



## National Gathering of Brothers



For four days in mid January, 2012, St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, hosted a historic gathering of 185 Marist Brothers from across Australia and overseas to come to a better understanding and appreciation of the new Australian Province which will be formally established on December 8, 2012.

The broad purpose of the gathering was to provide an opportunity for members of the two Provinces to get to know one another, gain an understanding of the planning which has taken place in preparation for the amalgamation and share hopes and fears about the future. This was achieved through large group presentations, small group discussions and "What's News in the Province" forums, all capably facilitated by **Br Ben Consigli**, Provincial of the USA Province of the Holy Family. Ben not only brought great personal facilitative skills, but also the experience of the two Provinces in the USA which has travelled the same journey before us.



A rich source of reflections and readings provided a springboard for morning prayer in small groups and the evening Eucharists in the College Chapel where **Fr Gary Perrett, CP**, captured the mood of the day in his homilies and the

full voices of the 185 strong "male choir" echoed impressively in the College Chapel.

A sombre note was struck in the Gathering when we learned of the collapse of **Stephen Bugg** with a cerebral haemorrhage, as well as the gentle passing of former Superior General, **Charles Howard**, that same Saturday morning on which they both joined the multitude of Champagnat Marist saints to enjoy their eternal reward.

The Gathering reached a literal crescendo at the final dinner in the Year 12 dining room. In the days before, the catering staff at St Joseph's had gone beyond the call of duty in providing sumptuous "al fresco" dinners in the grassed



area abutting the Year 12 common room. The “social club” provided an abundance of refreshment as well as the perfect background trio of musicians to welcome us on the first evening.

All in all, the Gathering was a grand prelude to the formation of the Province of Australia. Great care and solicitude had gone into preparing everything down to the finest detail - no mean feat as the College boarding facilities are designed to cater for a much younger age group.

Although there are big questions still to be addressed and answered, the Gathering has demonstrated that the Spirit is at work in those responsible for paving the way ahead as we are called to **“do something new”**.

Like Champagnat, we will commend the project to Mary, our Good Mother, and be open to the future, and the possibilities it will open up to us, as a larger and committed Australian family of Brothers and Lay Marists.

*Br Terry Orrell, Editor.*



*What will each Brother commit to in the lead up to the establishment of the new Province of Australia?*

**marist**

**12-15 JANUARY 2012**

**BROTHERS' GATHERING • TOWARDS OUR NEW PROVINCE**

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# *Farewell to Br Darryl Slater*

**Br Peter Corr, FMS.**

**15/12/2011**

At 2.20 pm Phnom Penh time on Thursday, December 15, 2011, approximately 500 people gathered at the Catholic Church to celebrate the life of, and say farewell to, **Br Darryl Slater FMS.**

**Bishop Olivier** concelebrated with 20 priests. There were 10 Marist brothers in attendance: Br Terrence Heinrich, Br Mark Fordyce, Br Peter Corr, Br Brian Kinsella. The six other *Ad Gentes* brothers were: Brothers Pedro, Francis, Gilbert, Diego, Max and Bernard. One hundred students and staff from **Sala Lavalla** also attended.

One thing that brought tears to my eyes early was the arrival of the blind masseurs who knew Darryl so well. They were helped into the church one by one and sat quietly at the side.

The Brothers processed into the Church with the casket and placed it before the altar together with a recent and beautifully framed picture of Darryl.

The proceedings were largely conducted in Khmer, with the eulogy and some intercessions in English to help the large number of foreigners present.

After the placing of the Pall and symbols, explained in Khmer by **Nimul Ouch**, the Brothers sang the *Sub Tuum* while standing around the casket. Br Terry gave his carefully prepared eulogy in English, describing Darryl in a way which not only addressed some of his characteristics and background to his 'life before Cambodia' but also included some anecdotes about Darryl's often recurring frustrations with a grass cutter which refused to start. Terry's account of Darryl resonated with

many of the congregation's experiences of him over the years and provided the assembly with a framework within which to grieve their loss of Darryl without being sadder than Darryl would desire.

