

# MARIST NEWSLETTER

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## XXI General Chapter

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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**



The symbolism of the logo alludes to the idea proposed by the slogan: New Hearts for a New World. With this expression, an attempt is made to associate the heart and the world integrated in single entity.

The encircling form of a heart contains in its interior several hearts, a rising sun and the form of an M (Mary, Marcellin, Marist, mission ...). The color green, in addition to blending with the terrestrial globe, makes an allusion to the bicentenary of the foundation of the Marist Institute (2017) that is glimpsed on the horizon of history. The blue line, a color associated with the Institute, refers to the Marist presence in the world at the same time it suggests new horizons for the life of the Institute.

The harmonious integration of the logo and the slogan evokes the dynamic of the XXI General Chapter.

**OCEANIA GROUP AT THE CHAPTER**



*From left: Brs Ken McDonald, John McMahon, Jeff Crowe, Carl Tapp, Julian Casey, Graham Neist, Ms Erica Pegorer, Brs Peter Rodney, Michael Green Barry Burns.*

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## THE XXI GENERAL CHAPTER ELECTS A NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL AND VICAR GENERAL



**Brother Emili Turú Rofes** was elected Superior General on the first ballot. He hails from a town in Cataluña (Spain) called Marçà, and is the youngest of five children. He was born on January 24, 1955, in Barcelona.

He began his formation with the Marist Brothers in 1968 and has been 41 years in the Institute. He considers himself to be “post-conciliar”, as all his religious life has been lived with the benefits of the renewal that Vatican II precipitated.

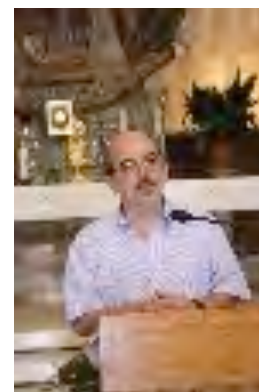
His studies focused on Spanish and Catalán and theology (theological anthropology). His ministry has seen him working with children and youth from primary through to university, although the greater part of his service to the Institute has been in initial formation and in various provincial offices. He has been a delegate for ministry and education and a provincial, as well as serving as a councilor general.

His hobbies are reading, music and bike riding. He has relished living in Italy and found his appreciation of the Arts enhanced by the opportunities offered during his time in Rome.

**Brother Joseph McKee** was elected as Vicar General to Brother Emili.

He was born in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He began his postulancy in 1968 and his novitiate in 1969 in Avellanes, Spain. His scholasticate was undertaken in Maynooth, 1970. He has studied in Glasgow, Barcelona, Nigeria and the Loyola University in Chicago. He has served as a teacher in Bamenda, Cameroon, (1979-1987) and as Rector in Nairobi (1999).

He has been Provincial of Europe Centre-Ouest/West Central Europa and has been living at Nijmegen in the Netherlands.



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## *From our Acting Provincial*



Dear Brothers and Friends

As I sit here at my desk in Sale preparing to write something for the Newsletter, Will, the College Captain, has just come in before heading off for one of the afternoon VCE holiday practice exams. Will likes to know what I'm up to. I told him what I was about to do and to my surprise and delight, he commented that my article in the last School Newsletter was much longer than usual. Astutely he added that this, "of course, was not a negative comment!" He went on to say that he is not one of those who "gets the School Newsletter and flips past the Principal's section to get to the interesting bits". You are no doubt getting the impression that Will, our irrepressible College Captain, will get on in life!

Will's comment did make me wonder whether there'd be many who, on receiving this Newsletter, would flip through the Acting Provincial's front pages and get to the "interesting stuff" further in. Thank you for reading this far!

One of the highlights of my recent time in the West was a day trip with Noel Hickey to New Norcia. I had been there many decades ago and was keen to be captivated again. With the assistance of Dick Spain who has "connections", Noel and I were privileged to have a guided tour of the monastery by the Prior, to attend midday prayers with the monks and to join them afterwards for the midday meal.

The time at the monastery and since has had me reflecting on the importance of "balance" in our lives. As I understand it, the Benedictine daily routine is regulated around bells which call the monk to prayer, to the dining room, to work, to recreation etc. It's a lifestyle that does not appeal to everyone but its routine is something many of us appreciate at various times, such as when on retreat.

