



• Volume 42 • Number 3 • April 2011 •



## In the Kitchen

*"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel ..."* Luke 1 : 26

Killian McDonnell, OSB. *The Tablet*: 19 March, 2011

Giotto got it wrong.  
I was not kneeling  
on my red satin cushion  
in a shaft of light,  
head slightly bent.  
Actually I had just  
come back from the well.  
Placing the pitcher  
on the table I bumped  
against the edge  
spilling water on the floor.  
As I bent to wipe it up  
suddenly a glow  
as though someone had  
opened the door

to the sun.  
Rag in hand,  
hair across my face,  
I turned to see  
who was coming in  
uninvited, unannounced.  
All I saw was light bright  
against the wall.  
A voice.  
You will conceive  
the Son of the Most High  
who will save Israel.  
I stood afraid.  
Someone closed the door  
and I dropped the rag.



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*Marist Newsletter* of the Marist Brothers Province of Melbourne is a private publication for the dissemination of news, notices and articles of interest among the Brothers, the affiliated members of the Province and our lay associates who serve on Committees of the Province.

Copies are sent to each of the Brothers' Communities in the Sydney Province as well as to the General House in Rome and to some other overseas Marist Communities.

**The Editor welcomes contributions and suggestions**  
**from our readers**



Our deceased and their families...

- \* **Sisters Jean Adams and Mary Benedicta**, Sisters of St Joseph and formerly both on the staff of St Francis De Sales College, Leeton.
- \* **Digby Boland**, wife **Robyn** and daughter **Michelle**, killed in the light plane accident near Moree, March 30, 2011. The family has had a long association with St Joseph's Collaage, Hunters Hill.

For those who are unwell ...

- \* **Br Charles Howard**, Campelltown.
- \* **Br Austin Stephens**, Netley, Adelaide. In good spirits and recovering in the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.
- \* **Br Alexander Moss**, Randwick.
- \* **Br Ken Eaton**, Ashgrove. Ex-student of St Ildephonsus, New Norcia.
- \* **Wayne Dean**, teacher at Trinity College, Lismore. Seriously injured in a traffic accident.

And also for ...

- \* Those grieving the necessity of the impending closure of the DOXA school.
- \* For the successful rehabilitation of those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and fire in recent times.
- \* For stabilisation and harmony in those countries undergoing political and social unrest.

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## *From the Provincial*



30 March 2011

Dear Brothers and Friends

We are half way through Lent and we are hopefully more aware of what is missing in our lives and more determined to seek what has been tossed away, misplaced or ignored. Maybe our heart is dry or hardening; maybe we feel no burning desire, no zeal to pray or be in God's presence: maybe we feel frozen by the chill of emptiness, maybe we feel a bit sluggish or stalled. We can be sure we will not recover in our kingdom of busyness, nor in our land of complexity and lost simplicity. There needs to be some time apart to give attention to what we need. We might even soften that which has hardened in our human heart. There could be less griping, hostility, self-centredness and disdain for differences in our world.

If we look for signs of hope, we could become sowers of hope? Perhaps we would actually sense God breathing Hope through us into the people and the places from which we have turned away. For all of us, not only during Easter, but in the year ahead, there is the possibility of fresh life being birthed. Perhaps we might become *Easter People!*

Fraternally

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Br Julian Casey".

Br Julian Casey  
Provincial



*What follows is an outline of the planning which we undertook at our February Provincial Council Meeting. I place it here to give you an idea of what the Council is considering during the next two years.*

## MELBOURNE PROVINCE 2011

### GOALS

- TO KEEP THE GENERAL CHAPTER VISION ALIVE
- TO ATTEND TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION OF OCEANIA
- TO ATTEND TO THE FORMATION OF A NEW AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE
- TO ENSURE THAT CURRENT PROVINCE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE FULFILLED

