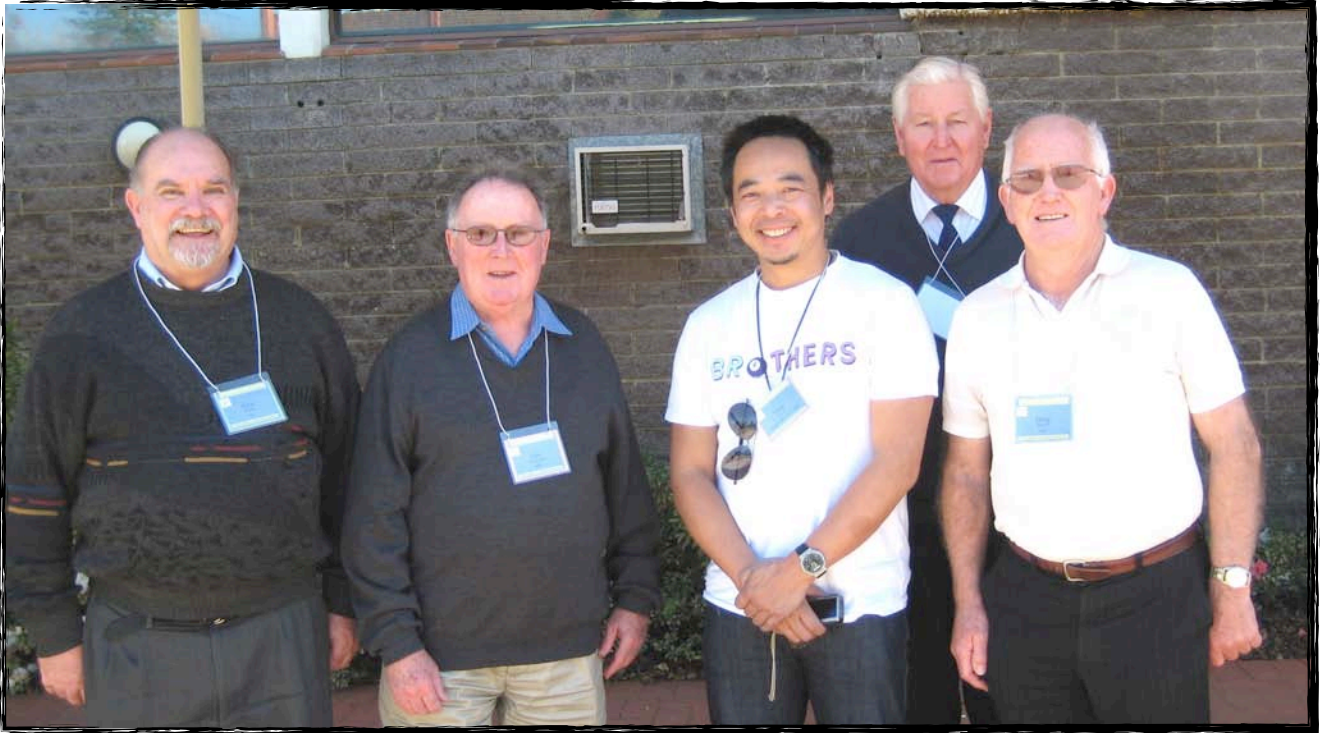

**CATHOLIC VOCATIONS MINISTERS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, PERTH 2009.**



Br Peter Walsh Br John Thompson Br Tony Leon Br Noel Hickey Br Peter Walsh

The CVMA biennial Conference in Perth 13th-17th July was attended by Brs Doug Walsh, Noel Hickey, Peter Walsh, John Thompson and Tony Leon. The theme of the Conference was the “Coming of the Kingdom”. Keynote speakers were Alice Nelson, Young Australian Author of the Year, Bishop Tim Costelloe and Fr Carlos Massieu.

Alice’s first topic for day one was: **The Power of Stories.** Her thesis was that authors give voice to the voiceless and so resist the forces that deny our common humanity. The reading and writing of stories is an act of faith; fiction is proof of imagination and without imagination we can envisage no future, no improvement, no Kingdom to come. Her second topic was:

The Kingdom of God: Changing the Story.

