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## THE COMMUNITY OF MARIST ASIA PACIFIC CENTER, MANILA



After a week of Orientation, our first semester at the Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) commenced on June 8 for our 29 Student Brothers and 8 Staff Brothers. Our chaplain is Father Simon Kewandi (seated third from the left), from Papua New Guinea. We also have 15 Sisters from 3 congregations, who join us as external students. The program runs for 3 years.

Our aim and purpose here at MAPAC is best summed up in our Mission Statement:

*In a spirit of solidarity, the Marist Asia Pacific Center aims to serve the local Churches of Asia and the Pacific by providing post-novitiate formation for Marist Apostles. It has as its focus the holistic formation of an integrated Marist apostolic personality.*

*The Center develops Marist apostles with a clear sense of mission and community for evangelization and education, especially among the least favored. These Marist apostles are constantly alert to the needs of youth, to the calls of the Church and to the signs of the times.*

Br Des Howard FMS



On the weekend of June 27th-28th a group of young men from the Sydney and Melbourne Provinces interested in exploring the Marist Brotherhood gathered with the Vocations teams from both Provinces for a weekend at Mittagong, - the former Marist Novitiate south west of Sydney. Time spent working and talking together was mixed with opportunities for reflection and discussion and a shared Eucharist on Saturday evening.



## REFUGEE TUTORING at Aquinas College University of Adelaide



Living at Aquinas College provides great opportunities and experiences for students, and, as part of the experience, each student is expected to take part in the community service program. In its third year, the community service program is a vital part of college life and the college prides itself upon the students' contribution to helping others in need. Refugee tutoring plays a major role within the community service program, and this year, twenty-six Aquinas College students are giving up their time to help underprivileged and struggling refugees adapt to life as a student living in Australia.

While refugee tutoring is a challenge, with many highs and lows, it is a rewarding way of helping others, and can make a real difference to those being helped.

A lengthy training process is essential to this program, which includes a thorough mandatory reporting training session, police checks, cultural awareness training and a brief introduction into the families that we will be helping. Students are placed in groups of four or more and are each assigned a family. Each week two group members visit their family for an hour or more at a time, in the hope of giving them a greater insight into Australian life, while helping with any school work and also tutoring in specific subjects. Last year several groups developed a great relationship with their family, and as a result, have had gifts given to them by their families; however, the most important part of this program is the broad insight into a foreign culture that is achieved.

The tutors learnt a great deal about their families' personal challenges in their new country, the challenges of trying to adapt to new surroundings, and the difficulties faced when trying to settle into a vastly different homeland.

Last year, we had more refugee families who needed help than volunteers, so we can be assured that the program is a success and very rewarding for all involved.

All students at Aquinas College are encouraged to consider the refugee tutoring program as it is an opportunity to develop a relationship with someone from a very different culture and lifestyle. This is incredibly enriching and rewarding to any one's life.

Tegan Sly  
Refugee Tutor Coordinator 2008

*Tegan is presently in fourth year studying Urban and Regional Planning at the University of South Australia. She comes from Walpeup in Victoria. She is in her third year of refugee tutoring.*

**Photos above:**

**Left - Refugee tutors doing a review of the program**

**Right - Tutors:**

Ryan Hardman from Whyalla is studying Aero Space Engineering,

Angus Thornton from Bordertown is studying Economics,

Tegan Sly from Walpeup is studying Urban and Regional Development.

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## The old “Stables” at Sacred Heart College to go under the demolition hammer

*Brother Des Crowe writes from Somerton Park.*



Brothers will be interested to know that shortly work will begin on the demolition of the SHC classroom block facing Brighton Road.

The old building began its life as the stables for Mr James Francis Cudmore's race horses on his Paringa Hall estate. These were adapted for classroom use by Brother Joseph McAteer during the Christmas holidays of 1917 when a team of masons, plasterers and carpenters spent eight hectic weeks refurbishing the former stables to provide six classrooms, a science lecture room/laboratory, two music rooms and a gymnasium built of material salvaged from the old buildings at Largs Bay (the site of the college 1905-1914).