## GENERAL CHAPTER VISION

THE PRESENCE OF MARY ..... TOWARDS A NEW LAND

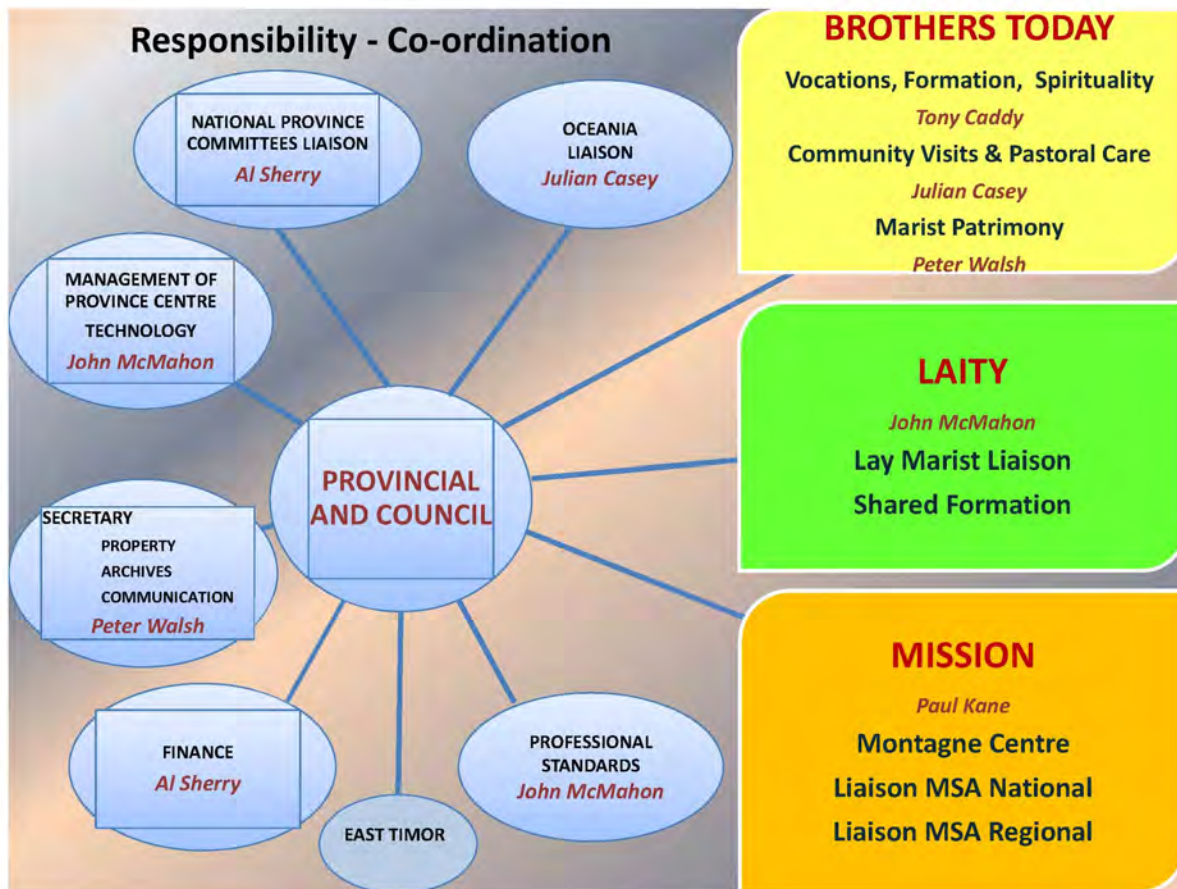


## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To keep the General Chapter Message uppermost in our minds and in our work with Communities.
2. To engage all Brothers in the process of forming a new Australian Province.
3. To ensure representation on the various Inter-Province Committees.
4. To prepare a feasibility study of East Timor Development for consideration at the September meeting.
5. To provide regular and ongoing communication concerning the development of a new Australian Province.
6. To regularly communicate developments of the Oceania Region to the Brothers of the Province.
7. To promote the Animation Theme from the December Gathering during Community visits:  

*"Behold I am doing something New - God with us"*
8. To promote and oversee the Co-ordination of Ministry:
  - a. Ministry Council Review
  - b. Vocations Promotion
  - c. Lay Marists
  - d. Young Adult Ministry
  - e. REMAR
  - f. MSA Melbourne Schools Liaison
  - g. Solidarity
9. To streamline Province Administrative Records
  - a. Personnel Files
  - b. Archives
  - c. Filing System
10. To complete the North Fitzroy House
11. To establish an Inter-Province Executive for consideration of matters between Combined Council Meetings.

# Province News ...



## BLESSING OF FITZROY HOUSE

On Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March the renovated house at Nicholson Street was blessed by **Fr Thien**, the Parish Priest of Fitzroy. About 40 friends and Brothers attended this function which was a wonderful occasion and the completion of nearly 18 months of hard work on the part of the Renovations Committee: Br Peter Walsh, Rex Cambrey, Br Allen Sherry and Sheree Limbrick. The Community have settled in well and Br Paul, on behalf of the Community, spoke of the versatile, welcoming space that it had become as well as a comfortable home which provided for gatherings and for privacy for the Brothers.



## ALICE SPRINGS

Alice Springs and its problems have been in the news in recent weeks as society in general grapples with the deteriorating social conditions in the town.

In mid March, I joined a meeting with Bishop Eugene Hurley, Carmel Bennett FMM, Chris Burke IBVM, Pauline Compton FDNCS, Clare Condon SGS, Bernadette Edgecombe SSpS, Maurice Heading SJ, Magali of Jesus LSJ, Brian McCoy SJ, John Mulrooney MSC and Tim Norton SVD, all of whom have personnel working in Central Australia. From the first session,

## Province News . . .

it was clear that the Leaders were keen to listen and to share. It was agreed that this gathering was timely as it is a new era in ministry in Central Australia, with changes in society, government compliance and participation of religious.

It was a privilege (and often a painful privilege) for the Leaders to hear the reality as expressed by all who participated. We were profoundly moved by so much of the sharing and were aware of the spirit of God at work.

