

Lavalla

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Marist

MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

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Lavalla

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Lavalla

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Lavalla, the name given to this magazine is taken from the village in France where St Marcellin Champagnat established the world's first Marist school in 1817. There are now Marist schools in 80 countries.

Cover: Governor of WA visits New Norcia in 1916 – before lawn-mowers?



From the Director



Dear Colleagues,

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

This is the focus question for the preparation phase of the 2020 Plenary Council. The purpose of the Council is to give the Catholic community time to listen, dialogue and discern with one another and, guided by the Holy Spirit, consider anew the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia. Many people in our school communities might wonder what in fact is a *Plenary Council*? This is to be expected as the last Plenary Council was 1937! A Plenary Council is a significant moment in the life of the Church. It is a gathering of all Australian Bishops, designated clergy, religious and lay faithful. As explained on the website¹, the Plenary Council is the highest formal gathering of local church in a country and has legislative and governance authority. The word “plenary” simply means “entire” or “open” and underscores the inclusive nature of the Council and the preparation process. In our Church tradition, a Plenary Council is understood to be a particularly graced instrument for seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

There are many reasons for having a Plenary Council at this time in our history. One can hear the voice of the Spirit through the words of Pope Francis in his invitation to the church to dialogue, engage in the world and respond in faith. He said:

“The defining aspect of this change of epoch is that things are no longer in their place. Our previous ways of explaining the world and relationships, good and bad, no longer appears to work. The way in which we locate ourselves in history has changed. Things we thought would never happen, or that we never thought we would see, we are experiencing now, and we dare not even imagine the future. That which appeared normal to us – family, the Church, society and the world – will probably no longer seem that way. We cannot simply wait for what we are experiencing to pass, under the illusion that things will return to being how they were before.”

The Australian Bishops have made clear their desire to hear from all Australian Catholics as they prepare for this important gathering and time of discernment. The Chair of the Bishop’s Commission for the Council, Archbishop Mark Coleridge has made this invitation.

“The journey toward the Plenary Council will help us to prepare to listen to God by listening to one another. We invite all people to engage, to be a part of the listening and dialogue encounter in the next two years. The Church is not the presence in our society it once was. We need to take a measure of that and make decisions accordingly. The culture in which we have to proclaim the Gospel is very different to what it was even 20 or 30 years ago. The contemporary society of Australia has changed significantly, and

the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse has been a significant and influential event that requires deep consideration and response."

So whilst we cannot all be at the Plenary Council, there exists a most important and sacred responsibility for all Marists to engage in the preparation phases through listening and dialogue. The order of those two words is instructive. First listening. Second dialogue. Jesus himself often provides us with such example throughout the Gospels.

The Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat will be providing opportunities for listening and dialogue at different gatherings and formation experiences for Marist input to the Plenary Council. Whilst these opportunities will be important, individuals, families, and school staff groups are also invited to engage and provide their ideas and thoughts through the Plenary Council website, which has been well designed to facilitate such contributions. Importantly experts in data gathering and research methods have been engaged to manage and report the information publicly at different stages, as outlined below.

2018 is the Year of Listening.

2019 is the Year of Discerning.

2020 is the Year of Proposing.

As people deeply committed to making Jesus Christ known and loved, let us ponder and purposefully respond to the question of the Plenary Council,

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

As this is the final edition of La Valla for 2018, I express on behalf of all members of Marist Schools Australia our deep appreciation to the Editor, Brother Tony Paterson fms. Tony's dedication, patience, skill, inexhaustible good will and humour ensure the creation this journal of Marist life and education. For 2019 it has been decided to produce two editions of LaValla, one for each Semester published in the second and fourth terms.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Frank Malloy

1 (<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>)

TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE, LISMORE

Trinity Supports the Buy a Bale Foundation



On Friday, 17th August, Trinity Catholic College stood in solidarity for our struggling farmers and their families who have been affected by the horrific drought. As a community, we have felt hardship ourselves and know the toll that it takes on families and the greater community. So, on the morning of the 17th August we came together as a community all dressed in our farm gear donating money into buckets that will be going to 'Buy a Bale' foundation. The College raised \$2861.90 that will be heading out to our

farmers in need. This is an amazing initiative that the greater community can get behind too. This is another way we can 'Share the Spirit of Jesus' by giving back and lending a helping hand to our fellow Australians in need.

<https://www.buyabale.com.au/>

Donating to buy a bale is helping not just our farmers but their community and many more people.

**By Zoe Hughes,
SRC Representative**

NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



Left to Right: Brothers Greg McDonald, Graham Neist, Darren Burge, Peter Carroll (Provincial), Jeff Barrington, Dennis Cooper and Peter Rodney.

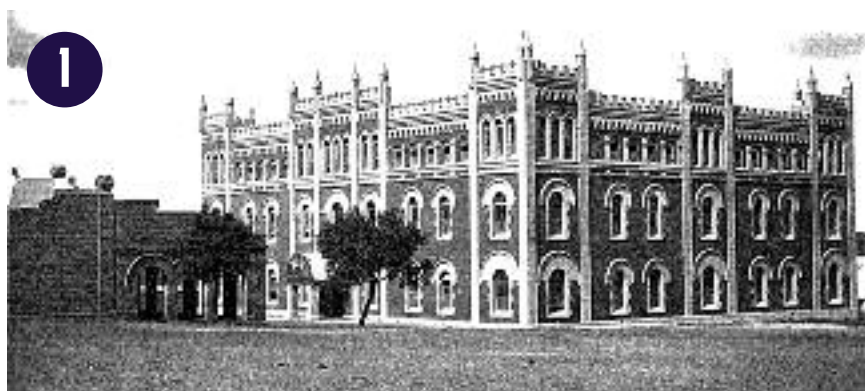
Stories through Photographs

In August of this year, the Australian Province Archivist, Brother Tony Paterson assisted by Brother Peter Rodney visited our Western Australian schools and ministries. This was an important visit for the two brothers who greatly appreciated the welcome and the assistance received in helping to update our archives in Sydney.

One of the key themes to emerge from the visit was that of how photographs tell stories. In one sense, it is something that has been lost today in many of our ministries simply because we do not adequately record the present moment; and this is agenda for us.

The Marist Brothers first went to Western Australia in 1913 at the invitation of the Benedictines in New Norcia. At the time there were 185 Brothers in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa). In addition there were 5 novices, 10 postulants and 25 Juniors. The Brothers provided all of the teaching staff for each school as they usually could not afford to pay lay-teachers. All up, the Brothers taught 5,378 students across the Pacific.¹ Needless to say, the students were all boys, and of course not all the Brothers were teachers – some were cooks, others ran the farm at Mittagong and so on.

New Norcia: St Ildephonsus College 1913-1964



When this school opened in 1913, there were something like eighty Benedictine monks at New Norcia and this group included artisans of many persuasions who built the monastery and the

schools. Brother Stanislaus Healy, who had just finished his term as Provincial in Sydney was appointed the first Director of the new college.² The college was never large up against the numbers in our schools today. At its peak there would have been around 200 students and according to the Appointments Book there would have been anywhere between five and eight Brothers on the staff. Things were pretty remote, the Marists were fluent in the English and for some the French languages, and the Benedictines mostly spoke Spanish – where most of them had originated. However, as the photographs below suggest, both groups seemed to have got along reasonably well together most of the time.

The students at St Ildephonsus College were all boarders (with maybe one or two day students from nearby farms)



¹ Doyle, Br Alban, (1972), *The Story of the Marist Brothers in Australia: 1872-1972*. Publishers: Marist Brothers Drummoyne. Page 471. The book is currently being re-written for the Sesquicentennial (150 years) in 2022. The Province Patrimony Committee is facilitating this.

² Br Stanislaus died three years later in Perth. At the time he was a relatively young man and he is buried at the Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth.

and the Brothers taught everything and the college obtained excellent academic results. Quite a number of Brothers undertook study through the University of Western Australia and as well as teaching all day, looked after the boarders in their care, took all the sport and generally coped with what could only be termed “a multi-skilled apostolate”.

The photos:

1. The original and main building for St Ildephonus College. This building is still very impressive and houses a small Marist Museum today. Abbot Fulgentius Torres built the college with “his men” – his lay-brothers who made the bricks and who worked alongside the hired bricklayers to build the college. He named the college after Dom Ildephonus Bertram who had been one of Abbot Salvado’s companions for more than forty years.

2. The second photograph that also appears on our front cover was taken on 28th September 1916. The gentleman seated in the middle of the front row is the Western Australian Governor, Sir Harry Barron. Seated either side of him is

Right: St Ildephonus enrolment 1958 - around the Statue of St Marcellin Champagnat. The statue still stands strong today!



Abbot Catalan and Brother Sebastian Hayden. The other Brothers include Brother Andrew Power who later became Provincial (Br Andrew’s nephew is Dom Christopher Power who is a monk at New Norcia today). The eighth member of the Marist community Br Sylvester Ceresito is not in the photograph. Thank you to Brother Noel Hickey for this information.

