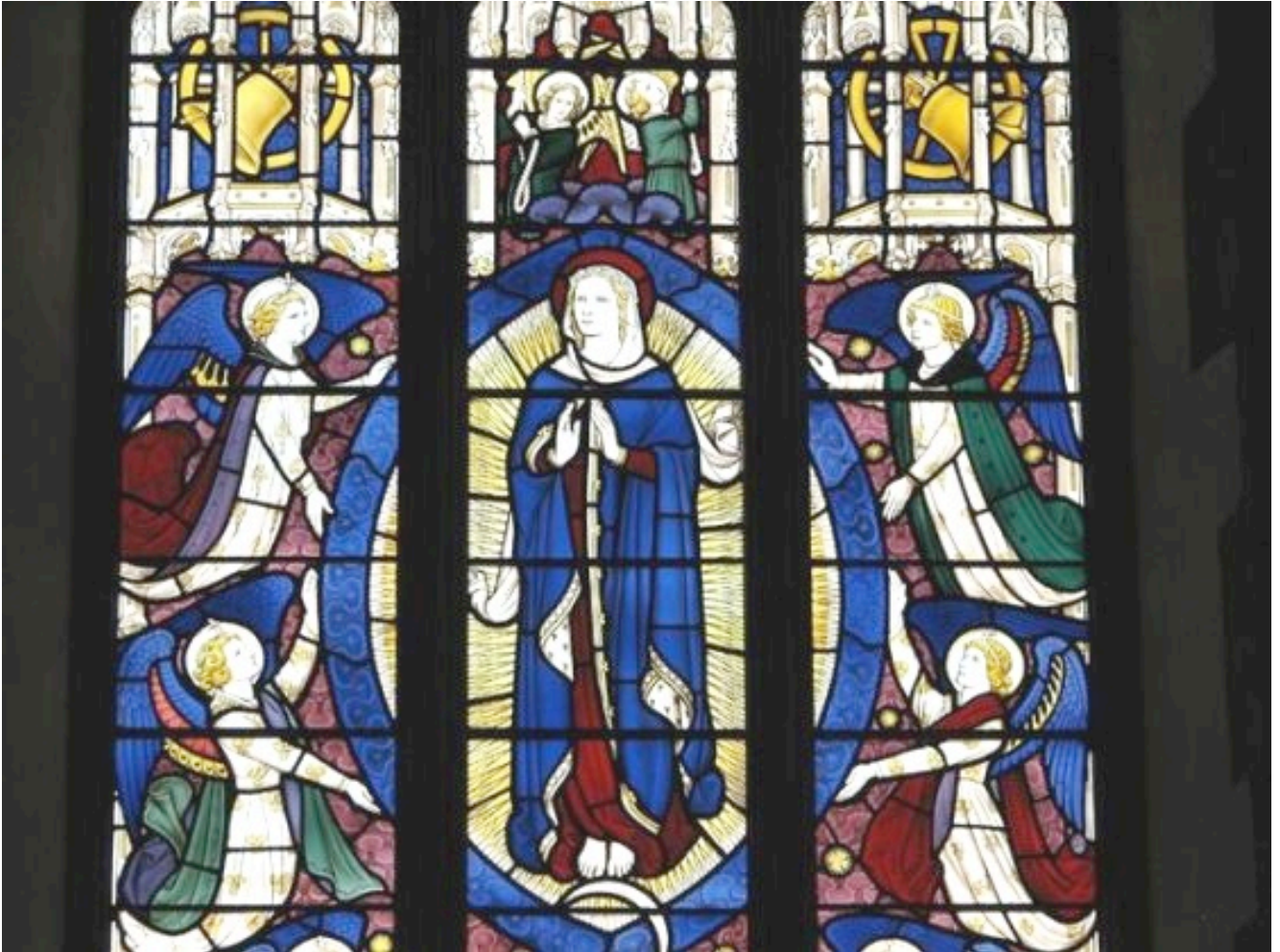


MARIST NEWSLETTER

Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

• Volume 40 • Number 8 • September 2009 •



The Assumption of Mary is a sign, for all of us, of union with Christ at the end of our life. Mary is the first disciple and she is an example to us all of how to follow Jesus, to be with him and to minister in his name.