As Leaders we are proud of our members and their commitment to addressing the dignity of indigenous Australians in what is an increasingly complex and hostile environment. We lamented that this is becoming more difficult over time and wish to support local religious in their endeavours.

We are hoping that we can assist religious in the area by a renewed sense of collaboration and support as they face the challenges of living religious life in Central Australia.

The Leaders have committed to meeting again at the upcoming CRA Assembly in June in order to address some of the matters that were raised by you and others at this gathering.

### OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART COLLEGE



I was pleased to be able to attend the opening of the year Mass at OLSH Alice Springs. Br Paul Gilchrist and Staff did a remarkable job in bringing together over 1000 students from the three campuses in the Convention Centre. Bishop Eugene Hurley, DD concelebrated the mass with the Parish Priests and the school leaders were presented with their badges and certificates.

Hopefully, next year's celebration will be held in the **new Marian Centre** which is nearing completion. This basketball stadium, cum theatre and drama centre and annex rooms, will provide a wonderful addition to the College facilities.

### BR JOHN HILET

Br John is well settled into the Second Novitiate Programme at Manziana and his progress can be followed on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/people/John-Hilet/100001981394070>

# Province News . . .

## BR DES HOWARD

We welcome Des back to the Province. He is currently back in Australia for a short break after completing his term as Director at MAPAC. Des will shortly commence a course of studies in Providence before returning to Australia to take up his next appointment.

## BR AUSTIN STEPHENS

Austin is currently in the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre [an extension of the Royal Adelaide Hospital]. The address is **207 Hampstead Road, Northfield, SA 5085**.

Austin is in good spirits, full of hope for recovery, although his memory is not good and he still needs two assistants for walking. A review of his progress will be held on April 7.

## BISHOP SOTO'S VISIT

Br Mark O'Connor recently organised a visit by the Bishop of Sacramento, Jaime Soto, DD. All reports describe the evening at Fitzroy as a great Marist gathering of Brothers, young adults and friends. Br Mark has provided a valuable service to the wider church for a many years in arranging these visits. Br Mark's work is appreciated by the Archbishop who has sought to extend his appointment.



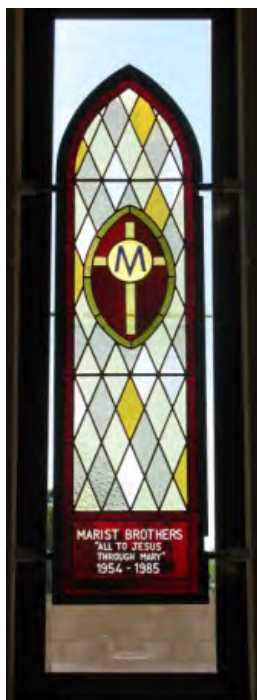
## DEDICATION OF THE BUNBURY CATHEDRAL

**Bishop Gerard Holohan** presided over the Dedication of the beautifully rebuilt St Patrick's Cathedral in Bunbury, Western Australia on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, the feast of St Patrick.

Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Leaders of other Christian Denominations, Religious and a large Congregation representing the Bunbury Community, joined the Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael and Mrs Michael, in celebrating this wonderful achievement.

I was represented by Br John McMahon.

The original Cathedral was destroyed by a devastating tornado on the morning of 16 May, 2005. Gracing the entrance to the Cathedral is a window dedicated to the contribution made to Bunbury by the Marist Brothers between 1954 and 1985.



## Province News . . .

### RENOVATIONS AT OCEAN GROVE

The Brothers' house at Ocean Grove is undergoing a much needed facelift. It had become tired and worn. Renovations to the bathrooms, laundry and lounge rooms are being carried out. The carpet in the common areas is being replaced and air conditioning units installed. The leaks are being fixed and the bath is being replaced by a shower recess. The shower downstairs is being replaced and the sinks removed. We hope that the renovations will be completed by May.

### DOXA SCHOOL

It is with much regret that we have reluctantly agreed to close the DOXA Transition School. The announcement to Staff was made on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. We have made a substantial donation to keep it going until July of this year. But beyond July it is not financially possible for DOXA to continue its same level of funding and we are unable to make the shortfall in a continuous way. The news was greeted with much disappointment by Megan Moore, the Principal and her Staff who, over the last eleven years, have been most successful in ensuring the return to mainstream school life of about 30 students each year. The closure of the DOXA Transition School also poses a number of problems for us in terms of refunding the Government Capital Grants used to upgrade the facility.



### MONTAGNE CENTRE APPOINTMENT

**Br Stephen Bugg** had asked to be released from his position at the Montagne Centre and this was agreed to by the Provincial Council. We thank Steve for his pioneering work in getting the Centre up and running and formally opened.

**Br Paul Kane** has agreed to take up the position as Director of the Montagne Centre (part-time). This is an important role for our ministries and involves promoting, supporting and connecting the various ministries as well as being responsible for the day to day running of the centre and for making it a welcoming centre for Marist Ministry.

