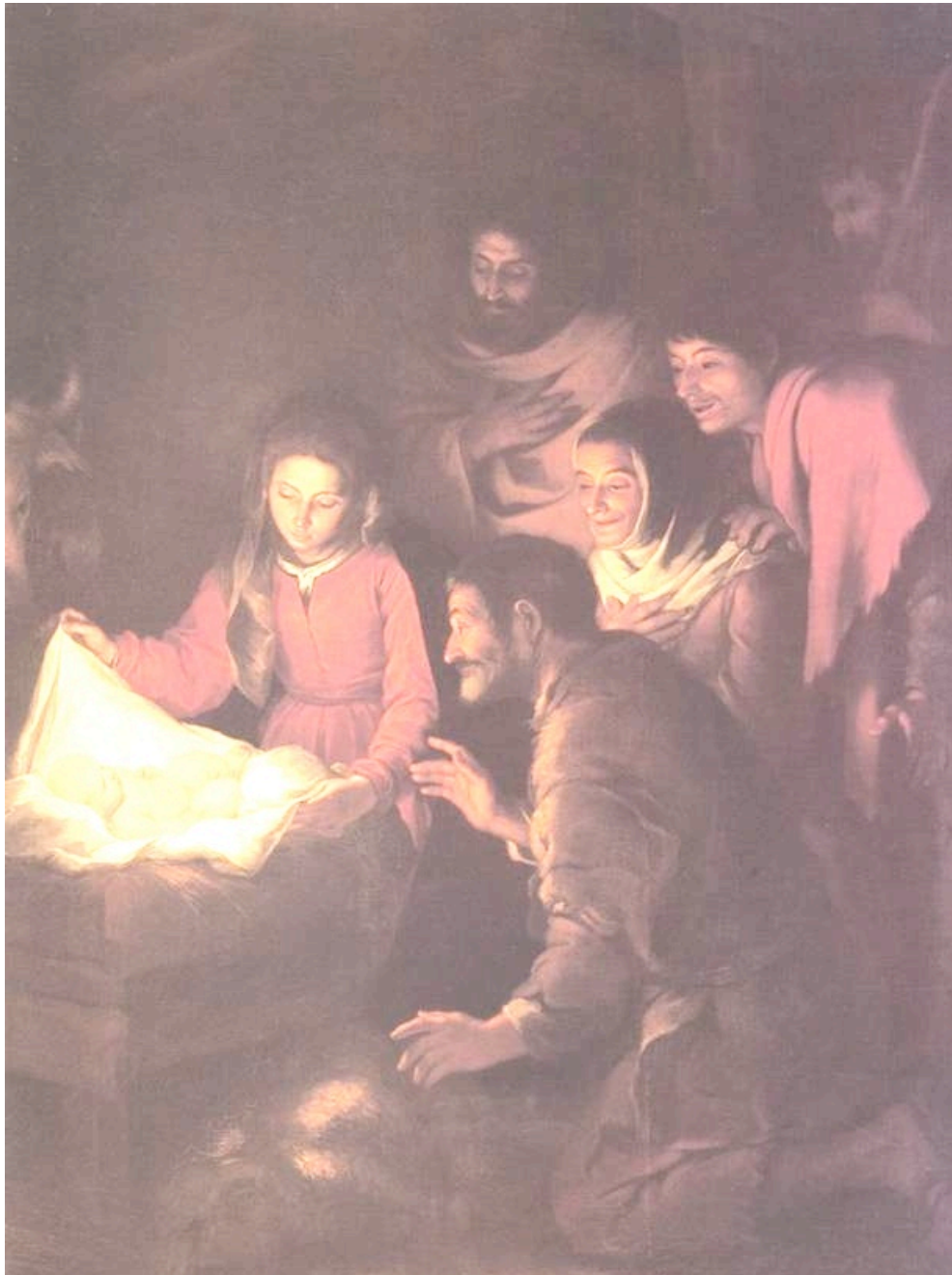


MARIST NEWSLETTER



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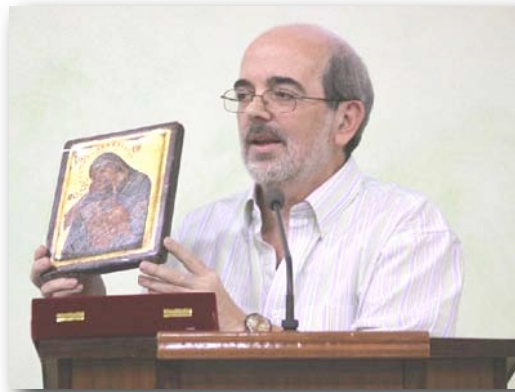
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Marist Newsletter of the Marist Brothers Province of Melbourne is a private publication for the dissemination of news, notices and articles of interest among the Brothers, the affiliated members of the Province and our lay associates who serve on Committees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