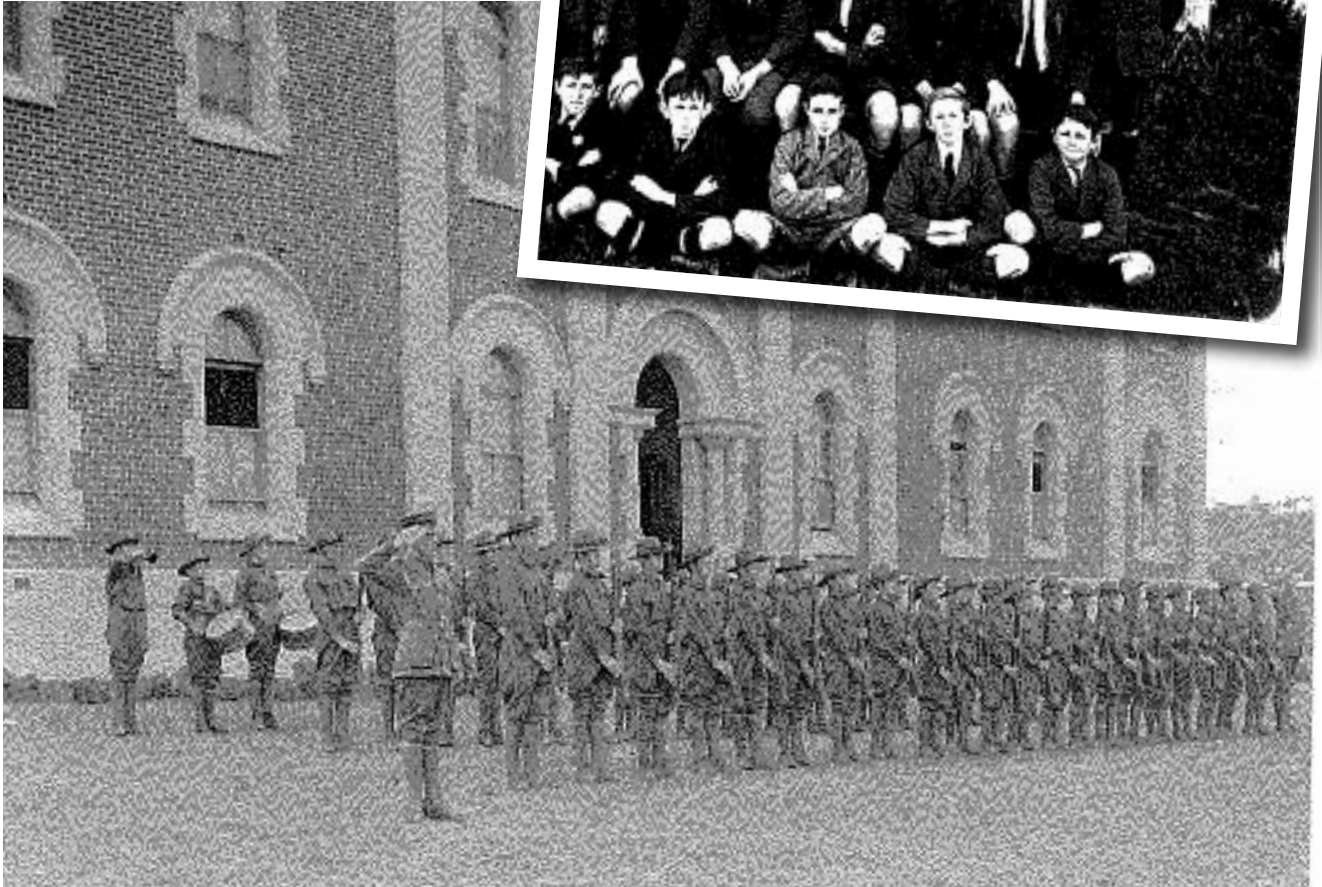
3. This third photograph was taken somewhere between 1925 and 27. The three Brothers in habits are: Sebastian Hayden, Guibertus Browne and Dominic O’Connor. The gentleman in the clerical attire with hat is probably the Provincial of the time, Br Brendan Hill on visitation.

4. The final photograph is made up of Marist Brothers and Benedictine monks out on what was termed a “picnic”. It was probably hot and maybe a wind



blowing but some in the photograph do not appear dressed for a picnic let alone a Kangaroo Shoot that has been suggested by some. Br Noel Hickey, a former student of St Ildephonsus, suggests that Hay Flat was a favourite place for such outings.

Grade 6 in 1923.



College Cadet Corps 1914



College Staff 1922. Back Row: Br Chanel, Br Theodore, Br Xaverius, Br Andrew. Front Row: Br Sylvester, Br Brendan, Br Guibertus, Br Raphael and Br Xavier. Photograph taken by "E.L.Mitchell, 264 Murray Street, Perth".

The Brothers remained at New Norcia until the end of 1964. The Benedictines then took over the school. The college produced many Benedictines, Marist Brothers and priests. The current Abbot, John Herbert, was educated by the Marist Brothers at Preston in Melbourne; Dom David Barry who is the Dean at the Abbey was educated at St Joseph's College at Hunters Hill, and Dom Anscar McPhee was one of the first students to attend Marcellin College in Camberwell in Melbourne. A total of 31 students from St Ildephonsus College joined the Marist Brothers, and the 'living legends' are Brothers Marius Woulfe, Noel Hickey, Red Casey, Nello Facci, Max Middleton and Matthew Clarke.

Our gratitude to the Benedictines, to Peter Hocking, the New Norcia Archivist; and to the staff for the welcome we received at New Norcia.

VISIT TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Northam: St Joseph's School 1948-1982

The Marist Brothers went to Northam in 1948 and remained there until 1982. Today the school continues to flourish with the leadership of their current Principal, Carmen Cox. The school is now coeducational and the enrolment is about 600 students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Three Brothers were appointed to Northam in 1948 and the plan was for

them to live in the famous "Fermoy House" that at one stage had been a hospital. In addition some of the large rooms in the house would be used as classrooms. The school was initially called 'St Paul's' prior to the amalgamation with the convent school in town.

The Community Annals report that the house was not ready to commence

school and so the Brothers taught in St Joseph's Hall as an interim arrangement. They also purchased a reconditioned refrigerator and furniture in Claremont for 125 pounds (on time payment) with the intention of cooling the soft drinks for students as well as for use by the community of three Brothers.

The photographs below are 'collectors items':



Br Doug Walsh with Grades 6 and 7 students in about 1960.



Br Terry Gleeson (formerly Br Ernest) with some of the junior secondary boys in the 1960s.



Br Kevin (formerly Br Graham) Langley with Grades 4 and 5 in 1960.



The entire school enrolment on the steps of Fermoy House in about 1959.



An early concert by St Paul's students



A photograph of an early Athletics Carnival in the time of Br Gregory McCrystal just after the Northam schools had gone coeducational?

The Marist Brothers were in Bunbury from 1954-85. In the early days the school relied heavily on the Parents and Friends Association to raise funds for fencing, paying water bills and painting Fermoy House. The Knights of the Southern Cross met in the basement of Fermoy House and in gratitude for the space assisted in setting up the Chapel for the Brothers.

Famous Marist Brothers who received their initial primary and secondary education in Northam include: Terry Orrell, Joe Hughes, Paul McLaughlin (RIP), Reginald McManus and Neville

McManus (RIP). Matt Clarke also went to the Northam school and then to St Ildephonsus College in New Norcia.

The school today (2018) continues to have a very positive spirit about it and acknowledges the work of the Marist pioneers as well as the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition who worked alongside the Brothers, the Parents and Friends, the Parishioners, Staff and Students, and Catholic Education personnel in Western Australia to ensure the ongoing success of such a venture.

Our gratitude to the Principal, Staff and Students who welcomed us on the day.

The photographs below are images of the school today:



Fermoy House today



St Marcellin Wing

Bunbury Catholic College 1954-85 (Initially St Francis Xavier's College)

There had been a fair bit of discussion with regard to opening a boys boarding school in Bunbury as far back as 1945 according to the Province Archives. The problem for the newly formed Melbourne Province (1948) was the fact that the then Provincial, Br Placidus

Redden, was opening schools everywhere else. However, after the usual run of meetings and paperwork, the school opened in 1954 and was called "St Francis Xavier's College". The first Director was Br Valentine Flynn who died in 1958 at the age of 45 years, and

is buried in the Bunbury Cemetery.

The property for the school was about one-and-half miles from the centre of town, but this did not worry the students at the time: all were into bike-riding!

The Community Annals reveal that when



1963 Marist Community: Brothers Joseph, Albert (Headmaster), Eymard and Gilbert



1961: Work begins on July 15 to clear ground for college oval. Kevin Sauer in charge of proceedings



Casuarina Point in Bunbury – a famous landmark and lighthouse for this coastal city.



Visit of Governor of Western Australia in 1961 (two photos). The Brothers in the photograph are Brothers Julian, Richard, Osmund and Eymard.



1962: Athletics Carnival.

the Brothers arrived on 19th January 1954 very little was ready for the opening of the school. The Brothers lived at the Monsignor Wallace. However, all moved ahead reasonably smoothly: the blessing and opening of the first couple of classrooms and amenities took place on Sunday 31st January 1954 with Archbishop Redmond Prendiville of Perth officiating. The Annals record by Tuesday 9th February, a total of 84 boys had enrolled at the school. Desks were in short supply (and probably many other things) but the Sisters of Mercy came to the rescue in supplying some spare desks that they had.

Like so many small country schools, the college eventually amalgamated with the convent school to form "Bunbury

Catholic College". The Brothers continued to staff the college to 1985, as well as assisting with the staffing and administration of the local primary school. Some of the Brothers who worked in the primary school were Justin Guthrie, Peter Flynn, Joe Smith and Dennis Cooper. Apart from Br Valentine who as the first Principal of the college became somewhat of a legend in Bunbury, the Brothers who lived and worked in the community thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Two famous ex-students who became Marist Brothers are Harry Prout and Mark Paul, both of whom still have connections in the city.

Today one can only be impressed with how Catholic College Bunbury has developed. The Bunbury Campus, known

as "Marist Campus" has 900 students and is very impressive with its facilities. Likewise, the campus at Australind, known as the "Mercy Campus" has 500 students and will eventually become a stand-alone school. The welcome from the Principal, Denise O'Meara and her staff was wonderful and all involved with the operation of the school have much to be proud of.