Her thesis was that in much of world literature there is a yearning for the Kingdom, a desire for a better life, an imagining of the Kingdom to come. Alice presented the Gospel story as the articulation of a new vision – not economic, not political, not military, but spiritual. A vision that changes the story of our separateness into a story of connectedness where we are all connected, all one family of God.

For Alice the task of the Vocation Co-ordinator was to encourage people to come out of the closet with regard to their spiritual aspirations. She spoke of the need for parable because the naked truth is often rejected, but dressed up in the garments of story or parable it finds acceptance. The goal of story telling is to invite

people to make the connections between their life and the Biblical story. For Alice the shortest distance between people's lives and truth is a story.

Bishop Tim Costelloe gave two talks on the second day with the theme of Vocation Ministry within the Coming of the Kingdom. He began with a quote from a topical article on the death of Dr O'Brien: "A person's dignity lies in one's ability to face reality in all its meaninglessness," and contrasted this with the joy of living with the hope and sense of meaning of belonging to the Kingdom of God. He then took us through the O.T. ideas of Kingship and Shepherd and the N.T. presentation of Jesus as the embodiment of the Kingdom, of children as the ones to whom the Kingdom belongs, of our need for dependence on God and how the self-sufficient will always struggle to accept the Kingdom. He suggested that the transcendent otherness of God was the result of our separation from God (see Genesis) and that through Jesus and the Incarnation we regain our proper understanding of a God who is among us.

In his second presentation he looked at the relationship between the Kingdom of God and the Church: that the Kingdom is gift to be accepted and that it is only by opening our hearts

to Jesus that we can come to the Kingdom. He looked at the sinfulness of the Apostles and how it was through love (Do you Love Me?) that ministry was born (Feed my sheep.). He presented the Church as a sacrament (sign) of our communion with God and the unity of all people.

Religious life was seen as a sign of the fundamental attitudes that all Christians needed if they were to belong to the Kingdom: poverty of spirit, obedience to the will of God and a profound respect for all people. Religious Life only makes sense when it is a passion for the Coming of the Kingdom. Through Religious Life, we speak to the world in a stark and challenging way of God's presence on the world.

Vocations ministry is a means of finding ways to help people listen to the word of God in their lives, of helping them to a deeper relationship with Christ.

Day three saw two presentations by Fr Carlos Massieu on the Spirituality of Luisa Piccarreta and the Association of the Divine Will. With Father Carlos Massieu-Ávila was Ms Marianela Pérez who co-founded the association; both are based in Miami, Florida, and serve as the local directors.



VOCATION MINISTERS GROUP AT THE PERTH CONFERENCE



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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**

From the Editorial Team

I have always been intrigued to know how cakes become the central feature in major celebrations like weddings, birthdays, Christmas dinners and even Jubilees. A click on to Google and "cakes" suggests the tradition reaching back to Roman times as a way of celebrating the birthdays of the gods. The addition of candles is seen as providing the waft of smoke that might symbolise the prayers said to these self-same gods.

In 1950, that song familiar to an older generation, "*If I knew you were coming I'd have baked a cake*" emerged, eventually even sung by Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. It suggests the significance of a cake as a special treat of welcome for a guest. I know that, as a boarder of some five years, I would relish such a welcome.

The opposite sentiment would be true of the callous and infamous retort attributed to the Queen Consort, Marie Antoinette, when told of the plight of the starving peasants: "Let them eat cake" or "Qu'ils mangent de la brioche". Some historians suggest that this statement was foisted on to her by her detractors as representing the attitude of the aristocracy in general. Others would claim it simply to be a myth.

Our August edition of the Newsletter features the toasts to three of our Jubilarians, as well as eulogies to a recent well-loved colleague who has passed on to his eternal reward. In some ways, these finely scripted accounts are like a celebratory cake. The ingredients have been chosen with care and have emerged as a unique tribute to the lives and ministry of exemplary Marist colleagues or, in the catchy phrase of Seán Sammon, "marvellous companions."



