

MARIST NEWSLETTER  
Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

Volume 42 Number 10 - November 2011



**Advent is a time of preparing and waiting for the coming of Christ.**  
The next 12 months is a Marist Advent - a time to 'Ponder Tomorrow' as we prepare and wait for the "New Province" in Australia. *Be watchful, be alert, stay awake ...*

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From the Provincial - To pray for the living and the dead - An Invitation to an Advent Reflection  
Pondering Tomorrow - Griffith Reunion - I believe in the Resurrection - Macedon Reunion  
Lilongwe, Malawi - Macedon - Manziana - Manatuto, East Timor.

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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...**

- **Our recently deceased Brothers.**
- **Mrs Molly Hilet**, died on 13 Oct 2011 - mother of Br John Hilet, Forbes. Pray for John, his brothers and sisters and their families.
- **Mrs Betty White**, died on 21 Oct 2011 - mother of Mr Peter White, Principal of Notre Dame College, Shepparton. Pray for Peter, his wife Robyn and their family.

**For those who are  
unwell ...**

- **Br Eugene Dwyer**, Coburg.
- **Br Charles Howard**, Campbelltown.
- **Br Austin Stephens**, Netley.
- **Br Kevin Hogan**, Netley.
- **Mrs Rosemary McBeath**, unwell.

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# From the Provincial



November 2, 2011

## ALL SOULS DAY, 2011

Dear Brothers and Friends,

This year eleven Australian Marist Brothers have died and I think we can all admit that news of their deaths are moments when we have to face the mystery of death and the inevitable questions. What will my death be like? What happens to us after death? Such questions are ones that do not preoccupy us every day of the week, but there are times in the human journey when they become very real. The death of a loved one, a crisis in one's own life, a national disaster, can all be times when these questions become very real and answers are sought. In the lived experience of many Brothers, the celebration of a funeral of a confrere often brings these questions close to our consciousness. All Souls Day is perhaps another moment for reflecting on these issues.

We just don't know what happens to individual human consciousness when it passes through the portal of death. Clues from near-death, out-of-body, mediums or other experiences notwithstanding, we simply do not know.

What we do know is that all the Resurrection stories in the Gospel attest to the fact that Jesus did not leave his humanity behind when he rose from the dead. He didn't return to his state before the incarnation; Jesus rose in his humanity. So too for us! Our resurrection will not be some thinned-out version of our life on earth. Nothing of our humanity will be denied or ignored and we will carry into eternal life everything in our life which is genuinely human.

In his book "The Gift of Peace: Personal Reflections," Joseph Bernardin gives us a feeling about what lies before all of us. He writes:

*"The first time I travelled with my mother and sister to my parents' homeland of Tonadico di Primiero, in northern Italy, I felt as if I had been there before. After years of looking through my mother's photo albums, I knew the mountains, the land, the houses, the people. As soon as we entered the valley, I said, "My God, I know this place. I am home." Somehow I think crossing from this life into eternal life will be similar. I will be home."*

We can indeed look forward to something familiar in the next life, where, in a manner beyond our imagination, we shall find our fullest and most personal life with God, and be re-united with all who have gone before us.

Faternally

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

Br Julian Casey

Provincial

# Province News ...

## EAST TIMOR

Whilst in East Timor last week, I spoke with the Bishop Basilio Nascimento about the continuing Marist Presence in Baucau. We are drawing up an Agreement for the continuation of our presence at the Institute for the Formation of Catholic Teachers. We are also commencing a Formation Programme and we are taking the first steps in inviting potential Aspirants to the Brother's Community. See the Notice below which I am leaving in Tetum. You should be able to understand that it is an invitation to a "Come & See" weekend for potential Aspirants.

I ask that you keep this event as a special intention in your prayer. This gathering represents a significant moment in Marist Life in East Timor and is the first step towards forming Marist Apostles in that country. I commend Br Tony Clark and the Community for this initiative and I would like to assure them of our prayerful support.

**AVISU**  
**Irmãos Marista sei simu kandidatu sira,**  
**Timor Oan, Iha 2012,**  
**hodi dezenvolve no habelar sira nia misaun**  
**Iha Timor-Leste**



**Imi buka saida?**  
**Mai hodi Haree**  
Jn 1: 38-39

**Imi hotu maun alin**  
Mt 23:8

Sé ita boot interese atu komprende di'ak liu tan Meromak Nia botu, ka esplora possibilidade atu tulir vokassan Imaun Marista nian, ka rona kona ba planu atu loka programa formasaun nian Iha Baucau Iha 2012 .....

