

MARIST NEWSLETTER

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PROVINCE NEWS - GOD IS KINDNESS - PAKISTAN FLOODS - THE HOLY LAND



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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



WHO
AM I?
 Dietrich
 Bonhoeffer



Who am I? They often tell me
 I stepped from my cell's confinement
 Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
 Like a squire from his country-house.
 Who am I? They often tell me
 I used to speak to my warders
 Freely and friendly and clearly,
 As though it were mine to command.
 Who am I? They also tell me
 I bore the days of misfortune
 Equally, smilingly, proudly,
 Like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really all that which other men tell of?
 Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
 Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
 Struggling for breath, as though hands were
 compressing my throat,
 Yearning for colours, for flowers, for the voices of
 birds,
 Thirsting for words of kindness, for
 neighborliness,
 Tossing in expectation of great events,

Powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite
 distance,
 Weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at
 making,
 Faint, and ready to say farewell to it all?

Who am I? This or the other?
 Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
 Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
 And before myself a contemptibly woebegone
 weakling?
 Or is something within me still like a beaten army,
 Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?
 Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions
 of mine.
 Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine!

March 4, 1946

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a young theologian of great promise, was martyred by the Nazis for his participation in a plot against the life of Adolf Hitler. His writings have greatly influenced recent theological thought.