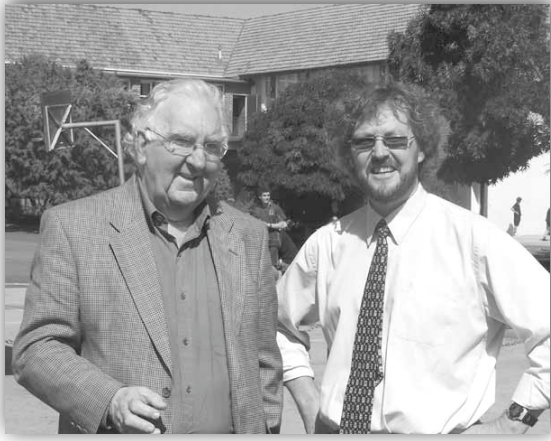
In 1941 our warmly remembered Brother Albertus made the daring decision to spend rather more money than he had (a circumstance not without precedent) to further adapt the building - resulting in what was at that time the latest thing in school facilities: three wings containing classrooms, laboratories, music room, book shop, typewriting room, cloak room and principal's office (all the rooms being connected by a PA system connected to the main wireless receiver in the office!). In this way the old "stables" were relegated to the past, opening the way to mid-20th century modernity. Now, after 70 years of fruitful use, these classrooms have come to full term, and are due

to be replaced by something more suited to today's needs. Some temporary portables will be erected in the north west corner of the property along Cudmore Street and Scarborough Street while the demolition and new construction work takes place.

The College Principal, Doctor Paul Hine, conscious of the importance of rites of passage, will hold a decommissioning ceremony at sunset on June 29th, inviting all who had memories to share to gather for a nostalgic, but happy, farewell to "the stables". As part of the decommissioning, one of the bricks will be symbolically removed, the honour of this action going to Columbanus.

(In point of fact only the more mature Old Boys - including Columbanus, Austin, Jordan - who were students in the 1930's and early 1940's - recall the buildings as "the stables"; those of more recent vintage remember them only as the top of the range facilities built by Brother Albertus.)

It has been an occasion for grateful and affectionate memories of the pioneers, especially Brother Stephen Debourg and his confreres (Port Adelaide, Semaphore, Largs Bay), and Brother Joseph McAteer, his confreres and their successors, who brought the College at Paringa Hall to its present flourishing circumstances.



## Sale's 'Holy Person in Residence' program



SALE:

Catholic College Sale has embarked on a new era of Staff care by introducing the 'Holy Person in Residence' program.

The concept came from the Catholic College Sale Director of Faith and Ministry Steve Nash. "It is a way to nurture the spirituality of staff and help further develop staff focus and consciously bring to mind the Catholic College vision of education," he said.

The idea was floated with College staff who responded enthusiastically to the idea and moves were made to construct the program, which was two years in the planning.

The College invited Jim Quillinan, a well respected educator and spiritual leader, to spend a week at the College and interact with staff.

"I was very pleased with the level of communication between the staff and myself" said Mr Quillinan. "Throughout the day I was approached by staff wanting to talk and discuss their roles and where they fit in to the big picture of Catholic education, and of an evening I was amazed by the number of emails I received from staff. I think the benefits of

running a program like this are enormous and I congratulate Catholic College Sale for looking after one of their most important assets - their staff."

There were also more structured activities and discussion groups during the week designed to encourage reflection on spirituality, faith, justice and our general sense of the world. A blank canvas was brought in to the staff area of each campus and the staff members were asked to express their feelings and thoughts on the canvas using paint, textas or other drawing mediums.

Alongside the canvas was a journal where staff were encouraged to write their thoughts of the day. This journal was used by Jim to assist in his contribution to each day.

This medium was welcomed and well used and became a useful tool in expression and direction of discussions. It contributed to the aim of the week, which was to enable staff to take a step back and more easily envision the real meaning of what they do and who they are.

The week became a special time for staff and an extremely beneficial and worthwhile experience for all.

*Catholic Life, Sale: June 2009*