

new lands

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MARIST COMMUNITY

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heroes of

life

not heroes. They might be extremely fit, and in a country that is expanding in waistline as much as in population, that is significant. We can admire them for their skill set and many forms of courage. But they are not heroes. When it all boils down, they are men and women who have exceptional talent in a given sport and are making a living out of something they love. Admirable, yes. Heroes, no.

When Fr Michael spoke of Mary as a 'hero of life', it tapped into a much deeper life and spirituality vein. A quick look at a dictionary for 'hero' and you find that yes, courage is there, but it is tangled up with ideals, noble motivation, being a model for others and altruism. Altruism starts to get to the core of heroism, when we relate it to the life of Mary, Mother of Jesus. It taps into the practice of unselfish concern for the welfare of others – an eye for the common good and the big picture for all concerned. It is about 'right action' which is a very close relative to 'right relationship' – the terminology sometimes used for when we live and act with God at the centre of our being. At

the opposite end of the continuum for altruism is ego! There was not a lot of ego on display when the young Jewish woman pondered in her heart the impossibilities of what the angel whispered, and then responded with her life in a way that said 'let it happen according to your word'. That did change the course of history! I am sure that we can all think of other 'heroes of life'. Some will be household names who are, or were catalysts for major cultural change. Others will be people who do, or have done extraordinary things for others and for the greater good of humanity but will be never be known outside their circle of influence. I suspect that central to all would be altruistic motivation, a big heart, a strong sense of the common good and strong ideals.

Reflecting on such people is good for us! It grows hope. It challenges our own attitudes and ways. It reminds us of what is possible if we put people first. Rather than being weighed down by the modern problems of our lives (many of them 'first world problems'), we are reminded of our capacity to be the change we want to see in life – to

paraphrase Gandhi. A goal in our home, used first as a learning tool for the kids, is that we be 'bucket fillers' with our words and actions. A 'bucket filler' tells another person what is good about them – what they are doing well. A 'bucket filler' holds back on comments and actions that are ultimately about bringing a person down and leaving them feeling worse about themselves. As the Jewish proverb goes – words are bullets! A 'bucket filler' grows warmth and good-will, is a sower of hope in others and leaves people with a spring in their step. This is more than the Pollyanna principle. It is a disposition in life that is 'other centred', and both deliberate and mindful with the most important aspect of life – relationship. With a Christian perspective, I see 'bucket filling' as giving God a face – and orientating our actions to a new and better world, encounter by encounter. It creates the potential for people to live and share the fullness of life!

Joe



Recently a priest, in his homily on the Feast of the Assumption, called Mary a 'hero of life'. It was a phrase that struck me. He went on to distinguish Mary as a 'hero' from those who achieve their 'hero' status in the sporting arena. And let's face it, in the sporting mad country that we live in (which I am passionately a part of), we can quite easily lose perspective and get our relativities or 'realities' confused. In short, it does not change the course of history, nor add to the common good, if North Melbourne football club win or lose on a given weekend (substitute Wests Tigers, Waratahs, Diamonds, Brisbane Roar, Canberra Capitals etc accordingly). The people who play in these sporting teams are



**LAST
MINUTE**

The Superior General has written to all delegates to the International Mission Assembly scheduled to be in Nairobi in mid-September. There has been a security question-mark hanging over Nairobi as a suitable venue. Now there is a concern about heading anywhere in Africa when there is an outbreak of the ebola virus in West Africa. Br Emil wants delegates to express their feelings, intentions and advice this week before a final decision is made in relation to the Assembly. Already the Districts of the Pacific and Melanesia have withdrawn their participation.

Our participants in the International Mission Assembly in Nairobi leave in the middle of September: **Frank Malloy** (our regional co-ordinator), **Br Michael Green**, **Sarah Nowlon** (Forbes) and **Jack Stammers** (Melbourne Young Marist). **Jeff Crowe** will also go on behalf of the College of Leaders of Oceania. Some of the named participants from other countries of the region have withdrawn because of security and health concerns in Kenya. The General Council and Assembly organisers have written to re-assure us!

Br Kevin Hoare has offered his services to fill a request from the District of Asia. Neiva Hoffelder, a lay woman from Brazil who has been part of the base team in Bangkok, will be on leave for an extended period. Kevin will be a support person in hospitality and administration from October until the end of June 2015. He describes himself as being "I'm as fit as a Mallee bull"! Thanks Kevin.

Brs Al Sherry and Peter Corr visited a number of funding agencies in Europe recently to secure funding for the Teachers' College in East Timor into

the future. They were successful! Al has also found new supporters for our project with disabled young people in Cambodia.

Br Bryan Davis, who has been on the staff of MAPAC Manila for six years, has recently been in Manizana to work with the Brothers preparing to be formators on how to accompany candidates and young Brothers.

Br Robert Aitken has completed the Sabbath program of personal renewal in USA. He also attended the annual conference on aged Religious and Diocesan Priests. He is currently taking a break before heading to Leuven, Belgium, for a term of studies at the Catholic University there.

Tony McDonnell has recently returned from Sala Lavalla in Cambodia to Marist North Shore. Tony was in Cambodia for a year, assisting with music and English, and in problem solving to do with the maintenance of equipment on the property. Nimul Ouch, the director of the project, writes, "We have benefitted enormously from the time Tony spent with us."

Peter White has been appointed as a consultant within Marist Schools Australia for Child Protection. He will work with leaders of Marist-governed schools and programs on their policies and procedures.