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The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

A book report written by a child

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.

Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in

exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a **really** loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments.

These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Honor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets.

One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums.

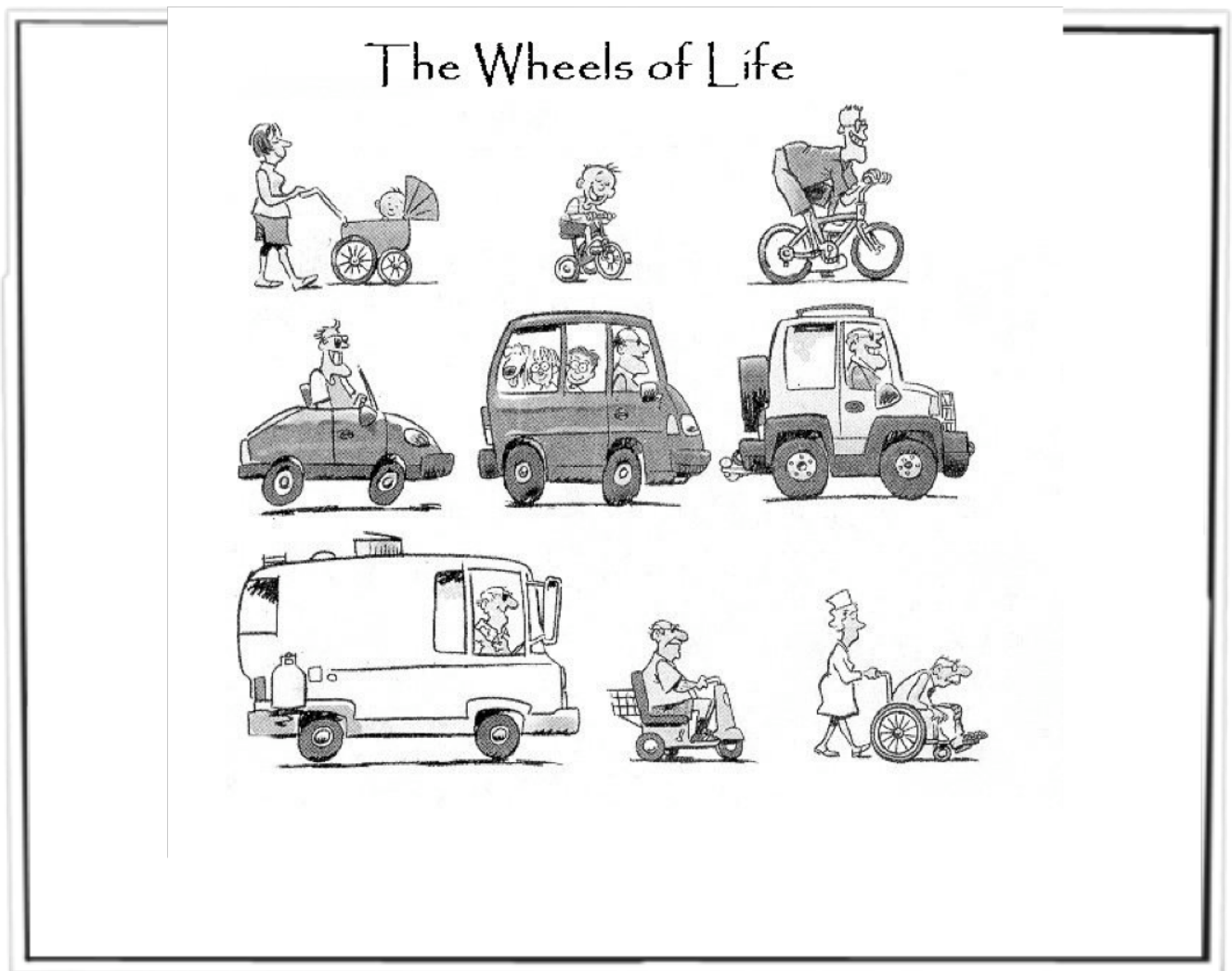
The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again.