The bell calls the monk from something he is engaged in to something else. At times, the bell might be welcomed; it could also well be an annoyance, particularly if one wanted to linger longer doing what one was doing.

Many of us lead lives that are, at times, too hectic for our own personal good. We can get so caught up more often than not with work, that we fail to break from what we are doing to allow time for other important aspects of our lives – quiet reflection and prayer, time with loved ones, with our brothers, conversations and relaxed meals etc.

It may not be a bell that calls us, but rather the realization and acceptance that, at times, we can be our own worst enemies and that we need to live balanced lives, nurturing all aspects of our being. We desire to be physically healthy, we desire to be emotionally healthy, we desire to be spiritually healthy.

During the meal, on silence, at the monastery, I was struck by a reading from the Rule of St Benedict on Benedict's "Instruments of Good Works". There were maxims which I believed were good for me to ponder and perhaps too for all of us.

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## Province News ...

Included in the “Instruments of Good Works” were:

- To honor every person
- To relieve the poor and console the sorrowing
- Not to give way to anger
- Not to foster a desire for revenge
- Not to forsake charity
- Not to curse them that curse us, but rather to bless them
- Not to be proud
- Not to be a murmurer
- To apply one’s self often to prayer
- To hate no one
- Not to be jealous or to entertain envy
- To honor the aged and love the younger
- To make peace with an adversary before the setting of the sun.

Perhaps there’s something there for each of us as we continue to strive to live as brothers and neighbours to each other and to those we serve.

### **INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP**

As a Province we congratulate Brother Emili Turu on his election as the thirteenth Superior General of the Institute and Brother Joseph McKee, as Vicar General. The swiftness with which the Chapter capitulants chose these men reflects, I suspect, the confidence and regard held for our two new leaders.

For those readers of the Newsletter who may not know, Brother Emili is fifty-four years of age, was born in Barcelona and has been a member of the General Council for the past eight years. While on the General Council, Emili has had particular responsibility for the area of Ministry. As well, Emili was Tony Caddy’s Provincial during Tony’s time in Hungary. Brother Joe was born in Glasgow in 1950 and has spent most of his apostolic life in Africa, including a period when he was the Rector of the Marist International Centre in Nairobi. He is presently the Provincial of the West Central Europe Province.

In congratulating these two brothers, we also acknowledge the tremendous leadership given by Brother Seàn Sammon over the past eight years. Brother Sean’s personableness was impressive, as was his capacity for hard work and devotion to the Institute, his brothers and lay Marists and to the Marist Mission. Seàn came to know many, if not all of us, personally. We wish him well in the next stage of his vocation.

## **EAST TIMOR NEWS**

Recent communication with Tony Clark reveals that John Horgan is recovering very well from his bout of Dengue Fever. John, who was very appreciative of the hospitality and care provided by the Darwin community, has lost the feeling of nausea that he had and is slowly regaining his full strength and energy. The Teachers' College is going well with another group of over fifty students graduating with a Bachelor of Teaching on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. The Degrees will be conferred by the Vice-Chancellor of ACU, Dr Greg Craven. For those on the look out for new remedies, Tony has discovered that a few spoonfuls of local wild honey cure stomach upset and, wait for it, a piece of carbonated buffalo bone relieves the swelling after a nasty sting!

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHER RONALD**

Congratulations to Brother Ronald, our "opening batsman", who will be celebrating his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Province Centre Community will celebrate Ron on the occasion in its customary fitting way.

## **BISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE**

The Sale Diocese recently celebrated the installation of Bishop Christopher Prowse as the eighth Bishop of Sale. Bishop Prowse has visited both our schools, at Sale and Traralgon, displaying an eagerness to meet with people.

## **MARIST YOUTH FESTIVAL**

The next Marist Youth Festival is being held at Deakin University (Geelong) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December this year. The Festival is open to any young person who has completed Year 11 through to young adults in their mid twenties. The theme of the Festival is "*The call, the cry, the choice*". Communities might like to consider sponsoring one or two young people to attend the Festival. Further information about the Festival can be found by contacting the Montagne Centre (Dawson Street, Brunswick).