Ita boot bele mai no partisipa Iha fin de semana ida ne'e, Iha ne'e ita boot bele rona informasaun, haio diálogo, refleksaun eh dixemamentu, no reza ho kolaga sira kona ba vokassan Imaun Marista nian eh sira nia espiritualidade no misaun Iha mundu tomak, no Iha Timor Leste.

**Hakbesik-an Mai!**

**Data:** 5-6 Novembru 2011  
Sabadu tuku 09.00 dadeer too  
Domingo tuku 02.00 lokrak

**Fatin:** Fatin hela Marista, Tirilolo, Baucau.  
Besik SMP 1, Ba loes too dalan ronsita ona!  
Ba ita boot ne'ebe hela dook husi fatin ne'e, ami bele prepara fatin toba ba ita boot

**Tenki lori:** Sasaan pescai ba loran rua, hanesan ropa, toyiha, lensot, buat seluk tan (ia presiza lori hahan).

Se ita boot hakarak partisipa Iha onkontru ida nee, bele telefoni ka sms Imaun Tony loran rua antes onkontru hatur.  
7468007



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## Province News ...

The draft outline of the programme following this gathering will be:

APPLICATION PERIOD:	November 7 <sup>th</sup> – January 14 <sup>th</sup> 2012
TESTING AND INTERVIEWS:	February 4 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> 2012
NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION BY:	February 10 <sup>th</sup>
VISITING SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES' FAMILIES	February 11 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>
CANDIDATES JOIN THE COMMUNITY AND BEGIN THE ASPIRANCY PROGRAMME	March 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> 2012

### **OTHER BAUCAU NEWS**

The new building for the Institute has been delayed because of the hold up of a part for the machine to break through some of the rock-face.

Mariano Dos Santos and Diamantino De Assis, two important married men who have been most supportive of the Marist Life and Mission in Baucau, have accepted an invitation to be a part of the Joint Formation Programme later this month. Fons has provided them with Leave and Tony Clark will accompany them on the programme. We offer them a special welcome.

### **OPENING OF THE BR JOHN MCMAHON PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

You will be delighted to know that Marcellin College Bulleen has named its Performing Arts Centre the '*Br John McMahon Performing Arts Centre*' in recognition of his close connection with the College as Student, College Captain, Principal and promoter of the Arts Programme. The College has completely refurbished what was the old gymnasium into a highly functional and technological Performing Arts Centre. I had the honour of Opening the Centre and inviting John McMahon to be with me as we formally unveiled the plaque.

### **KARAMA**

Today I have written to Bishop Hurley and Fr Luis, Parish Priest of Karama, indicating that we regret that the needs of the Province are such that we can no longer maintain a Community at Karama. It has been a significant Capital City Base for the Brothers of Central Australia, for Milikapiti, for East Timor and for the occasional visitor meeting relatives residing in Darwin. The hospitality has been wonderful.

Over the years the Community formed a close association with the local parishes, visit-

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## Province News ...

ed the prisons, taught English, taught in the local primary school and were a great support to Fr Luis. Joe Hughes undertook the role of local Officer for Caritas as well as keeping the grounds in excellent condition. Three Brothers have died in Darwin, Canute Sheehan, Damian Needham and Oliver Clarke. So although we have very happy memories of our stay there, it is with a certain sadness that we bring our connection with the "Top-End" to a close.

Given that Joe Hughes is currently overseas and given that he will need time to close down his work with Caritas and the Community, the departure will take place at the end of February or early March in 2012. In the meantime, we will begin to make preparations to put the house on the market.

### **YEAR OF GRACE**

Mark O'Connor mentioned this in the Newsletter last month. Although it will be formally announced on October 28<sup>th</sup>, it will commence on Pentecost Sunday 2012 and finish on Pentecost 2013. It's about naming and celebrating the presence of God in every dimension of our lives. Please remember that it is a call to all of us, as the Australian Bishops indicated, *"it's a call to conversion rather than education, to prayer more than to study, to a retreat more than to a programme."* It is an invitation to look at what we are doing and to ask what this has got to do with Jesus at the centre of our lives. Two national liturgical celebrations are being planned: A Celebration of Repentance and a Celebration of those real people whose lives have been an inspiration to us. Each Diocese and each Order will shape its own liturgical celebration for this year of Grace.

### **AUSTIN STEPHENS**

Following a number of setbacks, Austin Stephens has now taken up residence at the Flora McDonald Nursing Home run by the Sisters of St Joseph at Cowandilla, about 5 minutes' drive from Netley.