Bunbury is certainly a city that is environmentally refreshing – if there is such a term, and one where one could enjoy their retirement! Thank you to the Principal, Denise O'Meara, to the Religious Education Coordinator, Gobi May, and to all of the staff who were so welcoming. Thank you also to Marie-Louise Waddingham from the Bunbury Historical Society for her assistance on all that pertains to the history of a great city.



Entrance to Chapel at Marist Campus.



Sports Centre from outside



Display in the Learning Centre

VISIT TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Churchlands: Newman College 1965



The Subiaco Church and School: a landmark for many Marists. The school has now been demolished, with multi-story units and business premises around the church; and a new hospital across the road.



The Siena Connection: part of the Marist/Dominican network that eventually became Newman College. Brothers in photograph include Br Joe Hughes and Br Tom Horgan.

The college at Churchlands opened in 1965. A school had already been established at Subiaco and was short on space. Effectively, the latter became the Junior School and Churchlands the Senior School. The Brothers had been in Subiaco since 1954. It was within the cluster of the Subiaco Church and Presbytery and the huge St John of God Hospital. Today the hospital has been completely rebuilt and the only evidence of the past are the Church and Presbytery. Both are impressive buildings as the recent photograph of the church suggests. Over time the Marist project was consolidated at Churchlands, and apart from the Marist Brothers, the Dominican Sisters and Brigidine Sisters played key roles in the development of Catholic education in the region. Today the college is a Pre-K to 12 coeducational school with 1800 students. The college

has gradually consolidated itself on one site with the initial years at Floreat. This edition of the *Lavalla* magazine has a couple of reports on current activities at Newman. The photographs that follow tells something of the history of the college; and our gratitude to all who assisted both Br Peter Rodney and I, to update our knowledge of the college as well as collecting some further information for the Australian Province Archives. In particular, our gratitude to John Finneran, the Principal, and to Daniel Lynch, the Deputy, for their welcome and for organizing the visit. The College Archivist, Susi Nodding provided us with a lot of material that is being processed; and our gratitude to Vanessa Strohmeier and Josie Parker for making us so welcome. Finally, thank you to the Marist Community at Churchlands – Br John Horgan, Br Terry Orrell, Br Noel

Hickey and Br John Furlong for their very detailed assistance. It was also good for us to visit our senior men of wisdom: Br Richard Spain and Br Nello Facci in Perth.

Subiaco and Churchlands have produced many notable Marists including John Furlong, Paul Murphy and Brian Kinsella. Of course, added to these are the men and women who work in the Marist tradition across Western Australia.

The following photographs tell us a little of our Marist story:

Newman College - acknowledgement of founding religious orders: Dominican, Marist, Brigidine.



Looking across from Senior School to the Years 3 to 6 School.

NEWMAN COLLEGE, PERTH

PALS Project



On Friday 3 August, distinguished guests, parents, the Year 10 cohort and members of staff enjoyed an inspiring performance by the Newman College Years 7-12 Arts collective students. The students performed Koort Kadadjiny Kadidjiny (*Heart Learning*) as part of their PALS Project – an initiative which encourages Western Australian schools to develop projects that promote reconciliation in their local community, and closely aligns with our Catholic social teaching values.

This is the first year Newman College has been involved in PALS. PALS complements the teaching syllabus and can assist schools in implementing the Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework. PALS was

developed in collaboration with the Department of Education, Catholic

Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools WA.

Heart Learning is an original piece of Epic Theatre devised by the Newman College Arts Collective. The performance used Verbatim Theatre techniques, Aboriginal Noongar language, original music, and song, body percussion and movement, and digital projection of visual art to share a cultural history of Australia, 140,000 BC to the present day. This collaborative Arts work explores the Aboriginal history of Australia in its beauty, strength pain and weakness. This theatre piece is a celebration of diversity, survival, transformation, and growth in the hope for reconciliation and a better future in the relationships between Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal

people. The collective stories in this work reveal the burden of history for the Aboriginal peoples. *Heart Learning* aims to bridge gaps of understanding in an effort to enhance cultural competency and cultural sensitivity in a view to promoting social change. The hope for reconciliation that this piece presents links to the Marist theme of 'Hope' for 2018. The hopefulness embedded in *Heart Learning* can help us to acknowledge and face our past, and present actions as a nation, hearing voices rather than silencing voices is essential in our hope for reconciliation. The piece features an original song written by the College's Music Teacher, Mrs Nicole Boddy and the song lyrics have been translated into Noongar by Della Rae Morrison. The original

didgeridoo composition is written and played by Phil Walley Stack and the original voice over recordings are by Maitland Schnaars.



Newman College Gratitude Project

In Term 3, Newman College launched "The Gratitude Project" as part of the College's commitment to supporting the Wellbeing of staff and students.

Gratitude has enormous positive benefits for our psychological Wellbeing and it is very easy to teach, learn and live with gratitude.

Some examples of this include Kindy students discussing picture books that deal with the concept of gratitude and drawing things they are grateful for in their lives. Pre Primary and Year 1 students are sticking notes on their classroom walls stating what they are grateful for. The Year 2 students have developed a Gratitude Tree. Coloured leaves will be added to the tree which are reflections of gratitude the students have. Year 6 students have developed a Gratitude Graffiti Wall, while the Years 7 and 8 students celebrate Gratitude Tuesday and are journaling "the best thing that happened to me today", "what I am grateful for today and why" and, "what I am looking forward to most tomorrow". Year 11 students are sending "Shout Outs" of appreciation to others. It is particularly lovely to see that these shout outs are being sent to staff and students alike! It is wonderful to see the practice of gratitude grow in the Newman College community and hear all the amazing and yet simple things we have to be thankful for.





Gold Retreat

Our terrific Remar Gold Helms

After seven months in the role of National Remar Coordinator I have come to realise how grateful I am to be part of the Marist family.

During this Year of Youth and with the Synod on Youth coming up in October, there are many papers, articles and other forms of media addressing the challenges the young people of Australia are facing today.

Reflecting on these challenges I was reminded of the Marist theme of this year: *Hope and a Future*. This triggered a revelation that I indeed have been experiencing this hope while I journeyed with young people facing their challenges. I realised that the characteristics like, presence, accompaniment, simplicity and solidarity, which are common to us Marists, are the signs of hope in the face of these challenges.

A few weeks ago, we celebrated our annual Gold Retreat. 100 Year 12 students

from all over Australia came together to share for the very last time on their REMAR journey of faith and leadership. When asked about their REMAR Gold Retreat, these are some of their reflections;

"I developed a sense of understanding on how as young Marists we can really spread God's love in the future paths we wish to pursue. It encouraged me, as a Marist, to uphold the Marist values as I prepare to head out into the bigger world".

"The Retreat has given me a better understanding of vocation as a whole, as well as a more innate sense of how to live as a Marist, taking the values we were taught into the big wide world with us."

"A better connectivity with people, knowing I am not alone."

"I take away a desire to stay connected with the Marists and a better idea about what my vocation means for me."

"Be the best person I can, focus on the

present, because 'we are not the future, we are the now', while doing the little things to live as Christ's disciples."

Also at the Gold Retreat were sixteen Young Marist Volunteers helping to make the retreat a huge success. These agents of change came from Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria. The fact that the volunteers travelled from all over Australia to be part of this Retreat indicates that the Young Marists are strong and courageous enough to step up and be good Christians and good citizens.

So whether you have been with the Marists for seven months, or seventy years, in the midst of the challenges we all face, there is hope. Sometimes it is just about seeing the little lights around us.

Thanks for having me on your journey!

Edwin Bakker
National Remar Coordinator



Remar Gold Rowers at their Leadership Retreat Phillip Island



Remar Ministry Team and Volunteers at the Gold Retreat.

Sunshine Coast, Sri Lanka and Spirituality

Hot weather, donkeys, the Hokey Pokey and UNO, what more could you want from an overseas Immersion? Amidst the organised chaos of the city of Negombo, Sri Lanka, on June 29, eleven tired St Teresa's Catholic College students, accompanied by teachers, Mr Matt Webb and Mrs Sharon Lucht, stepped off the plane and into the thick, warm Sri Lankan air, ready to begin the experience of a lifetime.

Twice a year St Teresa's Catholic College sends a small group of students on a pilgrimage across the oceans. The students visit various communities in Sri Lanka to teach English and spend time with children who live a very different life to that of our Sunshine Coast lifestyle. It is confronting to see others with so little, yet with such open hearts. Throughout their time at St Teresa's, students explore the topic of social justice. This is brought to life as students gain an authentic insight into how these impoverished communities live.

The aim of the College Immersion tours is to develop a broader world view and to put into practice their Marist values. Joseph McAneney and Olivia Jeffrey reflect "Our once tunnelled visions from the society we live in today, were broadened completely to allow a new perspective on just how lucky we are and how rewarding this Immersion program is for the individuals who choose to undertake it. We can all agree that the happiness that overwhelmed us when sitting with the children; the giving of a sticker, a high five or even a hug, is truly cherished as a key part of our growth as young adults upon returning to Australia."

It is a full schedule for the students, who travel during their school holidays. Mornings consist of visiting different schools where they are swamped by



Morgan Cruice connecting with the children through song and games

smiling kids, a book clutched in one hand whilst they drag our students towards the classroom, eager to learn more English. In the afternoons, they would visit various outstations (homework centres), arriving by truck to be welcomed by mischievous grins hidden behind colourful flowers, which would ultimately end up being threaded through the girls' hair.