*In Luke's gospel, we have her prayer called *The Magnificat*. Mary 'magnifies' God in her life by giving herself totally in all she does.*

Jesuit Publications

The Sepik Story: 1959-2009 * Br Richard Spain's Diamond Jubilee * News from Bacau & Madang



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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**

From the Editorial Team

At the recent AMSA Conference in Sydney **Bishop Michael Putney** set us thinking and hoping with a brilliant keynote address.

For the Marists gathered there, it was assuring to hear him remind us that Mary is the model for our response to Jesus: she received Jesus in her heart before she conceived him in her womb.

Despite the difficulties that religious-minded people experience in living in the secular environment that is Australia, Bishop Michael ventured to say that he believed that there were signs that God is back on the agenda.

He cited the example of the ways that the recent World Youth Day touched and inspired countless thousands, with even non-participants being caught up in the simple, prayerful enthusiasm of the throngs of young people who descended on Sydney.

A second 'clue' from God, according to the Bishop, was the grace flowing from the Synod on the Word of God. From the Synod came the call for us to be a 'biblical people'; to be people passionate about reading and reflecting on the scriptures.

The third sign pointed to the centenary celebrations marking the death of our 'sunburnt' saint, Mary MacKillop. At the heart of her spirituality was her profound trust in God and the desire to do God's will. In everyday events this was translated into her maxim: "Never see a need without doing something about it."

In the closing keynote address, **Br Jeff Crowe**, Provincial of the Sydney Province, urged us as missionaries for our time and place (and quoting Stephen Bevan, 2009) to dance - "...joining in the great Conga line that has moved through the world since the beginning of time and which is also the heartbeat of God's deepest self."

Shall we dance...?

Editor: *Br Terry Orrell*

Proofreader: *Br Noel Kickey*

IT support: *Br Matthew Clarke*

Australian Marist Schools' Association Conference - Sydney, August 9 12, 2009

Ignite the Heart, Embrace the Vision, Transform the World



**Welcome to the New Chair of the AMSA Standing Committee
Bernie Boss**



**And to the continuing members of the Standing Committee [L-R]:
Liz Lamb from Marist Sisters College Woolwich
Lee McKenzie from Lavalla Catholic College
Megan Moore from the DOXA School in Melbourne**



**The Province representatives, Tom Smyth, Peter McNamara,
Sr Vivienne Goldstein and Fr Bob Barber remain unchanged.**

From our Provincial



31 August 2009

Dear Brothers,

I leave for Rome on September 1. It has meant a round of Visitations to finish off the interviews.

I find great inspiration as Brothers share with me where they are in their life's journey and I never find the interviews a burden. Often it was thought that the Provincial should be a source of inspiration; but I am finding that after an interview, I often reflect on my generosity, my commitment to prayer and my service to the Community and the Mission. Brothers teach me that prayer is not an escape into a world of cloudless skies; but rather a search for God in the earthy reality of our lives and our concrete neediness. It is not a summit meeting between ourselves and God... but rather a meeting between Saviour and saved.

Our culture is often about self-sufficiency and it is easy for me to be lured into believing that I personally have the resources needed. Accepting my radical insufficiency makes me eligible for God's grace and just as a physician doesn't overlook our injuries, so God doesn't overlook my sin, but rather works to heal it. After many interviews with Brothers, I come home even more determined to live up to the example set by many in their spiritual life, as they respond to God's healing presence in their lives.

In the next few weeks the General Chapter through its prayer and reflection will discover the truth, the truth about God working with us and the truth about ourselves with our institutional blind spots, rationalizations and sin. In prayer we find God; but we also find the reality of sin, not only in ourselves, but in our Communities and in the world of which we are a part. That's when a Chapter gets hard and that's when we need your prayerful support, because we are in this together and a painful confrontation with our weakness and gaps can impel us to seek God's grace so that we are enabled to plant new seeds of hope for the next eight years.

I look forward to the Chapter. I believe that it's important that we understand that the fruits will not be immediately recognizable. Rather, they will only become noticeable gradually during the next eight years.

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

From our Provincial

OUTLINE OF THE CHAPTER PROGRAMME

We have agreed to a general plan for the Chapter. The group of invited Lay people, which includes Erica Pegorer, Principal of Lavalla Catholic College Traralgon, will be with us from the opening on September 8th until the 19th. The new Superior General and Vicar should be elected on 26th September, with the General Council being elected a week later. As with the last two Chapters, it is intended that a Chapter message be prepared, this time around a central call. Discerning and identifying this call will be the main task of the Chapter!