## **CHAMPAGNAT PILGRIMAGE**

At this stage there are a few vacancies for the March/April 2010 Pilgrimage to L'Hermitage, led by John McMahon. A number of school people are already booked in to participate. If you know of anyone who might benefit from participation in the pilgrimage, please contact Tom Smyth at the Province Centre.

## **PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS**

Hans Kung is reported as saying that there will be no world peace until there is peace among the religions. The "Parliament of World Religions", first held in Chicago in 1893, will be held in

Melbourne in early December this year. The Parliament will run for seven days and will incorporate around 450 events including keynote addresses, seminars, conferences, debates, performances, concerts and exhibitions. You may be interested in this event, the details of which can be found at [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org).

## **SHOCA CENTENARY**

Later this month, the Sacred Heart College Old Collegians' Association will celebrate its centenary. It might be presumed that the Association was founded in 1909 and there are some grounds for that. Brother Columbanus' meticulous research has revealed that the old scholars have a more complex history. According to Col, ever since the first foundation at Port Adelaide in 1897, efforts were made to provide spiritual and social help for old scholars. Brother Stephen Debourg, the founding Principal, began the Sacred Heart Young Men's Literary Society which met every fortnight. With his encouragement, the Society founded a cricket club, and this young French Brother gave them a lecture ... on cricket! Later, Brother Wilfrid, who arrived from St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, was involved in the reorganization of the Old Collegians having the St Joseph's model in mind.

Col reminds us that while the organization has travelled under different names, has changed its Constitutions to meet the changing needs of the times and has sponsored a host of different activities down through the years, always the underlying motives were the same – maintaining contact with former students and providing them with support and assistance. We congratulate all who, over the years, have worked to keep former students of SHC in touch with each other and with their Alma Mater.

## **ANNUAL RETREAT**

The annual Province retreat is being held from 27<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January at Sacred Heart College, Adelaide. The retreat will be conducted by Father Tom Ryan SM. In the near future, information will be sent to communities giving details of the retreat.

## **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

At its meeting last week, the Provincial Council approved the adoption of a draft OH&S policy applicable to our main workplaces, namely the Province Centre and the Montagne Centre. This draft policy is a working document and subject to review in 2010. The policy has been developed from a template provided through the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria. The policy recognizes the responsibility held for the health and safety of all employees, contractors and visitors.

## **CHAMPAGNAT MARIST JOURNAL**

Congratulations to John McMahon and the editorial and management teams of "*Champagnat: An International Marist Journal of Education and Charism*" on the recent awarding of the "Bishop

Phillip Kennedy Memorial Prize – Magazines”. The journal was chosen from a field of nineteen magazines.

## **AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY (AMS) LTD**

The AMS application for registration with AusAid will be lodged next week. The process will take approximately four months. Following registration, application will then be made to the Australian Tax Office for tax-deductable status.

## **DOXA SCHOOL**

The DOXA School in West Melbourne is preparing for its relocation to the new site in Dawson Street, Brunswick. Steve Bugg and Megan Moore, the Principal, have been working with architects and builders in preparation for renovations that will take place before the students move in. The move is scheduled for early December. The renovations are funded through the Australian Government’s ‘Building the Education Revolution’ program. There is an Open Day at the DOXA School on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, for anyone interested in attending.

## **CATHOLIC COLLEGE BENDIGO**

The Sandhurst Catholic Education Office has announced that land has been purchased for a substantial primary and secondary education provision at Maiden Gully, an outer suburb of Bendigo. A steering committee is now putting together a detailed business and education plan for the provision. The Marist Brothers are co-governors of Catholic College Bendigo, along with the Bishop and the Sisters of Mercy. The new campus of the College will be very accessible to families on the western side of Bendigo, as well as to communities to the north-west and south-west.

## **STAINED GLASS WINDOW**

Funds placed in trust some years ago are being used to build and install a stained-glass window in the Champagnat Chapel at Newman College, Perth. Kim Fitzpatrick, who has done some impressive work in Catholic churches, has been commissioned for the project. The theme of the window is akin to the Marcellin College Chapel carving – a triptych of Marcellin and a group of students looking towards Mary and in turn looking to the resurrected Jesus. The stained-glass window will be situated directly behind the altar. It is expected that the window will be in place by February next year.

