

MARIST NEWSLETTER

Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

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The Annunciation narrative ends with Mary's answer: *"You see before you the Lord's servant; let it happen to me as you have said."*

Coming down from heaven, the wonderful gift of God's son is left in the hands of a young girl favoured by the Holy Spirit, the child taking shape at that very moment.

"

We may ask: What was the nature of Mary's Yes?"

At that moment something new and unique took place. The promised child began to take flesh within her, at the same time Son of the Father and Son of Mary, God and man. Through the action of the Holy Spirit this was a new beginning for all who would welcome Jesus: *"To all those who received Him, he empowered them to become God's sons" (Jn 1:12).*

We are all children of the 'yes' of Mary.

THE MONTH OF MAY - THE MONTH OF MARY



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Marist Newsletter of the Marist Brothers Province of Melbourne is a private publication for the dissemination of news, notices and articles of interest among the Brothers, the affiliated members of the Province and our lay associates who serve on Committees of the Province.

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



On April third, Holy Saturday, a Marial paraliturgy: « The Hour of the Mother », has just ended at Saint Mary Major. In the celebration of the liturgy of the word, Byzantine strophes have alternated with verses of Psalm 118, singing of the love, the pain and the hope of Mary - a way of accompanying a mother in mourning. The Church today takes the place of the beloved disciple yesterday. « The Hour of the Mother » is a tradition recovered. This evening, the « alleluias » will return, like the swallows in spring, and we will again sing « Regina coeli laetare ! Alleluia ! »

This lets us remember that we are a particularly Marial congregation: for us the mother of Jesus is the « Good Mother », « the Ordinary Resource », « the one who has done everything for us! » The document of the XXI General Chapter tells us this abundantly, and asks us to set our mission at the rapid pace followed by Mary at the Visitation: the first of all Christian missions.

With this Marial character of ours, we have our traditions, such as the month of Mary, which comes down to us from our Founder. In many countries, it constitutes a highlight of the presence of Mary in our life as Brothers, lay Marists, and educators: a time of special education for our young people to come to know and love the Mother of the Lord.

Br. Giovanni Maria Bigotto

From our Provincial



3 May 2010

Dear Brothers,

With so much talk, doubt and questioning about celibacy in the press these days, I think it would be timely to consider this element of our lives. The distance of the celibate from the model of the typical male portrayed in the media and in society can sometimes serve as a focus for anxiety for Brothers. Living in a world which is predominantly non-celibate and suspicious of any other option, a celibate can feel like a foreigner in our culture, at least occasionally. Just google “celibacy images” to get some idea of how celibacy is viewed from the outside.

There are several different understandings of celibacy and we need to be aware of them, if only to help clarify what “being celibate for the sake of the Kingdom is.”

Sometimes people remain unmarried and live habitually without sexual satisfaction because of circumstances:- perhaps illness, an accident or pre-occupation with other activities. This is simply a circumstantial celibacy. As well, there are some occupations which look with favour upon mobility and availability afforded by being unmarried. The Roman Catholic Priesthood is often understood or misunderstood in this light. Some sectors of the military machine tend in this direction. In Tibet, the preponderance of males made monastic celibacy a convenient means of having enough women to go around. This is more like an organisational celibacy

In those cultures in which meditation has been highly valued, celibacy has often enjoyed considerable esteem. Sexual indulgence has been found detrimental to prayer and there would seem to be some connection between fasting, sexual restraint, vigils and prayer. This is an ascetic approach to celibacy

We understand our Vow of Celibacy is undertaken simply in a response to what is experienced as a divine call. While being quite sure about the fact of the call and maybe of its purpose, it is sometimes difficult to explain to someone about why celibacy is demanded. A Brother’s acceptance of celibacy will last only as long as he remains in awareness of his call. This is a radical dramatisation and witness to all, that human life is incomplete without God. It gives to celibacy a prophetic role in the coming of the Kingdom. This is mirrored in our Constitutions which remind us that in professing the vow of Chastity we accept the gift of the Father. We don’t often realise that it is a gift. To help us in that, I leave the last word to Br Ron Fogarty who taught that our vow of Chastity was “about learning to love well, to love grandly, and to love with sweeping gestures.” He portrayed the vow of chastity as an adventure into self for the sake of others, as giving new dimension to life, breadth to relationships and freedom to the soul and he used to point out that Jesus loved with his whole personality, affectivity, feelings, sensitivity. Don’t believe what you read in the papers!