### “GATHERED AROUND THE SAME TABLE”

### JOINT FORMATION PROGRAMME

An emerging theme from recent gatherings of Marists (Brothers and Lay) is a desire to continue to develop formation experiences. The document expressed it as looking for opportunities for Brothers and Lay to get to know one another better and to strengthen the vocation of each.

In 2010, a ‘Joint Formation Program’ was held at Mittagong which saw 30 Marists (Brothers and Lay) come together as a community for 4 or 5 days. In June this year, a similar gathering is being offered which will bring together Marists from across Australia.

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## Province News ...

Over the next few years it would be our hope that an increased number of Brothers and Lay will experience a time together to share the way the charism is operative in our lives. A group of invitations have gone out. Should you feel that you would like to participate in such an experience in the future, please contact Joe McCarthy on 03 9389 3111 (W); 0457 833 662 (M); or [jmccarthy@maristmelb.org.au](mailto:jmccarthy@maristmelb.org.au).

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

Recently an invitation was sent to offer a variety of ways by which you can keep in touch with what is happening as people “gather around the same table”. This is just a reminder to register for one of the ways of communication.

### COMMUNITY VISITATION

Listed below is my scheduled visitation with Communities throughout the next few months:

DATE OF VISITATION	COMMUNITY
Tuesday, 26 April ( <b>Anzac Day Public Holiday</b> ) – Wednesday, 27 April	Macedon
Thursday, 28 April – Friday, 29 April	Bendigo
Sunday, 1 May – Wednesday, 4 May	Central Australia ➤ Alice Springs ➤ Santa Teresa
Thursday, 5 May	Coburg
Monday, 9 May – Tuesday, 10 May	Fitzroy
Thursday, 12 May – Friday, 13 May	Kilmore
Monday, 16 May – Tuesday, 17 May	Sale
Thursday, 19 May – Saturday, 21 May	Forbes
Monday, 30 May – Saturday, 4 June	Western Australia ➤ Churchlands ➤ Woodlands
Sunday, 5 June – Monday, 6 June	South Australia ➤ Somerton Park ➤ Netley
Wednesday, 15 June – Thursday, 16 June	Karama
Friday, 17 June – Sunday, 20 June	Baucau
Monday, 27 June – Tuesday, 28 June	Templestowe

# Province News ...

## PROVINCIAL'S DIARY

Over the next few months, my time in the office will be limited. As well as the dates listed for community visitation, below are my movements for the month of April.

April 5	Province Centre Staff Inservice Day (Office Closed)
April 7	AMS Meeting (Sydney)
April 10 - 13	Oceania Meetings (Auckland, New Zealand)
April 15 - 22	Directed Retreat (NSW)
April 22	GOOD FRIDAY
April 24	EASTER SUNDAY
April 25	EASTER MONDAY / ANZAC DAY
April 26	ANZAC DAY Public Holiday
April 30	Provincial Council

### *At the Fitzroy House Blessing*

**Architect, Robert Simeoni with Kon Katsieris and Br Julian Casey**



**Brs Pat Connell and Paul Kane  
chat with Fr Thien, the Parish  
Priest of Fitzroy.**

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# THE DEDICATION OF BUNBURY'S NEW ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

**With acknowledgement to The Record and journalist, Bridget Spinks**

At 5.00pm, when the dedication ritual was set to begin, there was enough natural light flooding in through the windows to highlight the 14 biblical scenes that contemporary Australian artist, Robert Juniper, 82, had brought to life on digiglass.

After the procession of the clergy and Bishop Gerald Holohan, the traditional Noongar blessing was given by a representative of the Noongar people, Joe Northover, who had attended Collie Catholic College. *"My old people, I call upon you now to come and sit with us to celebrate this house of God in which we sit."*

The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto then passed on the message of Pope Benedict XVI and his apostolic blessing on the Church in Bunbury, invoked through the patronage of St Patrick.

Project manager John Ogilvie, architect Marcus Collins, builder Dan Perkins and artist Robert Juniper, then each presented the Bishop with a symbolic item: the plans, the keys and a design of one of the windows. This represented the official handing over of the Cathedral which

Bishop Holohan accepted on behalf of the Bunbury diocese.

Bishop Holohan then proceeded to the baptismal font where he blessed the water which was then used to sprinkle and cleanse the walls of the building, the congregation and the altar.

After the homily, during which the Bishop expounded on how the new Cathedral would be a place to experience God's peace and power, the Litany of the Saints was recited and the relics of St Thomas A'Beckett, St Monica and St Mary of the Cross were interred in the altar.

Bishop Holohan, wearing a linen apron and accompanied by Cardinals Pell and Rosales, then anointed the altar, symbolising Christ. The Cathedral walls were anointed by the Bunbury Vicar General Fr Tony Chiera and another diocesan priest.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist then followed and the Blessed Sacrament chapel inaugurated.