Although language barriers existed, they were broken down quickly through singing songs such as 'Hokey Pokey' and 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. "Whilst we were teaching the children the different parts of the body, they were teaching us the purest forms of humility, gratitude and love, indirectly revealing to us the true nature of humanity, all within the sheer happiness of an innocent child." The lessons and connections are life-changing for the students on these Pilgrimages.

Coordinator of the Immersion tour, Assistant Principal of Religious Education says "The Immersion tours provide a unique opportunity for our students. There is a full commitment to the tour, in a physical, emotional, mental and spiritual sense. They undertake fundraising to assist the communities they visit and



College Captain, Joe McAneney in a class session in Sri Lanka

consider how they can make a difference. The Marist Value of Family Spirit is ever-present along their journey as they connect with the Brothers, children and each other along the way."

We are thankful to the Brothers in the Sri Lankan communities, who continue to host our students, ensuring their experience is safe, warm and welcoming, yet still real. We are thankful for teachers who are willing to travel with the students and walk the journey with them. Principal, David McInnes says, "St Teresa's Catholic College is committed to developing a broader world view for students, one where they are empowered to make a difference, and the Immersion program is one of the many ways we do.

MT DRUITT

Marist Learning Zone

This new education centre is part of the international "Lavalla 200" Project supported by the Diocese of Parramatta and the Australian Marist Province.

On the 27th July, the centre was opened by Bishop Vincent Long, the Bishop of Parramatta, and the ceremony focused on the local Aboriginal elders, Aunty Jenny Ebsworth and Aunty Daisy Barker using spring water from the Blue Mountains to bless the centre. The photograph below includes the MLZ staff with Br Chris Wills (visitor who had just returned from Rome).

Left to Right; Br Lawrie McCane, Rodrigo Gris and his wife Argelia Hernandez Mendoza (both from Mexico), Br Chris Wills and Br Jonnel Sisneros from the Philippines.



Marist Learning Zone is coming of age, with our enrolments at capacity and several of our students "graduating" back to mainstream school or to apprenticeships. Attendance rates of all our students have significantly improved, up to 100% attendance in some cases. Success!

We have reached the last week of Term Three!

On Thursday we hosted four Marist Brothers who are leaders of the Institute: Vicar General Luis Carlos, General

Councillors Ken McDonald and Ben Consigli and Provincial Peter Carroll. They were keen to see MLZ in action, to meet our students and to learn more about our project. One of our students conducted the tour of the facilities and spoke glowingly about how MLZ has turned his life around. The visitors were impressed.

We wish all our students and their families a happy and restful holiday and look forward to seeing you back in Term Four.

Lavalla200>Mount Druitt



International Communities for a

Brothers Jeff Crowe and Angel Medina are the International Coordinators for the Lavalla 200 Project. Both reside and work out of Rome. Any Marists – Brothers or Lay – who would like to volunteer for the project are welcome to contact our Provincial, Br Peter Carroll. His email address is: provincial@marists.org.au

In the past three years six new Marist communities have appeared around the world, composed of lay people and Brothers, with a seventh to start later this year. By any standards in the Church today this is remarkable. It is a small piece of evidence that “mission is not in any crisis” – the mission of the Spirit of God that is.

The spark for this initiative came from a meeting of Marist leaders in 2013. This led to an invitation from the then Superior General of the Marist Brothers, Emili Turú, in a letter entitled “*The Dance of Mission*”, for brothers and lay people “to discern, before God, whether you feel called to leave your home country to form part of an international community in another region of the world. If you wish to offer some years of your life to the service of the Marist mission beyond the borders of your province or your country, I encourage you to step forward and make known your availability.”

The letter contained the vision behind the proposal:

“As we approach the beginning of the third century of Marist life and mission, and trying to be faithful to our origins, we believe that the time has come for Marists of Champagnat to awaken the dawn of a new beginning through:

- A SIGNIFICANT EVANGELIZING PRESENCE AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SITUATIONS OF VULNERABILITY, where others do not go, giving them prominence and defending their rights.
- GLOBAL AVAILABILITY: by creating a new mentality and a new attitude, looking beyond the usual horizons of our administrative units and regions, and opening up to the possibilities of

international collaboration for mission.

- INTERCULTURALITY: Marist international communities, which promote within themselves a communion of cultures and an appreciation of their diversity, as well as their integration in the context in which they are located.
- A MEANINGFUL LIFE: through its gospel quality and through the fraternal witness of the communities, which can take different forms according to the membership (brothers, laity, other congregations...)
- AN EMPHASIS ON SPIRITUALITY: a clear commitment to enter more deeply into our spiritual experience, paying particular attention to the mystical and prophetic dimensions of our Marist life.

We believe that the elements contained in this vision are a call to each and every Marist to make these a reality, in accordance with their particular context. At the same time, we are aware that **interculturality**, an important aspect of this vision, is still very new in our Institute. ... We believe that we must continue to build international communities on the five continents, so

that this vision of the future may take a concrete shape and be visible.”

(*Montagne: The Dance of Mission*, 25 March 2015)

Over the years since some 125 people have put their names forward. 55 have completed the preparation and discernment program (23 in 2016; 15 in 2017; 17 in 2018). They have come from the five continents: youngest 24 and oldest 78; 33 brothers and 22 laypeople (4 married couples; 9 single women and 5 single men). Their 22 countries of origin/residence have been Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, India, Italy, Korea, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Spain, United States of America, Venezuela.

The Superior General accepts their commitment, commissions them as missionary Marists, and recommends their appointment to the relevant Provincial to new communities in the five ‘regions’ of the Institute: Africa: (3 brothers, a married couple, a single woman) to Atlantis in South Africa; Arco Norte: (4 brothers, a single woman and



On the edge of Moinesti, Romania

New Beginning

single man) to East Harlem in USA; (2 brothers and a married couple) to go to Cuba; Europe: (2 brothers, 2 single women, 2 single men) to Syracuse, Italy; (2 brothers, a married couple) to Moinesti, Romania; Oceania: (2 brothers, a married couple) to Mt Druitt, Australia; South America: (2 brothers, 2 single women) to Tabatinga, Amazon, Brazil. In addition, 2 Lavalla200> members (a brother and a single layman) have been appointed to the Fratelli project (Marist and De la Salle Brothers) for Syrian refugees in Rmeileh, Lebanon. A further 10 brothers, a single woman and single man were appointed to existing communities in three countries of the international District of Asia and two of its formation houses. Three brothers (including the formation team) were appointed to the General Administration.

The places of the new communities were proposed by the respective regional bodies of Provincials with a general target group of vulnerable young people in mind. The particular ministry of each community has to be discerned and implemented by the community itself in conjunction with the regional leaders and the General Administration. As can be easily appreciated, this takes time and patience. Their first priority is to create an intercultural Marist community. In most cases, a new language has to be learnt. Immersion in the local neighbourhood and culture, contact with the local church and like-minded groups, sorting out the practical details of support services, and simply acclimatising, are all essential aspects of 'a new beginning'.

Special character of these communities

1. **They are intercultural:** international, mixed forms of Christian life – religious, married, single, a range of ages, different genders, differing cultural, social,

professional and educational backgrounds, the whole spectrum of personalities. Some would say that we are crazy to have such diversity under the one roof! But no more crazy than Jesus' vision of living as brothers and sisters and serving 'the little ones'. In other words, such communities are, of necessity, faith-based if they are to remain together. A key aspect of our presence is that our relationships are core to our mission and central to a new beginning for Marists. The Spirit is very much at work.

Fr Anthony Gittins CSSp in his book *Living Mission Interculturally* develops this idea with the zen story: "The teacher asked his disciples, "When do you know it is dawn?" One says, "When you can distinguish a white thread from a black one." "No," said the teacher. "When you can see the outline of a tree against the horizon," ventured another. "No," said the teacher – and to all other efforts to answer the question. "When you can look into the eyes of a stranger, an 'other', and see a brother, or a sister, then it is dawn; until then, it is still night."

He provides promptings from others to describe the path from multi-cultural to cross-cultural to intercultural: "We have just enough religion to hate each other, but not enough to make us love one another." (Jonathan Swift) "Peace involves a profound crisis of identity. The boundaries of self and others, friend and foe, must be re-drawn." (Rabbi Sacks) "We must walk united with our differences; there is no other way to become one. This is the way of Jesus." (Pope Francis)

2. **They are Marist communities,** not religious communities with lay volunteers. This characteristic emerged during our first preparation program as laypeople asked whether we brothers were serious about their 'joining' a community for an extended time. How



Brother Jeff Crowe

do we see our Lavalla200> communities? Are we all equal? Are we all full members or are some of us to be just long-term helpers? There are multiple examples in the Marist world of volunteers spending time in existing communities and multiple examples of 'communities' that share life and mission but not actually living together under the one roof.

So, our vision evolved. Following distinctive vocational paths, we share leadership in the community and are co-responsible for our life and mission together. There is no appointed leader for the community. Our intentional communities have flexible structures discerned by all. We know why we have chosen to live together. We constantly refer back to this in our times of community dialogue and prayer. In some places a co-ordinator is named for the ministry.

Giving the communities a canonical status is currently under study.

3. **They experience considerable isolation.** This is inevitable in the placement of communities in geographical or existential peripheries. Even in cities where the word 'isolation' may sound strange, the communities are initiating a new presence out of step with existing Marist and even church structures. Peers are hard to identify, soul companions even more so. Their presence is not universally welcomed for a host of reasons – their independence of thought and action, the resentment and suspicion of local people towards outsiders, bad past experiences of missionaries and NGOs ... They can feel



Martha, Br Luis, Br Jim McKnight visiting a Marist community in USA

vulnerable in terms of their self-value and very faith (cf the film *Silence*).