Yours fraternally

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Br Julian Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Br Julian Casey

Provincial

Champagnat Day

On Sunday, June 6th there will be a special welcome to Brs Emili Turu, Superior General and to Br Joe McKee, Vicar General. The celebration will comprise a number of elements:

- A Champagnat Mass celebrated by Fr John Carnie at St Ambrose's Church, Sydney Rd Brunswick, just up from the Montagne Centre 1 Dawson Street Brunswick. The Mass will begin at 12.00 midday. A special welcome will be offered to Brs Emili and Joe at the Mass and they will be invited to respond.
- Parking details will be included in the Invitations.
- Music from one of the College Choirs
- A visit and guided tours to the Montagne Centre will be given by young people in our Marist network; there will also be displays and music.
- Simple finger food meal will be provided.
- An invitation will be sent to all communities, friends and those associated with our Colleges and Communities. Student representatives from our Colleges are welcome.

Traralgon Announcement

The following announcement has been sent to the Bishop of Sale, the Catholic Education Office, Lavalla Catholic College and the Parish of St Michaels:

I am writing to let you know that, at our last Provincial Council Meeting, decisions were made concerning the Traralgon Marist Community.

It was confirmed that Br Bill Dillon would be appointed to a Melbourne Community for the 2nd Semester of this year. Since 2005, Br Bill has been a wonderful presence in the College and the Parish and many will be sorry to see him leave.

Br Anthony O'Brien has been a popular member of the Traralgon Marist Community since 1995 and is held with great affection by the Parish. He has had a very long period of illness and is now on the mend. After a holiday, he also will be appointed to another community for the 2nd semester.

Br Mark Needham will continue on the staff at Lavalla Catholic College; but will live with the community at Sale. Br Kevin Hoare, who was on temporary placement at Traralgon, will return to the missions; this time at the Santa Teresa Aboriginal Community in Central Australia.

As a consequence of these moves, the Brothers' House at Hourigan Drive will be put on the market. Whilst we know that there will be some disappointment in Traralgon with these decisions, we are sure that people will understand the circumstances that make such a move necessary.

*Br Julian Casey
Provincial*

Residences

Traralgon

Following the changes at Traralgon (see above), the decision has been made to put the Traralgon house and land (5 acres) on the market..

Bulleen

The Brothers will cede occupation of the Bulleen house and the site will be valued for its best use by Marcellin College.

This will avoid the cost of the College acquiring other property and enable the College to include a significant site for future College development.

North Fitzroy

North Fitzroy property has been identified as the best possible site for a future senior Brothers Community. Hence we are exploring with the Parish and Archdiocese the possibility of purchasing the property or obtaining a long-term lease with a view of constructing a more suitable residence for Senior Brothers. Should this arrangement not be agreeable to the Parish, we would look for an alternative site.

Coburg

The development of North Fitzroy will take some time and a house in Coburg has been purchased to provide some ground-floor accommodation over the next few years while North Fitzroy is being developed. We expect to take over this house in July. The house is close to

public transport and is less than 4 kilometres from the Montagne Centre.

Other residential options being considered.

We are exploring the possible purchase of small apartments or flats, and possible “granny flats” or bungalows on existing property. This would enable some Brothers with special needs to be well accommodated but still to be attached to a Community.

Provincial Chapter

The Preparatory Commission has met and will soon be in contact with communities about voting for the Chapter which will take place at St Joseph’s Hunters Hill from 18th to 22nd December. We await the results of the Sondage before the voting can take place. The Chapters of the three Provinces:- Sydney, New Zealand and Melbourne, will take place concurrently and will be preceded by a combined gathering to identify the common recommendations for each Chapter to consider.

World Youth Day, Madrid 2011.

Some arrangements for this event are now coming to life.

- Young people attending the Marist Festival prior to youth day must for legal reasons be 18 or over. Each Province has received an allocation of five places for

young adults for the Marist Festival.