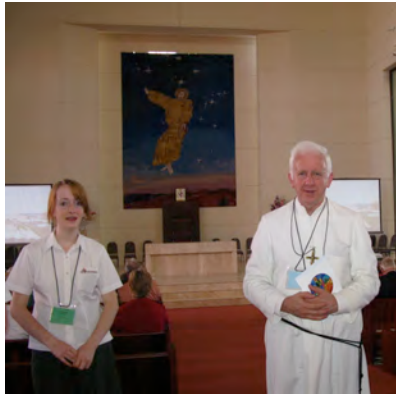
In concluding the dedication, the story of the rebuilding of the Cathedral after the 2005 tornado was told and the key people involved in the project acknowledged and thanked.



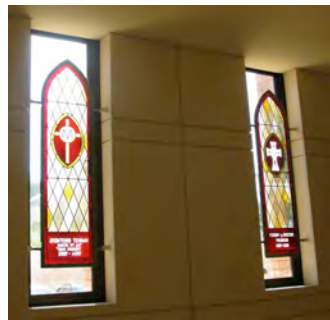
The resurrected Christ towers over the altar and the 800 invited guests



**Bishop  
Gerald  
Holohan**



**Br John McMahon with an  
usherette from Bunbury  
Catholic College**



**Windows commemorating the  
ministry of the Marist Brothers  
and Sisters of Mercy**



**Biblical scenes  
captured on  
digiglass by  
artist Robert  
Juniper**



**The Choir, from  
Bunbury Catholic  
College**

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# Help My Unbelief

*“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24*

**Br Mark O'Connor, fms**

If faith is a relationship, like all relationships that matter, it will have its ‘ups and downs’. We should not be surprised then, when we all go through seasons of questions, doubts and aridity - in our experience of believing.

For it is no small thing to believe! It would be nice to have the ‘certainty’ of some. But deep down we all know that dogmatists of all persuasions are fundamentally riddled with insecurity and rigidity.

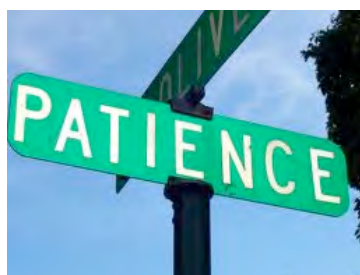
It is healthier simply to accept that in this life we usually dwell in the ‘Cloud of Unknowing’ (on that matter - I highly recommend reading Dr Carmen Acevedo Butcher’s beautiful *The Cloud of Unknowing: A New Translation*). Doubts and questioning of God are a normal and essential part of the faith journey.

So when we encounter dogmatic atheists or when we go through periods of doubt ourselves, we should not seek ‘answers’ too quickly but ‘live the questions’, as Rilke once said.

A wonderful guide in this regard is Tomáš Halík - who has produced one of the best and most beautiful responses to the so-called new atheism, in his recent book: [Patience with God](#) (Doubleday 2009).

Tomáš Halík worked as a psychotherapist during the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia, while at the same time was secretly ordained as a Catholic priest and active in the underground church. Since the fall of the regime, he has served as General Secretary to the Czech Conference of Bishops and was an

advisor to Václav Havel. He has lectured at many universities throughout the world and is currently a University Chaplain and professor of philosophy and sociology at Charles University, Prague.



His argument is that the real difference between faith and atheism is patience. Atheists are not wrong, only impatient.

They want to resolve doubt instead of enduring it. Their experience of God's absence is a truthful experience, shared also by many believers. Faith is not a denial of all this: it is a patient endurance of the ambiguity of the world and the experience of God's absence. Faith is patience with God.

Tomáš Halík teaches that God requires us to persevere with our doubts, carry them in our hearts, and allow them to lead us to maturity. For Halík, patience is the main difference between faith and atheism.

‘As a believer I am always a seeker, and there’s a fellowship between seekers. Doubt isn’t the enemy of faith but her sister. Unchecked doubt leads to militant secularism, but unchecked faith leads to religious fundamentalism. Like sisters, faith and doubt can also support each other’.

Reactionary Catholic apologists, however, fill the internet with the opposite message. They seemingly are trying to (re)assure us that there is an ‘answer’ to everything. What

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nonsense and bad theology! Any talk of 'mystery' and mention of how St Thomas Aquinas insisted that we actually know very little about God - appears to frighten to them.

Of course, we do need a 'new apologetics' as Archbishop Fisichella, President of the newly formed Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation, has recently pointed out. But it must be an apologetics that is based on an understanding of the kindness of God. If its aim is to 'counsel the doubtful' - it will stress that there is room in God's family for those who doubt – even for those for whom the word "God" cannot easily be deciphered.

There may be some in the Church who have a spirituality and faith where it is always 'summertime'. They are blessed with endless enthusiasm and a feeling of the certainty of God's presence that never eludes them.

Many of us, however, can identify with R.S.Thomas's poem *Via Negativa*. Along with John of the Cross, we can sometimes experience God as 'the empty silence within'. Hopefully, it makes us better able to 'counsel the doubtful' as they go through their own 'dark nights of the soul'.

