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Diamond Jubilarians, 2011

*Brothers Brian McGrath, Kevin Hoare, Aidan Smith, Xavier Collins,
Dominic Stewart, Bishop Peter Connors, Brothers William McEvoy, Tom Hughes*



Province News - Easter Reconcilers, Not Dividers - Diamond Jubilarians - News from Coburg - Making Christ Present Today - The Blessing of Interruptions



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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 Brothers celebrating their Jubilees in Heaven...

- * **60 years:** **Br Terence Gleeson**
- * **50 years:** **Br Jack Damian**
Br Evan O'Halloran
Br Bill Venables

Our deceased and their families...

- * **Br Oliver Clarke**, Karama, Darwin. Died July 30, 2011, in his 97th year. A Marist Brother for 76 years.
- * **Br Greg Moran**, Randwick. Died 28 July, 2011.
- * **Br Ken Eaton**, Ashgrove. Died July 12, 2011. Ex-student of St Ildephonsus, New Norcia.
- * **Br George Fontana**, U.S.A. Died July 29. Known to many Brothers from his time at Fribourg, Switzerland; Manziana, Italy, and the General House in Rome.

For those who are unwell ...

- * **Br Charles Howard**, Campbelltown.
- * **Br Austin Stephens**, Netley, Adelaide.
- * **Br Kevin Hogan**, Netley, Adelaide.
- * **Br Ambrose Reilly**, SHC Adelaide. Convalescing after heart surgery
- * **Fr John Carnie CSsR**, recovering from major surgery. Chaplain of Marcellin College, Bulleen.
- * **Sam Puglisi**, Principal of Mt Maria, Petrie Qld. Convalescing at home after surgery for cancer.
- * **Mrs Di Cesare**, mother of Marco, Acting Principal of Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon.
- * **Rosemary McBeath**, Swan Valley. Mother of Nick McBeath (Dec.)
- * **Bert Murphy**, Perth. Father of Br Paul Murphy, Sale.

From the Provincial



1 August 2011

Dear Brothers and Friends,

The Assumption of Mary takes us into the realm of Mystery. We can enter into the mystery; but we can never adequately grasp it and express it in words. What we say and what we write about mystery are symbolic expressions which point to the Mystery but never succeed in catching it or explaining it.

Hence, much of what has been written about the Assumption is symbolic language which evokes not only the mystery of Mary, but our mystery too.

In the feast of the Assumption we celebrate the fullness of Mary's life in union with God. In my reflection on Oliver's life, I was struck by how seriously he entered into a reflection on Mary and, throughout his life, came close to Mary and made her a partner in his life. He developed a special relationship with God that comes to us through fidelity to Mary's way. The Assumption speaks to us about God's love which simply cannot be contained. It's a reminder that we are destined for fulfilment and, with our knowledge of the Assumption, we can know that people like Oliver are no longer characterised by struggle and growth but by fulfilment absolutely attained. Life for Oliver is now really lived to the fullest.



Let the Assumption this year be a family celebration of Mary's homecoming, as well as the homecoming of people like Oliver. Let's sing our Salve, recall the memory, share the stories and savour the joy of being Brothers with a special place in our heart for Mary.

Fraternally



Br Julian Casey
Provincial

Bendigo

Catholic College Bendigo has close on 1900 students and there is a steady increase in applications for enrolment. Hence, it has been decided to establish a third site for Catholic Secondary Education at Maiden Gully, (6 kilometres West North-West of Bendigo.).

It has been agreed that the Marist Brothers will take responsibility for this new Secondary College. This offer was subsequently accepted gratefully by the Sandhurst Diocese.

We have been dialoguing with the Board and Principal (Darren McGregor) of Catholic College Bendigo and they are most supportive of the decision. The announcement to staff members has met with widespread approval and encouragement.

The Brothers have been in Bendigo since 1893 and have been continuously involved in the provision and governance of education over that time. We have been proud to be part of Catholic College Bendigo established in 1984 as an amalgamation of St Mary's College and Marist Brothers College. We are delighted to be continuing our involvement with Catholic secondary education in Bendigo in this next exciting development. 2014 is the present projected starting date and there are more discussions to be held with the Diocese concerning the project. Marist Schools Australia will have the responsibility of carrying this project forward to completion.

East Timor

At our last Provincial Council Meeting we received and accepted a report from the East Timor Committee. The Committee was made up of Brothers from Sydney and Melbourne together with Fr Wayne Stanhope (O'Carm) and Peter Appleton, both of whom have had experience in establishing and developing the Carmelite foundation in East Timor. We have kept the Combined Council Meeting of the two



Province News . . .

Provinces informed of our proposals and the report has been raised with the Inter-Province Executive. This project will be a part of the new Province in Australia and will be of interest to all Marists in Australia.

We are also mindful of the recommendation of this project by the Provincial Chapter and we are therefore delighted to be able to announce the acceptance of this report. This week I am writing to the Bishop of Baucau in order to alert him of our desire to commence the promotion of vocations to the Marist Brothers and the commencement of a formation programme designed to assist those East Timorese men in the discernment of their future possibility of being called to be Marists. This will mean that the current residence will become a residence for Aspirants and for those interested in Marist Life. The Community will consist of Tony Clark and John Horgan.



A new residence will be established and the community there will be focussed on the Catholic Teachers Institute (ICFP). The community there will be Fons Van Rooij as the Director of the Institute and Eugene Dwyer as a staff member for ICFP. A further detailed statement about this project will be made in NEXUS.

Parallel with this development and not cutting across any move we make in education, the East Timorese Government has approached the Brazilian Marist Brothers to ask them to commence a “Portuguese Language Reference or Model School” in the Baucau Diocese at Manatutu, half way between Baucau and Dili, the Capital. East Timor is committed to establishing Portuguese as an official language and needs the support of Portuguese-speaking teachers. The Brazilian Brothers are interested, have had a preliminary meeting in East Timor and are forming a small committee which will be attended by representatives from our Province

Province News ...

AMSA Conference

The sixth biennial conference of AMSA took place earlier last month. It went well. Strengths were (a) the quality of the keynote presentations, (b) the venue and the way it contributed to the ambience, (c) the professional organisation, (d) the flow and structure of the days.

This will be the last biennial conference under the AMSA banner. In future, Marist Schools Australia will have carriage of these combined functions. The rituals and words around the transition from AMSA to MSA were sensitively done, and did not dominate or dampen the conference.

World Youth Day

We are supporting two Brothers at WYD: Pat Connell and Rod Thomson. Also going from Australia will be Ashley Higgins, Gerard Barklimore and a group of Young Adults from Melbourne:



- James Augustus Mazzolini
- Madeline Jane Hellings
- Hendrika Martha Duivenvoorden
- Cassandra Louise Schumacher
- Jack J O'Sullivan
- Simon Michael Martino

During the first phase of the World Youth Day, young people from all over the world will be welcomed into the various dioceses of Spain between 10 and 15 August 2011. It will be a great Meeting of Marist youth.

As well there will be Marist-sponsored activities during World Youth Day:

- Workshop on Vocations Animation
- Marists in the World
- Marist Solidarity: Workshop on solidarity, education and development
- Conference-colloquium: "About youth drug addicts, prevention and intervention"
- Dramatic Monologue – Anonymous Gospel
- Marist Festival: A Concert for 2000 by "Kairoi".

We keep our pilgrims in mind during this special time and we wish them safe travel.

Province News ...

Returning from Overseas

We welcome back John Hilet from Manziana who is settling back into his role of Principal at Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes. Also returning mid-August is Des Howard who will join the Somerton Park Community this year and assist the community in their wonderful work of hospitality. He will also assist David Blay in some of his finance work.

Afaese Afaese and Simon Serrero

We welcome Afaese (from Samoa) and Simon (from Papua New Guinea) to our Province and our community at Nicholson Street. They are attending Heart of Life Institute prior to taking up appointments in formation in 2012.

North Fitzroy

The Planning Permit has at last been received and we now hope to have the tender documents ready for Builders in early September. Building completion is now set for August 2012.