### **PATRICK CONNELL**

It was with great joy that the Provincial and Council accepted Pat Connell's application to renew his vows for a period of three years. His life this year at Fitzroy has given us confidence in supporting and encouraging him to renew his vows. The renewal will take place at a simple ceremony on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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# Province News ...

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Appointment dialogue is still progressing as I await responses and medical reports. I am most grateful to those Brothers who have had to deal with the prospect of a new appointment or to consider a new appointment. Sometimes the decision is not to make a change and sometimes the decision can be confirmed. The following appointments have been confirmed.

### **Ken Preston**

After all his years at Forbes and Parkes in the Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese, Br Ken Preston is moving to Netley in Adelaide. We can all look back with thanks and admiration on his marvellous presence and involvement in all things related to the Marist Communities, to Red Bend Catholic College, to Holy Family Primary School in Parkes and to St Laurence O'Toole's Primary School in Forbes.

We acknowledge that this is a big decision which has taken significant courage and resolve and we all know that Ken with his usual determination will enjoy a new and different rhythm to his life. Adelaide is his home territory and he will be closer to his sister Mary, a Josephite Sister. So the new horizons will be familiar.

### **Joseph Hughes**

After attending to the closure of the Community at Karama, Joe Hughes has agreed to my request to go to Forbes as the Superior. John Hilet has "held the fort" for the last few years, as well as the Principalship. I am very grateful for his leadership and he is relieved to be able to hand over this responsibility to Joe. This changeover will probably take place in early March.

### **Marius Woulfe**

After six years of warm weather and good cheer at Karama, Marius will be appointed to the Somerton Park Community, where we can't guarantee the same weather, but where you can be sure, he will bring an enormous amount of good cheer. The appointment will take place after we close the Karama Community, some time late February or early March.

### **Kevin Hoare**

Kevin is currently filling in at Karama while Joe Hughes is at the Third Age Course.

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## *Province News ...*

He will return to his Santa Teresa Community at the start of 2012. He has been most generous in coming to Karama and has maintained the high standard of care of the house and grounds.

### **Dennis Cooper**

Dennis finishes his term as Novice Master at Lomeri at the end of this year. Six years as Novice Master carries with it a greater level of intensity and Dennis has been invited to use 2012 to renew his contact with family and with the Province. He will plan for a substantial sabbatical during the course of the year. We welcome him back and while this is happening he will reside at Coburg.

### **Eugene Dwyer**

Eugene has had a longer than expected period of recuperation from a stroke and will move from Coburg to Templestowe. He will take up residence in the attached Flat.

### **Neil Emmett**

Now that his accommodation is just about ready, Neil will move to Macedon in the next week and he will be the fourth member of that Community.

Further appointments will be announced as soon as the current dialogue results in a decision.

## **TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS**

### **Assistant Co-ordinator, REMAR Australia**

Mr Leonard Cooke has been appointed to the position of Assistant Co-ordinator, REMAR Australia and in 2012 he will join Simone Boyd to assist in the gradual extension of REMAR to other areas in NSW and Queensland. He has been with REMAR since 2007 and is currently the REMAR Co-ordinator at St Francis Xavier's College, Beaconsfield.

### **Marist Young Adult Ministry Co-ordinator**

Mr Mario Frazzetto has been appointed to this position which is a key leadership position in the Province. He will be based at the Montagne Centre in Brunswick. He is currently the REMAR and Ministry Co-ordinator at Marcellin College Bulleen.

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# Province News ...

## PROPERTY

### North Fitzroy

Tenders for the refurbishment of North Fitzroy residence are expected to be opened next Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November and we look forward to a start soon after that.

### Western Australia

We have had a rental property at Jackadder Way and we have decided that we no longer need to hold this property for future use. After making some improvement to the property, we will put this on the market.

### Kilmore

There are some boundary re-alignments and re-titling between the Province and Assumption College with regard to the property at Kilmore.

## 2012 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Jubilee celebrations in 2012 will once again take place in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The dates are:

- Melbourne: Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> July
- Sydney: Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Brisbane: Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June

## THANKS

This is the final Newsletter for the year. Many thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Terry Orrell (Editor) and Matthew Clarke (Editor for the last two editions), Noel Hickey and our Printer and Dispatcher, Peter Howes. It is a very big task to get the Newsletter out and it is surprising how quickly the “deadline” comes around for the next one. I am grateful to these Brothers and I speak for the Province in expressing our appreciation for their efforts. The Newsletter is awaited by many Brothers and I often see it in other places, where it is highly regarded.