## *Via Negativa*

**Why no! I never thought other than  
That God is that great absence  
In our lives, the empty silence  
Within, the place where we go  
Seeking, not in hope to  
Arrive or find. He keeps the interstices  
In our knowledge, the darkness  
Between stars. His are the echoes  
We follow, the footprints he has just  
Left. We put our hands in  
His side hoping to find  
It warm. We look at people  
And places as though he had looked  
At them, too; but miss the reflection**

R.S. Thomas (1913-2000)

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# The Blogging Brother

*Pathways, March, 2011*



"It's important for Church people to participate in the world of social media," says blogging Marist Brother John McMahon.



After many years working in Marist education as a teacher, principal and academic, two years ago Brother John McMahon set up a blog.

"We looked at the blog as a policy - as a way of getting our voice out there," says Br John, who is a member of the Melbourne Province leadership and mission and life formation team. He also teaches leadership courses at the Australian Catholic University and for the Melbourne Archdiocese.

"I wanted to express my views on the Marist world and unpack and discuss the role of Marist charism and spirituality in education," says Br John.

Armed with a PhD on developing an educational vision with a Marist perspective, Br John was well positioned to write on the subject. His time as director of a program on incorporating the insights of Marist founder, Marcellin Champagnat, into contemporary education added to his credibility.

"Many lay people, particularly those working in Marist schools, say they'd like to be Marist," says Br John.

"They don't want to be a Marist brother. But they are interested in following the Marist way and living the Marist spirituality - which has six characteristics: God's presence and love, trust in God, love of Jesus and his Gospel, in Mary's way, family spirit and a spirituality of simplicity.

"Blogging is a way of sharing, learning and helping people new to leading and living the Marist charism to get an understanding of how it is done."

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On his blog, [\*\*Champagnat, exploring charism in education\*\*](#), Br John writes on various aspects of the subject. He uploads videos and podcasts and reports on forums, courses and in-services such as a recent one in Perth introducing teachers to the Marist way.

He also discusses the meaning of the word charism - the particular spiritual characteristics of a religious order. In one post he reported on a gathering of 45 people in Melbourne where the group explored the question: 'What word best describes what we mean by charism?' Is it a word like 'inspiring' or 'impelling' or 'animating'?

Within 24 hours of running a course, or attending a forum, he posts a story and photo to the blog or adds a video or links to a podcast.

"The immediacy of blogging has great benefits," says Br John. "People don't have to wait for a newsletter to come out in a month's time or even longer. So it's a quick way of getting stories out and it's a very accessible means of educating in an era when Religious are declining but our ministries are still growing.

"It also allows many voices to participate and is a way of people being heard who wouldn't normally be heard from our ministries in East Timor, Alice Springs and all over the world."

After Br John has published a post, he links the post to his Facebook page and announces it on Twitter. Through these platforms he has attracted new followers to his blog, which achieves about 35 visitors a day.

"It's not a huge amount," says Br John, "but it is many more than if I did not have the blog, and it is where young people are watching and active.

"Being in that world enables us to communicate with young people. They probably wouldn't write a letter or an email to me, but they will write a comment on my blog or Facebook page."

Br John believes it is important for Church people to participate in the world of social media.

"We are blessed today to have such immediate, flexible and global forms of communication. The call of Christianity is to evangelise and pass on this faith. Blogging and other social media is a way of doing that and it allows us to engage, interact and participate in the world.

"Having a blog has been a very worthwhile way of sharing our faith and knowledge, offering a critique of the contemporary world, engaging in conversations and discussions, and nurturing our life and our ministries."

You can find Br John's blog on the [\*\*Melbourne Marist website\*\*](#).

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# *To Visit the Sick*

Br Mark O'Connor, fms

Some people are terrified of hospitals. Others of us simply fear pain and the prospect of our own diminishment. We just don't want to think about it. None of us – unless we are masochists - welcomes suffering and death. Jesus himself was afraid of death in the agony in the Garden. He was not going through the 'motions'. If the Lord can be afraid - then it's ok for us too.

This acceptance of creaturehood - the coming to peace with our human finiteness and vulnerability - is an important journey that we must all undertake. But it is a task we cannot do alone. We need support.

Don't expect much of it from our culture. Our society cherishes fantasies of eternal youth and conveniently 'airbrushes' sickness and death from the 'good' life. The aged are hidden away in institutions; the disabled and terminally ill are not seen as 'productive' and hence are devalued. Many people get sick and the worst thing for them is the loneliness of abandonment from relatives and others who do want to be reminded of their own mortality.

Christ then calls us to 'visit the sick' and care for them as an essential part of our Christian mission of love and compassion. Hence the crucial role the Church had in establishing hospitals and the critical role it still plays in health care in most countries on the planet. Thank God for our Catholic hospitals and indeed for most hospitals where the medical profession generally minister so selflessly Christ's healing power and love to so many.

