



MSA Newsletter

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



From Brother Michael Green

1 November 2011

Dear Members of the Marist Family

Isn't it refreshing when the Church makes the front pages for all the right reasons!

So much of the Church's insightful and challenging commentary on the contemporary world – often from the pen of the Pope himself – is rarely reported outside the rather insular channels of the Catholic news media and the cognoscenti who access them. It is much more fashionable (and certainly more profitable) for the media to present the Church as maleficent anachronism. On the contrary, we who have the privilege and the challenge of opening up the gospel for young people in schools, of being the face of the Church for them, and of engaging them in the real business of social justice, know a different possibility for the message of Jesus and how it can be lived out. But neither we nor the institution of the Church get much good press for all of that.

Ironically, or perhaps not, it was the coincidence last week of the media coverage of the ragtag anti-Wall Street protests sweeping the world and the release of a statement by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace that gave the latter some airplay in the secular blogosphere and even in the mainstream media. Its rather dry title – *Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of Global Public Authority* – may not have attracted very much interest on its own! Whether it was some untypically savvy newsmaking tactics on the part of the Vatican News team, or just some unwitting good fortune, it has brought to our attention a document that is well worthy of our reading and, as educators, of our bringing to the critical engagement of our students and school communities.

Yes, there is a little Vatican-speak through which to wade, and the continual references to past documents, but in this one there is a welcome return to some of the deep social thinking and fresh terminology of an encyclical such as *Populorum Progressio*. It reminds us just how radical and potentially disturbing is the social teaching of the Catholic Church, and how much it challenges the global liberal-capitalist hegemony. It was in Marcellin's lifetime that the rupture of the long alliance between throne and altar was definitively played out, but it continues to try to reassert itself in new guises. The Church is healthier when it does not intermesh itself in power structures, especially when these work to the greater advantage of the already-advantaged. There is no better example of such a regime than the activity of today's foreign exchange markets, which is often little more than online gambling with megamillions of dollars. Other people's dollars.

The Pontifical Council's latest statement is of course deliberately timed to coincide with this week's G20 meeting, and the re-emergence of discussion on the so-called "Tobin Tax". The former Superior General of the Marist Brothers, our own Brother Charles Howard, was a great champion of this proposal twenty or more years ago, as have been many social commentators. Its advocates see it as a simple mechanism that would kill off speculative currency trading in one fell swoop. Will the G20 leaders buy it? Unlikely. Some of the big players are in the pockets of those who would stand to lose. But it is encouraging to see the voice of the Church standing for those who are the pawns in this globalised online gambling game. That's you and me – every time our Aussie dollar jumps up and down as a result of desk jockeys around the world trying to second-guess one another. But it's also billions of people who are affected by the house of cards that our global markets have constructed and which looks increasingly tottery.

Today's Feast of All Saints was, in Saint Marcellin's day, the traditional start of the new school year. Let it therefore remind us of some of the motivation that led the Founder to begin the Christian educational movement that he did, and why we continue it today. Important for him, and still for us, is the contention that all young people, not just the advantaged, can and should become "good Christians and good citizens". All indeed "saints". If he were teaching young people of the early twenty-first century, perhaps he would be telling them that good Christians and good citizens would be having something to say and to do about our world financial systems.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP.....

Nov	• Marist Triple Treat Program (MYC)
Wed 2 Nov	• MSA Regional Council Meeting - Brisbane
Fri 4 Nov	• MSA Regional Council Meeting - Sydney
Tue 8 - Wed 9 Nov	• Oceania Council Meeting
Fri 11 Nov	• MLF Team Meeting
Wed 16 Nov	• Marist Leadership Program – Succession Planning I
Tue 22 – Sun 27 Nov	• Shared Formation Experience
27 - 29 Nov	• Student Leaders' Gatherings (The Hermitage Mittagong and Amberley Centre)
Sat 26 Nov	• Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner - Brisbane
Sat 3 Dec	• Marist Ministries Mass & Dinner - Melbourne
Thur 15 Dec	• MSA Principals' Dinner - Sydney

ON-LINE REGISTRATION



As advised in next year's "Programmes and Events" brochure, most of the Marist courses and programmes will have on-line registration and payment. The software for this will use the "shopping cart" method that is now common online, and also have a "manage your booking" function. It is still a work in progress. Please direct any enquiries to Bianca Buda at

Drummoyne (bianca.buda@marists.org.au) or contact your MLF Team liaison person.