Our 2011 Jubilarians



*Gathering outside the Marcellin
College Chapel*



Renewal of Vows

Easter Reconcilers, Not Dividers

Br Mark O'Conner FMS

The Spirit of the Risen Jesus produces peace and unity, not division. Paul was so right when he reminded the Galatians that '*...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*'

However, as more than one biblical scholar has wryly observed: "Jesus preached the Kingdom and instead we got ... the 'Church'!"

A half-truth only, I know, but when one sees the ease with which people criticise each other inside the contemporary Church, maybe the Biblical scholars do have a point! For one of the least edifying aspects of the Church is the polarisation that some people so obviously 'feed off' and get their energy from.

It always amazes me how the extremes of the 'right' and the left' (for want of a better 'typology') so remarkably *resemble* each other. They truly 'mirror' each other in their language and behaviour. Their lack of respect for the dignity of the human person and for fellow Catholics very often masquerades as a concern for 'orthodoxy' or 'social justice/human rights' - depending on the ideological 'hat' worn. I advise we should all listen more to Hilaire Belloc's aphorism. "The Grace of God is in *courtesy*".

Indisputably, we are increasingly lacking civility and grace in the Church. Courtesy is becoming rarer. In such situations, pastoral leadership of any type can become a 'crown of thorns' for so many leaders. This is especially

true for Bishops and Popes, who are overwhelmingly good men and pastors, but who have the unenviable role of preserving unity amongst an increasingly 'tribalised' flock.

Of course, only death brings release from tensions and conflicts and yes, they are inevitable as the Pilgrim People of God winds its messy way through history to Christ, the Omega point. Mistakes are made by people at every level of the Church. 'Perfect' people need not apply to become members of the Catholic Church!

In other words, there is no excuse for the harassment some in the Church face from zealots. I like the story recounted by John Allen on that point: Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas recorded a web video responding to concern about a new undergraduate degree in pastoral ministry in his diocese. Critics objected that the program is soft on Catholic identity, to which Farrell replied: "Let me remind the Catholic people of this diocese that ... I'm the one who has to stand before God and say whether this is truly Catholic. That is my responsibility, and I do not take it lightly."

So what *is* the answer? Barry Gault in his recent article "Society Men: What I learned from the Jesuits" [*Commonweal*, April 22] provides one way forward, but it definitely does not provide the answer at all to my question. I do not recommend it - even if it does sound rather appealing at times! It is a marvellous anecdote:

Lola Montez, mistress of King Ludwig I, trained her bulldog to attack Jesuits. When the bulldog

bit a hunk out of a Jesuit theology professor, the enraged Bavarian intellectual community saw to it that Lola was imprisoned and, for the sake of exorcism, put on a diet consisting solely of raspberry juice.

The 'exorcism' required for the lack of charity shown in the Church today, however, will not be solved by either 'bulldogs' or 'raspberry juice'! (It is certainly no way to treat Jesuits!) They are a great gift to the Church after all!

Instead, much prayer and wisdom are called for. One Jesuit man of prayer and holy sage - Bernard Lonergan - does point to the *real* way forward. Long meditation on his wisdom below, is the only medicine I know to heal the current 'dis - ease' of some in the Body of Christ today.

Classical culture cannot be jettisoned without being replaced; and what replaces it cannot but run counter to classical expectations.

There is bound to be formed a solid right that is determined to live in a world that no longer exists.

There is bound to be formed a scattered left, captivated by now this, now that new development, exploring now this and now that new possibility.

But what will count is a perhaps not numerous centre, big enough to be at home in both the old and the new, painstaking enough to work out one by one the transitions to be made, strong enough to refuse half measures and insist on complete solutions even though it has to wait ...



Bernard Lonergan, SJ



Diamond Jubilee of Br Xavier Collins

Br Julian Casey FMS, Provincial

I first came to know Xavier in 1962 when we were on the same community at Bunbury. He was well known as a sports person, a great organizer of events, an exuberant extrovert and able to thrive on social interaction. He was not sanctimonious or pious, but I found in him a committed Brother and a conscientious and careful teacher, who prepared and corrected his work, gave clear directions to students and who engaged them at all levels. He was active in community and, although a bit rowdy at times, could keep us well and truly entertained. So way back in 1962, he taught me much about fairness, about consistency, about hard work and about being a well-rounded teacher and community person. I have been fortunate along with many others to have experienced his generosity and loyalty and I will always remember his willingness to make people feel welcome.

It was some 45 years later before I had the chance to live in community with Xav again. In the intervening years, I knew him more by repute as a person of loyalty, organization and hard work.

Many of you don't know that in 1966 Xav took over as acting Principal at Griffith, whilst the then Principal was thankfully away doing his second novitiate. It was the time of the Wyndam scheme in NSW, which required complex planning and organization. In that school, Xav transformed the chaos into a well-organized unit, meeting all the requirements. At the end of that time he was being asked go to Somerton Park for four years to look after the Sport, take on Boarding duties and teach during the day.

I think we all know of the long years Xav has spent in Boarding schools, 22 years at Forbes and more than 11 years at Kilmore. Often times, when people spend considerable time in one place, there comes the question of whether the person is nesting in a comfortable, familiar environment and pursuing an easy routine. Not so Xav... he was Boarding Master in a Co-ed school which required an immense workload in managing the lives of boarders:- over 150 boys and over 60 girls at Red Bend Catholic College. During those 22 years, he supervised every breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Boarding school. I estimate that to be about 17,100 meals supervised!!! No nest there.

Xavier has always been a careful and thoughtful tactician throughout his sporting career of playing and coaching. He was, after all, a very successful sportsman and taught others the art of winning gracefully and losing with dignity.

I have to admit, having played cards against and with him, that he is somewhat of a tactician as a 500 card player and plays misère with a great deal of finesse, although I would claim that he has a bit to learn about team bidding. He is a handy person to have around the house when things need fixing or organizing. He has a good ear for Music, sings well and has led the boarders in singing at Mass over the years.

Xav is practical and a realist. He had little in the way of formation in those early years in the Province when the more potential you showed, the less formation you got. So he had to rely on his own talents and cheerful disposition to get him by.

Fairness, consistency and a cheerful firmness made him a natural Master of Discipline in the bigger Colleges and he was a great support to Principals. He has no grand theories, but he kept the wheels of these places turning. He didn't force ideas on those unwilling to accept them and worked hard and long to help keep schools functioning.

He did battle with the cold in Kilmore and the heat in Broken Hill, with overwork at Somerton Park, with scarce resources at Mt Gambier, Thebarton and Griffith. He was literally tireless for the Boarders at Forbes and Kilmore. He expended his talents at Sport:- Cricket Football, Athletics and Basketball, not for his own sake or to be feted, but simply to use sport as a way to character building for those who participated.

This difficult business of loving in a self-sacrificing practical way has been the hallmark of Xav's contribution. Frontiers may change, politicians may huff and puff and taxation systems come and go, but for the vital tasks of life to be fulfilled, we need this kind of generous effort that Xav has shown. I believe that the 60 years that Xav has spent at this task has been much more enduring.



Xav, a powerful Marist presence working with the maintenance staff at Assumption College.



So Xav, we are grateful for all that you have done for us and on our behalf. We appreciate your continuing presence at Assumption College working with the maintenance staff. This celebration also assures you of our constant prayer for you and our deep appreciation of all that you are for us.

May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which your Brothers and your God see you at every moment.

On behalf of the Brothers and all here present it gives me great pleasure to invite this group to be upstanding and toast your 60 years of Marist Life: to your good health and to your future.





Diamond Jubilee of Br Dominic Stewart

Br Gerard McNamara FMS

Dominic's many years as a teacher across a wide range of schools in Victoria, the long years of part-time study to upgrade his qualifications and his time as principal at Parkes and Griffith, were all well documented at the time of his Golden Jubilee celebration ten years ago.

The start of the new millennium, though, brought the opening of a new school, and in 2000 Dom became part of the inaugural staff at Samaritan Catholic College where, over the next nine years, he continued his labour of love in the area of Special Education. In the early years of Samaritan I occasionally had the opportunity to work in the same classroom as Dom, and was able to see at first hand the results of the hours of research which went into the preparation of his lessons for each individual student. Later, he would reflect that his greatest satisfaction probably came from those opportunities to work with newly-arrived immigrant children who had little or no knowledge of English.