- The Provincial Council has agreed to make \$20,000 available to assist a small Marist Group go from the Melbourne Province.
- The Young Adult Ministry will be responsible for the selection of our representatives.
- Students currently at school are being asked to join either a school or parish group.

National E-Conference

- On Tuesday, 18th May, a Conference titled **Mary, the First Disciple** is being hosted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Commission for Mission and Faith Formation.
- This Conference will be streamed on the Internet, and you are invited to participate as a Community, or individually.
- The good news is that, provided you meet the basic technical requirements, you will be able to join the Conference from the convenience of your own office or home - where ever.
- You need a reliable broadband Internet connection.
- Principals and RECs at our Colleges would also benefit from this.
- This is a live event from 10.30am - 3.15pm Eastern Standard Time. (with appropriate breaks.

You will need:

- A PC or MAC with a reliable broadband Internet connection
- A good set of audio speakers

A data projector, if you want to host a group gathering

The link to the hosting website is [http://
mary.vividas.com/](http://mary.vividas.com/)

In the meantime, if you have any technical queries, don't hesitate to contact Chris Mirabella (mobile 0419 686 555 or cmirabella@maristmelb.org.au) to discuss.

Those who have participated in these conferences before, can assure you that it works well. It's not an uninterrupted lecture. Rather there are short segments, discussion time, time for email questions and time for lunch.

Finance Department

The structure of the Province Finance Department is undergoing some changes. It will involve Rex Cambrey being appointed Provincial Bursar and Director of Business. The current roles will be divided into Finance Manager and Province Property and Schools Administrator and Bursar for Community Affairs. Once the appointments are in place, Rex will fulfil his role on a part-time basis.

Third Age

We are in the process of finalizing participants for the Third Age Programme. This programme is excellent and those who have attended will testify to its value. The Third Age Programme is intended to offer you an opportunity to come apart from your present life context for a while to review your life journey in gratitude and grace and be nourished for your life and mission in the years ahead. It can be a blessed time of Sabbath rest, personal renewal and openness to

God's transforming presence in your life.

Manziana offers a peaceful atmosphere with many possibilities for reflection, new learning and building a supportive community environment.

Oceania Regional Assembly (ORA)

This Assembly is a major historic gathering and it will be an important stage in our discussions about developments in Oceania. Please keep the fruitfulness of this gathering in your prayers.

The details are:-

Dates and Venue

- To be held at the Hermitage, Mittagong, 30 May - 2 June 2010.
- There will be 60 participants (15 from each Administrative Unit)
- The Superior General, Br Emili Turú, and the Vicar General, Br Joseph McKee, will be attending. Br Pau Fornells from the Bureau of the Laity will also be in attending.

Facilitator

- Professor Anne Cummins is our facilitator.

Desired Outcomes

- A shared vision for Marist Life and Mission in our Region;
- Further clarify the commitment with regard to governance and shared structures; Greater vitality for the Region.

Areas of Content

- Supporting and encouraging authentic modern consecrated life within our region; Lay Marists within our region - sharing in the charism and mission of Marist life in our region;
- Options for governance and shared structures for the future.

Attitudes to further develop

- International Mindedness;
- Brothers and Lay together;
- Through the eyes of a poor child;
- With Mary;
- A sense of urgency.

Michael Sexton

We will be able to welcome Michael back in the Province from the end of May to July. He will be staying with his parents.

Kevin Hoare

As noted elsewhere, Kevin has done a great job in preparing the house and land at Traralgon so that we can sell it. He will take up residence at Santa Teresa at the end of Term 2

Sunday 12th December at Bulleen

We have booked the Chapel and Functions Centre at Bulleen for December 12. Given that Pat Connell applies for profession later this year, this booking will be in place. You might like to pencil in the date.



Gathering to farewell Tom Smythe

Friday 30th April saw a gathering of friends and family come together to acknowledge and honour Tom's contribution, not only across the Melbourne Province, but also Oceania and Internationally.

This farewell marked the end of Tom's full time employment with the Marist Brothers and the beginning of more leisure-filled days.



Maureen Smythe reads a surprise toast from their daughter



Toast and vote of thanks from Br John McMahon

An entertaining and relaxing evening was enjoyed by all, with an innovative right of reply to John McMahon's toast and vote of thanks, including a surprise toast by Tom's daughter, who was unable to attend (this was read by his wife, Maureen).



