



# MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



## From Brother Michael Green

10 May 2011

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Europe was a good place from which to escape the other day. Our *Hermitage* programme had concluded on Friday 29th, so we were able to get out before the worst of it.

With the coincidence of a gushingly doting media giving the royal wedding blanket coverage, and a million people massing for the beatification of John Paul II, it was no surprise that airports, train stations, and roads were suffocatingly congested. Rome and London were not the places to be unless, of course, you were happy to be hyped by it all.

And for what? What was it exactly in these two events that so hijacked the popular imagination? What drew the cheering throngs to The Mall and to St Peter's Square? What of all the grandeur and pageantry, the gilded vestments and the brass-buttoned uniforms, the grand pipe organs and heraldic trumpets, the trooping and the liturgy? Was it real, or just the stuff of Fantasyland? What was it that lured even ranting republicans and apathetic agnostics to their television sets? To what extent was all the to-do generated by people who were inspired by genuine heroes or, rather, how much of it was it just escapism and tub-thumping on a grand scale? I leave the answers to those questions to the social psychologists.

What I can say for sure is that it was all quite in contrast to the experience of our participants on *Hermitage 2011*. They, too, were in search of heroes and inspiration. They were not to find them, however, in palaces or basilicas (even though we saw more than a few). It was not from grandeur and emotiveness that they found that for which they came to Europe. For the twenty-two Australian Marist companions in France and Rome over these past weeks, their journey to the founding places of our Marist story was a journey of the heart. It was, before all else, a journey inwards. And a journey made together.

To sit around Marcellin's table in the modest house of Lavalla, to touch the hard granite from which the *Hermitage* was cut, to pray in the small chapel at Le Rosey or on the wooden floor of Marcellin's bedroom next to the bed in which he died, to walk the steepness of the Gier valley tracks: these were moments to be inspired in the simplest and most 'modest of places, moments of grace. To study at some depth the writings and teachings of the Founder, to learn the stories of the first Brothers, to have time for stillness in places sacred to the Marist and Church story, to be able to 'ponder the Scriptures and to celebrate the liturgies of the last weeks of Lent and of Easter, to be able to discuss and share these experiences with other Marists: these were occasions to meet the Risen Christ and to be captivated by some of His inspirational disciples.

The *Hermitage* pilgrims now return to resume their various responsibilities and roles in our Australian Marist schools – as teachers, principals and supervisors; as boarding directors, support staff, and directors of faith and mission; as assistant principals, animators of Marist communities, and members of MSA teams; as Lay Marists and Marist Brothers – all of them seeking to bring Marcellin's graced intuitions to the work of Christian education of today's youth.

As we gathered in the Chapel of St Marcellin at the General House last Thursday, on the feast of the Marist pioneer St Peter Chanel, we were challenged by the Superior General, Brother Emili Turú, to go from Europe with the same missionary spirit. And he assured us, that like the first apostles who were urged to go back to Galilee to find the risen Christ, that we also needed not to linger or to be afraid because it was back at home – in the communities and schools from which we came – that Jesus awaited us.

*Nisi Dominus*

**Brother Michael Green FMS**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

## AMSA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

*“Turning the Page”*

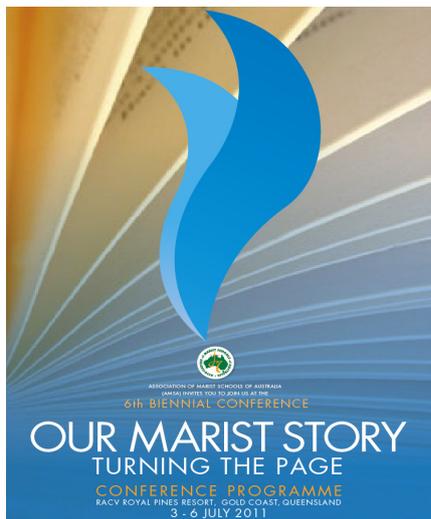
RACV Royal Pines Resort  
Gold Coast, Queensland

Sunday 3 - Wednesday 6 July 2011

This will be the last conference conducted under the auspices of AMSA. Extensive planning has been undertaken by the AMSA Conference Committee over the past two years to ensure that a high quality and enjoyable Conference is provided for its members. The Conference will be facilitated by Professor Anne Cummins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University NSW, who has extensive experience in education as an executive and consultant. Guest speakers include:

- Professor Tina Beattie (FRSA, Professor of Catholic Studies, Department of Humanities, Digby Stuart College, Roehampton University UK) *“Justice, Hope and Joy: Marian Spirituality Today”*
- Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann (Naiyu Community NT) *Miriam Rose will illustrate the congruence between elements of Aboriginal spirituality and a Marian world view.*
- Fr Gerald A Arbuckle SM (Researcher / Writer, RPD Research Unit, Hunters Hill, NSW) *“The Marist Mission in a World of The Simpsons”*
- Fr Kevin Duffy SM (Assistant General, Marist Fathers, Rome, Italy) *“Fourviere Today”*
- Br David Hall FMS (Headmaster, Marcellin College, Randwick, NSW) *“Friends of a Compelling God: School Leadership in Uncertain Times”*

Further information and registration details can be accessed on the AMSA website [www.amsaust.asn.au](http://www.amsaust.asn.au) (Conferences).



## MISSION COUNCIL APPOINTED

The Provincials of Melbourne and Sydney last week announced the membership of the new Mission Council for Marist Australia. As this Council of both Marist Brothers and Marist Laity takes up its role over the next couple of years, it will gradually assume many of the responsibilities that have in the past been the remit of the Provincial Council. The membership of the foundation Council (which will be in office until the formal commencement of the new Australian Province in 2013) are:

Brother David Hall (Chair) (*Headmaster, Marcellin College Randwick; Chair of MSA Regional Council, Sydney*); Darren McGregor (Deputy Chair) (*Principal, Catholic College Bendigo*); Julia Lederwasch (*Deputy Principal, St Francis Xavier's College, Newcastle*), Joe McCarthy (*Lay Marist Coordinator, Montagne Centre, Melbourne*); Brother Darren Burge (*Principal, The John Berne School, Lewisham*), Brother Paul Kane (*Provincial Councillor; Chair MSA Regional Council, Melbourne*); Erica Pergorer, (*Principal, Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon*); Richard Sidorko (*Headmaster, Marist College Canberra*).

## ‘HERMITAGE 2011’ CONCLUDES



The 22 members of the ‘Hermitage 2011’ programme are mostly now back in Australia and in their schools this week, having parted company in at the Marist Brothers General House in Rome the Friday before last. All reports are of

an inspiring, enjoyable and wonderfully enriching experience. Brother Michael Green, who led the course with Brothers Peter Walsh and Neville Solomon, was full of appreciation for the depth of engagement in the programme from the group, and for the hospitality that was offered by various Marist communities along the way. “It was simply a privilege to spend this time with such a group of committed Marist educators,” said Brother Michael. Next year’s programme is currently in the final stages of preparation. As explained at the Principals’ meetings, the 2012 experience will have more of a pilgrimage dynamic and will include a solidarity element through visits to Marist projects in Kenya and Rwanda, as well as the customary visits to places in Paris, the Hermitage, Lyon and Rome. Further information will be sent out in the near future.



## CHAMPAGNAT WEEK RESOURCES 2011

It's been practice in the last couple of years to send schools a complete set of resources to help them prepare for and celebrate the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat on 6th June and the days leading up to it. Last year was the first time this was done nationally across the MSA schools. Your school will have received this DVD Resource Disk last week.

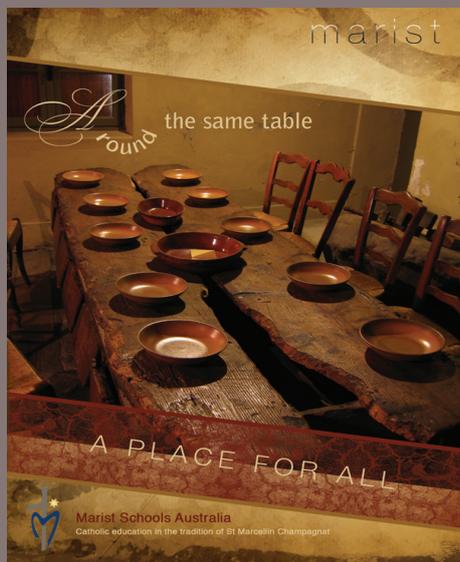
Our theme this year is ***Around the same table – a place for all***, and we are encouraging students and staff members in our schools to actively consider how they might keep doors and hearts open to all people, so that each person they meet might feel at home in their presence and be invited into greater relationship with them. The simple table at La Valla represents for us the experience of Christ's love shared by Marcellin and his early companions, and so we come to understand it is God gathered with us around our tables of common-union where each person finds a place.

Aside from the usual prayer resources, student lessons, graphics and video, this year we're also running a Champagnat Week Design Competition with some great prizes for students in Upper Primary through to Senior Secondary. Perhaps there's a student you're connected with in a Marist school who would benefit from a gentle prod to submit something?