PROVINCE ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE GENERAL CHAPTER

Paul Kane has kindly agreed to stand in as Provincial during mine and John's absence. He already has a full time position as Principal at Sale and I have assured him that you will not worry him unnecessarily. Sophie Fenaughty and Justin Guthrie will continue to act as the contact and reference points for Province Matters and will communicate with Paul as required.

There will be a Council Meeting, probably early October (to miss the Grand Final week). To ensure a valid quorum, Justin Guthrie was appointed at our last Council Meeting to be the replacement Councillor.

COMMUNICATION

There will be a regular official Bulletin from the General Chapter sent out by email. As well John and I will be able to put some responses together and will provide information on the Province website. For matters which are simply reserved for the Brothers, there exists a special facility on the website which Brothers will be able to access. Shortly, Chris Mirabella will contact each Brother with an email account to provide a Username and Password to enter the reserved area.

THE WEBPAGE

The Webpage has generally been well received and we will continue to upgrade it with Video and Podcast capability to be added in the near future. Some Brothers in Perth, Adelaide and Forbes will be soon contacted on behalf of the Technology and Communication Committee to ask them to take on the role of a Regional Contact for the webpage. Chris will also organize any necessary training and assistance.

The Newsletter will continue to be in the printed form as not all our contacts are able to access the webpage.

VISIT TO THURSDAY ISLAND COMMUNITY

Thursday Island (Waibene) is one of about 20 main Islands in the Torres Strait and is the Administrative and Commercial Centre for the Torres Strait. It is about two hours' plane flight from Cairns. It is a multi cultural society which has emerged from the history of shell and pearl industries together with the indigenous people. The famous Mabo Court Case was centred on ownership of land in the Torres Strait. The many races and nationalities seem to work and live harmoniously. Thursday Island has a population of about 3,000; it covers 3.5 square kilometres and its highest point is 104 metres. Its access point by air is from Horn Island, some 15 minutes by ferry. Isolation is the most significant disadvantage.



From our Provincial

The Community comprises Brian Tanguan (Leader), Tim Beencke, Damian Shutt and Laurie Toohey. They form a part of the local Church with the PP, Fr Tom Mullins and are involved in helping to prepare the locals for the time when Lay people must take responsibility for the pastoral and prayer life of the Parish. Brian is the contact point for the local young people and is already making significant progress. Tim works tirelessly in the local school. Damian is involved in Parish contact



for government school students and works with Fr Tom. Laurie, now recognizable by the locals as “the bloke in the red hat”, is a general house presence, encouraging and supporting the community generally. Together they have made a significant impact which will only grow as time goes on.



VISIT TO LOMERI FIJI

At the end of July there were meetings associated with Oceania and the main one was the formal visit to the Novitiate at Lomeri. Here, Dennis Cooper is the Master of Novices with some 12 Novices (6 first years and six second years). The recent document marking the Year of Spirituality carried photos and comments from Lomeri and the work being done there. Being in contact with young Marist Life, with its fervour and commitment is a great boost for me. There is a different quality of life lived by eager young men.

EAST TIMOR VISIT

Prior to the Chapter I took the opportunity to visit East Timor Community. Next year will mark 10 years of Marist presence in East Timor. During that time we have been significantly involved with others in establishing the teacher training facility and we are coming up to the fourth graduation which means that by the year’s end we will have now produced 200 qualified teachers for the many primary schools in East Timor. It’s a wonderful tribute to all those involved. We are now in a position to begin reviewing our future plan for involvement in East Timor and the question of Vocations and Initial Formation has been raised and received a positive response at our last Council Meeting for continuing this reflection.

In the gap created by a change to a January-November Academic Year, both Tony Clark and John Horgan are busy tutoring and mentoring staff members who are seeking Masters qualifications. Tony Clark has made significant progress with Tetum and is now able to converse with the local people. During my visit, John Horgan came down with suspected Dengue Fever and has come to Darwin for tests and monitoring. There is not much by way of treatment other than rest and Panadol, but the monitoring is important to ensure the Dengue doesn’t develop.

