



From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

This past weekend in my own Parish, a young man whom I've known since he was just a little fellow stood before us at Mass as a Deacon soon to be ordained. It was a great moment for his family and indeed all Parishioners as he beamed out at the congregation, looking a little older and wiser after years away in Rome studying. From a family of nine, eight boys and one lucky girl, young Matthew took on the responsibility of giving the homily with the poise of an old hand. It was a moment to savour and share, one sadly too rare these days. What connection does this have to Marist Schools Australia? Well in the great Catholic tribe, Marists can claim Matt's sister as a Marist teacher, his father and uncles as past students of Marist Brothers Mosman in Sydney, and his grandfather and family as friends and supporters of the Marists in Forbes and the central west of NSW.

Young Matthew's homily was of such simplicity and earnest faith as to be worth repeating and replacing the original piece prepared for this edition of the MSA newsletter. Matthew recounted his trip home from Rome via Dubai, and admitted to viewing a few movies to pass the time, especially those interminable 14 hours on the last leg to Australia. *The Greatest Showman* struck the young Deacon's fancy, and particularly the character of PT Barnum played by Hugh Jackman. In the final scene of the movie, Barnum reflects with great clarity on his priority in life, that of a father to his young daughters. The young Deacon used this dramatic epiphany as a segue to the message of the Gospel on Sunday, in which Jesus provides the parable of the mustard seed to explain the kingdom of God.

As encouragement to his old fellow Parishioners, Matt directed attention to the words of Cardinal John Henry Newman to guide our thoughts and actions as we contemplated the Kingdom described in the Gospel. In his work, *Meditations and Devotions*, the holy Cardinal outlines a simple path to holiness.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to be perfect, we have nothing more to do than to perform the ordinary duties of the day well. A short road to perfection-short, not because easy, but because pertinent and intelligible. There are no short ways to perfection, but there are sure ones.

We must bear in mind what is meant by perfection. It does not mean any extraordinary service, anything out of the way, or especially heroic-not all have the opportunity of heroic acts, of sufferings-but it means what the word perfection ordinarily means. By perfect we mean that which has no flaw in it, that which is complete, that which is consistent, that which is sound-we mean the opposite to imperfect. As we know well what imperfection in religious service means, we know by the contrast what is meant by perfection.

The person, then, is perfect who does the work of the day perfectly, and we need not go beyond this to seek for perfection. You need not go out of the round of the day.

As the first Semester comes to its conclusion, these words are worth remembering. May we seek perfection in our work during these busy days. Every assessment marked and feedback provided, with every Semester report written, with each carefully chosen word of encouragement and challenge, with each grade, mark, and interview, may we do the works of the day as well as we can, confident these are our surest ways to perfection.

Yours sincerely

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

17-20 Jun	Footsteps2 - Mittagong	3-5 Aug	Remar Gold Retreat - VIC
20 Jun	Remar Red Caravel Day - WA	4-5 Aug	Marist Educational Leadership Program
22-24 Jun	Remar Blue Retreat - WA	5-8 Aug	Footsteps1 - Mittagong
22-24 Jun	Care for the Soul Retreat, Mittagong	15-18 Aug	Contemplative Retreat - Mittagong
1-4 Jul	Marist Business Managers Conference	22-24 Aug	Being Marist Conference, Melbourne
31 Jul	MSA Governed Schools Principals Meeting	26-29 Aug	Footsteps1 - Mittagong
2-4 Aug	Care for the Soul Retreat, Mittagong	30-31 Aug	Marist Assistant Principals Conference



Being Marist Conference 2018

This national biannual conference invites staff from diverse areas of support in both our schools and ministries, to gather, share and deepen their experience of being Marist.

The conference title for 2018, A Future filled with Audacity and Hope, connects with our Association theme, offering a program that allows participants to engage with Marist spirituality and their own personal faith journey.

Date: 22 - 24 August 2018

Venue: Marist Centre Melbourne,
1 Dawson St, Brunswick.

Cost: \$270 (plus own transport and accommodation arrangements)

Registration online through the schools
Booking Officer at

www.msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes

For further information, contact

paul.harris@marists.org.au or phone (02) 9218 4000.

2018 NATIONAL MARIST BUSINESS MANAGERS CONFERENCE

Sun 1 July to Wed 4 July
The Hermitage Mittagong

Registrations are now open for the upcoming National Marist Business Managers Conference 2018.

Please click on the link [HERE](#) and this will take you to the Registration website. Registrations will also be available through the MSA Website. Please note, although the link states that Registrations close in June, there are only a limited number of rooms, so it will be first in best dressed!

MARIST ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE

Date: 30 - 31 August 2018

Venue: Marist Centre Brisbane

Registrations are now open for the upcoming National Marist Assistant Principals Conference

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Celebrating the Feast Day of St Marcellin Champagnat





(L-R) Katie O'Brien; Paul Wighton; Br Neville Solomon; Nicholas Hancock; Marcus Williams.