During his time at Redden and Samaritan, Dom also gave the best part of twenty years of faithful service to the brothers with whom he lived in community at North Fitzroy. He spent many of those years as bursar, making almost daily visits to the local supermarket for the "red spot specials", as well as his weekly trips to the Victoria Market in search of even cheaper bargains. For a good many years he also took responsibility for the lawns and gardens at Holden Street and provided us with colourful displays of flowers, along with the tomatoes

which he planted so as to ripen just in time for Christmas. His very tasty meals were also produced with the same care and attention to detail as his lessons, and he expected the brothers to arrive with the same punctuality as his students did for their classes.

In the years following his Golden Jubilee, Dom had to struggle with a number of health issues, and he remains very grateful to Brother Tony Paterson for offering him the opportunity to take a day off from work each week. He commented many times about how understanding, considerate and supportive the Brothers were to him, especially during his time in hospital: though he also well remembers a visit from Brother Paul Gilchrist who made him laugh so much that he almost suffered a relapse!

There were occasions when Dom really wondered whether he would be well enough to take up the offer of travelling overseas for the Third Age Programme at Manziana but, having made the decision to go, he worked out a plan to rest up in London for a couple of weeks before heading across to Italy. Prior to leaving he told us that he would most likely spend this time in libraries doing research. However, on his return, it sounded as if the main highlight of the weeks in London was the way in which he "conned" the chefs at his hotel into providing such big breakfasts that he didn't need to spend any money buying lunch! Still, it must also be noted that Dom speaks very highly of his time at Manziana, an experience which he found thoroughly enjoyable as well as very rewarding.



Dominic accepts a presentation from Julian

On his return to North Fitzroy, Dom came to really appreciate the space which part-time work had given him. He was able to fit in much longer walks as part of his health regimen, and it was not unheard of for him to walk from North Fitzroy to South Melbourne beach for a swim. Legend even has it that on at least one occasion he then walked home again! No doubt he was endeavouring to live out the motto of his beloved Carlton Football Club: “Mens sana in corpore sano” – “A healthy mind in a healthy body”.

At the beginning of 2009 Dom was asked to move to Kilmore and he willingly accepted this request to “go in haste to a new land”, thus anticipating by some months the “call” of the General Chapter in Rome later that same year. He has gradually settled into a more relaxed lifestyle, helping out as a chauffeur and general support person in the brothers’ community, while taking the opportunity to continue his daily walks. If ever the representatives of the Johnny Walker Company needed someone for their advertisements to follow in the footsteps

of Steve Waugh and Justin Langer, they need look no further than our Dom!

The move to Kilmore has kept him close enough to Melbourne to maintain his weekly visits to the city, and to keep in touch with his family. Dom is able to catch up regularly with his sister, Joyce, and really appreciates the opportunities to spend time with her. As he says, there is a level of understanding between family members that isn’t experienced anywhere else. He is also able to stay in touch with his sister-in-law, Pauline, and is very grateful for her wonderful support and generosity to him over the years. I’m sure Pauline’s many successful tips for the “doubles”, “trifectas”, and “quaddies” have also brought him a great deal of joy as well!

No tribute to Dom would be complete without a mention of his ongoing faithfulness to daily Mass, community and personal prayer, and his regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament. No doubt these play a major part in providing him with the inner strength that we have all come to know and appreciate as he lives out his quiet, effective presence with us.

*Ad multos
annos,
Dom!*



... and “just keep on walking”.



Diamond Jubilee of Br Kevin Hoare

Br Bryan Leak FMS

In this Marist Family celebration we give thanks for the lives of our Jubilarians and, with them, we remember those who have gone before us on whose shoulders we stand; those who accompany and encourage us as well as those whose leadership provide us with inspiration and care.

The ceremonial candles, which seem to grow bulkier with the years, illustrate Christ's light within us and remind us that what we have to give comes from those who have given to us.

Our Brother Kevin, like St Marcellin, was raised in a rural family and pioneered with Aidan and Brian the Macedon Juniorate. His early years of teaching provided the steep learning curve common in those times. Practical common sense, generosity, hard work, application to learning on the job and the support of his Brothers in community, quickly saw him gain his 'Triple A' rating: Able/Adaptable/Available.

Having volunteered for work in the missions, Kevin has experienced many years on the frontiers of our province. He vividly describes a recent challenge to fill the role as Parish Administrator in Santa Teresa: "It took a bit of getting used to - like driving a road-train when your only experience was in a mini", illustrates his willingness to get on and do what needs to be done. He was always determined to be qualified in what he did.



Revisiting Kairiru in 2009

His first Mission appointment was to St Xavier's High School on Kairiru Island and there he filled the roles of teacher, builder, headmaster and community superior. He welcomed and supported me in my first years in PNG. Success followed determined hard work. Returning 10 years later, again as headmaster, he found political change and economic pressures had raised new challenges. Years at Passam National High School, and later in Wewak, enabled him to connect with several generations of ex students now influential in their communities. He was also involved in the formation of our young

Melanesian Brothers and they hold him in very high regard for the way he lived the Champagnat virtues of presence, simplicity and love of work. It was a very privileged experience in 2009 for me to attend, with Kevin and Majella, the jubilee celebrations of the Marist Brothers in the East Sepik Province of PNG.



Kevin was also a pioneer and spent 13 years in our aboriginal apostolate. He was a foundation member of our

community at Santa Teresa where he is currently in his third term. His cultural sensitivity and experience in PNG encouraged him to take the young men from Santa Teresa to meet their cousins in PNG and their brothers in the Top End and be made aware of possibilities beyond their own experience.

With Aidan, he formed the first community at Milikapiti on Melville Island. Both were equal to the challenges and dangers of the unexpected. Their simple accommodation next to the Community Centre was recognised as a place of welcome and security. The drunken man armed with an axe, and intent on killing his wife, obviously thought so when he banged on their door. Respect, courage, faith and experience enabled them to manage the situation. Settling him down to a drink (strong coffee no doubt) and listening to his story over a few hours, they calmed him down and sent him off without his axe. He retrieved it several days later when he needed to cut some wood.

With Bougainvillean Brother Chanel, Kevin pioneered a school at Rokera on Malaita Island in the Solomon Islands - a lonely outpost. In more recent years, he brought his practical expertise to our Rural Training Centre at Vanga Point, also in the Solomon Islands.



Even in Melbourne, Kevin's involvement was with the MEWS programme supporting those whose challenging behaviour had excluded them from mainstream schools.

In all of these years of varied, challenging and sometimes dangerous experience, Kevin has manifested a calm, respectful simplicity and practical wisdom. He always makes himself available.

Please stand with me as we congratulate and thank Brother Kevin – a Marist Treasure.



Kevin greeting Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of PNG.



Diamond Jubilee of Br Aidan Smith

Br Bryan Leak FMS

I first lived with Aidan in community when I was appointed to Mount Gambier in 1966 after my scholasticate at Dundas. However, I would like to begin this tribute by describing Aidan in his current context at Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes.

As we celebrated Champagnat Day with a school Mass, five Brothers renewed their vows. With Aidan and Brian each contributing 60 years, we totalled 280 years service as Brothers, more than 100 of these spent at Red Bend. Both Brian and Aidan were members of the first community in 1956. With Ken and Laurie they are part of the 'living history' of the place.

In this environment, where great attention is given to 'keeping order' (pecking order) and 'guarding territory'; where 'stubborn old bugger' is a muttered term of endearment, Aidan is the master of 'mischievous intervention':

"Not that I want to appear inquisitive, but . . ."

"Br Julian was saying to me just the other day . . ."

"I'm a good listener . . . it's one of my strengths".

With Brian, he shows great fidelity to prayer and community exercises. He is committed to caring for others and building a home.

As he shared with students at the Champagnat Day presentation – "I feel at home here".



In his daily work, riding on his "multi apps" rig, Aidan gives witness to "Life not being a bed of roses". It requires a vision of what can be done, a lot of hard work, putting up with pain and setbacks (roses have thorns) to produce a beautiful, welcoming result that can be shared.