Br Emili Turú, Superior General

At this stage of our Marist history, God has provided us with the special opportunity of this General Chapter to return to the fundamentals of our charism.

After the experience of this Chapter, we feel like the disciples at Emmaus: "Were not our hearts burning while he spoke to us on the way" (Lk 24: 32).

We have been transformed and are now sent to tell the good news to the Marist world. This part of our pilgrimage is over, but the journey continues. The message of the Chapter needs to take root throughout the Institute.

Together we have dreamed about our future and have discovered the fundamental call that God has for us today: With Mary, we go in haste to a new land! We feel driven by the Spirit of God to go into a new land, to facilitate the birth of a new epoch of Marist charism.

This presumes a willingness to move on, to let go of the familiar, to embark on a journey of both institutional and personal conversion over the next eight years.

We travel this road with Mary, guide and companion. Her faith and openness to God's will inspire us to undertake this pilgrimage.

This "new land" is an authentic renewal of the Institute; it asks of us a genuine change of heart.

From our Provincial



Dear Brothers and Friends

A visit to Manila to attend the MAPC Board Meeting came six days after my return from the Chapter and so the task of providing immediate communication from the Chapter has been particularly difficult. That being so, both John and I have managed to have some gatherings with Adelaide, Perth, Forbes and Templestowe.

The big challenge for John and me is to try to convey the message and the spirit of the Chapter of five weeks in a relatively short presentation. So obviously the task for the Province is to work assiduously with the documents in order to come to an understanding and appreciation of what the General Chapter is trying to convey to the Institute as a whole. It will be an ongoing task. But I urge you to address this question of assimilating the Chapter message over the coming months. It will certainly help to be familiar with the main points and the letter. In the meantime we will use any opportunity to help in that process.

There are 5 main areas which need to be understood.

“The medium is the message” as Marshall McLuhan was wont to say.

This Chapter was quite different from previous Chapters in the way it addressed the issues. The parliamentary model was abandoned and in its place there was dialogue among the delegates about the issues, usually at tables of 8 or 9 from different parts of the world. The table would come to consensus about an issue and this was the beginning of the whole Chapter coming to consensus. The effect of this is that the Chapter decisions were passed by overwhelming majorities because the sort of proposal being put forward had been worked on and modified in the light of the comments and continuous feedback from the table. (Gone were the days of 67 in favour and 66 against). So how the Chapter came to decisions could become a model for how Provinces come to decisions, even of how communities come to decisions. So the method we used is a significant part of the message.



Province News ...

Mary

The second thing that stands out is that the Chapter had a Marial presence right from the start. With the help of “Marial Moments” or a short Marial reflection or prayer prior to the commencement of the afternoon session, there developed an understanding that this “new heart” which we had been talking about could well be a “Marial Heart”. This was no pious aspiration, but rather something that arose from the scriptural reflections

The Laity

The third area which you need to be aware of was the presence of the laity and the implication of the part lay Marists will play in our life, our mission and our spirituality into the future. Already a booklet has been developed and will be distributed soon. The realisation that lay people are accompanying us on each of our Marist Mission activities was a special moment in the Chapter and a realisation that the future could be different.

Internationality



Arising out of the way the Chapter worked was the realization of how international we are. There was greater fluency in different languages and this enabled a much more relaxed communication among the delegates. At my table we had Brothers from Madagascar, Malawi, Australia, USA, Columbia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. So it should be no surprise to hear that the Chapter reflected on the strengths that the international character of the Institute provided and that this element will clearly be a part of the future.

The Fundamental Call

And so we come to the Fundamental Call of the Chapter which will be an important part of our future reflections together as a Province. It could be that we will be going with Mary in haste to a “New Land” The fundamental Call was about our readiness to move, the importance of our mission and seeing the world through the eyes of a poor child. It is about our ongoing conversion of heart which will be a challenge for all of us.