Kate Fogarty has been appointed Principal of Assumption College Kilmore. Currently the Principal of St Joseph's College, Echuca, Kate has a long history within Marist education and the wider Marist family, beginning with her own student days in Sale, later working in Marist Youth Ministry, and serving on a number of Marist boards and committees. Most of her teaching career has unfolded in Marist schools - at Marcellin College Bulleen where she was a Year Coordinator, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Alice Springs where she was Assistant Head of Campus and NTCE Coordinator, and at Catholic College Bendigo where she held the senior role of Director of Catholic identity.

Senior leadership at SHC, Adelaide: With the decision to amalgamate both Colleges, to assist the Principal, Steve Byrne, there will be a Head of Middle School and a Head of Senior School, both at Deputy Principal level. Tim Mullin has been confirmed in his existing role as Head of Middle School.

Diarmuid O'Riordan has finished as Principal of St Peter Claver, Riverview, and taken up the position of Secondary Consultant within Cairns Catholic Education Services. Thank you Diarmuid for your great leadership and strong support for things Marist.

The first part of the **renovations at the Marist Centre Melbourne** are now complete. People have moved into new offices and staff area in the east wing of the building. There is a new chapel area under construction. Work will now continue on the reception area and the west wing which will house presentation areas and meeting areas. The whole project is due to be completed by October. Mary Aitkenhead Education offices will occupy the upstairs area.

Life is the art of
Drawing...
without an eraser.

—John W. Gardener
www.wholesaleinsurance.net



HELP NEEDED! From 12 -15 January 2015 we will be hosting the Marist Youth Festival 2015, a justice festival for approximately 300 post school young adults. Some young people from our Marist schools will also be attending with their teachers. The festival will be held in Sydney.

It is a large undertaking which will need the help of a significant number of volunteers to do all kinds of jobs prior to, during and following the festival. If you are in a position to help for any of the stages of the festival, or would like to know more about volunteering at it, please contact Carole Wark at carolewark1@gmail.com



Marist Youth Festival - 2015



Life
isn't about
waiting
for the storm to pass,
it's about
learning
to dance in the rain!

The Remar Gold (Yr 12) Retreat was held from August 8 to 10 at Phillip Island - an amazing experience for the 12 schools involved, with 153 Gold Rowers, and 50 Helmspeople, Brothers, Remar Team, and Young Marist volunteers attending.



New Models of Animation, Governance and Management (AGM)

This past weekend Australian Marists were host to an important meeting as part of the "New Models Project." This is a major initiative of the Marist Brothers which aims to explore new paradigms for how the Marists of today – a much more inclusive group than the Brothers alone – might be able to govern, manage and enliven Marist life and mission. The Project Team from Rome met with representatives from around the Australian and Pacific region at Mittagong.



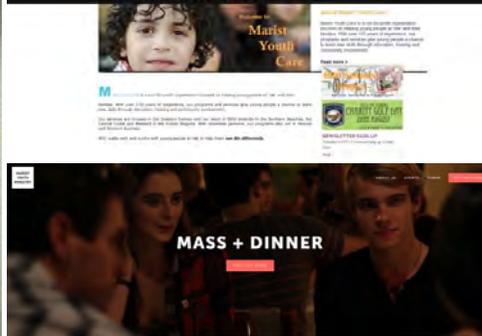
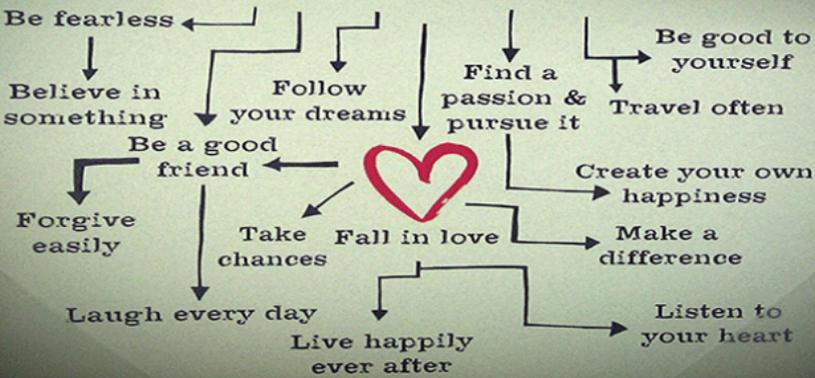
Life is like a Camera

*Just focus on what's important
Capture the GOOD TIMES
Develop from the negatives
and if things don't turn out
- just take another shot.*



heroes of life

Life



For the latest news on things Australian Marist:

The [Australian Marist Community portal](#) has links to all the different aspects of Marist life within Australia.

Marist Schools Australia: Here is a link to the [latest issue of the MSA Newsletter for this term](#).

Marist Solidarity: <http://maristsolidarity.net.au/newsfeed/categories/listings/latest-news>

Marist Youth Care: <http://www.maristyc.com.au/news/newsletter>

Marist Youth Ministry: <http://www.maristyouthministry.com/events/>

Marist Association Invite: tinyurl.com/maristassociationinvitation



I am inviting you on behalf of the Provincial and Mission Councils to consider joining the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. [The very first step is for you to indicate an expression of interest](#). This is a “head and heart” step, open to your response to how the Spirit is working in your life in terms of your Marist connection.

R. J. J. Con