Each day, as staff and 600 bus students arrive, they are welcomed by cared-for gardens and the cheery gardener himself. We hope that a caring, Marist spirit can touch the whole community. Aidan has the ability to connect easily with all members of the school community, offering a sympathetic and ready ear. Having faced the challenges of open-heart surgery and senior's disabilities, Aidan's latest challenge is to master mobile phone technology. The Guinness Book of Records attests to Aidan's fidelity to that particular form of medication.

With Kevin and Brian, Aidan was a pioneer of the Macedon Juniorate and has gone on to pioneer many of our ministries and live many years on the remote frontiers of our province.

There were no “courses for horses” preparing Aidan for the challenges of his appointments. At Forbes in 1956, after 15 floods invaded the property, Aidan was introduced to a D4 bulldozer and given the task of constructing 2.5 kilometres of levee bank. Ten thousand cubic metres of earth had to be worked and imbedded into place.

That levee bank continues to protect our school property to this day.

As with Kevin, practical sense and hard work enabled to cope with steep learning curves. At Mount Gambier, dedicated teaching saw his students top the state in Agriculture. Whereas, fresh from the Scholasticate, I managed to have my whole Latin class nestled in the bottom 10% in the state.

With Brothers Cletus and Leo, Aidan started our Aboriginal ministry at “The Gap’ centre near Alice Springs. He spent more than 12 years at Alice Springs, Milikapiti and Darwin. The simple sentence “You like us, Brother” expresses why he was appreciated in these communities.



The Brothers Smith - Walter and Aidan

Aidan was also a supportive presence and model of Marist values in our training houses: Nae Nae in New Zealand, Trichy in India,

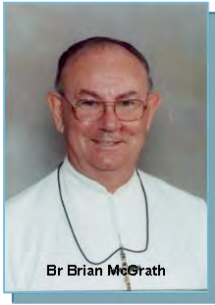


Lomeri in Fiji and in Sri Lanka where his generosity, availability and practical expertise inspired confidence. Early in his stay in New Zealand, one conscientious student asked what qualifications he had to direct the course. If doubt was not dispelled, discussion was definitely cut short when Aidan assured the class that he had an internationally recognised certificate in ‘pig castration’.

The playground apparatus the ‘monkey bar’, with its horizontal ladder, provides an image of his progress through life and Aidan, in company with our other jubilarians, provides a model of courage and fidelity.

- Choosing to reach out as a welcoming presence to others
- Enduring the “letting go” as strength declines
- Courageously holding on in fidelity as Brothers.

Let us stand and express our deep appreciation for the wonderful contribution our Brother Aidan has made to our Marist Family.



Diamond Jubilee of Br Brian McGrath

Br Laurie Toohey FMS

It is my great pleasure to propose a toast to our Diamond Jubilarian, Br Brian McGrath.

Brian has a strong affiliation with South Australia, having been born and bred in Norwood and educated by the Brothers there until the closure of that school. As a result, he spent some time at Sacred Heart College until his parents decided it would be easier for Brian to travel to Thebarton, there being better access by public transport.

Nowadays, at home in Forbes, Brian can be seen at the computer every morning, checking first the weather forecast and then perusing the Adelaide Advertiser, compulsory reading especially during the football season. Brian is the Adelaide Crows No 1 supporter in the central west of NSW. If they win, the Adelaide flags are displayed in the dining room window for all to see. Alas, the dearth of wins this season has meant that they have rarely been seen on display so far.

Brian has been a great companion for Brother Ken over many years - Marist "twins" in fact. In reality, they have been a great support for each other and have never let the grass grow under their feet. I always enjoy Brian displaying photos of their various trips and the vivid descriptions of their adventures. As a lead up to their travel adventures, there is a frenzy of planning - information about their destinations eagerly perused to see what was on in the way of movies, special events, new buildings etc. - all to be checked out.

The Royal Easter Show in Sydney is high on their list as a "must see". I was fortunate to go with them one time and there was nothing we

missed out on. They knew where to get a good cup of coffee, the best spot to view the wood chopping, the sheep dog trials, the Grand Parade, etc. Also, most importantly, the location of the cleanest toilets.



Brian and Ken pre-dated modern GPS technology and could well have been consultants for those who created the program. In fact, they are still far ahead of this modern technology, as many brothers well attest. Brian can tell you what to visit, how best to get there (bus, train, tram, foot), what to see, cost of entry, etc.

Now a couple of typical anecdotes regarding Brian and Ken.

Firstly, whilst in Sydney on one occasion, they attended the blessing of the waters by the Greek Patriarch prior to the fishing season. Close perusal of their holiday photos reveals they can both be seen in the procession along the wharf, just behind the Patriarch. Several photos later, there they are on the boat with the Patriarch just as he is throwing the cross into the water for some lucky young man to find.

Secondly, whilst in Sydney, my brother Mark and his wife were watching the evening news on TV and were surprised to see Brian and Ken appear not once but three times in the news. At a

gathering for Archbishop Tutu they could be seen in the background. Later, the news featured Joan Collins, the celebrity author from USA, about to enter her car and being pursued by TV cameras. Brian and Ken just happened to be nearby. The third time saw Brian and Ken amongst the throng as the camera panned the rush hour at Central Railway Station.

Back in the late seventies and early eighties, during the *exeat* weekends, Brian took it upon himself to take groups of indigenous boarders from Forbes to Sydney to widen their horizons and to mix with a wider group of people, enjoy the beach, the zoo and go to the movies. He negotiated financial support from the Government to cover the cost of these excursions.

Now, with a larger number number of indigenous boarders, Brian has taken on the responsibility for their laundry, personal tidiness and hygiene - a challenging chore at times.



Brian is very creative, no more so than in the creation of seasonal displays in the College Chapel which inspire a prayerful response in those who visit or attend liturgies there. This creativity spills over into the school gymnasium on special occasions.

Brothers who have attended the annual retreat at SHC, and arrive prior to Christmas Day, witness the erection of the Christmas tree and the slow travel of the Magi towards the crib.



Brian now works as “assistant to the assistant” in the school library where he is a treasured presence for all, both students and staff alike.

In conclusion, in terms of family, Brian has a very close relationship with his sister Cathy and brother-in-law Graham plus all his nieces and nephews. He often talks about them and their exploits with great pride in his voice.

Brian, I hope and pray, like many others, that the Good Lord keeps you with us for many years to come so that we can continue to be supported by your cheerful presence and enjoy your ready assistance when needed.

Enjoy the Day



Jubilee presentation at Forbes

Response to the Jubilee Toasts

Br Kevin Hoare FMS

On behalf of Aidan, Brian, Domnic and Xavier, it gives me great pleasure to respond and thank Brothers Bryan, Gerard, Julian & Laurie for their many kind and encouraging words.

You may NOT know that we are fairly unique group in that, in early 1951, five of us were the first ones from the Macedon Juniorate to go to the Novitiate. John Della joined us before leaving Melbourne - he had been teaching at Griffith. At Mittagong, we met up with the four Southerners who finished their studies there as they had entered the Brothers before the Melbourne Province was established.

It was about the middle of 1952 that twenty-five young Brothers headed out to begin their teaching careers. Ten of us were posted to various schools of the newly formed Melbourne Province where Br Placidus had been opening two schools a year for the previous few years. Meanwhile, the other fifteen of the group headed north. Of those twenty-five, eight of us (five are here today) are still following in the "footsteps of St Marcellin Champagnat", while three Brothers in Terry Gleeson, Brendan McGuire and Mark May have already gone to their Eternal reward.

Three others who were part of our group for a time and who have also died are Bernard Cogley, John Dullard and Noel Dennis. I'm sure they are part of that heavenly group which would be looking down on us in a special way today.

I have been asked to pass on the very good wishes of the others fourteen members of the group who could not be here today.

Matt Walker and Tom Dowling were able to

join us in the Brisbane celebrations and while there I was able to make phone contact with Pat Keating and Hugh McNamara. In Sydney Br Aidan and I, plus Greg O'Regan, were able to join in the celebrations for Brothers Francis Field and Eric Blumenthal. Rom Cable, Pat Larkin, John Chute and Barry Casey phoned in their good wishes while Brian Flynn emailed his congratulations from Canada. I thank Bernard Scott and his wife, Anne, for joining the five of us here today.

