

MARIST NEWSLETTER



Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

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*Mary went in haste
to the hill country...*

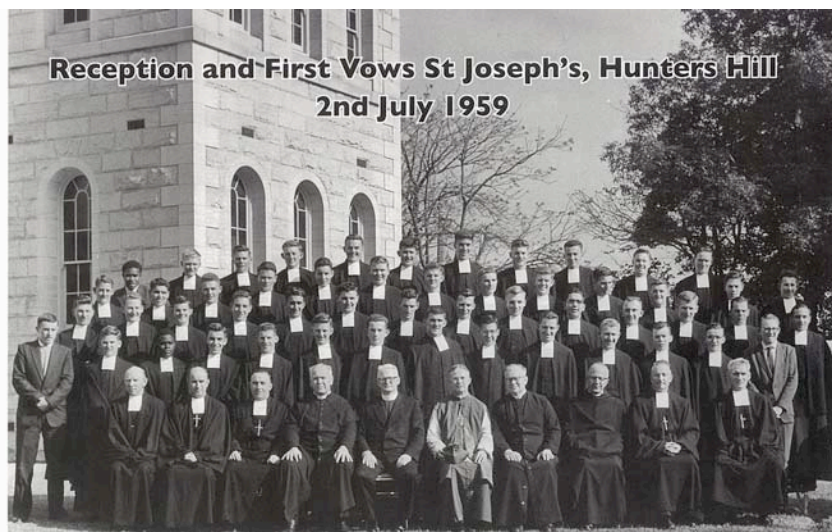
Mary strides into the painting and turns to face the viewer with an invitation to follow.

Mary is barefoot to suggest her fragility against the contrasting rough texture of the ground. The steps she takes will not be without discomfort.

[Comments by Art teacher and painter, Frank Meseric, of Lavalla College, Traralgon]

JULY - THE TRADITIONAL MONTH FOR CELEBRATING JUBILEES

Many young men in the two Provinces took the first step into the "hill country" of religious life, following the call to embrace the Marist Brotherhood. Fifty years have passed.



**Reception and First Vows St Joseph's, Hunters Hill
2nd July 1959**

**Reception and First Vows Our Lady of Good
Counsel Church, Deepene
2nd July 1959**



Today we are witnessing a cultural change of epic proportions, comparable to that which occurred around the time of the birth of the Institute. Nothing is immune to this change, and because of it, many things will die, others will be born, and some will survive, though transformed.

We have before us the challenge of discovering the image of the religious Brother needed by the Church and the world that is being born.

Preparatory Commission of the 21st General Chapter.

From our Provincial



29 June 2009

Dear Brothers,

July this year is a special month for many Brothers and we will duly celebrate them on the 12th July.



However, for Brother Bill Dillon at Lavalla Catholic College in Traralgon, July this year is of special significance. Would you believe that during the last 60 years, not one year has passed where he hasn't spent some time in a classroom? Even though he has attended Renewal Courses and Programmes, none of them lasted a whole year and he found himself back in the classroom when he returned. In his later years he has been more of a teacher's aide and support and for some a wise advisor. But in the classroom he was and is relating with young people, helping them, advising them and taking an interest in them. At a time when we recognize special service in mission fields and difficult places, I think that 60 years spent in the classroom with adolescent boys and girls is quite an achievement. We all know the energy, compassion and commitment that such a contribution requires and this month we recognize Bill's long contribution.

It serves to remind us of our long tradition of being a part of the School Apostolate and the centrality of our schools in our mission. Even though there are fewer Brothers involved directly in schools, it is essential that we remain connected to our schools. Of course we have other ministries such as Solidarity Initiatives and Immersions, Young Adult Ministry, Remar, Vocations Ministry and Formation of Lay People. But all these are dependent on a close connection with our schools. It is in the schools that we find many resources, in schools that we find many willing helpers in our Marist Project and it is through our schools that we can maintain our contact and connection with young people and provide them with significant life-giving opportunities. At the Conference in Guatemala, I came across Provinces which had effectively "lost" their schools. It was disappointing to hear of the schools being described as "*this used to be a Marist School*" and it was depressing to hear about the difficulty they experienced in making contact with the young, sad to see them roaming around trying to find how to be an effective presence.

The establishment of Marist Schools Australia is designed to ensure our ongoing connection and link with schools. There is not a sense of casting schools adrift and handing them over to someone else. On the contrary, we are seeking to strengthen and nurture the Marist charism into the future. As well as Marist Schools Australia, we have a Ministry Council comprising Brothers and Lay and a part of the reason for the establishment of this Ministry Council is not only to integrate the various ministry initiatives, but also to ensure that these are closely connected to the school ministry.

So Bill Dillon's long history in the classroom is a timely reminder to us of the critical role the schools play in our past, in our present and in our future.

Faternally,



Br Julian Casey
Provincial

BROTHER TERRY ORRELL

We welcome Terry Orrell to the Newsletter Editor's Chair and thank him for agreeing to take on this important responsibility. I need to assure Terry that the tradition of holding the editorship for 20 years is a bit impractical at this stage. Nonetheless, we look forward to Terry's ongoing contribution. Terry will be well supported by his Community Members in Matthew Clarke and Noel Hickey. Technology has allowed us to have the Newsletter completed in Perth and printed in Melbourne on the one day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER DOUG WALSH OAM

We congratulate Doug Walsh on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for his services to the community through his work with the St Vincent De Paul Society. We are all aware of the passion with which Doug lives his Marist life and we congratulate him warmly on this timely award. Doug joins the ranks of others who received recognition: Placidus Redden (OBE), Walter Smith (AM), Romulus Lyons (OAM), Columbanus Pratt (OAM).