Besides the pastoral support of the local Provincial, an international accompaniment team has been appointed to follow up individuals and communities. In addition to annual on-site visits, social media has made regular contact possible and invaluable. The different 'batches' have set up virtual communities for staying in touch.

4. They are communities sponsored by the region, not the local Province alone. Indirectly, this initiative is generating fresh dynamism in regions of the Institute. All the provinces of a region are involved in the discernment of where the communities are to be established and the focus of their ministry. Before, such collaboration has resulted from internal needs such as inter-provincial formation houses and other joint services internal to the region.

Lavalla200> is a call to dream and combine forces for the future of Marist charism and mission, offering new ways of being present among children and young people on the margins of life, meeting emerging human and social challenges such as immigration, asylum-seekers, human-trafficking, the defence and promotion of Child Rights.

Regional Lavalla200> communities also provide a welcome for volunteers in conducting holiday camps and immersion experiences. They also play a special role within the region, communicating their experience and inspiring others regarding "a new beginning".

Some Learnings:

Re community living:

- It takes time to develop trusting relationships. Working together as colleagues is not enough as time goes on.
- The members of a community have to make a personal commitment to the vision of Lavalla200> and to the well-being of each other. If they put conditions on this or are selective it is better that they withdraw.
- We are called to discover the dignity of difference. It can be uncomfortable and humiliating to acknowledge our prejudices.
- For a community to persevere and thrive, there needs to be companionship, empathy, mutual respect and tolerance.
- Relationships falter when people do not share their faith together.
- A regular forum is needed for identifying and expressing emotions and needs, for affirming one another and articulating frustration.
- Not all combinations of people work out despite their idealism.
- There is work to do to develop suitable administrative structures in the local Provinces for Lavalla200> communities. Further, some people in the wider community do not recognise the member status of lay people in the Marist community.
- Tensions can develop within the community before a common ministry is worked out, especially if this takes a long time.

- Really sharing leadership, valuing our equality as Marists in decision-making, is not easy. The temptation is always there for one person to lead without dialogue and even take control.

Re ministry:

- Discerning 'new' Marist ministries with young people on the margins is a difficult challenge for any community.
- The Lavalla200> initiative envisages working as a team rather than on individual or separate ministries. This is a challenge for all, but for some especially.
- Once a clear Marist project is starting to emerge, there is a value in naming one of the members as the Project co-ordinator for leadership, management and external reference.
- We (both the intending member and the Marist leaders) need to discern ministry capacities as well as community readiness.
- Our charism leads us to engage young people in their personal growth in all its dimensions. Hospitality alone is not our ministry:
- We work best with the local church rather than as employees or holding responsibilities in the church.
- We need to work closely with NGOs and other agencies, especially at the start.
- It has not been easy or satisfying to "inherit" an existing project.
- An entry point used in many countries is providing education support services: a tutoring centre, library, computer centre, language classes, a hostel; or pastoral services with youth groups ...
- This can be more refined in terms of target group: disabled children, gypsies, indigenous/tribal groups, children of refugee families, children affected by HIV/AIDS, vulnerable children ...
- In many situations it is not possible to get involved in direct pastoral/catechetical work: e.g. with muslim refugees, in many countries of Asia, or with limited language, ...
- Taking a long-term view of presence, it is important to "train the trainers", prepare youth leaders, provide professional development and formation for mission, and engage in vocations ministry.
- Lay people prefer to be engaged in

activities shortly after arrival. They compare their 'new' situation with what they have left behind and wonder about whether they have made the right decision. They feel as if "the clock is ticking" for them more than for the brothers.

- Difficulties in learning the language can pose a real challenge for the placement of laypeople especially in Asia if they have a two year commitment.
- There will probably be a need for some financial investment for a room, building, recreation space, ... as well as for payment of local instructors. This may come directly from Marist sources or funding agencies sourced through the region.
- Some may need to undertake special training: e.g. social work, community development, teaching language, youth ministry ...
- Most ministries require some government authorisation. This may be in the form of a Foundation, Trust, Registered Charity, NGO status ...
- Our people must do local child protection training and receive appropriate authorisation to work with children before they start work. Assisting the diocese or local Province in this regard could become a project of the community where protocols and practices do not currently exist.
- The community needs a communication strategy for sharing its experience with the Region.

Re getting started:

- Our biggest single challenge has been getting visas. So far, we have never

been refused but we have experienced lengthy delays.

- This puts considerable emotional pressure on people who have made a fixed time commitment and raised many questions regarding their support during this waiting time.
- The consequence has also meant a staggered start for new communities, an extra challenge that they do not need.

Ministries of current Lavalla200> communities:

Atlantis: This is a town some 20km outside of Capetown in South Africa. It was developed in the apartheid era as an industrial centre to provide employment for 'coloured' people. Investment has declined but the people have stayed on. The Marist presence for the moment is one of collaboration with the local Church and NGOs working with the large number of children and youth in a variety of weekly activities and holiday camps.

East Harlem: The community occupies a former presbytery in upper Manhattan. Prior to the new community being established, Marist Brothers from the region had managed a project connected to the local Catholic school in favour of Latino immigrants, many of whom were undocumented. This project continues and now also offers a high school program accredited by the Mexican government. In addition, support is given to a number of Latino parish youth groups.

Moinesti: A small town in the north of Romania with a predominantly Orthodox Church. The main focus of the

community to date has been on learning the language. This has proved a challenge. Good contact with the local authorities has meant a large room in a complex for needy families being placed at the discretion of the Marists for providing contact and services with children and young people. There are some who have been more or less abandoned by parents who have gone to other countries in Europe seeking work.

Mt Druitt: An outer suburb of Sydney, regarded as among the most socially disadvantaged in Australia. The community has established ties with the local aboriginal community and other ethnic groups. Its main ministry is to support the operation of the Marist Learning Zone, a joint project of the Marists and Catholic Education, negotiated before the new community arrived, to re-integrate students who are not attending school.

Syracusa: A small coastal city on the south-east side of Sicily, not far from the port of Augusta. The community lives in a centre under the control of the diocesan Caritas. Their outreach is to recently- arrived migrants, especially unaccompanied minors. Many contacts were made and daily visits to a centre of "first welcome". Recently the community leased a space in the centre of the city where it is intended to offer education programs (esp. Italian), counselling, arts and crafts, and simply companionship.

Tabatinga: Three countries (Brazil, Peru, Colombia) share a common border in this area of the Upper Amazon. There are twin towns – Tabatinga (Brazil) and Leticia (Colombia) – that are 1000 km to the nearest cities in their respective countries, with no roads. So, it is quite isolated. The area is home to many indigenous rainforest groups, other indian descendants, mixed-race river people, "missionaries, mercenaries and misfits", those trying to exploit the resources of the Amazon and those defending against this. The community is yet to determine a Marist project as such but has involved itself in diocesan youth work. It also has connection with a group against Human Trafficking.

Cuba: The new community will take up residence in Holguín in the southeast of



Paul, Vero and Juliana on a local river boat headed to a Youth Vocations Camp

the country in 2019. The city of Holguín itself is some 700 km from Havana or 500 km from the nearest Marist presence in Cienfuegos. The Bishop has asked for a Marist presence and will assist in their settling in. The community will have to adapt itself to the particular social and religious culture to determine its ministry.

Discernment and Preparation

Some people propose themselves. Some are invited. After the initial burst of internal publicity, there has been an effort to encourage Provincials to encourage possible participants and to use the international website and communications to inform and inspire others.

We rely heavily on the local Provincial and his team to provide information and make a good recommendation. For this purpose, we have prepared some criteria as the basis for an assessment. For laypeople there are many questions to address regarding availability for assignment for two years minimum. Some benefit from a form of accompaniment during this period.

With police and medical checks in place, names are presented to the General Council for approval as candidates for the preparation program.

Preparation Program

Desired Outcomes:

- Each person will discern if they are called to be part of the Lavalla200> initiative.
- The leaders of Lavalla200> will be able to discern those who are called to be part of the project and to which international community they will be appointed.
- Each person will come to a deeper appreciation of cultural diversity as well as understand the personal challenges he or she faces in intercultural living.
- Each person will develop new competencies and skills and a spirituality for intercultural living.

To achieve these outcomes, we have designed a two-month program that is experiential in character. The venue is a cluster of farm houses in a small hamlet about 50 km from Florence in Tuscany, Italy.



Gabriel, Br Onorino, Br Ricky, Mario from Syracuse, Sicily, on tour

We chose this venue for several reasons. In the first place, we wanted somewhere where we can live in small mixed fraternities of 4 or 5, where we can pray together, live a deeper community experience in our sharing and reflecting together and looking after ourselves [cooking, cleaning, shopping etc.]. Secondly, we wanted a place that would be new for all of us – a new language, new environment, and new culture. This strategy of fraternities has proven very effective in anticipating close living in mixed groups.

Personal discernment continues throughout the two months by the individual's own soul-searching and by focused personal accompaniment each week.

Over the weeks there is a series of workshops related to self-knowledge, discernment, communication, community-building, the spiritual journey, being Marist, intercultural dynamics, theology of mission. We have been blessed with the quality of presenters ready to work and even stay with us in a simple, rural setting.

Language is a challenge. We work in Spanish and English and engage translators to assist in the workshops. Learning to cope with limited language is all an essential part of the process.

Half-way through the program the participants are invited to write a letter of availability to the Superior General. A conversation happens between each participant and the Superior General or

one of his Councillors. On this basis, on his knowledge of the circumstances of possible destinations and on the recommendation of the accompaniment team, the Superior General accepts candidates and commissions them. In the final week we travel to the Hermitage in France, our Marist origins, for this moment.