I'm sure that, with that heavenly Marist gathering, are our parents and it would be interesting to hear the various comments being shared just now. What great faith they had to permit us young teenagers to leave home and to set out on this Marist way of life and it is through their prayers and sacrifices that we are here today celebrating our Diamond Jubilees. Our thanks must also go to the other members of our families and relatives for their prayers and support down through the years. In addition, we thank the many Brothers with whom we have shared community life and the staff members we have worked alongside in our various school postings.

Teaching has greatly changed over these sixty years from the time before Government assistance. At the first school I was at the parents struggled to pay the one shilling and six pence school fees each week while the men of the parish would hold a gambling night towards the end of the year so that we could pay the bills and have enough money to go to the Retreat and have a holiday.

With post-war migration in full swing, the class sizes were sixty plus and the students would be sitting in those long forms of five to a desk

where the ink wells had to be filled at the beginning of each week. We would be out at the blackboard with our piece of chalk. This was the time before photocopiers. Nowadays, in this electronic age of computers and ‘smart’ boards there are real problems when the power goes off. At Santa Teresa when a grade three arrives in class he/she goes to the ‘smart’ board where the names are printed, touches their name and moves it to a place on the ladder ... first to arrive goes to the top place on the ladder and so on. This is very different to the calling and marking of the Roll, with a pen stroke to the right in the space next to the name if present in the morning and to the left for the afternoon. Of course, once you knew the students’ names, one would just look for the empty desks, mark the absences, then use the time saved for teaching.

Someone once gave me the following quotation:

YESTERDAY is HISTORY.

TOMORROW is a MYSTERY.

TODAY is a GIFT.

That’s why it is called the PRESENT.

Our HISTORY, since our Golden Jubilee, has seen each of us, except for Br Bryan, move to a different community and all have probably slowed down somewhat.

As to the TOMORROWS, we leave those in the hands of God and our Good Mother Mary, although by the end of next year we know that we’ll be part of the new Province in Oceania and we could find ourselves anywhere.

TODAY I thank you all for your PRESENT of being here; PRESENT with us for this celebration. We wish you God’s Blessings and a safe journey back home.

We may be fading slightly but we’re still “fair dinkum”.

So let’s continue sharing one another’s company, fill our glasses and then let’s drink to the future (always in moderation, of course).

THANK YOU.



The first group to go from Macedon to the Novitiate at Mittagong, 1951

Back: Br Brian McGrath, Bryan Flynn, Br Kevin Hoare, Br Terence Gleeson (dec.)

Front: John Della, Br Paul Mannes, Br Aidan Smith

News from Coburg

Br Bill Dillon FMS



With renovations completed, including a room set up as a Chapel, it was time to sit back and celebrate.

What better excuse than Steve's birthday – his 70th.

July 16th was the night to wish Steve well and invite his brother, Philip and wife, Jane, along with nephew, Damian and wife, Alison. Joining them were good friends from Marcellin days who prepared a sumptuous meal as their gift to Steve. It was an occasion of great joy for both the local brothers and our welcome guests.

It was time also to continue the Celebrations and invite our Brothers to be our guests.

The welcome mat was out as 23 Brothers arrived to inspect our home and join in the BBQ meal prepared by the local Community.

A great time was had by all.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Steve is our Superior and has been responsible for setting up the house as a liveable home .

Desiring to work for the marginalized, he has taken on a Chaplaincy Role, spending one day per week at Port Phillip Prison, another day at the Metropolitan Remand Centre, Ravenhall, and two days per week at the Malmsbury Youth Centre. He also runs a Communion Service on alternate Sundays at Malmsbury, following the practice of Peter Walsh.

In the early part of the year, **Eugene** was kept busy sorting out the papers and notes left by Ronald Fogarty – no mean task. His writings can be found in the latest two Editions of our Champagnat Journal.

He is now researching the life of a prominent older Brother and, at the same time, readying himself for his next appointment, shortly to be announced.

Early in the New Year we were graced to have in our Community **Peter Pemble** (Sydney) . Peter has been studying Latin, Hebrew and Philosophy in preparation for a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Catholic University Leuven (near Brussels in Belgium). Peter is a great community man and will be sorely missed by the local Community. In football parlance, he is a required player and will not be put up for trade.

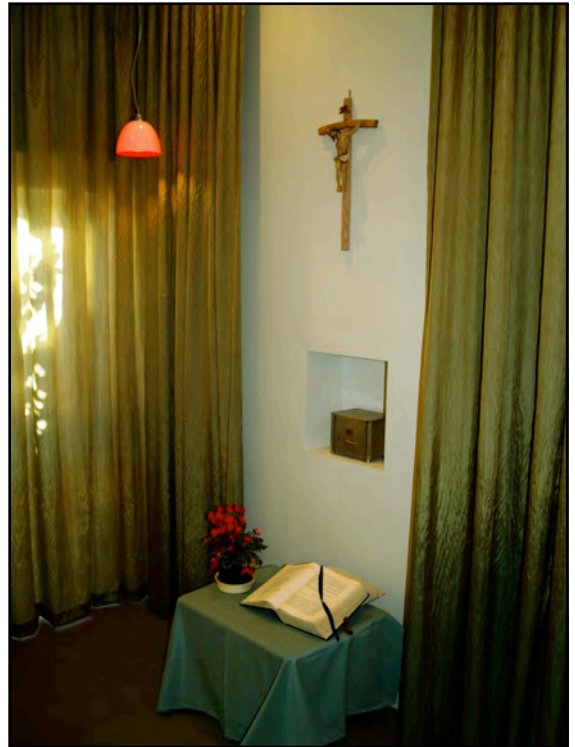
Bill came as the House person, doing most of the cooking, purchasing and setting up the garden of pots and hanging baskets – no lawns to mow as pavement rules.

Bill worked two mornings per week at the Doxa School and, with its closure, is temporarily “on the dole” until he finds some other meaningful work with the disadvantaged.

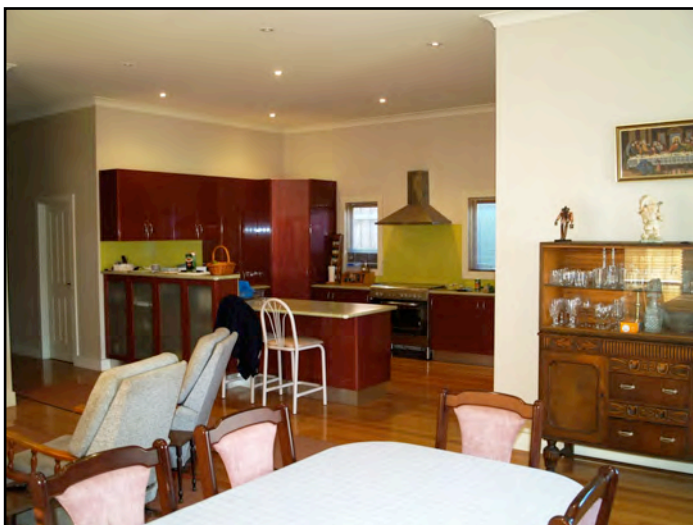
Finally, we have in our Community **Harry Prout**. For many years now, Harry has looked after the Exodus Community and the needs of the disadvantaged in Heidelberg. He looks forward to spending his day off at Coburg where he can relax and enjoy his short time of R & R.



Br Harry Prout with Fr David Cartwright, Parish Priest, at the blessing of the Chapel.