He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



AMSA Netball Carnival

Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

July 5 - 8, 2009

The 15th Annual Marist Netball Carnival took place in Adelaide hosted by Sacred Heart College Somerton Park. The organisation and hospitality were outstanding.



17 teams participated, playing off for placement in either the Championship or Challenge Division. The winners of the respective grand finals were **Notre Dame College Shepparton** and **St John's College Woodlawn**.



Everyone agreed the standard was high throughout the carnival and the points scored were not a true indication of the skill and effort of all participants.



As this year was the first since the death of Sister Ann-Marie Webb, it was decided to present a one-off trophy in her memory, named "**The Spirit of AMSA**". This trophy was awarded to the team whose members most consistently displayed the qualities that Mary herself would have done – if she had been a netball player, namely, cheerfulness, graciousness in defeat, ready acceptance of umpires' decisions, valuing participation over winning, encouragement of other players, focus away from herself. **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Alice Springs** was the popular winner.

Next year **St John's College Woodlawn** will host the carnival.

Sister Brigid McClements



Sr Brigid McClements passed away on Sunday 19 July 2009. Brigid was a vibrant part of the Wembley community of the Brigidine Congregation and taught at the Newman Brigidine Campus (now Marian Campus) as Remedial Teacher from 1985 to 1996.

Brigid will be fondly remembered for the affirming support she gave to her students and the positive attitude she engendered in them. Students loved going to her classes.

Since her retirement, Brigid was a regular attendee at our whole Primary school masses and other school functions. In recent years, she became the 'rock' for the failing members of her community in Wembley. Brigid attended to their needs each day and made sure that things ran smoothly for them. This attention to the needs of others gave her a sense of satisfaction and fulfilment, but also took a toll on her own physical health. She relocated to the Randwick community in October last year.

Brigid will also be fondly remembered for her two great passions in life: prayer and football. (An Eagles & Claremont fan.)

Dianne Grinbergs,
Newman College R.E. Coordinator K - 6



Our deceased and their families

- **Brother Hilary Peterson** - Sale.
- **Mrs Marjory Furlong**, mother of Br John Furlong, Margaret Hulbert, Pauline Murphy and Michael (dec.).
- **Mrs Eleanor Hickey**, sister-in-law of Br Noel Hickey.
- **Marjorie Flew**, sister-in-law of Br Brendan Feehan.
- **John Vergona**, former Junior at Wangaratta.
- **Sister Michael**, Mercy Sister; music teacher and Parish choir mistress. Parkes N.S.W.
- **Sr Brigid McClements**, who taught at the Newman Brigidine Campus from 1985 to 1996.

For those who are unwell ...

- **Brother Kevin Hogan**, Netley.
- **Brother Charles Howard**, Sydney.
- **Tom Lambert**, first lay Principal, Mitchell Park. Treatment for lung problems.
- **MaryAnne Needham**, sister of Br Mark
- **Noel Granger**, cancer patient; cousin of Br Kevin Langley.
- **Melanie Meehan**, cancer diagnosis prayers through Mary MacKillop continuing. Wife of Matthew - nephew of Br Linus Meehan.

And also for ...

- Blessings to come from our **General Chapter** in Rome - September 2009.
- Fruitful results from the **National Vocations Ministers Conference**.





Volume 40 * Number 7 * August 2009

CONTENTS

PAGE

- 3 From our Provincial
4 Province News
7 Toast to Br Ronald Fogarty
11. Toast to Br Austin Stevens
15. Toast to Br Stephen Bugg
18. Eulogy at Br Hilary Peterson's Vigil Mass
23. Eulogy at Br Hilary Peterson's Funeral Mass
29. Catholic Vocations Ministers Association Conference
31. From the Editor
32. The Children's Bible: In a Nutshell
34. AMSA Marist Netball Carnival
33. *Please Pray for ...*

Pundemonium

A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deerskin, one slept on an elk skin, and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant, and the first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys. This goes to prove that the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides.

A guy wrote 10 puns and entered them in a contest. He figured with 10 entries, he couldn't lose. As they were reading the list of winners, he was really hoping one of his puns would win, but unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."