Supporting Structure

Lavalla200> is a joint initiative of the General Council and the regions of the Institute. The General and his Council have initial responsibility for the people and for confirming possible community sites. The regional leaders propose community sites and are responsible for everything else regarding the community's life and mission, including finances. It is an expensive venture and costly in terms of precious human resources, but we are committed at both General and Regional levels to supporting this new life. The local Provincial has governance – Marist, civil, and ecclesial - and pastoral responsibility for the community, acting in the name of the regional group of leaders.

There is a lot that is new in this 'structure' and much has been learnt over the past three years. We have developed a template of Statutes defining respective responsibilities and a management structure. We have also developed a Memorandum of Understanding between the participants and their respective Provinces of origin. This is a crucial document for laypeople especially. It sets out what they can expect in terms of Province support before and after their time with Lavalla200>.

In their own words

It is still too early to 'evaluate' the initiative. We have made mistakes and are learning all the time. We do not want to play with peoples' lives.

The testimonies below give a feel for what participants say about their experience. They serve as an inspiring conclusion to this article.

"It is important that we, as a married couple, learn from the brothers to be bearers of the charism and that they also

learn from our vocation as a couple. We are very happy to be here as an intercultural community, sharing our culture and our spirituality, what we are and above all that the hearts of the brothers and the laypeople beat to the same rhythm."

"Not everything is easy-going in community. We have our happy moments but also times of frustration. The most important thing is that we live such moments as a community, as brothers."

"After not being with us for some weeks, a young fellow rang the bell a few days ago and asked to return to our education centre, explaining that his experience with us had been really good. He said that he had felt valued, had discovered a sense of belonging and been treated with dignity. Now I can say that this moment was a reflection of what moves us as

Marists, bringing a maternal face and presence such that a kid can come back when he needs to."

"I value everything that has happened for me, the highs and the lows, and I strongly believe that these two years have been extremely important for my life."

"The more I interact with the students and the people around through teaching and other activities, the more I learn their ways and culture. In all it is worth stepping into the unknown land. Thank you."

The recent General Chapter (2017) stated its belief that "the future of the charism will be founded on a communion of fully committed Marists, brothers and lay".

They described this as a "global charismatic family": our homes as beacons of hope, the face and hands of God's tender mercy, brothers and sisters to all, bridge-builders, journeying with



Laura Miño with Aldo Faras and Br Peter in Taiyuan, China

children and young people on the margins of life, responding boldly to emerging needs. The incoming Superior General, Br Ernesto Sanchez, titled his closing words, "The new beginning has already begun!" The Lavalla200> communities model that new beginning.

ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE, CAMPBELLTOWN

Metropolitan Catholic Sports Association (MCS)

This year the St Gregory's College MCS Athletics Team secured all three trophies at the 2018 Carnival.



This makes 17 years straight they have won the Aggregate Shield and 20 years straight winning the Junior Shield!

This also sets an MCS record of the most consecutive wins by a school in any MCS

sport. It was not at all an easy victory, winning the Senior Shield by just 7 points!

We had representatives in all age groups from U11's through to Open's. The U16's was our most successful age group and

the group that ensured we retained our Junior Shield for the 20th year!

A big thank you to all staff and parents for their help throughout the day, it really is a team effort.

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

Brisbane Social Justice Forum

On Wednesday 8th August, forty Year 11 and 12 students from four Marist schools across Brisbane came together with the MYM team and volunteers for the annual Social Justice Forum. The day was spent exploring what social justice is; what it means to the students; hearing from Australian Marist Solidarity on what our Marists are doing in this field; looking at significant social justice issues impacting our students; and finally what the students would like to achieve in their own school communities.

As Pope Francis exhorts us 'none of us can think we are exempt from concerns for the poor and for social justice.' This is definitely an attitude that was expressed by the students on the day and I am excited to see how these fine young people live this mission in their school communities. Another highlight of the day was the significant contribution of post-school volunteers who assisted in making the event run smoothly. It was a great witness for the current students to see that there is a very practical way in which they can stay connected with as Marist young adults beyond school.



Year 11 Marist Students at the Brisbane Social Justice Forum at Ashgrove

Marist Young Adult North Stradbroke Island Trip

On Saturday 15th September the MYM Brisbane post-school crew took a day trip to North Stradbroke Island. It was a spectacular day in the Sunshine state and 'Straddie' was putting on a great display of nature with dolphins, whales and turtles coming out to say hello. The

real magic of the day was in the fellowship that was experienced amongst the group as we had quality time together. We laughed together; expressed our amazement at our God in how remarkable creation is; we shared our stresses and lives together; and we talked about where we want to go as a young adult ministry. Who would have thought a day in the sun could be so productive!



Students participating in a social justice simulation game.

We have been in a rebuilding phase with our Marist young adult community in Brisbane and while we have a small crew, I can say with confidence that they have caught the vision of what it is to be Marist. One of the young adults expressed belonging to the Marist family like this: *'Belonging to the Marist family is a need I never knew I had until it was met.'*

Caitlin Humphrys
QLD Regional
Coordinator

Sydney Local Connect gatherings

In the month of August, the Sydney Marist Youth Ministry team visited the 3 Sydney regional areas to deliver the term's Connect. Students in the Randwick, Macarthur and Eastwood regions all enjoyed becoming more aware of the influence of social media and technology on society. Looking at the Marist characteristics of Presence and Family spirit, students were given time to discuss in school groups the best way they can prevent loneliness and isolation caused by using our smartphones and technology in their own school communities.



Eastwood Connect

Year 11 Leadership Day at Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes

The Sydney Marist Youth Ministry team introduced the Yr 11 students at Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes, to leading in the Marist way on 6 August. Using the 5 Marist characteristics, our message focused on the fact that all Yr 12 students are leaders, whether badged or not! The MYM team look forward to hearing about the difference the Class of 2019 will make to their school community!



Randwick Local Connect

Jenifer Miller
MYM Regional Coordinator



Marist Youth Ministry Melbourne

Term Three saw the launch of our inaugural Marist 'Super' Connect for Year 11 and 12 students across Victoria. Sixty participants gathered at the Marist Centre in Brunswick for an evening of fun, food, encounter and prayer, hosted by MYM Melbourne. We were also delighted to welcome students and staff from Galen Catholic College for their first event.

Connect is about growing the Marist family spirit across the northern, central and Gippsland

MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY



regions of Victoria and this took almost no time as the participants energetically got into the ice-breakers, Marist trivia and connected with each other over the meal.

The highlight of the evening was the encounter with three fine young Marist graduates on the panel. Hendrika Duivenvoorden (Sale), Lachlan Scott (Bulleen) and Sam Chung (Bulleen). Each shared about their continuing Marist journey beyond school and how they continued to deepen their Christian faith and leadership through Marist Youth Ministry and service in the wider community, especially though

volunteering on Remar camps, attending Taize prayer gatherings and helping with the Homework Club out at Heidelberg West.

The evening concluded with a prayer on the theme of *Hope and a Future*, and an invitation to students to participate in post-school Marist Youth Ministry. Many thanks to the staff who accompanied the students for the evening and supported our Super Connect, and to Jack Stammers, Damian Ruiz and our Young Marist Volunteers for organising the event.

Marist Youth Ministry Adelaide

MYM Adelaide held its third Connect Night for the year during Term Three with Cardijn College playing host to Sacred Heart College. The spirit and connection between senior students across the two schools continues to grow with plenty of opportunities to engage in volunteer work and faith opportunities beyond school. Thanks to the two Youth Ministers, Maddy Forde (Sacred Heart) and Tahlia Sully (Cardijn) who created and organised the Connect evenings and many opportunities for students.

Br Greg McDonald
Regional MYM Coordinator



Supporting village healthcare in Baucau

Klibur Aleizadus Timor Loro Sa'e (KATILOSA) is the only disability service working in the Baucau District, Timor-Leste that travels out to communities and provides Community Based Rehabilitation.

People with physical disabilities in Timor-Leste suffer many disadvantages not least of which are social exclusion and shame. Since 2000, a local organisation known as KATILOSA has worked to improve the lives of children, youth and adults with disabilities. Activities include early detection and intervention, community-based rehabilitation, physiotherapy, skills training and inclusive education in village schools. More than 131 individuals are directly being supported by KATILOSA.

Support for the KATILOSA program has helped students like "Maria" gain access to education. Maria is 14 and is the seventh of nine children. Her parents



were farmers and died while she was very young and they came from a small village in Buibau.

Maria was not born with a disability. At age three she became ill with a very high fever. She was treated at the local hospital and discharged while still unable to walk. KATILOSA staff discovered her situation nine months later. Until then, Maria was confined to her family home due to the stigma that disability brings in East Timorese culture.

KATILOSA provided rehabilitation services, a community of friends and a support network to both Maria and her family. While Maria still struggles she continues to increase her independence. She is now able to walk, bathe, dress herself and go to school. Maria is now in fifth grade and enjoys the opportunity to learn and play with her peers.

The change in Maria's circumstances would not have been possible without

the crucial work of KATILOSA and the support of Australian donors. Maria and her family are forever grateful.

The continuing generosity of the Marist Schools Australia community provides vital funds towards the ongoing expenses of the KATILOSA Program.

To donate to KATILOSA or to find out more go to the project page on our website:

<http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/project/katilos/> or contact AMS Timor-Leste Projects' Coordinator,

Mr Michael Coleman, by email michael.coleman@marists.org.au or phone (07) 3354 0600.