The attractive kitchen, sitting room area

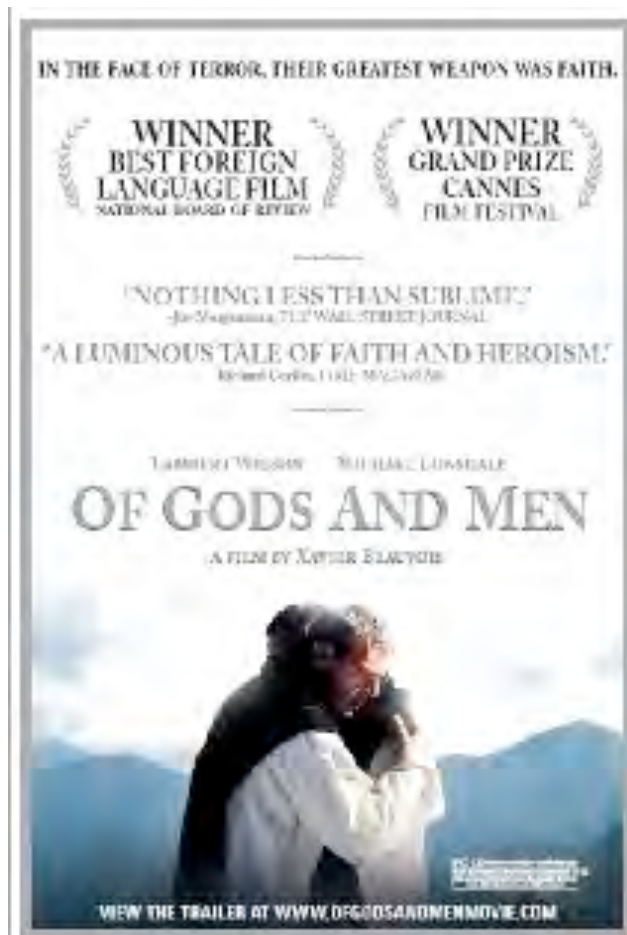


Making Christ Present Today

Martin McGee OSB, a Benedictine at Worth Abbey in England.

In a recent issue of *The Furrow* (May, 2011) Anne Thurston reflected on 'what Eucharist living might mean' in the light of Xavier Beauvois' film *Of Gods and Men*², winner of the Grand Prix at the Cannes film festival in 2010. This film recounts the story of the Trappist monks who were caught up in the Algerian civil war in the 1990s and who had been put under sentence of death by the GIA, a fundamentalist Islamic armed group. The film focuses on the dilemma facing the monks: should they risk their lives by remaining at Tibhirine in solidarity with their Muslim neighbours and the beleaguered Christian community? Or should they leave and seek refuge in a safer location? Why did the story of the monks' witness attract over three million viewers in the first eleven weeks of the film's release in France? Have the Tibhirine monks something to teach us about being Church today?

On the night of the kidnapping there were nine monks in the monastery and the kidnappers, thinking there were only seven, left without Pères Amedée and Jean-Pierre. Unable to continue their monastic life at Tibhirine in Algeria, they regrouped in Morocco where Fr Jean-Pierre at the age of 87 continues to follow the full monastic round, Fr Amedée having died in 2008. In an interview which he gave recently to *Le Figaro Magazine*³, Fr Jean-Pierre warmly endorses the film. He was moved by its sensitive depiction of the life of the monks and of the strain and anguish they had to endure while living under the constant threat of violence. Some Algerian Christians⁴ have commented on certain details which are inaccurate, e.g., the make of the community car



- in the film a Peugeot 504, in real life a Renault 4!; or the weather on the night of the kidnapping - it wasn't snowing, etc. Fr Jean-Pierre, however, is very clear that, although some of the incidental details are inaccurate, the film succeeds in capturing the experience and spiritual struggle of the community as they prepared for an almost inevitable martyrdom.

The Gritty Realism of Community Life

In this interview Fr Jean-Pierre talks about the fear which hung like a cloud over the community once the gates were locked in the evening. They all knew, having experienced an armed invasion of the monastery on Christmas

Eve 1993, that their lives were hanging by a thread. However, the monastic routine of the office, work and lectio divina enabled them to draw closer together and strengthened them in the face of an uncertain and fear-filled future. The film's rendering of the fragile courage and powerlessness of the monks speaks eloquently of a servant Church, exemplifying St Paul's insight that Christ's power shines forth most powerfully in weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:10).

Monastic life concentrates on the basics of Christian living, prayer and community, and the film succeeds very well in portraying the simplicity of the monks' routine whether it be in the garden, the kitchens or the dispensary, a routine sustained and given meaning by their lives of prayer. Life in a monastery can be very easily romanticized. The film manages, however, to capture the gritty realism of community life, the tensions and struggles of the monks at this time of great danger. While washing the dishes one of the brother says to Fr Luc: "Christian's teaching today was interesting." To which Luc replies, "Did you understand any of it?" When Luc receives a four letter word in reply, he merely comments, "Well, he's tired. It's not his fault."

In a homily⁵ for Maundy Thursday, shortly before his assassination, Fr Christian reflected on the difficulty, even the martyrdom, of living out the Gospel in everyday life. It's relatively easy to make the big gestures but not so easy to slowly grind down the ego in the little acts of daily love.

"From experience we know that little things often cost a lot, particularly when we have to go on doing them day after day. It's all right to have to wash one's brothers' or sisters' feet on Maundy Thursday ... but how about doing it every day? Or washing the feet of anyone who turns up? ... Taking up an apron, as Jesus did, can be as serious and solemn an act as to lay down one's life ... and conversely, laying down

one's life may be as simple as taking up an apron. We should tell ourselves this when the everyday tasks or deeds of love weigh upon us."

The Presence of God in Each Other

One of the main themes of the film is the close relationship which the monks had with the local Muslim villagers. Fr Jean-Pierre remarked in a recent interview: "In monastic life one takes a vow of stability which involves promising to remain for the whole of one's life in the monastery. This vow took on a new dimension on account of the ties which we had developed with the local population. It was like being married to the people! We would have experienced it as an act of infidelity had we sought refuge whilst leaving our neighbours in disarray."⁶

In their daily life together, the monks and villagers came to recognize and love the presence of God in each other. Their openness to the good in each other shows how far Christians and Muslims can progress in mutual esteem, admiration and love. This remarkable friendship with their Muslim neighbours was built up over almost sixty years of living cheek by jowl. And undoubtedly the key person in developing this climate of mutual trust and brotherly love was Fr Luc. Fr Luc was a lay brother who had qualified as medical doctor before entering the monastery. In the film we see his sympathetic, no nonsense relationship with his never ending queues of patients. For the villagers Fr Luc was a very talented doctor but even more importantly he was a brother who understood their sufferings and loved them as people. The covenant of love between the monks and the villagers is still being honoured. In the fifteen years that the Tibhirine monastery has lain empty, not a single pane of glass has been broken, not a single item stolen. After all it was the Muslim villagers who dug the graves of the seven monks and laid them to rest.

In our present climate of fear and mistrust vis-à-vis Islam, this film helps us to realize that real friendship and love can flourish between Christians and Muslims. The Catholic Church in England and Wales has recently published a very fine teaching document entitled *Meeting God in Friend & Stranger*⁷ which draws attention to the key role of the Holy Spirit in our relationship with other faiths. It points out that this was a 'remarkable feature' in the teaching of Pope John Paul II. The Bishops state: "It is the Holy Spirit who is the hidden source of all that is true and holy in them [other religions], and so provides the common ground where each can reach out to the other." (No. 98) In the witness of the Tibhirine monks we see a Christian community which is able to recognize God's grace at work in their Muslim neighbours and friends.

It is Christ who is Made Present

The film couldn't cover all aspects of the lives of the monks and the upheavals in Algerian society. However, it does succeed in showing the violence and indiscriminate terror unleashed by the civil war between the fundamentalists and the army, the violence which crept ever closer to the monks before finally destroying them. The main criticism of the film voiced by members of the Algerian Church is that it ignores the close, life-giving relationship of the monastery with the local Church and in particular with its archbishop, Henri Teissier. Mgr Teissier was a frequent visitor to the monastery as were many of the clergy and religious of the archdiocese. After the invasion of the monastery by the GIA on Christmas Eve 1993, the first reaction of the monks was to leave Tibhirine. Fear wasn't the motive for this decision but rather a desire to avoid being compromised by the demands of the 'brothers of the mountains', as they called the Islamic guerilla fighters. They didn't wish in any way to support or to be seen to support their acts of violence. It was Mgr Teissier who pointed out to them the demoralizing impact which their withdrawal would have on the tiny,

beleaguered Christian community and he counselled them to withdraw gradually. With time the community came to see that their place was with the harassed villagers and the endangered Church community.