## **FITZROY REFURBISHMENT**

Work on the refurbishment of the Nicholson Street houses has commenced and progress to date is good. There are fortnightly site meetings to monitor developments and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in early April.

## NATIONAL GREENHOUSE AND ENERGY REPORTING ACT REGISTRATION

The energy and greenhouse gas emissions for the Province, which includes schools and community residences, falls well under the threshold stipulated in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act. Consequently, there is no necessity for the Province to register for 2009/2010. The threshold, however, will reduce in the coming years and ongoing monitoring of our greenhouse gas emissions will be required.

## OUR SICK AND SUFFERING BROTHERS AND FRIENDS

At present we have a number of brothers and friends who are not well and are suffering in one way or another. We keep each of them very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

And finally, it has been my privilege to stand in for Julian these past weeks while he and John McMahon have represented us at the General Chapter.



Paul Kane fms  
Acting Provincial

## Members of the new General Council



Antonio  
Ramalho



Ernesto  
Sánchez



Eugène  
Kabanguka



John  
Klein



Josep  
Soteras



Michael  
De Waas

**Antonio** - Brasil Centro-Norte

**Ernesto** - México Occidental

**Eugène** - Afrique Centre Est

**John** - United States of America

**Joseph** - L'Hermitage

**Michael de Wass** - South Asia

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## MESSAGE OF THE LAY PEOPLE INVITED TO THE XXI GENERAL CHAPTER TO THE CAPITULANTS



**Back:** Angela Sestrini, Erica Pegorer, Dilma Alves Rodrigues, Linda Corbeil, Fernando Larrambebere

**Front:** Arturo Morales Pérez, Irma Zamarripa Valdez, Maria José Pérez-Soba Diez Del Corral, Ozoh Rufus Chimezie

We, the invited lay men and women, would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to be here amongst our brothers. All of us would like to offer our personal thanks for this opportunity to discover God amongst us, to share community life and to travel a unique spiritual journey together. The fact that we are breathing new life into this dynamic and precious charism has not escaped us, nor have these privileged and sacred moments when the brothers have opened their lives, hopes and dreams to us.

This Chapter has made us feel more strongly committed to the three dimensions of our work – more committed to the mission, to our own vocation and to our responsibility to other lay Marists in our own region and in others. We are unwavering in the need to embrace each other, firstly in our humanness with all our faults and failings and our gifts and talents and secondly as people of God in search for a better place for our young people, especially the poor.

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**1. Give definitive recognition to the Lay Marist Vocation and subsequently see that it is promoted.**

By distributing and fostering reflection on the document “Sharing Around the Table”.

Supporting processes that will help lay persons who show interest in Marist life to discern their vocation.

Promoting and supporting groups and communities of Lay Marists and deepening their bonds with the Brothers, particularly in places where the lay movement is weak.

Helping us to spread the vocation of the Lay Marist, something essential to ensure growth.

To determine and promote the differing levels of lay commitment to the charism in each Province.

Exploring the possibility of creating programmes that would enable Lay Marists to fulfil their eagerness to go on mission to the poor, e.g. such as joining the Ad Gentes programme.

**2. Promoting meetings between Brothers and Lay Marists throughout the Institute to enable us to share our lives more deeply.**

Create formation programmes for lay people and brothers, separately and in union, always allowing for the complementary nature of our vocations.

Creating opportunities for sharing our common spirituality with young people, the Church and the world.

**3 Strengthening structures fostering co-responsibility for the charism**

Continuing to create structures of co-responsibility for mission and spirituality in the Provinces and in the Institute. These structures should promote the creation of a genuine Marist spirit in the management of our works.

Organising a new International Assembly for Mission with a message that could be taken into account at the General Chapter.

Broaden the structure of the Secretariat and Commissions for the Laity in the Institute. Jointly supporting the work of FMSI at Institute level and in regions, as well as promoting existing solidarity networks.