NEXUS ISSUE NO.4



The next issue of the newsletter put out by the facilitation group for the new Australian Province is now available online. We expect that most readers of the MSA Newsletter would have received individual notification

of this as subscribers. If not, you can follow this link:

<http://www.maristoz.edu.au/YIED4jFzDQ/nexusvol4email.pdf>

Prayers Please....

We pray for the recently deceased:

- Mrs Betty White - Mother of Peter White (Principal of Notre Dame College, Shepparton)
- Mrs Molly Hilet - Mother of Br John (Principal of Red Bend Catholic College Forbes)
- Dr Michael Schober (Teacher at Sacred Heart College Senior School, Somerton Park)
- Mr Barry Cronan (long time member of staff at Marist College Canberra)
- Mr Don Davis (father of Brother Bryan Davis)
- Mr Charlie Grech (brother of Carmel Warnock of Trinity Catholic College, Lismore)
- We also pray for Carmel Luck and her daughter Jacqueline who were involved in a serious accident. Jacqueline has sustained a very serious head injury in an accident.

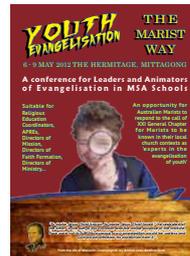
VOCATIONS VISITS IN 2012

Brother Tony Leon has prepared a summary of the sessions that will be available to various year-levels next year to explore the vocation of Christians in general and of Marist life in particular. Follow this link to read about them:

<http://www.msa.edu.au/marist-vocations-visits>

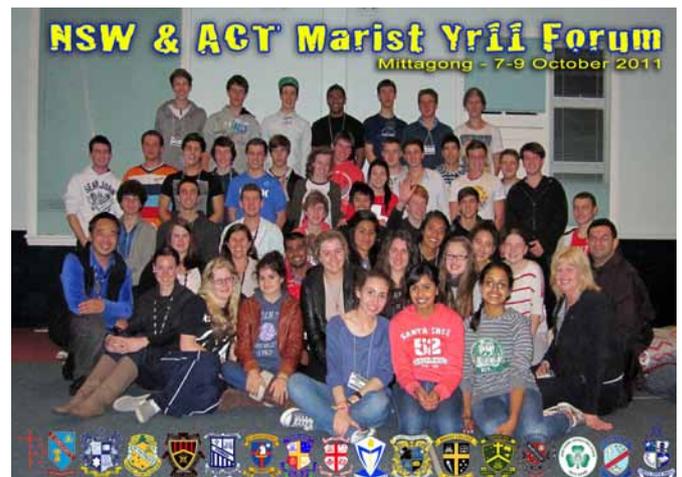
Schools who are interested in scheduling Brother Tony for a visit at a time that suits specific dates on their calendars are advised to get in early!

YOUTH EVANGELISATION CONFERENCE



The Committee that will take up detailed planning for next year's conference will be holding its first in-person meeting this week in Melbourne. This follows a video-conference last term of a reference group which set out some broad parameters for the conference. The planning committee is being chaired by Brother Michael Callinan, and has as its members:

- Br Michael Akers (Mission and Life Formation Team)
- Simone Boyd (Remar Co-ordinator - Montagne Centre, Melbourne)
- Marian Butler (REC - Marist College Peshurst in Sydney)
- Br Michael Callinan (Mission and Life Formation Team)
- Frank Malloy (MSA Regional Director - Sydney (from Jan 2012))
- James Mazzolini (Teacher - Marist-Sion College Warragul)
- Cassie Schumacher (University student - Adelaide)



Marist MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION

IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY PROGRAMME, TRARALGON

New staff from Catholic College Sale, Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon and Newborough and Marist-Sion College Warragul took part in the 'In the Champagnat Way' program held at Traralgon recently. The Program was facilitated by Paul Herrick (MSA Regional Director), Joe McCarthy (Leader & Formator of Lay Marists) and Br John McMahon (Mission & Life Formation Team). The day provided staff with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat and its application to education in our Marist tradition. Participants studied our contemporary Marist mission and the way the 'Five Characteristics' are integrated into our school ministries. Those attending are photographed alongside.