FLU

Although there are a few coughs and splutters around, we seemed so far to have avoided the dreaded R₁N₁ flu virus. Apart from Peter Walsh being turned away from Red Bend, Forbes, there have been no other quarantines that I know of. However, we still have some time to go.

GENERAL CHAPTER

The Pre-Chapter Finance Commission, of which I am a member, completed its work in early June at the General House and we now await comments from Provinces about proposed changes. This is but one of a number of Pre-Commissions which are taking place, all designed to ensure that the Chapter is well equipped to complete its work in the 5 weeks that have been allotted.

Many would have received the two "Echo" letters from John McMahon and me. We are having a teleconference today to prepare a letter for the Chapter from the Oceania Region.

AGE AND HEALTH CARE REPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

At our last meeting, Bruce presented the quarterly Report of his activities. These Reports do not deal with personal matters, but rather with the bigger issues with regard to Health and Aged Care. What emerges is the holistic dimension to our lives, whereby there is an integration of spiritual, emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical elements. Slip up on one of these and we feel ourselves a bit disconnected. So the question of how the Province and Communities support a healthy lifestyle of the Brothers is relevant.

With regard to Aged Care planning, we still have much work to do and we are hoping to establish a Committee which begins to make plans for the future.



MARK MURPHY'S INDUCTION

At a ceremony last Tuesday night, Mark Murphy was formally commissioned as Principal of Marcellin College, Bulleen. There were a number of Brothers present for the ceremony, together with friends, colleagues and family. It was an important night and Mark spoke so well about his role.

DOXA SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

The two DOXA Schools (Bendigo & West Melbourne) which are sponsored by the Province, had their Graduation Ceremonies last week. The Graduates now return to their mainstream school where they are supported and assisted by the DOXA staff. We were well represented at the Graduations and there is significant recognition of the work of the Marist Brothers in this venture.

TEMPLESTOWE STAFF VISIT TO KILMORE

The Staff Members at Templestowe have a regular Annual In-Service day and this year we are planning to include among the activities a visit to Assumption College, Kilmore. This is an historic place and it is helpful for Staff to have exposure to our past, present and future in the schools of the Province.

MELBOURNE RESIDENCES

The last Council Meeting looked again at the Residences across the Province. We expect the refurbishment at Fitzroy to be finished in March, 2010. Tenders go out this week. This means that we need to make decisions about North Fitzroy, whether to arrange to retain it as a residence in the long term or whether to replace it. The Bulleen residence is still the best internal set-up for the care of Brothers who are unwell. But there are some other factors which militate against it. Until we decide the best location for Aged Care and those with a health crisis, we will continue to hold Bulleen.

RETREAT IN ADELAIDE

We are looking at options for a theme this Retreat. We are in the process of reflecting about whether to have a General Chapter reflection incorporated, or whether to have a theme on Brotherhood, or whether to simply invite a Priest with specific competence in a theological or scriptural discipline.

GATHERING OF LOCAL SUPERIORS

Local Superiors will soon be canvassed about the possibility of a gathering in 2010 and how they see the Province can help and support them in their work.

PREPARATION OF COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY PLACEMENTS FOR 2010

The next few Council Meetings will include a review of Community and Ministry placements for 2010. Should you wish to make some representation to this review, please feel free to contact me.

BR RONALD FOGARTY

This year marks Ron Fogarty's 75th Anniversary of his reception of the habit. In typical fashion, Ron is fending off suggestions about a major celebration. So although we will mark his Jubilee at our Province celebrations, we will have to plan for a more private celebration later in the year in the way that Ron wants.





Marist Brothers' Province Centre
PO Box 753 Templestowe Vic 3106
7 Tuscany Rise Templestowe 3106
Phone: 03 9846 1633
Fax: 03 9846 5354
E-mail: marist@maristmelb.org.au
Website: www.maristmelb.org.au

Marist Publications
Newsletter Office

Marist Community
38 Dolomite Court
Churchlands WA 6018
Community Phone: 08 9446 9852

Editor: Newsletter
Br Terry Orrell fms

Email: terry.orrell@maristmelb.org.au

School desk phone with voicemail: **08 9204 9416**
Mobile: **0438 884 249**

Printing and Distribution
Newsletter and Marist Publications
Br Peter Howes fms

Printing and distribution from
Province Centre Templestowe
Phone: 03 9846 1633
Fax: 03 9846 5354
Email: 03 9846 5354

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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

The task of taking on the Marist Newsletter from the esteemed and skilled editorial skills of Des Hornsby has been a challenging one indeed. Fortunately, the education side of the Newman secondary campus moved to MacIntosh at the start of this year and so there was the opportunity to learn some basic skills in the various applications that this system offers. Help has been relatively close at hand and Des has emailed and posted advice and material from Bendigo. So, hopefully, you will be patient with the neophytes as we learn the process and hone our skills in editing the monthly Newsletter.

I imagine that I am like many avid readers who have simply taken the attractive format for granted and burrowed into the reports, stories, jokes and cartoons. So, another big thank you to Des and Linus for meeting years of deadlines and keeping us informed in such an attractive manner.

The Feast of the Visitation, celebrated on July 2 in years past, has been a significant date for most of us in Reception of the Habit or Professing our Vows for the first time. Like Mary of the Visitation, and not much older than her, we set out into the 'hill country' of our Marist life and began the life-long journey of learning and living our calling to the Marist charism. For most, the destination of our journey was the classroom and the opportunity to bring the Gospel message to the young impressionable minds which we encountered. It has been comforting in recent years to have our approach articulated as "...with a distinctive Marist style." The coming General Chapter will further enlighten and inspire us to continue to depth this Charism and bring it to life in the world of the 21st century.

Editor: *Br Terry Orrell*
Proof reader: *Br Noel Rickey*
IT support: *Br Matthew Clarke*