

# MARIST NEWSLETTER

Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

• Volume 43 • Number 1 • February 2012 •

**Celebrating our Faith in  
Christ and the Resurrection  
as lived in the life of**

**Brother Charles McKean Howard, fms  
(Brother Elias)**



Born to this life ~ 29th October 1924  
Born to Eternal Life ~ 14th January 2012  
In his 69th year of Marist Religious Life

**Farewells to Brs Charles Howard, Stephen Bugg, Anthony O'Brien and Darryl Slater -  
Province News - Adelaide Retreat - Megan Moore - National Gathering - Pondering**



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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...**

- \* **Br Charles Howard**, Campbelltown N.S.W. Former Superior General. Died Saturday, 14 January, 2012.
- \* **Br Stephen Bugg**, Coburg, Victoria. Died Saturday, 14 January, 2012.
- \* **Br Anthony O'Brien**, Forbes, N.S.W. Died peacefully at the Jemalong Nursing Home, Forbes, 28/11/2011.
- \* **Br Darryl Slater**, Sala Lavalla, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Died Sunday, 11 December, 2011.
- \* **Ron Slattery**, Melbourne. Died 27/01/2012 at 94 years of age. Past student of Assumption College, Kilmore, and long time secretary of the Old Collegians Association.
- \* **Mrs Jonlyn Coffey**, Adelaide. Died 21/01/2012. Wife of Vin Coffey, current staff member and former Deputy Principal of Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park, South Australia.
- \* **Mr Brian Hickey**, Perth. Died 10/02/12. Cousin of **Br Noel Hickey**.

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

- \* **Br Austin Stephens**, Adelaide. Residing in Flora McDonald Lodge.
- \* **Br Kevin Hogan**, Adelaide. suffering from spinal arthritis.
- \* **Neville McManus**, Perth. Recovering from recent surgery for a brain tumour.
- \* **John McViegh**, undergoing treatment for bone cancer. Brother of **Br Leo McVeigh**, Netley.



## *From the Acting Provincial*

Dear Brothers and Lay Marists,

Welcome to our first Marist Newsletter for 2012. Br Julian is away having a well-earned break at the moment. Consequently, he has asked me to write to you this month.

You would be aware the Bishops of Australia have declared this year, commencing at Pentecost, to be a Year of Grace. It will coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. As we know well, it is a special year for us too as we prepare for the Inauguration of the New Province of Australia on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

Last Thursday, Passionist, Fr Chris Mithen, presided at Mass for our community at Templestowe. During his homily, he recalled a Requiem Mass he had attended earlier in the week for the nineteen-year-old boy who died as a result of surfing on the top of a Melbourne train. The large numbers of young people at the Requiem Mass highlighted the many friends he had attracted over his short life. The impression Chris picked up during this Requiem Mass was of young people gathering out of friendship for the deceased. He sensed many of them were unaware of who God is and how much God loves them. I immediately recalled Marcellin Champagnat's visit to the young Montagne boy, a boy who did not know about God. I wondered how we, like Marcellin, might help these Montagne young people of today.

For years we have talked about the importance of the witness of our lives. Obviously, this is still true. But communicating with these young people about God is also important and relevant. It requires our real engagement with them. Chris' story challenged me to ask how do I go about communicating with today's young people who do not know about God? Do I need to develop new skills? In the first place, do I do this with my Brothers or with lay Marists?

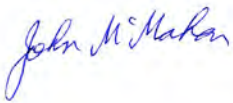
It is easy for us to chat with each other about our lives, what we are doing and our hopes. It is more difficult, at least for me, to speak with others about how the Spirit is moving me at the moment. How do I share what is happening at a deeper level in my life? It seems the first step is to understand what is happening. Since it is hopefully God's initiative, at least part of the answer lies in making sure we have times of contemplation, either together or individually. As Marists, we are blessed to be able to gather with each other as people of like minds and hearts. We share the same mission and the same charism.

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Vatican II's document on the renewal of Religious Life, *Perfectae Caritatis*, begins: 'Under the impulse of love, which the Holy Spirit poured into their hearts (cf Rom. 5:5), ... (Religious) live more and more for Christ and for his Body, the Church (cf Col. 1:24).' In other words, God takes the initiative and pours love into our hearts so that we can live and share God's love more fully. Here God takes the initiative and helps us understand what action we might take or what attitude we might have in a particular situation; how we might assist the Montagnes of today to be formed and transformed by God's love.

