

MARIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



Dear Marists

Br Libardo Garzón, the Institute's Econome General, was the keynote speaker at the Marist Business Managers' Conference, organised by Bernard Kenna and his team and held recently at Mittagong. He provided some fascinating insights into Marist life across the world, and in doing so, commented that while the number of Brothers is declining, the Marist mission and charism is alive and continuing to expand. I know this resonates with our own experience here in Australia.

Why is this? Why is there such ongoing vitality?

Most fundamentally, people continue to be attracted to the Marist way: it speaks across ages and across geography. That this is the case is surely evidence of the potency of the gift that Marcellin Champagnat and the other early Marists brought into the Church. This charism (generous Divine gift) has been given for the common good; it is not just for one group, but for all. In recent years, our understanding of this very point has radically changed; the Marist charism is lived out by Brothers in one particular way, but it is available to others. It is offered to all; and obviously the invitation is being accepted and taken up. Two hundred years after the *Pledge at Fourvière*, the Marist charism remains real, relevant and vital.

Concomitantly, this has led to the development of alternative ways of belonging and witnessing to the Marist

vocation. Our Association is one such expression, bringing together people, irrespective of gender, age or vocational commitment, who identify as Marist. In other parts of the world the *Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family* plays a similarly unifying role. The fundamental unit of the CMMF is the Fraternity - a small community whose members meet regularly to share life and faith in a family atmosphere. These Fraternities are particularly strong in South America. Elsewhere there are other means used to express a sense of belonging. Earlier this year in the Province of Iberica, Spain, 14 people made promises, publically expressing their Marist identity. They proclaimed:

In the presence of God, our Father, our Good Mother and Marcellin Champagnat, after a process of discernment of my Christian vocation lived in the Marist Charism of Champagnat, I (name) desire, and it is my will, to be recognised as a Lay Marist in our Iberian Province.

I ask Brother Provincial Superior to be accepted in this family and I commit myself to take care and to live my faith, to share it in my community and with other brothers and Lay Marists and to make Jesus Christ known and loved, constructing, with the help of the Spirit, a prophetic and Marian Church.

Click [here](#) if you would like to read more about this special occasion.

Contemporary Marists need to respond to the question posed to the early Marists - especially after 6 June 1840:

how can we keep alive the dream of Champagnat? Former Superior General, Charles Howard, expressly called on us to be Champagnats for today, fired with the same passion for the Gospel, the same love of young people, the same confidence in Mary. Rick Sidorko, Headmaster of Marist College Canberra, has in recent months led the College staff in an exercise where they have been reflecting on, and articulating their response to this very question. Rick has gathered their answers together in a visual form and produced a simple note book to remind them of their hopes.



click on images to enlarge

Maybe this particular period, between Champagnat Day and the anniversary of the Fourvière Pledge, is a suitable time for us to consider the same question: how can I be a Champagnat for today?

With blessings for the month ahead,
Br Peter Carroll FMS



BR DANIEL HOLLAMBY AM

Congratulations to Brother Daniel Hollamby, the Principal of Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School and Leader of the Brothers' Community at Santa Teresa, on being made a **Member of the Order of Australia** in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The award was made in recognition of Dan's "significant service to Primary education; particularly in indigenous communities through senior teaching and leadership positions".

Dan is in his fourth decade of Primary school leadership, having been Principal at Ashgrove, Enoggera, Sunshine Beach, Bourke, Murgon and now Santa Teresa. In these last three, he has been closely connected to and very supportive of the local indigenous communities. He has exemplified what it means to stand in solidarity with others. The conferring of the award will take place in the near future.

We Marists are very proud of Dan's marvellous work over so many years and also of this public recognition of his ministry. Congratulations Daniel!



BR PAUL HOUGH

Congratulations also to Br Paul Hough who has accepted an invitation from the Provincial of the East Asia Province and the Archbishop of Kuching to be the Foundation Principal of a new Catholic School in Malaysia.

Paul is highly experienced in school leadership, having been Principal at Cairns, Campbelltown and Hunters Hill. After completing his term at SJC, he was for three years the Director of Catholic School Services in the Diocese of Cairns. The Provincial, Br Robert Teoh, was very keen to have someone of significant educational experience, and he has certainly found that person in Paul.

Paul is currently in Kuching finalising appointments to the teaching staff. He will leave Australia in December to join the two other Brothers of the Community in readiness for the commencement of the school year on 3 January 2017.

We wish him every blessing in this new endeavour!



ROD THOMPSON

Rod arrived safely in Sri Lanka and is now a member of the Formation Team at the Tudella Novitiate. The sabbatical programme he followed for the first four months of the year helped prepare him for his new role as Formator.