By now you will have seen the images of the Visitation and the Montagne incident. To appreciate the insight of the Chapter, you have to see these images together because together they are an invitation to us.

I urge you to take some time to reflect on them. I don't need to provide a “Readers Digest” description of them. I leave them to you to reflect creatively on them together.



Other elements

One of the interests in the Chapter for those at home would have been the election of the Superior General and the Council. This is old news; but it was an important element of the Chapter to which the Chapter gave careful attention.

So there's a brief summary of the Chapter. Of course there were other elements which I will share with you when I see you. There were some interesting constitutional amendments, some financial recommendations and a recommendation about the General House. These were in line with the Chapter theme and will be a source of interest to you at a later stage.

I have to say that both John and I were delighted to be present at this Chapter. I think it represented a watershed in the life of the Institute and it was certainly both an honour and a privilege to be there. For that we are both truly grateful.

Yours fraternally



Br Julian Casey

Provincial

OTHER PROVINCE NEWS

MAPAC Board Meeting

This meeting occurs in October each year and it is always a privilege to be among young Marist Life, which is full of energy, passion and expectation for going out on mission. They are a wonderful group of young men and I never cease to be encouraged by their enthusiasm. Des Howard is the Rector and continues to bring his encouragement and personal attention to these men. He is in good health and is supported by an excellent staff.

Pat Connell

I called in to Canberra to meet and talk with Pat and his Novice Master Tony Shears. Pat is not long back from Lomeri in Fiji where he joined the Melanesian novices for one month. It was a good experience for Pat to be with other Novices being schooled in Marist life and some preparing for Vows.

Educational Issues

With the Commonwealth planning new funding procedures for the future, there is quite a lot of activity in all states as they prepare to clarify their stance. We are a part of that discussion. As well there is industrial activity in a number of States and this is causing some headaches for principals and CEO's, particularly in South Australia.

Affiliation of Barbara Radford

Those associated with Kilmore over the years will know about Barbara's long standing commitment to Marist Life and Ministry, particularly to those students with special needs. She has also accompanied

Province News ...

many Brothers who have moved into this area and helped them both professionally and personally. The Affiliation took place at Kilmore on Sunday 8th November.

Montagne Ministry Centre, Dawson St Brunswick

At last we have received a council planning permit which allows us to operate out of this building. Through the stimulus grants provided to Schools, we have been able to renovate a number of areas in preparation for the introduction of the DOXA School in this centre. In the meantime, Remar, Young Adult Ministry Vocations, Solidarity and Melbourne Solidarity Office are all located in this Centre, which Br Steve Bugg co-ordinates.

We have also completed a long negotiation with DOXA about the conditions and placement of the DOXA School at the Centre.

Province Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be on for young and old at Templestowe on 25th....The more the merrier. There will be a call to communities to determine numbers.

Brothers who are unwell

Br Anthony O'Brien is still recuperating at the Latrobe Regional Hospital in Traralgon.

Br Des Crowe has been admitted to Hospital for further tests.

Br Brian McGrath is recuperating after battling a particularly nasty infection over the last month.

Br Kevin Hogan has an ongoing pain condition which requires care.

Provincial's itinerary

November

- 4th Canberra Visit
- 5th Forbes Visit
- 8th Barbara Radford's Affiliation
- 9th Adelaide Visit
- 10th Sale Meeting with Bishop
- 11th North Fitzroy Visit
- 12th Stipends Committee
- 13th CRA Education Committee
- 16th AMS Board (Apology) Sydney
- 17th Oceania Finance Meeting
- 18th Ministry Meeting

Province News ...

Provincial's itinerary (Continued)

- 19th NCEC Meeting (Melb)
- 21st Provincial Council
- 22nd Depart NZ
- 23rd Oceania Council
- 24th Oceania Council
- 25th Return
- 26th Travel to Sydney
- 27th AMS Strategy Planning Sydney

December

- 4th Catholic Capital Grants
- 5th Marist Ministry Dinner
- 7th Bendigo Governors
- 8th Bendigo Governors
- 11th Province Centre Dinner Annual Retreat (Adelaide)
- 12th Provincial Council Meeting
- 25th Christmas Dinner
- 27th Retreat



Erica Pegorer, Brs John and Julian, at the General Chapter