From our Provincial

AMSA VISIT

Representatives of our school leadership teams recently gathered in Sydney for the biennial AMSA Conference. It was an important time to gather together and reflect about our charism and to share with the Marist enterprises conducted by the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters. Talks can be accessed from the website www.amsaust.asn.au

CIRCULAR OF SEAN SAMMON ON MARY

You will soon receive this circular. I commend it to you.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Parkville

We are putting in place a plan to dispose of these two properties (No. 139 Royal Parade and 141 Royal Parade) within the near future. The 139 has been leased out for the last few years and with the move of the Young Adult Ministry to the Ministry Centre, we no longer have need for 141. Our advice is to dispose of them together.

Fitzroy

The tenders for the refurbishment of Fitzroy have arrived. We have a preferred tenderer and we are in the process of negotiating the final details. The construction time will be at least 6 months, which puts the completion date into April next year.

Aged Accommodation Review

I have asked Bruce Houghton, together with Leo Kavanagh and John Dyson, to consult with those experienced in the provision of assisted care for aged Brothers, to make some recommendations concerning the sort of accommodation we should be planning.



The 29th general Chapter of the Society of Mary begins on September 1st and concludes on September 23rd, 2009.

The Chapter will be held at the "Salesianum", the General House of the Salesian Fathers and Brothers, on the outskirts of Rome city. There will be 41 members of the Chapter. These include the ex-officio members (Superior General, General Administration, former Superior General Joaquín Fernández, and all the major superiors), along with the elected delegates from each of the 11 units of the Society.



Marist Laity, Australia

Dear Marist friends,

*Today is the 1 September, the first day of Spring here in the Antipodes.
New life! New hope! New beginnings!*

*For the Marist Fathers and the Marist Brothers (FMS) this sense of
newness comes with the start of their GENERAL CHAPTERS in Rome.*

*The Marist Fathers' 28th General Chapter begins TODAY and ends on-23
September. Their theme:*

"How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"

*The Marist Brothers' 21st General Chapter goes from 8th September -
10th October. Their motto:*

*"Renewed Hearts for a Renewed World"
(attached a prayer for the Brothers)*

*I ask for your prayers for these Marist men of today, that, just as Mary
was present in the midst of the Apostles at Pentecost, she will be
present again, with her wisdom, her encouragement and her Mother's Love.*

Another new beginning!

*Marist Laity New Zealand is carrying on the tradition that Marist Laity
Australia began last year with the International Marist Family Year of
Prayer.*

*On Saturday, 12 September, the feast of The Holy Name of Mary, we will
be launching the new prayer at the Hunters Hill Church. The new theme:*

"Mary, Mother of Peace"

*This Marist patronal feast day calls us together to celebrate the fact
that we are Marists, bearing Mary's name, her spirit, her presence in
our world. May Marists throughout the world be people of PEACE, "to
focus on Jesus that his peace will fill our hearts and overflow into the
lives of others."*

ALL MOST WELCOME! Please see flyer for details.

*Love, in the way of Mary
Maria Baden
Marist Laity Australia*

Invites all Marists and Marian folk to a celebration of the feast of

THE HOLY NAME OF MARY

12 September at 10.30 am at the

Holy Name of Mary Church

1 Mary St Hunters Hill

The Marist Family International Year of Prayer

“Mary Mother of Peace”

will be launched during the liturgy
Morning Tea to follow in the Chapter Room
adjoining the church

Further enquiries: Cathy 0438 691 941

Prayer for the 21st General Chapter

We praise you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You inspired Marcellin Champagnat
to labour for your Kingdom
and to make Jesus known and loved
in the circumstances of the people of his time,
especially the poor.

You gave him Mary as his ordinary resource
and model of unbounded “yes”
in responding to your call with courage and strong
resolve.

You bestowed upon the many generations
of brothers and lay men and women
the same zeal to work in bringing Christ-life to
birth
in this constantly changing world.

We give you thanks
for your abundant blessings on our Institute
in the many aspects of its life and mission.

We are grateful that the Marist charism
has grown to be ever more relevant with the
passage of time.

We rejoice in the numerous men and women
who continue to share and keep alive Marcellin’s
dream of bringing young people closer to Jesus
and Mary.

As modern-day Champagnats,
we recognize the challenges you set before us
in the realities of the world and of the young.

Endow us with the wisdom
to see clearly the way in which you are leading us
so that we may continue to be signs of your loving
presence today.

Give to the delegates of our 21st General Chapter
the openness of mind and the generosity of heart
to listen to the signs of the times.

Inspire them to truly discern your will for our
Institute.

As we move in faith, hope and love
to two hundred years of Marist presence,
create in us new hearts for a new world.

Amen