Media Enquiries: Tony Skinner, AMS Communications Coordinator
W: www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au
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Marist Life and Formation

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 20-23 May 2018



*Participants: Deb Sivyver, Dianne Bond, Peter Gaiter, Adam Knight, Catherine Watts, Sarah Wallace, Leah McBryde, Marissa Fabbro, Melissa Kupkee, Annette Kearney, Nicole Westwood, Sarah Cattapan, Michelle Mellas, Toni Griffiths, Rose Turunen, Jack Timmins, Robyn Elmi, Mandy Moore, Matthew Van der Veldon, Vanessa Maguire, Annabel Bolton, Donna Flanagan, Donna Duncan, Nicky Garlick, Sharon Woodberry, Denis Muto, Edwin Bakker, Habibi Rizk, Grace Villarosa, Leon Capra, Sasha Dye, Heidi Farquharson-Selby, Sarah Elia
Team: Paul Harris, Elizabeth Falconer, Fiona Dyball, Br Hubert Williams, Br James Hodge*

FOOTSTEPS 2 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 17-20 June 2018



*Participants: Joshua Mulligan, Fred van den Brink, Dino Faelis, Glen Seivers, David Bellis, Caterina Mollace, Emily Gray, Barry Hughes, Gabriella Di Lorenzo, Cristina Vergara, John McKay, Melissa Painter, Kathryn Johnstone, Melissa Lidbury, Avril Cross, Barbara Wortley, Gabrielle Nicholson, Milena Vuckovic, Rachel Noble, Jon Cullerton, Bobby Bracken, Cameron Hogg, Monique Nelson, Suzanne Venema, Rosie Davidson, Chris Randell, Louise Hokanson, Amanda King, Kathryn Rogers, Shamaine Jacobs
Team: Paul Harris, Anthony Clarke, Fiona Dyball, Br Hubert Williams, Br Robert O'Connor*

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 5-8 August 2018



Participants: Sacha Wilmann, Steve Bellis, Joseph Catania, Francois Simons, Simon Andrews, Gemma Peters, Gaye Genkins, Connie Sassano, Michelle Abrahmsen, Claire Whiting, Rhiannon Fenn, Brian Brasher, Tanya Balcke, Joe Kelly, Leeanne Hooper, Sarah Mahar, Catherine McGraw, Melissa Byway, Cathy Bierman, Annabel Bolton, Brad Young, Bec Morrison, Lisa Thomas, Vicky Francis, Sharon Brieschke, George Maliwat, Chris Moulder, Joel Connell, Mick Tiberi, Pauline Leeson, Alicki Bellas, Emma Robinson
Team: Elizabeth Falconer, Paul Harris, Br Hubert Williams, Fiona Dyball

FOOTSTEPS 1 – MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN & LOVED 26-29 August 2018



Participants: Tim Cleary, Colette Sheedy, Bishop Mark Edwards, Elisa Litvin, Jenny McKay, Kris Morrison, Daniel Levitt, Roberto Howard, Suzanne Toniolo, John Diano, Stewart Foster, Jackie Comerford, Paula McLoughlin, Fiona Schubert, Lucy Armstrong, Andrew Hackwill, Michael Plenty, Steve Lo Cascio, Andrea Collins, Lily Chadburn, Damian Smith, Laura Long, Leah Carmichael, Evelyn Gaces, Lisa Rayner, Greg Hush, Annalisi Tsoukatos, Caitlin Brown, Jenny Farias, Louise Millar, Giz Robertson, Jacqueline Twigg
Team: Elizabeth Falconer, Br Hubert Williams, Fiona Dyball, Caitlin Humphrys

MERTON RETREAT WITH DR CHRIS PRAMUK

There are times in our lives when we meet someone more deeply. This week I met Thomas Merton in this way. And I am so grateful. I am appreciative too that I have been introduced to him by scholar and theologian Dr Chris Pramuk.

Being a religious myself, I have some sense of what religious life involves, at least Marist religious life. During this week I learnt something of Cistercian religious life and how it enabled Fr Thomas Merton to lead such a fulfilling life. This experience of meeting Thomas Merton unfolded for me at Mittagong, south of Sydney, where twenty five of us accepted an invitation from the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat to participate in a three day retreat, praying in the spirit of Thomas Merton. We were blessed to be guided by such a Merton devotee as Chris Pramuk.

Chris began by introducing us to the key stages in Merton's life. Born in France in 1915, Merton's family moved later that year to the United States. They returned to France and then went to England in

1928 where Thomas attended school and later Cambridge University. In 1935, Merton enrolled at Columbia University where he discovered Catholicism, being baptised in 1938. Feeling his call to the religious life, Merton was accepted into the Abbey of Gethsemani as a novice in 1941. In 1947 he took his solemn vows, committing himself to live out his life at the monastery as a cistercian monk. He was ordained a priest in 1949. In 1968, Merton's abbot allowed him to take a tour of Asia during which he met the Dalai Lama in India on three occasions. There he died on 10 December, 1968.

Much has been written about Merton's life, his ideas and passions. During this retreat Chris stressed Merton's love of music, poetry and painting. In this context, he referred to the last General of the Society of Jesus, Fr Adolfo Nicolas who states

We are not in education for proselytism, but for transformation. We want to form a new kind of humanity that is musical, that retains this sensitivity to beauty, to



goodness, to the suffering of others, to compassion. The education of our hearts begins with silence.

Chris then shared some of his own love of music, having begun playing the piano as a nine year old and growing to find music 'introduced him to mystery' helping him 'to touch the eternal'. This



Participants:

Vivienne Awad, Br Peter Carroll, Anthony Clarke, Fiona Dyball, Michael Evison, Elizabeth Falconer, Kate Fogarty, Robyn Gallagher, Br Michael Green, Paul Harris, Morris Hassarati, Peter Hawes, Nehme Khattar, John Lee, Suz Marden, Joe McCarthy, Br Greg McDonald, Donna McLaughlin, Br John McMahon, Br Graham Neist, Br Mark O'Connor, Dr Chris Pramuk, Lauri Pramuk, Daniel Ronchetti, Br William Tarrant, Carole Wark, Br Hubert Williams

personal love of music seems to have given Chris a deeper appreciation of Thomas Merton, as does his deep knowledge of theological thinkers of this time. Of particular interest to Marists is Merton's references to Mary. This came in the latter part of Merton's life when he was focusing more keenly on the coming together of East and West.

Over this retreat I have grown to admire the way Merton publicly addressed the issues of the day. Feeling the support of his Cistercian community and comforted by his contemplative approach, Merton engaged with the world well before this was emphasised by Vatican 11. People are drawn to Merton, particularly by his transparency about his failures.

By the time Merton died in 1968 he had shown us a way of living as an engaged Christian. He clearly loved people and his community loved him, especially the novices he guided. We have much to learn from this prophetic and loving man of God.

John McMahon

BEING MARIST CONFERENCE

Held in Melbourne from 22-24 of August, 32 staff from 15 Marist schools gathered for the biennial *Being Marist National Conference*, a conference designed specifically for staff in non-teaching and support roles. The title, "A Future Filled with Audacity and Hope" connected with the Association theme for the year, capturing the essence of Being Marist, and exploring how the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat is lived in our everyday lives and in our roles.

The conference was led and coordinated by Paul Harris (Marist Mission and Life Formation), Rose Basha (Executive Assistant to the Headmaster St Joseph's College Hunters Hill) and Sian Cameron (Principal's Assistant Marcellin College

Bulleen). The presentations from Julie Ryan (Marist Schools Australia Regional Director), Br Hubert Williams (Marist Mission and Life Formation), Edwin Bakker (REMAR National Coordinator), Sam Clear (Walk4One), Paul and Sian were real and relevant, focusing on the present, and expressing hopes for the future. We were challenged to be bold and audacious, to go out and "do" and be the Stanislaus (a significant support person to Marcellin) of our community.

With Mary as our guide, we aspire to Marcellin's vision of being *good Christians and good citizens*. The relationships that we establish with the students and the connection we have with them is a true example of how

Marcellin wanted Jesus to be known and loved.

The three days were spent reflecting, learning, laughing and building new friendships. It was an absolute pleasure to share meals together and enjoy the company of these amazing people. We realise just how similar we are in our schools, all trying to continue Marcellin's dream and vision. The experience also affirmed that whilst we are part of a school community, we are also part of the wider Marist Community.

Everyone is welcome at our table.

Julie Pacifique
Assistant to the Deputy Headmaster
Marist College North Shore



Participants: Ali Gallio, Anita Huang, Anna Hillman, Anthony Hoye, Anthony Simons, Belinda Barrile, Carmel Vincent, Daniela Romeo, David Hedge, Debra Austin-Flood, Br Doug Walsh, Jaqueline Wilson, Joseph Bouhabib, Julie Maher, Julie Pacifique, Julie Storrs, Kathleen Stella, Kate Stott, Kelly Oastler, Luke Harris, Marg Davie, Maria Cleve, Merryn Newell, Michael Keep, Michele Pivotto, Rachel Sticklen, Sean Perry, Shelley Kemsley, Tracey Chifley, Vanessa Strohmeier, Jill Southcombe, Eva Brennan
Team: Paul Harris, Rose Basha, Sian Cameron

Red Bend Catholic College in Bangladesh

This year marked the beginning of a 'sister school' relationship between Red Bend Catholic College and St Marcellin School in Giasnogor, Bangladesh.

Since the days of British rule, tea companies in Bangladesh have been exempt from many labour regulations. St Marcellin School in Giasnogor has been established by the Brothers to provide free secondary education to tea garden children that enables them to break the cycle of poverty and rise above the bonded life that they were born into.

On Saturday 23rd of June 2018, two Red Bend Catholic College staff members, English Teacher James Dumas and IT Support Officer Michael Keep departed Forbes for Bangladesh to visit the St Marcellin School in Giasnogor.