For our part, we laypersons commit ourselves to collaborate with you in fostering these projects.

We believe that this is a *kairos*, a key opportunity to share to live with audacity the Marist Charism, forming all together a prophetic image of communion in the Church. At the same time the voice of the children and of the poor young people keep crying and the charism and Marcellin Champagnat is deeply real. Their eyes move our hearts and they call us to go out to meet them together.

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We recognise our place in the history of the development of our charism and the Institute and take with us the conversations and sentiments we have shared, unique to this time and this place.

### **Concerns**

We are united in the feeling of great expectation placed upon all the Capitulants of this Chapter and like you, we do not want to fall short of the ideals and hopes so expressed in our time here.

However, we carry with us some concerns of both a personal nature and for the Institute that we would like to share with you:

That in our everyday realities we will not give priority to God's Will that has come from the Chapter.

That in our actions and deeds we will not always honour the dream of the founder and fall short of keeping children and the poor at the centre of our work. Our financial and human resources need to work for the good of the children and young people.

That despite the spirit stirring within us, the fear of loss, grief and change will block our progress to response with audacity and resolve

That in some communities, and by some individuals, the spirit of good will in this vocational journey will be discouraged by a lack of understanding and acceptance of the lay as equal partners, co-responsible in mission and vocation.

### **Our Hopes**

We also like to share our hopes with you:

We are greatly encouraged by the fraternal spirit we sense among ourselves as laypersons and with the brothers. The ever-deeper dialogue we continue to share also gives us hope.

We are heartened by the common efforts in recent years among brothers and laypersons in the areas of life, mission and spirituality carried out with enthusiasm, generosity and joy. We know that the Lay Marist vocation is a reality that cannot be denied.

We are also given hope by the openness of the Chapter to the power of the Spirit and its concern for the needs of poor children and young people. Moreover, one senses an eagerness to respond to the calls of the Spirit by promoting the Marist charism in the future. We are sure that you will respond to God's call to be daring, different and the deep desire to have something inspirational and life-giving.

We are strengthened too by the call to greater internationality within our Institute – integration of diversity, encounters with different cultures, living together as one family.

### **Recommendations**

With these concerns and hopes in mind, and in the spirit of family, brothers and sisters with you, we make the following proposals, in a spirit of collaboration in order to renew the vitality of the Marist charism:

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# The Vocation of the Lay Marist

16/09/2009 - [Angela Sestrini](#)



A vocation means feeling a power that brushes against one's spirit, a gift that warms the heart, a blaze burning within the soul.

Our vocation is straightforward and simple, making us willingly available to offer ourselves in service to others. Whoever has one, cannot but be at the service of a ministry. Simply put, it's the desire to share our Christian vocation in accord with the Marist charism.

For us lay Marists, the time has come not only to speak about our vocation, but to make it real by forging ahead in our own way. Yes, we do realize that we'll need others to mentor us; that we need further formation together with

Brothers; that we need to set up structures to help us live and organize our lives as mature adults responsible for their calling within a Church undergoing profound changes.

In his opening address at the 21st Chapter, Brother Seán spoke of the « emergence of a fully adult and responsible laity. » Without in any way losing the innocence and enthusiasm of a child, without closing our eyes to the marvels that God has done and will do for each of us, the time has come to make a definitive decision to become adults – something that is both a call and a challenge.

The Brothers will continue to accompany us with their charism as consecrated persons, guiding us along the way, and helping us to be bold in showing children and young people that “we are in love with Jesus Christ.”

Next year marks the 25th since the idea of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family was conceived.

Since those early days we have come to understand more fully that a spirituality that is truly lay and genuinely Marist can only emerge from lay Marist experience and nowhere else. Developed by Marist lay leadership, it will aim at promoting a type of personal practice and involvement in ministry that is in keeping with, and truly transformative of, lay Marist life in the Church.

The writings and reflections of Marist laymen and women have validity simply because they are the experience of Marcellin's charism as lived out in the life of a layman or woman. We have a lot to learn from one another.

What is the Brother's role in the Marist lay movement? Our job is to assist without taking over.

*Br Seán Sammon, Address to the XXXI General Chapter.*