This Year of Grace can remind us to notice and listen to these movements of the Spirit within us and to recognise them within those with whom we mix. If we can share them, all the better. What an incredible grace this is!

With best wishes



Br John McMahon  
Acting Provincial

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

We welcome Terry Orrell back to the Editorial Chair and thank Matthew Clarke for filling in so competently while Terry was enjoying his Third Age Programme.

### **NEW COMMUNITIES**

Some Brothers are moving to new Communities in the first part of the year. We wish them a happy transition.

### **ADELAIDE RETREAT**

In what turned out to be beautiful summer weather, thirty-four Brothers and lay Marists gathered for the annual Adelaide Retreat last Christmas. Retreat preacher, Fr Michael Fallon skilfully broke open the Scriptures for us and helped us reflect on them amidst the beautiful surroundings of Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park. We thank Tony Caddy and Doug Walsh for their organisation of this retreat once again.

### **MR STEVE TRABILSIE**

At the close of the Retreat, and in the presence of the Trabilisie family, Jordan Redden spoke eloquently at the final dinner of Steve Trabilisie's extensive and regular contribution to Marist life in our Province. In recognition of this, Julian conferred Marist Affiliation on Steve.

### **BROTHERS' GATHERING IN SYDNEY**

We are grateful to our Provincials for convoking the Brothers' Gathering at St Joseph's College in Sydney in January. It proved to be a special time for us, as Brothers, to be together as Brothers and family and to get to know each other a little more. We thank Tony Paterson, Graham Neist and their teams for their expert organising and facilitating work.

### **SACRED HEART COLLEGE BOARDING HOUSE**

Mons Rob Egar blessed and opened the new extensions to the girl boarding facilities at Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>

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# Province News . . .

January, 2012. Seventy boys and fifty girls can now be accommodated in the Boarding House.

## PREPARATION FOR OUR FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The First Provincial Chapter of the Province of Australia will commence on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The election of Chapter delegates will take place in both Provinces. Our Province Secretary, Peter Walsh will be sending out the voting forms. We will be electing eleven Brothers to attend the Chapter and the Sydney Province twenty-two. The elected delegates, along with the ex-officio members of the Chapter will gather at the Montagne Centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 to begin preparations for the Chapter and to elect the Chapter Steering Committee.

## APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW PROVINCIAL OF AUSTRALIA

As you would have read in the recent letter from our Superior General, Br Emili, the process for the appointment of our new Provincial will commence shortly.

- April: During the Chapter delegates' day on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, there will be an opportunity for delegates to engage in a discernment process ('murmuratio' in the Jesuit sense) for considering Brothers who might be appointed Provincial. Each Chapter delegate will then nominate confidentially five or six names for forwarding directly to Rome.
- May: The Superior General and Council will determine a final short list of up to four names of Brothers who indicate their openness to appointment as Provincial and forward this to the Brothers.  
Brothers of the Provinces of Melbourne and Sydney individually complete a sondage slip of three names in order of preference and send this to the Secretary General.

- June: Br Emili announces the appointment of the new Provincial.

## MARIST MINISTRIES

Commencement Masses are being held in schools around this time. New staff and students are being welcomed and Induction Programmes organised. May you have a fulfilling year in your Marist Ministry.

## NORTH FITZROY

Refurbishment of our house at North Fitzroy is making good progress. Considerable demolition has taken place, photographs of which can be viewed on our website <http://www.champagnat.org.au/>

## CHAMPAGNAT PILGRIMAGE

Our 2012 Champagnat Pilgrimage leaves Australia on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March and returns on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. We will be travelling to Marist Paris, the Hermitage, our General House in Rome, our Marist International College in Nairobi and our Marist schools in Rwanda. Forty two participants will be journeying together this year including Brs Tony Boyd, Tony Caddy, Robert Hayes, Mark Needham and Adrian Story.

## RECENTLY DECEASED AND SICK

Four Brothers have died over recent months: Anthony O'Brien, Darryl Slater, Charles Howard and Steve Bugg. We thank them for sharing their lives with us and pray God will bless them with eternal life. The webcast of the Requiem Mass for Charles Howard will be available on demand for three months from the 24<sup>th</sup> January. It can be viewed at <http://player.streamcast.com.au/node/422/view>.

We pray too for our Brothers who are unwell: Eugene, Brendan and Austin Stephens. May they be blessed with healing and consolation.