The purpose of the visit was to investigate ways in which to foster a 'sister school' relationship and how immersion opportunities for staff and students at Red Bend might work in the future.

On arrival at the airport in Dhaka, the Red Bend staff were met by Br Eugenio from St Marcellin School and quickly introduced to Bangladeshi culture before beginning the journey to Giasnogor.



St Marcellin School, Giasnogor, Bangladesh

The two witnessed first-hand how this project of the Brothers works to support some of the most vulnerable and in-need individuals within Bangladesh. The Moulvibazar District in which the school is located is home to 90 of the 163 tea plantations in the country.

The staff commented upon how the experience was "deeply troubling but also incredibly humbling and rewarding".

"It is difficult to appreciate the work that the Brothers are doing here without seeing it first-hand," remarked Michael.

Being able to visit the communities from which the St Marcellin students come, meeting the students' families and seeing first-hand the conditions in the tea gardens gave each staff member new perspectives and understanding about the issues facing others in this part of the world.

By western standards, some of the costs associated with enhancing educational outcomes for the students at St Marcellin School seem comparatively small. \$180 Australian dollars covers the cost of a teacher's salary for one month and \$350 Australian dollars can cover the cost of installing an internet connection in the school.

The school represents a long-held dream of the Marists who have worked in Bangladesh. Red Bend Catholic College is delighted to be in a position where we can contribute to enhancing the sustainability of this dream.

We look forward to 2019 where we hope to be able to take additional students and staff to Bangladesh to experience this wonderful project first-hand.

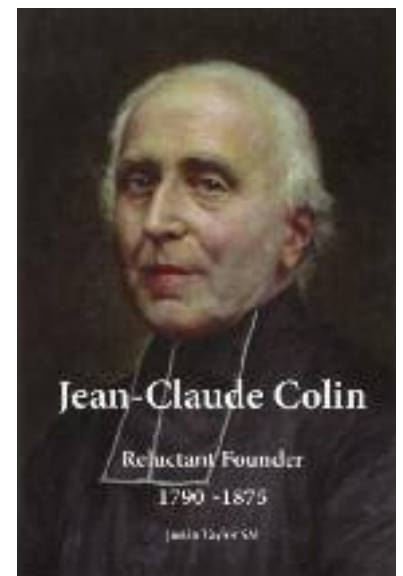
BOOK REVIEWS

We teach who we are...

All good teachers cannot argue against this point: we teach who we are; our students accurately determine our values and beliefs and our care for them. In our efforts to be professional people in our chosen career of teaching (and learning) our prayer, our spiritual reading, our journey to Jesus, is paramount for us as individuals and for our students. Anything else is pretty artificial and does not represent our commitment to being part of the Marist Story and Ministry.

The following books are a valuable source of nourishment for us:

1. **Taylor, Justin (2018), Jean-Claude Colin: Reluctant Founder 1790-1875**, Adelaide: ATF Publishers.



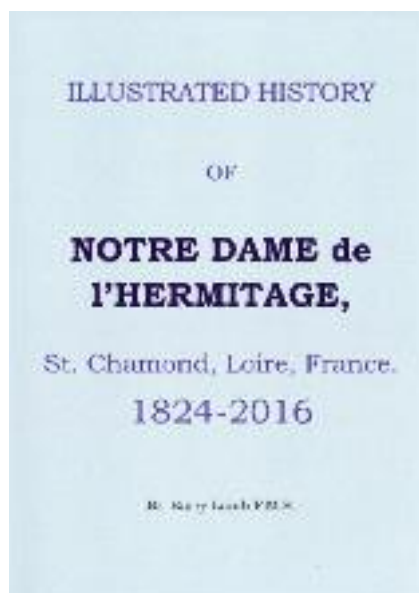
This is an excellent publication for anyone interested in Marist history. In 1830 at the age of forty, Jean-Claude Colin accepted the call of his colleagues to take charge of the Society of Mary (Marists). He had joined the project as a seminarian in Lyons, France, in 1816, along with Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers of the Schools. As a Marist priest, Colin was Superior of the new project, an assistant priest in Cerdon, he preached revival missions, and was principal of a high school. He

was also involved in sending the first Marist missionaries to Oceania. This part of the book makes fascinating reading.

The book is beautifully written, thoroughly researched, and a wonderful inspiration for any one who seeks to do good quietly. Any post-graduate student undertaking Marist studies would find the book a wonderful reference as well as spiritually enriching. Every Marist school and institution in the Australian network should have a copy of this book. It provides a new imprint for us as we continue to seek and to live our Marist journey.

Justin Taylor is a Marist priest, born in New Zealand. He graduated Ph.D. and later Doctor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. He also has a Doctorate of Sacred Theology (*honoris causa*) from the Angelicum in Rome. Father Justin has taught at the École Biblique in Jerusalem; and he is currently Senior Scholar in Residence at Good Shepherd Theological College, Auckland, New Zealand.

2. Lamb, Barry (2018), Illustrated History of Notre Dame de Hermitage: St Chamond, Loire, France. 1824-2016. Melbourne: Snap Printing.



This book is magic! It is a collector's item, and the research, typing, compositing, and proofreading were all undertaken by the compiler. The book, 311 pages in length, tells the story of the Hermitage,

the house that Marcellin Champagnat built. One hundred copies were printed, and ninety copies were sent to Notre Dame de Hermitage by the author so that the English speaking pilgrims could read about the history of the house since 1824. The small Heidelberg West community in Melbourne paid for the publication. The book has some wonderful photographs and copies of original documents in it. It is well researched, and obviously the work of a professional who undertook the project as a 'hobby'.

Brother Barry Lamb is a senior member of the Australian Marist Province. He is an experienced teacher and spent many years working in tertiary education in Sydney. The Hermitage community obviously saw a bargain when they took ninety of the one-hundred copies printed for the visitors and pilgrims rooms in their centre. One copy is in the Australian Province Archives and one in the General House Archives in Rome. However, Barry Lamb is a very creative person, and the publication is available on the international website of the Marist Brothers: www.champagnat.org

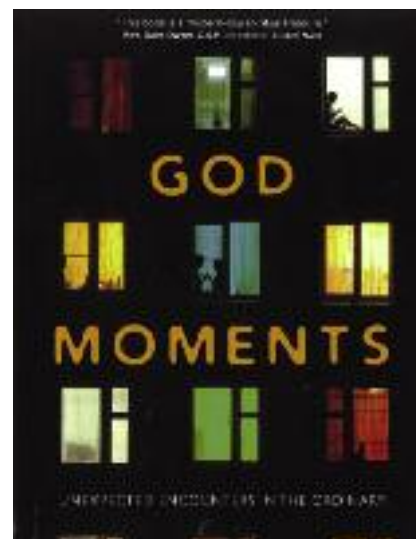
The text is highly recommended for those who wish to explore Marist history; and for those who want to understand why Champagnat did what he did, and why we seek to do the same today. Congratulations Barry!

3. Otto, Andy (2017), God Moments: Unexpected Encounters in the Ordinary. Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press.

The presence of God is a 24/7 arrangement in my opinion. God cannot be confined to a few minutes every now and then. This is not to say that we do not need 'time out' to focus directly on our Creator. Andy Otto agrees. He asks a couple of questions that challenge many of us who at times are preoccupied with the busy task before us. The questions are:

- Where do you seek God? *and*
- Are you waiting for him to appear in a monumental, life altering way?

The second question can usually be



dismissed with ease for many of us. No, God is probably not going to appear with a fanfare of angels playing holy music and singing sacred hymns! Instead, most of us are "plodders and bloggers" when it comes to seeking God. In this little book, Otto shows how we can discover the unexpected beauty of God's presence in the story of the ordinary things and in everyday routines such as preparing a meal for our family or community. He draws on the Ignatian principles of awareness, prayer, and discernment. As teachers we can sometimes lose what I would call the 'wonder' of our task, and the author of this little book provides a few ideas that can renew our vision of God, of self when it comes to our *wholeness*, and of the creative beauty of those that we live and work with, as well as the physical environment around us. Maybe you have just had a "God Moment"?

All of us are called to be leaders through our baptism and commitment to Catholic education. The real challenge for us then in leading for mission is to help members of the school community to make sense of the context in which teaching and learning occur so that that what they are doing becomes more meaningful, and so added significance for them. This book has a role in this process as it starts with the self and one's relationship with our God who appears in the ordinary.

Br Tony Paterson

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Cardijn College, Noarlunga
Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

Archdiocese of Brisbane

Marist College, Ashgrove
Mount Maria College, Mitchelton
Mt Maria College, Petrie
St Joseph's School, Murgon
St Peter Claver College, Riverview
St Teresa's College, Noosaville
St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach
Trinity College, Beenleigh

Diocese of Darwin

Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College,
Alice Springs

Archdiocese of Melbourne

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Marcellin College, Bulleen

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Marist

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Diocese of Bunbury

Bunbury Catholic College

Diocese of Cairns

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Good Counsel College, Innisfail

Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Marist College, Canberra

Diocese of Lismore

Trinity Catholic College, Lismore

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
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Parramatta Marist High School,
Westmead
Pete's Place, Blacktown
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas

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Marist College, Emerald

Diocese of Sale

Catholic College, Sale
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon
Marist-Sion College, Warragul

Diocese of Sandhurst

Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta
Marist College, Bendigo
Notre Dame College, Shepparton

Diocese of Townsville

Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr
St Francis Xavier School, Ayr

Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Marian Catholic College, Griffith
St Francis de Sales College, Leeton

Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
Holy Family School, Parkes

Diocese of Wollongong

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St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

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