Presentation by Br Julian

We thank Tom for his immense contribution and presence to the Marist community over the years and wish him well in the future.

The Song that Ena Zizi Sang

As usual one story will have to serve for one million stories.
That is the way of stories.

You might think that a lone story
Cannot possibly do that, and you would be right and wrong.

So here is Ena Zizi. She is seventy years old. The house fell
Down on her when an earthquake hammered Port-au-Prince.
She was there in the dark for a week, her leg and hip broken.

In the beginning she talked to a man who was buried nearby.
He was a priest, he said. After two days he fell silent so Ena
Talked only to God, she said.

After a week, she was rescued
By a team called the Gophers. They slid her out on plywood.

Ena sang all the way out of the rubble: she had begun to sing
When she heard the scrabbling of the Mexicans' search dogs.
No one can remember if there were any words in the singing,
But everyone remembers the lady singing.

Ena says she does
Not remember what song she was singing. I was very thirsty,
She says. I sang and sang.

Everyone there wept, and clapped,
And they went back to work.

But Ena is still singing the song.

That's what I wanted to tell you.

You can't not hear her song.

I think perhaps that's a song that once it gets born never ends.

I think maybe there are more songs floating than we can hear.

I think we all know that and we all get a little tired and forget,

But look, there's Ena rising from the dead again, and singing!

Brian Doyle: editor of Portland Magazine
at the University of Portland, Oregon



Superiore generale dei Fratelli Maristi

Rome, 4 May 2010

TO THE BROTHERS OF THE PROVINCE OF MELBOURNE

Dear Brothers,

I want to extend warm personal greetings to each of you. We have just concluded a week-long program with the thirteen new provincials from throughout the Marist world. Our time together has been an experience of fraternal dialogue, shared learning, renewed commitment to the future of the Institute and a reaffirmation that Marcellin's charism is needed today more than ever.

It is in this same spirit that I am pleased to announce that the General Council and I have appointed Brother Julian Casey to a second three-year term as Provincial beginning on 19 December 2010. We are grateful to him for his ongoing service to the Province of Melbourne and to the Institute and we appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity. The results of the recent province sondage clearly indicate that Julian has the strong support of the brothers in the province and your confidence and trust in him will serve as a significant source of support for him in the years ahead. His love for the brothers and for the Institute has always been characteristic of his many years of service in leadership and your comments in the consultation process reflect this, as well.

The General Council and I have carefully reviewed your responses to the several questions that informed your participation in the consultation process and are grateful for your thoughtful reflections and the attention and care you invested, always looking for the best for the Province. I would like briefly to highlight the most prevalent responses to the first question regarding "...the positive aspects which have most contributed to the building of the Province on its path of fidelity and re-founding." Many brothers stressed the following:

- ✓ The positive attitude of the brothers in the Province...a spirit of fraternity, prayer, service, and commitment
- ✓ The efforts to facilitate collaboration between the brothers and our Lay Marists
- ✓ The continuing commitment of the brothers to missionary activity
- ✓ Efforts to work toward a unified region

I believe that these strengths, and others that are abundant in your Province, will enable you creatively to address many of the significant challenges that you indicated in your responses. Among the most frequently cited among these were:

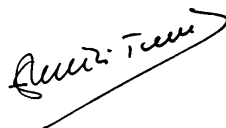
- ✓ The aging of the brothers
- ✓ Lack of vocations
- ✓ Diminishment of direct involvement with young people
- ✓ The quality of community life
- ✓ The identity of the Lay Marist and encouraging laypeople to be co-responsible for Mission
- ✓ The importance of collaborating with the other provinces in the region to restructure and work together as a region.

The challenges you highlighted are significant ones that demand the participation and commitment of each brother in the province. They are difficult but I am confident that you will meet them with courage, fortitude and confidence in the future.

Our General Chapter documents call each of us to a renewed sense of consecration firmly rooted in the Gospel, urging us to new ways of being Brother... Brothers among Brothers, signs of the Kingdom by our simple style of life, by sharing life and faith, with a renewed spirit of prayer and mutual forgiveness. As a brother among brothers I want to assure you of my gratitude for everything you do and have done to bring Marcellin's charism to life in Australia and the General Council and I promise our prayers and support for you.