A HOPEFUL FUTURE IN SANTA TERESA

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School staff gathered in the community of Santa Teresa NT to engage with the Association Formation Program, *An Audacious Hope*, and an express version of *In the Marist Way*. Importantly, the staff discussed and adapted elements of the program to suit the special environment and circumstances of this vibrant Marist apostolate. The new Principal, Ms Deb Madgen, welcomed this spiritual formation and fully supports the inspirational approach of the community to preparing ways for a vibrant prayer and meditation program in all classes.



Front (L-R) Rachel Carman, Marie Hayes, Teresa Wood **Back** (L-R) Brionne Patterson, Danielle Svensen

PARENT'S RETREAT AT SUNSHINE BEACH

In the tranquil surrounds of the Chapel at St Thomas More Primary School some parents and grandparents gathered for a morning of contemplation and meditation. Spending time in a supportive environment, parents explored some of the issues around why it is hard to find peace in their busy lives and the importance of nurturing the gift of silence and stillness. It was an opportunity to reconnect with themselves and have the opportunity to connect with like-minded parents.

The focus of the Retreat was on learning about the importance of self-care and on how to focus on the present moment to feel a sense of peace. The retreat included a centering activity, a guided relaxation exercise and some meditation and contemplative practices.

PILGRIMAGE 2018



(L-R) Kathryn Wray, Lisa Fogliani, Rebecca Morrissey.



NEWS FROM MYM QUEENSLAND

Semester 1 at ICFP, Timor-Leste drawing to a close

Margie Beck, Vice-director of the Marists teacher training college, ICFP, Timor-Leste provides a Semester 1 recap.

As Semester 1 at *Instituto Catholico Para Formacao De Professores (ICFP)* ends, the Institute and students have hit some important landmarks so far this year. Currently, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students are on placement with the 1st and 2nd year students placed into 13 schools in and around Baucau while all 53 of the 3rd year students have returned to their home municipalities to complete seven weeks of teaching as well as completing a small project that will help the school where they are working. At the end of their teaching rounds, students will head off for their semester break. Most will return home to help their family work in the fields and in their homes. The staff at ICFP will use this student-free time to prepare for next semester. Also, during the school holidays ICFP will receive many visitors from Australia – school groups, teachers and some of our donors as well.

The 2018 graduation has also taken place during semester 1. This year graduation was held in the Convention Centre in Baucau (the old Portuguese market). This year 46 students graduated with 22 continuing on post-graduation to study for their Licenciatura, the fourth year of study to gain an equivalent to a Bachelor of Education in Australia.

ICFP is committed to providing opportunities for students from rural areas of Timor-Leste to gain qualifications. This diversity is represented across the institute's cohorts with students coming from many different districts in Timor-Leste. This is critical for the development of the country as the qualified teachers head back to their community ensuring that an increasing number of students across Timor-Leste gain the benefits of being taught by qualified teachers.

ICFP is a major project of the Marist Brothers and of Australian Marist Solidarity and is contributing to the development of one of the poorest countries in Asia. For more information on ICFP visit <http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/project/icfp/>

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It has been a great couple of weeks for MYM Queensland with a Connect Night and visits to Mt Maria College Petrie, Trinity College Beenleigh, St Peter Claver College Riverview, Carmel College Thornlands, St Augustine's College Cairns and Chanel College Gladstone. These visits have varied in nature and have included Year 12 retreats; Feast Day celebrations; meetings with senior leadership teams; immersion preparation meetings; and many other things.

Something that struck me in my comings and goings to each of these schools is how vastly different each of our communities are. In saying that the beautiful character that is notably strong in each and every school I spent time with was the welcome I was given. In each community, in all their differences, I was made to feel like I was part of the family whether I was there for an hour, a day or a week!

To welcome someone is a remarkable gift to that individual. When we welcome someone into our community what we are saying to them is, I acknowledge your inherent dignity as my brother or sister in Christ and you are accepted here. So needless to say with all of these school visits I have felt overwhelmed by this experience of welcome and encouraged by the presence of faith in our Marist communities.

A real highlight for me was working with the 7 students from St Augustine's College in Cairns as they prepare for their immersion to Thailand. Hearing their reasons for wanting to go on immersion was inspiring. They each expressed the desire to push themselves out of their comfort zones; experience brotherhood together; and have their ignorance lessened. One of the young men also said to me that he wanted to understand a little more about how and why some of the communities that are seemingly so poor are so rich in joy. I am looking forward to meeting with this immersion group later in the year to hear about their experiences and their reflections!

So to all the communities that showed me such great welcome and shared with me the significant work that is happening in their schools, as a part of Marcellin's legacy, I say a very humble and grateful thank you.



Caitlin Humphrys
 Regional Coordinator | Marist Youth Ministry Queensland