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Br Emili Turú, Superior General, Celebrates Champagnat Day at the Montagne Centre

On June 6th, the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat, Br Emili Turú, S.G. and Br Joe McKee, V.G., were warmly welcomed to a Eucharist celebrated by Fr John Kearney in the Church of St Ambrose, Brunswick. A large group of Marists, brothers and lay, joined the celebration where Br Julian Casey, Provincial, welcomed Brs Emili and Joe to Melbourne.

During the celebration, Br Emili presented his Annual address to the Marist World on the Feast of St Marcellin.



**Br Joe McKee, Maddie Gilbey, Ed Crimmins
and Gail Coates read the Prayers.**



**Part of the large gathering at
St Ambrose's Church**

After the celebration in the church a large crowd of Marist friends walked across to the Montagne Centre for lunch and an opportunity to meet the Superior General and tour the Centre.

The new Ministry Centre houses the Australian Marist Solidarity Offices, the Vocations/Formation Team, the Remar Team, Marist Young Adult Ministry, the Doxa School and after August Marist School Australia (National Director and Melbourne Office).

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Br Joe McKee and Sophie Fenaughty



Brothers Emili Turú, Kevin Hoare and Mark Needham



Br Michael Sexton, on holiday from Algeria, and Kate Fogarty



Joe McCarthy, Br Joe McKee and Carolyn Young



Brother Oliver Clarke celebrates 75 Years as a Marist Brother



I attended a gathering on Saturday, 19th June in Darwin in honour of Oliver Clarke and Joe Hughes to acknowledge their Jubilee Anniversaries. A morning Mass was held at the Parish Church with a large attendance of parishioners and friends. We all celebrated Oliver's 75th year and Joe's Golden jubilee. Br Tony d'Arbon, representing the Sydney Province was able to be present for the occasion and Br Ron Campbell represented the Alice Springs Community. Priests from surrounding parishes concelebrated with Bishop Ted Collins. Bishop Eugene Hurley was unable to be present because of sickness.

SPEECH HONOURING THE 75TH JUBILEE OF BR OLIVER CLARKE

Oliver has gone through celebrations of his fifty years, of sixty years, of seventy years and now of 75 Years (golden, diamond, platinum) and each of those speeches of congratulations bring up the old and humorous stories of his life and testify to the extraordinary esteem which Brothers hold him in. Now, for his sake, I don't want to repeat those tales and myths for fear of trivialising the important role Oliver has played in the Province and with so many Brothers.

I am aware that this audience, and the community in Darwin, may not know Oliver's life and times and would appreciate knowing something of his inspiring story.

Oliver was born Dennis Austin Clarke (with the well known initials DAC) in Dandaragan, Western Australia in 1914. His father was a school teacher who imparted so much of his desire for learning to Oliver.

He attended a monastery school run by the Marist Brothers for the Benedictine Abbey at New Norcia. What the Brothers and the Benedictine monks imparted to Oliver, and imbedded in his psyche during

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those times, has never really left him: a cultivated mind, a disciplined approach to spirituality, to learning and life, as well as a love of Mary the mother of Jesus. The impact of his association with New Norcia led him to join the Marist Brothers and he entered the novitiate 75 years ago in 1935.

Oliver is a man of natural talent and ability and in no time he was appointed to Mittagong, NSW, where he worked as a teacher in the formation house. (Probably the most important task in the Marist province at that time) He endeared himself to those in formation and provided stability in a world that was at war. There was little or no opportunity for university degrees during these times. Within a short time his qualities of organisation and thoroughness, and his great ability to relate to students, led the Provincial to appoint him as Principal of a College in Rosalie in 1941 and then, after two years, he was asked to be the foundation Principal of Marist College Ashgrove, Queensland. These were difficult times and circumstances because of the second World War. His former students remember him well and quite a few still keep in touch and have always tried to ensure that he was present at their functions.

After Ashgrove, there were Principal-ships at Hawthorn in Victoria, at New Norcia, at Griffith in NSW and in Wangaratta Victoria. Having served with great distinction as leader in these places, he stood down from being Principal and, in his simple way, returned to the classroom, where he pursued his love of English and History, and enthralled and inspired many a student in these areas.

As a leader of a Brothers' community, he is greatly loved and admired for his humanity, his organisation and his consistency. I'm in a position to know and I know of no-one who was not happy to be with him in community. He was a rock of good humour and cheerfulness, of stability, of advice and counsel for the Province, Provincial and provincial Councils, of which he was a member for many years. There is felt a profound gratitude in our Province that he was who he was.

He not only read widely, he could also read people, making observations on their foibles and their capacities, their contradictions and their aspirations. Many the time he helped save people from reproach by the Superior because he understood the Brothers and would come to their rescue, even though the Brothers were unaware of it.



He treats people with immense simplicity and on their level, whether they be cleaners or governors. But he is not naïve; he can also read arrogance, condescension and pretence. He has a kind of sixth sense when it comes to people and this explains much about his length of time as a provincial councillor.

Given his flair for English and History, he

took on the role of Editor of our Newsletter for 20 years. In those days the Newsletter was printed on a Gestetner, requiring much organisation, patience and more patience. Like all things he has taken on, he accomplished much and actually did a lot to help strengthen and confirm who we were as Marist Brothers of the Melbourne Province. So it was more than just a collection of News and articles. It was a way of clarifying our priorities, our characteristics, our identity and our passion.

When he finished his time on the provincial Council he took up the growth of roses. He read every book imaginable and, in no time, he had a great array of roses all wonderfully kept and pruned. As well, he took on the archives and, in typical fashion, went to every possible seminar on archives, read widely on the topic, put our archives in order and soon became chairperson of the Melbourne Catholic Archivists Association.

You can't live with Oliver very long without becoming aware of his simple and manly devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. He reads, reflects and prays to her. He always has a flower to accompany her image. This trait goes back to the early days at New Norcia and has influenced his life in such a way that leads him easily to compassion and his great ability to meet people at their level.

He is thought of with fond gratitude in our Province, and as a powerful example of what it should mean to be a Brother. Speaking personally,

I've seen him at the table, at prayer in the Chapel, in the office. I've seen him in meetings with other leaders. I've gotten his quiet and sound advice and I've come to recognise that all the attributes that I love about Marists are resident in him. Above all, I'm proud to be the Provincial of a Province that loves a man like Oliver.

So it gives me great pleasure to ask Br Oliver Clarke to come forward and receive this plaque of recognition of his 75 years of life as a Marist Brother and the wonderful contribution which he has made to making Jesus known and loved to generations of people.

Oliver, your commitment to our Marist Life, to principle; your scholarship, your industry and independence; your impartiality and vast experience in the Marist life; your courtesy, compassion, wisdom and humour are all greatly appreciated by your Brothers and the community.

Thank you for your 75 years of life with us.



Br Julian Casey
17 June 2010