Cardinal Ricard of Bordeaux, writing on his diocesan website⁸, said that he had gone to see the film with some trepidation. He had visited Tibhirine on a number of occasions and knew Fr Christian and the other brothers and he was afraid that the film might betray what he had glimpsed of their lives and witness. On seeing the film his fears were put to rest. He comments: "Mysteriously through the lives of these men, it is Christ who is made present." In other words the film had fully understood the vocation of the Tibhirine monks and of the Algerian Church which was to make Christ present to their Muslim neighbours. The Algerian Church calls these meetings, 'sacraments of encounter' (*sacraments de la rencontre*); moments when the individuals concerned experience God's presence and love through each other.

A Sacrament of Encounter

These sacraments of encounter are seen in the Gospels on the many occasions when Jesus brings God's healing love and presence into people's lives, both Jews and Gentiles. In chapter 4 of St John's Gospel, for example, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well that he can give her 'the gift of God', living water welling up within her which leads to eternal life. In the sacrament of encounter, Christian and Muslim offer each other such a gift when they enable each other to make contact with God's living presence in the other.⁹ The sacrament or the outward sign lies in the relationship established with another person, a relationship which becomes a source of new life for both parties. In their relationships with their Muslim neighbours and friends the monks had established just such a sacramental relationship. Fr Jean-Pierre, the last surviving monk of Tibhirine, notes:¹⁰ "The example of

the brothers in their relationships with people, with Muslims, shows that one can become real brothers, in communion, together, in depth and not only on the surface. In depth before God. Certain people have lived this. It's not uncommon."

The final poignant scene of the film shows a column of monks and their kidnappers

climbing a hill in the snow and slowly disappearing from view. Commenting on this scene, Mgr Pascal Wintzer writes in *La Croix*¹¹: "A column mixing up indistinguishably the monks and their gaolers; all brothers?" The monks of Tibhirine recall us to the essential mission of the Church which is to make Christ, our brother, present today.

Bert Newton on hand to help Austin celebrate his 90th Birthday

In an article in the *Melbourne Age* recently, Bert Newton reminisced on his early career and school days at the Marist Brothers' School in East Brunswick. He paid tribute to the Principal at the time, Br Austin Stephens, as a "terrific teacher" who gave him permission to leave school early to attend a daily radio program at 3XY called *Peters Pals*, named after the ice cream company. The show was broadcast live at 5.00pm and Bert was a junior compère, singer and commercial presenter for the ice-cream.

Bert goes on to write:

Two things are worth noting. Firstly one of the young singers in *Peters Pals* was a beautiful young girl called Patti McGrath who, in 1974, accepted me as her husband, and she remains the love of my life.

Secondly, Brother Austin, my school supporter and mentor, recently celebrated his 90th birthday in his home city of Adelaide. I was lucky enough to be there with the theatre production of *Wicked* to



celebrate his birthday, plus his 70+ years as a Marist brother.

These two people, whose influence centred on that place in Melbourne all those years ago, are still with me today. One who became my life partner and the other who became a lifelong friend.

I have a lot to thank that corner of Melbourne (the intersection of Bourke and Spring Streets) for, including a career that I love in a city that has always been home to me.

THE BLESSING OF INTERRUPTIONS

Br Mark O'Connor FMS

There used to be a poster years ago which said something like: 'Life is what happens to you when you are making other plans!'

Many of us are indeed surprised when our planning goes awry and we are 'interrupted'. Perhaps it is this common experience that prompted Wendell Berry to write:

It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey.

The mind that is not baffled is not employed.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

The Spirit very often takes us in different directions from what we had hoped for in our lives.

In our youth what we dreamed of has probably taken on another form later in life.

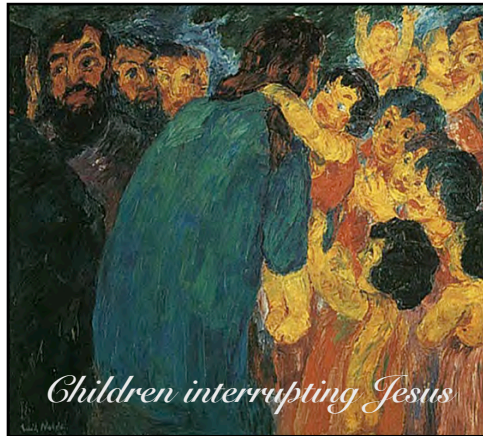
In our Church some had high hopes for the renewal of the Church at Vatican II which are not being realised in the way they had expected.

Some others grieve the loss of valuable aspects of our Tradition which they believe have not been 'conserved'. But they too cannot control where the Spirit will lead us.

In our inner lives, relationships that we thought would last forever breakdown irretrievably and we are taken sometimes like the Apostle Peter 'where we do not want to go'..

Many of us can feel like the disciples at Emmaus. 'We Had Hoped' - is our mantra!

And yet - as disciples of Jesus - for us 'interruption' is God's invitation. God is inviting us to see him all around us, in the lives of others, in our conversations and in our serving to those in need.



Interruption is not simply a matter of developing patience in the heart of the Christian, it's about experiencing life! 'Interruption' is perhaps God's way of encouraging us to go on 'pilgrimage'.

I take heart from Wendell Berry's poem which suggests that it is precisely in life's interruptions and impediments that the Holy Spirit is at work.

For only the gospel-bearer impeded and interrupted is strong, courageous and creative enough to sing.

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important tasks...

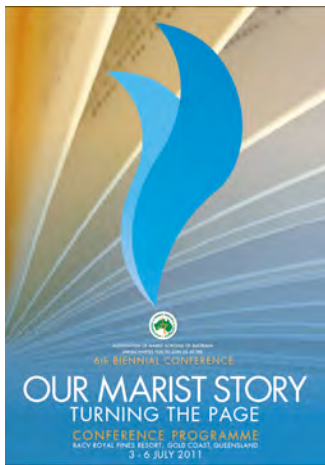
It is a strange fact that Christians and even ministers frequently consider their work so important and urgent that they will allow nothing to disturb them. They think they are doing God a service in this, but actually they are disdaining God's 'crooked yet straight path.'

Dietrich Bonhoeffer - "Life Together"

AMSA 2011

In early July, 162 delegates from Marist schools around Australia, and those who work in support and leadership of them, gathered for the sixth biennial conference of the Association of Marist Schools of Australia (AMSA) which was held at the RACV Royal Pines Resort at Benowa, in Queensland.

The Conference Committee organised a rich and engaging program. Facilitated by Professor Anne Cummins (from ACU), keynote speakers included the noted Marian theologian Professor Tina Beattie (from the UK), social anthropologist Fr Gerald Arbuckle SM, Aboriginal educator and artist Miriam Rose Ungunmerr (from the NT), Brother David Hall FMS (educator and Chair of the new Province Mission Council), and Fr Kevin Duffy SM (Assistant General of the SMs, from Rome).



The three days interweaved sessions that dealt with Marian theology, Catholic school leadership, Marist spirituality and education, the place of charism, and some key challenges provided by contemporary

Western and Australian society. As always the days were complemented by a prayer-and-worship program and warm conviviality.



Br Julian Casey FMS, Sr Gail Reneker SM, Bernie Boss, Fr Paul Cooney SM

This conference was the last such conference under the old AMSA banner; the 2013 conference will be an MSA-sponsored gathering.

Brother Julian, addressing the delegates at the end of the conference, highlighted the shared origins of each of the three Marist branches that have been members of AMSA, and assured the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters schools that, although MSA members will all come from the Champagnat family, the mutual bonds will continue and that the other Marist schools would be welcome in future conferences, not as guests but as family.





Countdown to World Youth Day

Maddie Hellings

The countdown has well and truly begun for World Youth Day 2011. For Hendrika Duivenvoorden, Maddie Hellings, Cassie Schumacher, Simon Martino, Jack O'Sullivan, and James Mazzolini, the chance to attend the renowned celebration as representatives of the Marist Brothers Australia Southern Province means not only gathering with over two million other young people, but also making the journey to the spectacular city of Madrid, Spain!