But we can't leave all the support needed to these wonderful professionals. There is

something about our own need for personal contact with actual sick people that we need to be fully alive in the Spirit.

**Daniel Berrigan** once wrote a tender and poignant account of such personal service - working as an orderly in St Rose's Cancer Hospital in New York (*We Die Before We Live ; Talking with the Very Ill*. Seabury, N.Y., 1980). St Rose's exists solely for the poor who cannot afford cancer treatment. It takes no State money, instead surviving on Providence alone. Father Berrigan contrasts the quality of human care offered in this extraordinary Catholic hospital with the soulless bureaucracy of some other institutions. In characteristically lyrical terms he meditates:

To grasp something of this, one has to go beyond therapeutic convention. Even if the staff saw the hospital as a kind of mini-Titanic heading toward catastrophe (and they do not), it still must be reported that there are no "social facilitators" aboard. People are employed or volunteer, not to daub a presentable cosmetic on the hard face of death, or to whoop things up despite all. We are there to help make life bearable, to make some sense of it, make it attractive as long as it lasts, together. There is respect for privacy, respect for moods and imbalances, a spoiling attention to diet,.... There is an unobtrusive religious feel about the place, which now and again surfaces in sacrament or prayer or plain talk about death; but only on the initiative of the patients. No one is force-fed, whether on religion, psychosemantics or -antics. Little account is taken, except where suffering or depression



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# ***THE FACE OF GOD: THE REDISCOVERY OF THE TRUE FACE OF JESUS***



## *About the Book*

*In The Face of God: The Rediscovery of the True Face of Jesus*, Paul Badde reports, in tantalizing detail, on his exciting quest to discover the truth behind a rare cloth, housed in small church in the remote village of Manoppello, Italy. Better known as the Holy Face of Manoppello, this is a relic recently rediscovered and rumored to be "Veronica's Veil" — a cloth used to wipe the face of Jesus as he carried his cross on the way to Golgotha and His crucifixion.

Badde's research and reports on the Holy Face of Manoppello prompted a 2006 visit to the relic by Pope Benedict XVI — in spite of counsel against it by others in the Vatican. He compiles and expands on those dispatches in *The Face of God*.

Among others, readers will meet Sister Blandina Paschalis Schlömer, OSCO, whom many outside of Italy recognize as the first person to truly rediscover the Holy Face of Manoppello. Her meticulous research and investigations helped convince Badde and others that the Holy Face provides a "positive" image of the same face shown as a "negative" on the Shroud of Turin.

The image of a man's face on the cloth in Manoppello is clearly visible. Most astonishing — when the face of the Shroud of Turin is laid over the Holy Face of Manoppello, the two images form a perfect match. As Sr. Blandina proved with her work, they are the same face.

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Readers will learn about a cloth made of unique and rare fabric — byssus — that is the "canvas" for the Holy Face. Yet, Badde explains that byssus, also known as sea silk, is a rare and delicate fabric woven from a silky filament produced by mollusks that is so thin and delicate it is impossible to paint on.

In the book, Badde reports the conclusion by experts that the cloth of Manoppello is not Veronica's veil, but rather a burial cloth of Jewish tradition that was laid over the face of Jesus in the tomb. In fact, in the chapter he calls "Holy Blood," Badde makes the compelling case for the existence — with locations — of all the elements of the traditional Jewish burial wrap used in Jesus' time.

The book recounts Badde's thrilling journey of discovery as he travels to research this remarkable relic, tracing the turbulent history of the Holy Face from ancient times to the historic visit to Manoppello by Pope Benedict XVI.

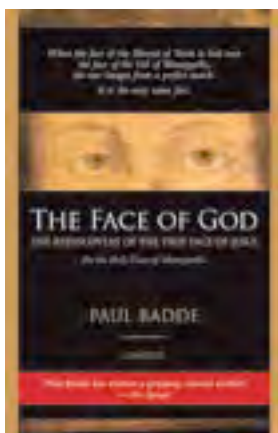
## About the Author

**Paul Badde** was born in 1948.

He is known throughout Europe as a historian and journalist, and already has produced best sellers as an author.

For the past 10 years, he has been an editor for the German newspaper *Die Welt*. He initially served as the paper's Jerusalem correspondent. He went on to become the Rome-based Vatican correspondent.

*The Face of God* is Badde's fourth original work.



He also wrote [MARIA OF GUADELUPE: SHAPER OF HISTORY, SHAPER OF HEARTS](#); Jerusalem, Jerusalem; and The Heavenly City.

Badde achieved world-wide fame with his publication of Zvi Kalitz's Yosl Rakover *Talks to God*, which he rediscovered, translated, and edited.

<http://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faceofgod/>

**Church Resources, Cath News, 30 March 2011**

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# Tradition - not Traditionalism

Br Mark O'Connor, fms

Our Tradition is so rich in wisdom. The Catholic practice of the 'Spiritual Works of Mercy' is but one example of that depth. For the 'Spiritual Works of Mercy' helps us disciples explore how we too can dwell in the mercy and tenderness of God - as Jesus our brother guides us on the journey of faith, a journey that is unique for every person.