Going on the photo - he seems to be adjusting well! All the best Rod

BROTHERS' JUBILEES

Congratulations to the Brothers who are celebrating significant Jubilees this year:

JUBILARIAN	YEARS	MAIN VENUE
Anthony Burrows	50	BNE Sun, 26 June 2016
Julian Casey	60	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Tony d'Arbon	60	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Cyrinus Fisk	70	BNE Sun, 26 June 2016
Majella Fitzpatrick	70	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Anthony Glassick	50	BNE Sun, 26 June 2016
David Hayes	60	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Francis Hough	50	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Barry Lamb	60	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Kevin Langley	60	
Claudius Mason	70	
Thomas Maher	70	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Patrick McInerney	60	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Frank McIntosh	50	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Michael McManus	50	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Max Middleton	50	WA Sun, 12 June 2016
Andrew Moraghan	50	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Emery Nash	70	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Casimir Novak	50	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Ambrose Reilly	60	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016
Bill Selden	50	BNE Sun, 26 June 2016
Allen Sherry	50	BNE Sun, 26 June 2016
Peter Stewart	50	SYD Sat, 2 July 2016
Peter A Walsh	50	MEL Sun, 10 July 2016

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Many Marist communities have recently hosted the biannual Regional Gatherings of the Marist Association. At these meetings, hundreds of Marists have come together to consider, receive and reflect on the new strategic directions document for the Association: *We Marists. Our Hopes and Priorities 2016-2018*. The document is the fruit of a twelve-month process, a key moment of which was last year's Marist Mission Assembly at Mittagong. All Marist schools, other ministries, agencies and boards, have been invited to consider how the *We Marists* document can be embedded as a defining element of their own strategic planning. The Regional Gatherings also provided the opportunity for Marists from various locations to pray together as a faith community, and to formally acknowledge those members who have recently finalised their application to join the Association.

Melbourne Gathering

The Melbourne Regional Gathering was held on Thursday 19 May. As always, it was lovely catching up.

After a supper of soup, bread and refreshments we met to pray and to welcome new members to the Marist Association. In groups, we began our conversations around the priorities named in the *We Marists* booklet. It is hoped that each of us will find ways to support existing strategies and create new possibilities. This dialogue will be continued at our next Gathering in August.

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Tropical North QLD Gathering

The Tropical North Queensland gathering, which brought together a large group of Marists from Cairns and Innisfail, consisted of prayer, discussion and a meal together.

Six new members of the Marist Association were presented with their certificates and pins. Seen here in the photo below, alongside the statue of Mary in the St Augustine's College, Cairns' chapel are (left to right): Peter Dryden, from Innisfail, and from Cairns - Jean Lendon, Brett Toombes, Chris Chapman and Danielle Lynch. Paul Keenan from Innisfail was absent for the photo.



Fourvière - the revolution of tenderness

The Superior General, Br Emili Turú, has continued framing our preparation for the third century of Marist life with a letter on the *Year of Fourvière* which is titled: *The Revolution of Tenderness*. The letter is addressed to all 'Marists of Champagnat'. From the outset, Br Emili reminds us of Pope Francis' comment that 'whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 288). In the spirit of continuing to renew the Church, we are reminded that to be the Marian face of the Church, our communities will be open, vibrant and Samaritan in nature. The prayer at the conclusion of the document conveys a deep sense of gratitude:

**Thank you for the Marist Family,
at present extending to all parts of the world...**

**Thank you in a special way,
for the Charism received through Marcellin Champagnat...**

**Thank you for so many generations
of Marist Brothers who, on the five continents, gave their lives
to the evangelization of children and young people...**

**Thank you for the growth of the Marist Laity,
women and men called by the Holy Spirit
to live their Christian vocation as Marists,
in communion with the Brothers,
and sharing one same mission...**

**With daring and generosity,
may we be signs of your tenderness and mercy
among the Montagne of today.**

Click here to read the letter: <http://bit.ly/1UWbXzP>

**Fourvière:
The
Revolution
of
Tenderness**



*Letter of the
Superior
General*

6th
June
2016

MYC | CELEBRATES CHAMPAGNAT DAY

CHRISTINE MCGEE | MANAGER, MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

On 8 July, 250 staff gathered at the Blacktown RSL Club to celebrate Champagnat Day. The theme for the day was **We can be Heroes** where staff were invited to dress up as their favourite hero.

Cate Sydes, our CEO, welcomed staff and thanked each and every one for their commitment to caring for our at-risk young people and families. Cate also affirmed staff by addressing each staff member as heroes of MYC.

Br Anthony Robertson from The Hermitage, Mittagong gave an inspiring address to staff and also thanked them for their passion and dedication when working with young people and families. We were then joined by Keynote Speaker, Fr Matthew Digges, an ex-Joey's student, who has worked in the Kimberley region in Western Australia for over 26 years.

Matt gave an account of his life from Joey's to the Kimberley which gave us a moving view of a Marist student becoming a Priest and walking with the people, respecting other cultures and traditions and following in Marcellin's footsteps.

