientation Program, there will be a half-way evaluation, then a debrief and evaluation time in the 'Transition Home' program at the end of the 5 months. There will be formal recognition of service as a Young Marist and participants will be encouraged to share their experience of Mission with others in a variety of ways on their return home. Formal recognition will acknowledge that participants have met the challenge to, live in a different culture and community, discover personal strengths and abilities previously unidentified, live as a Young Marist and energise others through this role, relate to and serve young people who sometimes struggle in life, experience commitment close up, and reflect more deeply on their Marist vocational options in life.