The singing was wonderfully led by the Maryknoll group who loved Darryl so much and who enjoyed his company each Wednesday evening.

Bishop Olivier's gave a moving homily and was kind enough to give out some English translations. The Bishop quoted Marcellin a number of times, so he had done his homework!

One part of the homily outlined the qualities that Darryl lived that were "like Mary": "Br Darryl kept his eyes open to the world: India and Cambodia. He lived his mission with the children at La Valla School with simplicity and discretion. He was ever present as a Brother. He worked without occupying the first place....but was always faithful to all events and meetings of the Vicariate. He epitomised the spirit of service and had cordial relations with everyone."

According to local custom, and after the words of commendation, the Brothers were invited to place incense sticks before the casket and Darryl's picture, followed by the priests.

The Brothers then began to sing the *Salve Regina* as they stood around the coffin and were supported by many others in the congregation, thus making the rendition quite moving.

The selected staff from Sala Lavalla carried the coffin to the waiting van. We then processed about 500 metres on foot, out the gate and

through the narrow streets to the “Wat” for the cremation.

It is traditional for family members to light the fire and so this was done jointly by Br Terry and Br Peter.

The Brothers present are quite satisfied that Darryl’s Cambodian farewell was suitable and will not only serve to honour his life, commitment and mission but also to help the local community in their grieving the loss of one who meant so much to them.



**Brothers Daryl Slater and Terry Heinrich**



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# Ponder Tomorrow

## Reflection Day and Renewal of Vows

A gathering of Brothers and Lay Marists on December 18 at the end of last year was the perfect setting for the renewal of vows of **Br Patrick Connell**.

A group of about 25 Marists, mainly Brothers, gathered at Nicholson Street for a reflection led by Fr Greg Bourke on the theme of Advent, fitting in perfectly with the theme of our year of Advent, looking forward to our new Marist situation in Australia.



**Brs Julian Casey, Patrick Connell  
and Fr Greg Bourke**



**The group of Brothers who  
attended the gathering**

The time of listening and pondering was then followed by a Mass which included the renewal of vows by Br Pat for three years, and for all Brothers present. Br. Patrick renewed his

commitment in the presence of Br Julian Casey and Fr Greg Bourke, who celebrated mass.

Pat had just completed a Directed Retreat in preparation for this event and spoke of his desire to renew his commitment to life as a Marist Brother, thanking those who had been part of his journey so far, his present community and all those who were present for the celebration.

Community Superior, Br Paul Kane, congratulated Pat on his renewal of his commitment and wished him well on behalf of all the Brothers and Lay Marists.

### Community Superiors' Reflection Weekend

A gathering of Community Superiors will take place on the second weekend of May this year. Brothers in community leadership will have the opportunity to reflect on their lives as 'brothers to others' in a religious community and their roles as leaders in preparation for community life in the new province in 2013.

The Brothers will have the opportunity to share their experiences of leadership and brotherhood, as well as listen to presentations by **Fr Michael Casey OCSO**.

**The gathering will be held at the Salesian Retreat Centre, Lysterfield, commencing on Friday evening 11<sup>th</sup> May, and concluding with the midday meal on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

# Smile Awhile

## How would you score the following student's answers in an exam?

- Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die? \* **his last battle**
- Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? \* **at the bottom of the page**
- Q3. River Ravi flows in which state? \* **liquid**
- Q4. What is the main reason for divorce? \* **marriage**
- Q5. What is the main reason for failure? \* **exams**
- Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast? \* **lunch & dinner**
- Q7. What looks like half an apple? \* **The other half**
- Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become? \* **It will simply become wet**
- Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping ? \* **No problem, he sleeps at night.**
- Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand? \* **You will never find an elephant that has only one hand..**
- Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have ? \* **Very large hands**
- Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? \* **No time at all, the wall is already built.**
- Q13. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? \* **Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.**



We'll be friends  
until we are old and senile.  
Then, we'll be  
NEW friends.

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**Cats can be so dramatic!!**