Once again I want to express my and the General Council's appreciation for your participation in the consultation process and for the wonderful contribution you make to Marist life.

Sincerely,



Emili Turú
Superior general

Marist Pilgrimage 2010

**Reflection from a Pilgrim - Rob Crothers,
Dean of Curriculum, Newman College, Perth.**



Pilgrims pictured above at Fr Marcellin Champagnat Place:

From left: Caroline Murphy, Maria Windsor, Paul Herrick, Peter White, Robyn Eaton, Adrian Drane, Lyn Shields, Adrian Mitchell, Robyn White, Terri Driscoll, Shane Reid, Alannah Darmody, Mark Murphy (partly hidden), Andrew Balkwill, Carolyn Young, Br Michael Herry, Marie Dorrington, Di Grinbergs, Rob Crothers, Adriano Di Prato, Paul Hine and Gail Morgan.

Front: Br John and John Markota.

I had the fortunate experience recently to join with a group of 24 staff members from various schools within the Melbourne Province to participate in a pilgrimage to France, Rome, Guatemala and El Salvador. The pilgrimage focused on developing our knowledge of Marcellin Champagnat, broadening our experience of the Marist mission at an international level and providing us with an

opportunity to witness the work of the Marists in a third world country.

Our journey proved to be rich in experiences and left us with much to reflect upon and to ponder about. A somewhat unexpected outcome for me was a much more developed sense of “Marist family” within Australia.

Our group seemed to “click” on a personal level and a great sense of camaraderie was able to develop. People changed groups readily for various activities and interacted easily on shopping forages and during meals. A strong sense of humour emerged, as did a willingness to be of help to each other and to the group. Many of our liturgies were “home grown” affairs and were thoughtful and often moving.

Being a little isolated at Newman College in Western Australia, I have taken great delight in the fact that I now know very well, twenty three other family members in various locations throughout the Melbourne Province. Even though I may not see these folk often, the pilgrimage has established a strong bond between all and a friendship that will be warmly welcomed whenever we do have the opportunity to meet.

Another unexpected, yet very positive outcome was the witness of the various brothers whom we met, to the life that they live. We met brothers in Paris, at L’Hermitage, in Rome, Guatemala and El Salvador. It didn’t matter who or where we met – the experience was the same. The welcome usually said it all. It was a welcome to their country, a welcome to their home and a very special family welcome to one who shares in their vision. The welcome was always followed by whatever could be done to make our visit more enjoyable. However, the witness was more than the welcome and included the richness of faith and vision as the various Brothers shared their stories and perspectives.

Seventy eight year old Br Louis, who was with us for some time in France, touched us deeply with his love and passion for his vocation. On one occasion he was standing next to a granite statue of Marcellin whilst waiting for the group to gather. As he waited for the group he was tenderly stroking the statue as if he was greeting an old friend. His love and connection with the

founder was obvious and touched the group deeply.

On other occasions the witness was the interactions between the various Brothers that gave evidence of their common bond and understanding. At another time, it was the commitment to be of service to humanity in very challenging situations and conditions that made you stop and think about your own level of commitment in living out the Gospel call.

We felt very humbled in Rome to be able to share a meeting with the Superior General of the Marist Brothers, Emili Turu and the Vicar General, Br. Joe McKee.



Br Emili and Rob Crothers

In typical Marist fashion, Br. Emili was initially more interested in hearing about our role as Marist Educators as well as our experiences on this pilgrimage. When questioned about the role of lay Marists, Br. Emili stated that, “Being a Lay Marist is a movement of the spirit and it is not up to us to control this.”

In El Salvador we met a brother who was one hundred years old. He had a zest for life and complained of a hunger to be working and the frustration of being told to go gently!



Pilgrims chat to a Marist centenarian, Br Julián Goñi, who turns 101 in June

Perhaps one of the strongest witnesses was in the cemetery at L'Hermitage. Here, the silent crosses bore testimony to lives lived selflessly and in the interest of others right to their very end – it was hard not to be impressed.



Cemetery at L'Hermitage



The renovated Hermitage nearing completion