The two-week pilgrimage will find these dedicated young Marists attending the 'International Gathering of Marist Youth' (IGMY) for the first week of the trip, in Buitrago (74 kilometres from Madrid). Here, between 125 and 200 young people (from 18-25 years of age) representing Marist Provinces from all over the world will come together and spend time expressing their concerns, sharing their dreams and achievements and planning the future for the Marist network worldwide. This will present an opportunity for young people to deepen their personal identity as well as their Christian convictions, echoing the slogan of WYD 2011: "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith".

After what no doubt will be a thought-provoking week in Buitrago, the adventure continues in Madrid. The following week will comprise of meeting more young people from all over the world, receiving the Sacraments, listening to the words of our Holy Father Benedict XVI, eating plenty of delicious food, maybe sipping on some Sangria, walking hundreds of kilometres, climbing over 1,000 stairs and sleeping under the stars.

Hendrika, Maddie, Cassie, Jack, Simon and James would like to take this opportunity to say *gracias* (thank you!) to the Marist Brothers for their generous sponsorship. Without this financial and spiritual support, this trip would not have been possible for all of us. We feel very privileged to have been selected to represent the Province and we will do everything possible to be good ambassadors. We ask that you keep us in your prayers and we look forward to sharing our stories and pictures with you when we return.

Hasta luego!



Great little gifts for WYD delegates
from Aboriginal Australia



What a great outward symbol of our country's journey
towards Reconciliation

Each Cross is hand painted in Aboriginal designs they are 5 X 3.5cm in size
ready to be worn as a necklace

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A Word from the Composer



For many years I have been writing and publishing short reflective chants based usually on the Gospels. I have found them to be a very useful means of praying with the scriptures, and readily adaptable to many times and places. In this collection, the scripture sources are the Sunday Gospels from Year A of Ordinary Time, so musicians and choirs will find them the perfect 'music-match' for these particular Sundays. The chants will however be found to have broad liturgical and catechetical use.

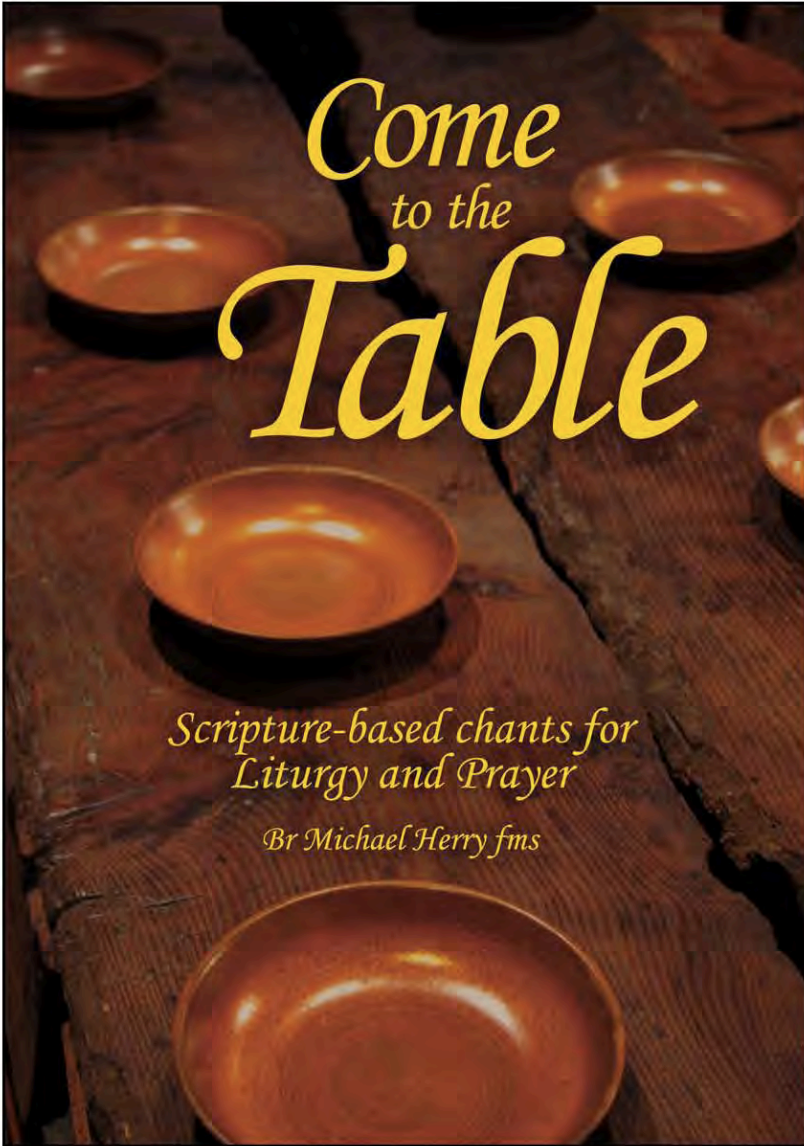
In the Sunday worship context they may be used for gathering, for reflection time after the homily or Holy Communion, and some of the brighter chants make very attractive dismissal songs.

My hope and prayer in publishing these simple refrains is that people, far beyond simply enjoying them, might hear and ponder the Word deeply in the heart, indeed as Mary did, and in so doing, become nothing less than the presence of Jesus for our world today.

Br Michael Herry

Features of this latest album from Marist Music

- *Key scriptures come alive through music and song*
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SCRABBLE - THINKERS

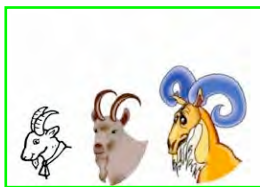
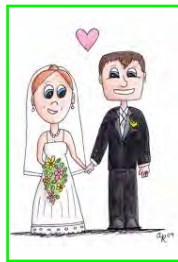
AT WORK

- ASTRONOMER** = *MOON STARER*
THE EYES = *THEY SEE*
THE MORSE CODE = *HERE COME THE DOTS*
SLOT MACHINES = *CASH LOST IN ME*
SNOOZE ALARMS = *ALAS, NO MORE Z'S*
A DECIMAL POINT = *I'M A DOT IN PLACE*
ELEVEN PLUS TWO = *TWELVE PLUS ONE*
THE EARTHQUAKE = *THAT QUEER SHAKE*
ANIMOSITY = *IS NO AMITY*
DORMITORY = *DIRTY ROOM*
ELECTION RESULTS = *LIES - LET'S*

RECOUNT

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



Considering all the brilliant, devious minds some kids exhibit in high school, I don't know how I missed doing this...

At a high school in Montana, a group of students played a prank. They let three goats loose inside the school. But before turning them loose, they painted numbers on the sides of the goats: 1, 2, and 4. The school administrators spent most of the day looking for No. 3.

The school inspector is assigned to the year 4 class in one of the local state schools. He is introduced to the class by the teacher. She says to the class, "Let's show the inspector just how clever you are by allowing him to ask you a question".

The inspector reasons that normally class starts with religious instruction, so he will ask a biblical question.

He asks: "Class, who broke down the walls of Jericho?"

For a full minute there is absolute silence. The children all just stare at him blankly.

Eventually, little Bruce raises his hand. The inspector excitedly points to him.

Bruce stands up and replies: "Sir, I do not know who broke down the walls of Jericho, but I can assure you it wasn't me".

Of course the inspector is shocked by the answer and looks at the teacher for an explanation. Realizing that he is perturbed, the teacher says: "Well, I've known Bruce since the beginning of the year, and I believe that if he says that he didn't do it, then he didn't do it".

The inspector is even more shocked at this, storms down to the principal's office and tells him what happened, to which the principal replies: "I don't know the boy, but I socialize every now and then with his teacher, and I believe her. If she feels that the boy is innocent, then he must be innocent".

The inspector can't believe what he is hearing. He grabs the phone on the principal's desk and, in a rage, dials the Premier's telephone number and rattles the entire occurrence to him. He asks him what he thinks of the education standard in the state.

The Premier sighs heavily and replies: "I don't know the boy, the teacher or the principal, but just get three quotes and have the wall fixed!!!"



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