L to R: Byron Chen (Lavalla), Br John McMahon, Paul Herrick, Andre Ockerse (Marist-Sion), Lacey Robinson (Lavalla), Tim Lee (Lavalla), Vanessa Di Savia (Lavalla), Leila Stothers (CC Sale), Renee Gilmour (Lavalla), Tania Morris (CC Sale), Ingrid Cramer (Marist-Sion), Ineke Viljoen (CC Sale), Marissa Joyce (Marist-Sion), Iosif Otto (Marist-Sion), Jess Kerlin (Lavalla).

JOHN BERNE SCHOOL SPIRITUALITY AND LEADERSHIP II PROGRAM



L to R: Nicola Macdonald, Ed Flood, Scott Bannerman, Chris Langridge, Michael Muranty, Br Darren Burge, Paul Harris, Br Michael Callinan, Nicole Arathoon and James Le Huray.

ROYAL TRAM....



Despite the recent Qantas strike, Melbourne still has its trams as Queen Elizabeth 11 found out recently! Maybe a Marist tram will come your way shortly?

GROWING MARIST LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE: SUCCESSION PLANNING I, SYDNEY

This month we will be conducting the fourth of the four scheduled sessions for the Succession Planning Program for the Sydney schools. Earlier this year we ran the same program in Brisbane. This program is designed for teachers with 3-8 years experience who have demonstrated a potential to move into middle management and beyond. In short, it aims to:

- provide professional development in some of the building blocks required for future leadership in Marist schools; and
- encourage participants' continued connection to and involvement in Marist life beyond their current school position.

Each session addresses a different area of Marist life including Marist Culture & Practice; Marist Pedagogy; Marist Leadership & Spirituality and Marist Solidarity. Currently we have 17 participants doing the program from the following Marist schools: St Gregory's College, St Joseph's College, Marist College Pagewood, Parramatta Marist, Marist College Penshurst, Marcellin College Randwick and Marist College Kogarah.



L to R: David Hill, Adam Goss, Anthony Rooskie, Andrew Howe, Shelley Forester, Jeff Phillips, Lucy Gresser, Brendan O'Flynn, Jacob Gibbons, Stefania Taddio, Luke Wilson, Wayne Wheatley, Dominic Richie, Carl Di Terlizzi, Matthew Bentley, Baldino Vetrano, Matthew Fitzgerald.



MAPS presented an outline of its work to the new Province Mission Council, 19th October. In the briefing papers there were outlined 57 projects that are current, being planned or just finishing - there are more projects being signalled!

- Some are small community based projects of a few thousand dollars and others were large scale building and development projects, the largest being \$1.4m. All projects are focused on the needs of children and young people.
- Project funds come from the Marist Solidarity Campaign conducted in Marist schools each year and donor funds from other Marist connections, community organisations, businesses and the general public. With these funds it is possible to present submissions to international agencies and NGOs for major support funding.



- The projects are situated in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, East Timor, Philippines PNG, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati. MAPS activity with volunteers and immersions was also presented to the Council.
- Twenty-nine immersion and volunteers experiences were listed and the process of assisting individuals or schools with preparation, placements, risk assessment and communication with host communities was outlined.
- The common reaction upon return is that it has been a life changing experience.

We will launch the **Marist Solidarity Christmas Menu** at gatherings in **Melbourne (November 27)**, **Adelaide (November 20)** and **Brisbane (November 26)**. This gives people the opportunity to support projects listed on the menu.

Also the **Marist Solidarity Campaign 2012** is in planning and will be presented to schools next year at a number of 'launch' events. The campaign has as its foundation a poster and a multimedia promo backed by liturgies, classroom activities and suitable solidarity stimulus material. It will be on the website www.maristsolidarity.net.au in early in 2012.



Red Leadership Camps



With over 300 people attending the National Red Leadership Camp in 2010, it was decided to split the event this year. October 21-23 saw six schools come together, and we were blessed to have three representatives from

Marcellin College in New Zealand join us. The second camp was held for the other schools last weekend, 28 - 30 October.



"The Red Leadership camp was incredibly well run...There was a great balance of fun and learning. The activities were very fulfilling and a great way to reflect on life and our Remar journeys. The leaders were wonderful and filled with energy. A personal highlight for me was the Mass, which was very spirit-filled, with plenty of singing and praising. This camp has enabled me to look deeper into my daily life as well as my prayer life and is a great learning curve for anyone who embarks on it."

Joshua, Red Rower, Marcellin College Bullen