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# To pray for the living and the dead

*Br Mark O'Connor FMS*

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...” (Hebrews).

Sometimes we feel very much alone. But we are never really alone in the mystery of Christ. A few weeks from now, during the month of November, we traditionally remember those who have gone before us ‘marked with the sign of faith’. It is truly a spiritual work of mercy. It is good to be reminded that we live in a world of rich presence and love. The living and the dead are connected through the mystery of prayer.

Looking through the lens of Christianity, the communion of saints is all about the beauty of that presence all around us for we belong to a community both heavenly and earthly which is held together by “love as strong as death” (Song 8:6).

As members of that vast community, the saints are close by us in a tenderly familial way. They are holy presences who walk with us, guide us, befriend us, pray for us. We are never alone. We are never without the intercession of the saints in Christ. We are never without their company. We are continually within a reality in which the saints are close at hand. A strong web of relationships transcends the grave, linked by indissoluble bonds of Christ’s love.

The extended family is made up of all who are Christ’s brothers and sisters by his gracious invitation. Far from an image of heaven ruled by a god who is a solitary, cranky

old man in the sky, the Catholic tradition perceives the life of the communion of saints as a great feast, a vast company celebrating with the Risen Lord.

The saints then are our real ‘soul friends’. A soul friend is a spiritual necessity. Every person needs someone with whom to be completely vulnerable and honest. A soul friend is the person whose presence allows us to be real and transparent, to seek continual transformation and growth in faith, hope and love. While soul friends are usually earthly friends, they may also be particular saints whose lives speak to us, challenge us, evoke in us a desire to participate in Christ’s work of making the creation new.

As we journey through life, friends and loved ones depart and there is the inevitable pain of absence. But the joy of the Gospel is that love is never really lost. We are not caught up in some tragic farce where all is “sound and fury, signifying nothing”.

Instead, we dwell and indwell within the Spirit of Jesus and his friends. One day it will be rather exciting to join that great ‘cloud of witnesses’ – as the meditation below suggests – for Jesus has some very interesting friends!

Prayer for the living and the dead assures us that the best is yet to come! The past is prologue! **MN**

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# More Than Images

*Tony Sayer*

Salem Institute of Spiritual Formation

... a desert-like spaciousness ... (Gerald May)  
A spacious room. A high ceiling. A world.  
Candles flickering. Souls kindled.  
Around the walls paintings, posters, icons.  
Images.

But more than images. Presences.  
Merton and Bonhoeffer are drinking beer.  
Their bottles clink together as they confer.

Saint Francis and the Sultan play chess.  
The Sultan always wins – Francis seems not  
to get the game.  
Fiercely he protects his pawns, but gives his  
bishops up with glee.  
Mother Seton, Sojourner Truth, and Hildegard  
of Bingen  
are making a quilt. Hildegard wants to add  
more and more green to the pattern.

Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks and Ignatius  
of Loyola  
tread the turns of a labyrinth together.  
Inigo's limp slows him down, and  
the others keep to his pace.

Elijah and Julian share a barley cake. The  
raven on his shoulder  
and the cat on her lap eye each other with  
suspicion.

Gandhi and John of the Cross and Martin  
Luther King are  
swapping jailhouse memories. They want  
Bonhoeffer  
to join them, but Merton keeps opening  
another cool one.

Rumi and Meister Eckhart have been writing  
song lyrics.  
Teresa of Avila rounds up John Woolman  
and Black Elk  
and Frederick Ozanam and Simone Weil  
to start a garage band.

Dorothy Day and Clare of Assisi want to  
sign up.  
They want Howard Thurman to come too.  
But he's learning Tibetan chant,  
his deep-throated voice  
growing ever more  
resonant.

Etty Hillesum looks upward, murmuring  
contentedly:  
"So many stars."

William Blake is teaching an art class, but  
his students  
aren't paying attention. Chuang Tzu and Albert  
Einstein  
have gotten paint all over themselves.

"Angels," says Blake impatiently. "Ranks of  
angels  
surround us."

He waves his hand in the air. He points at us.

For we too are here. Among these  
witnesses, servants, pilgrims, martyrs,  
in this patchwork communion of saints – we  
are here.

*Holy One, by what fiery grace have we  
come to join this company?*

*We praise you for the gift of guides and companions.  
May we be such to each other.*

*Show us our walking stick and our narrow  
way.*

*Turn us to stillness and to hastening.*

*Turn us to doing the little righteousness  
that is ours to do.*

*Give us strength to love.*

*Teach our hearts to break and break. MN*