These days, however, the beautiful concept of Tradition needs to be very carefully distinguished from traditionalism. The proponents of traditionalism - who are notorious for their nostalgia for past 'Golden Ages' (that mostly never existed) and who get their energy from fighting and condemning other people - are not educators but ideologues.

But an educator can never be an ideologue. For ideologues can never 'instruct the ignorant' - what we would call today - 'educate in faith'. For they don't dialogue with learners but talk 'at' them.

**Jaroslav Pelikan**, the famous Christian Scholar and great teacher, pointed out, however, another way for Catholic educators in faith when he commented:

*"Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. Tradition lives in conversation with the past, while remembering where we are and when we are and that it is we who have to decide. Traditionalism supposes that nothing should ever be done for the first time, so all that is needed to solve any problem is to arrive at the supposedly unanimous testimony of this homogenized tradition."*

'Instructing the ignorant' - one of the spiritual works of mercy - certainly involves giving people a healthy sense of their Catholic 'identity' or 'imagination'. It aims to help us all live in a postmodern relativistic culture and understand that there is rationality to Christian faith. Simultaneously, it also insists that faith is primarily a relationship with the living Risen Jesus and begins with the heart.

'Instructing the ignorant' is a call for all of us who are privileged to be Catholics, to learn more deeply the 'language' of our faith. In an age characterised by superficiality and crass ignorance of the richness of the Judeo-Christian Tradition - 'instructing the ignorant' is all about showing the beauty of our Catholic Tradition to young and old. It is especially sensitive to reach out to all those people who are searching for God down many paths. The precious gift of faith in Jesus of Nazareth is something we naturally want to share.

Catholic 'educators' (i.e. all the baptised) however can never simply approach people, as if they are somehow just empty 'receptacles' - whose 'heads' need to be 'filled' with more propositions and ideas. As if that was educating people in faith!

No - education in faith is about imaginatively engaging in a conversation between our Catholic Tradition and our culture - a secular society that is fundamentally good because it is created by persons, all made in the image and likeness of God. Yes, cultures are sometimes compromised and flawed and hence in need of redemption. But that does not excuse us from finding ways to discover the 'treasure' hidden in the field' of real people's daily lives. We

need to discover with people that Christ is closer to us all - believers and non-believers (and 'half' believers!) - than we are to our very own selves.

'Instructing the ignorant' then is best done through the witness of our lives and actions - not just mere words. I love the story of Pope John XXIII the Great. Papa Roncalli had a long and quite varied life before he was pope. One of his lengthy assignments as a younger man was in Serbia where there were many Orthodox and few Roman Catholics. He so endeared himself to the Serbs by his disarming warmth and friendliness, that when he left for a new assignment after many years there, people came in great numbers to say good-bye. On that occasion he told them, *"Anywhere I go in the world, if someone in need passes by my house at night, he will find a lighted lamp in the window. Knock. I will not ask if you a Catholic.... Two brotherly arms will embrace you and the warm heart of a friend will make a feast for you."*

No wonder that this holy man opened the 'windows' of the Church at Vatican II and let 'fresh air' in. For John XXIII was a Christian educator who 'instructed the ignorant' - not a humourless ideologue who alienated and frightened people away from Christ, the Merciful One.



## 13th Macedon Reunion

**September 27- 30, 2011**

*You're invited*

HOLY CROSS CENTRE  
Serpells Road, TEMPLESTOWE

Enquiries and further details from:

**John Kelly at (03) 5782 1987**

**Terry O'Brien at [laurel336@hotmail.com](mailto:laurel336@hotmail.com)**

**Barry Hansen at [puffnben1@bigpond.com](mailto:puffnben1@bigpond.com)**

**See Drusilla Blog for detailed program**

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# *Postulant Ashley Higgins is welcomed into the Fitzroy Community*



**Ashley with Pat Connell and Doug Walsh**

The Fitzroy community officially welcomed Ashley Higgins into the postulancy on Sunday 20th March with a very simple ceremony in the Chapel. Ashley comes from Brisbane, where he has worked in Marist Schools as chaplain and dormitory supervisor for the past two years and has chosen to move on to the next stage of discernment about life as a Marist Brother. As a member of the community, Ashley will take an active part in normal community life, be accompanied during this period of discernment and commence his studies at ACU with the view to moving into education at a later time. The ceremony was followed by a celebratory meal in the community.



**Paul Kane**



**Justin Guthrie & Mark O'Connor**



**Tony Caddy**



**Mark Paul**

# Smile Awhile



## CONFUCIUS MAY HAVE SAID.....

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Man who eats prunes get good run for his money

Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.

Man who runs in front of car gets tyred; man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

## Bloopers from Church Bulletins

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene sang '*I Will Not Pass This Way Again*, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members, and to the deterioration of older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7.00pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.



This is what **sorrow** looks like



This is what bad **spelling** looks like

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