Many thanks to schools for purchasing the Champagnat Week 2011 prayer cards in such great numbers – it certainly helps to keep the production costs low. We hope that they might be useful in promoting prayer amongst students. The cards will be despatched on 17 May.

All the resources (except the high definition video files) and the design competition information are also available at [www.msa.edu.au](http://www.msa.edu.au) – look for the Champagnat Week 2011 box. Check out and contribute to student and staff blog concerning students' design competition and classroom activity submissions.

Brother Michael Callinan FMS  
MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION TEAM



## MARIST LEADERS – OUR FUTURE



On Wednesday 4th May, 26 teachers identified by principals as the next generation of Marist leaders gathered for the annual succession

planning reconnect evening in Sydney. Some participants are currently employed outside the Marist school network but value highly the opportunity to reconnect for some Marist formation. Participants were in conversation with Susan Ryan AO who has had a distinguished career in politics, pioneering extensive anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation as a Cabinet Minister in the Hawke Labor government. She shared her passion for making a difference, her wisdom and stories of leadership from those days. Encouraged by Br David Hall who moderated the evening, she also shared her good humour and affection for the Marist Brothers.

*Pictured at the Succession Planning II: Marist Leaders – Our Future program are: Paul Forrester (Trinity Catholic College Auburn), Susan Ryan AO, Br David Hall and Karyn Rice (Emmaus Catholic College, Kemps Creek).*

## SCHOOLS OF THE SPIRIT



Steven Hopley REC, Daniella Liska Assistant REC & Michael Wondracz (RE & College Librarian) joined 16 other staff members from St Patrick's Marist

College, Dundas, on Tuesday, 3rd May for the first session of the Schools of the Spirit program. Contemplative practices and skilled listening are the focus of this program offering staff support for and engagement in their personal spiritual life.

## SPIRITUALITY OF LEADERSHIP

Kathryn Collins (Middle Leader 7-10) and Clare Murphy (English Coordinator) explored the development of personal practical strategies for living authentic presence in leadership with other House and Curriculum Coordinators at Mt Carmel High School, Varroville, on Friday 5th May.





## IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

Towards the end of last term and during the Easter break, a number of MSA school communities participated in immersion experiences to Bougainville, Solomon Islands, and Santa Teresa. These schools included St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill; Trinity College, Lismore; and Marist College, Canberra. Having received feedback from a number of the groups, as well as the communities that hosted them, it seems that immersion experiences are creating significant moments of transformation. Immersion students, accompanying staff and host communities are being brought to a deeper awareness of each other's stories, through meaningful dialogue, celebration of culture, as well as shared commitments to improving the world in which we live. Our office constantly seeks to ensure that immersions experiences lead to such life-giving outcomes and we encourage school communities to engage in conversations with us on how this can be achieved.



## MARIST FLOOD APPEAL

As we begin a new school term in this Easter season, our office would firstly like to affirm the remarkable expression of Marist solidarity demonstrated by a number of MSA member schools in responding to the Queensland flood experience earlier this year. Thanks to thirteen Marist school communities, the appeal coordinated by our office raised a total of \$36,000 which was then directed to flood affected communities including Marist College Emerald and St Peter Claver College, Riverview as well as a number of families belonging to the Marist College Ashgrove boarding community. Solidarity such as this enriches our identity as a Marist family, where we can be confident in times of uncertainty and vulnerability, knowing that we will not be left to face life's challenges alone.

# MARIST SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A number of MSA schools have already taken the opportunity to launch and run the Annual Marist Solidarity Campaign this year. We also appreciate that there are some schools who are choosing to engage with the resources later this year. Whatever the case, our office would like to signal that we are available for ongoing support and resourcing of school communities, particularly when it comes to animation of Marist Solidarity among students. Please feel free to contact us at the office, where we can discuss what other options are available for further promoting a culture of Marist Solidarity in your school communities.

**Christian Nobleza**  
MAPS



## Red Caravel Days 2011



The Remar Ministry Team has officially begun the 'Red Caravel Day tour'. Our first event was the largest Red Caravel Day in the history of

the movement. 140 Year 10 Rowers from Marist-Sion College, Marcellin College, Assumption College and St Francis Xavier College gathered to review their journey so far and discuss how their Caravel has been 'Sailing away from mediocrity'. Rowers were challenged to fully understand and embrace the concepts of Christian leadership, Christian community and social justice.

Thank you to the Remar community of St Francis Xavier College for hosting this event. It was a great success.

**Simone Boyd**  
DIRECTOR REMAR