Cate Sydes presented 20 staff with Champagnat Day Awards in the Marist Way: **Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work and In the Way of Mary**. MYC has also added a Reconciliation Award to acknowledge a staff member who actively promotes a safe and welcoming workplace environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and has met the criteria developed for this award.

Champagnat Day for MYC staff is about celebrating the work we do following in the tradition of what Marcellin Champagnat started nearly 200 years ago.



Cate Sydes with Serah, Angela and Sharen who received the Love of Work Award



Cate with Nik, Brendan and Tony who received the Simplicity Award



END OF FINANCIAL YEAR APPEAL TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN INDIA



On 9 June, Marist Solidarity hosted its **Eyes on India** photographic exhibition, which attracted a crowd of more than 70 supporters to the Marist Centre Brisbane.

The night also marked the launch of our [2016 End of Financial Year Appeal](#) to support the Brothers' ongoing work to improve the ability for children living in marginalised communities in India to access education.

Marist Brothers' projects that will benefit from the 2016 appeal are: [St Marcellin Higher Secondary School at Mangamanuthu](#); [Marist Nursery and Primary School at Vizhalanmedu](#); [Marist Primary and Secondary School](#) in the rural village of **P.Udayapatti**; and the Marist Brothers' HIV/AIDS outreach program in [Trichy, Operation Rainbow](#).

Please support our **2016 End of Financial Year Appeal**. Every dollar you give is tax deductible and supports the Marist Brothers' work.

To find out more, email: msol@marists.org.au or phone (07) 3354 0600.

DATE TO REMEMBER

Australian Marist Solidarity invites you to
Eyes on India

Sunday, 21 August 2016
5.30pm to 7.00pm
Marist Centre Melbourne
1 Dawson St, Brunswick

RSVP Monday, 15 August 2016
tracey.doublet@marists.org.au
(03) 9389 3100

Join us for an insight into our Marist projects in India as seen through the lens of Photographer Conor Ashleigh.

www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au

INVITATION FROM THE PROVINCIAL, MARIST BROTHERS

FOURVIÈRE BICENTENARY CELEBRATION

On 23 July 1816, a group of seminarians, including St Marcellin Champagnat, climbed the hill to the Marian shrine on Fourvière to commit themselves to commencing the Marist project.

200 years later, an invitation is extended to you to join all the branches of the Marist family to commemorate that event and to make your own commitment to shaping and enhancing our Marist future.

Saturday, 23 July 2016

10.30am
Mass at Villa Maria Church, Hunters Hill

followed by lunch & formalities at
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill

RSVP is essential

Send your contact details (and any dietary requirements) to Kylie/Kerry at the Marist Centre Sydney at **reception@marists.org.au** or on **02 9218 4000** by Friday, 24 June 2016.

Given the nature of the event, invitations are restricted to those who have concluded their schooling



MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND



Krakow
WYD 2016

**PILGRIM COMMISSIONING
AND FAREWELL DINNER**

ST KEVIN'S PARISH EASTWOOD
36 HILLVIEW ROAD NSW 2122

MASS
18:00

JULY
10TH

DINNER FOLLOWED AT THE
EASTWOOD COMMUNITY

RSVP BY JUNE 15TH to: ryan.gato@marists.org.au



DECEASED

CHRIS LAMBROU

Year 11 student at Trinity
Catholic College, Lismore

LYN KENYON

wife of David Kenyon

MADELINE

sister of Br Jim Devine (USA)

RICK SPEARE

brother of Br Robert Speare

ELLA MARGARET (PEG) DAVIS

mother of Br Bryan Davis

SICK

BR ROGER VALLANCE

recovering from surgery

COFFEE WITH A LOCAL COORDINATOR

Donna McLaughlin

TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE, AUBURN/REGENTS PARK | NSW



INTERVIEWED BY BR JEFF BARRINGTON

Last week I was privileged to visit Trinity Catholic College, Auburn and have a cup of coffee and a chat with Donna McLaughlin. Donna is one of the local coordinators of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat.

Deputy Donna

Donna McLaughlin is the Deputy Principal of Trinity Catholic College, Auburn and Regents Park (TCC). It is a school of 1330 students and 170 staff on two campuses. Donna's office is situated in the actual room that was her father's year three classroom in the mid 1950s.

Donna is a very caring person, a very good listener, and someone who mixes well with both staff and students. Much of Donna's day is about helping to resolve issues, sometimes with students, families and often dealing with staff matters.

In every school there are many reasons why students need to attend a deputy principal's office. When this occurs at Auburn, Donna offers them a cup of tea. "I think Marcellin Champagnat would have done it that way" she says. She adds, "I spend a lot of my time listening to people. There are plenty of opportunities in this school to work with the least."

Marist Pilgrimage and Diversity

TCC is as diverse in culture as any school in Australia. Overall there are approximately 39 nationalities in the college. It is this diversity that Donna loves. The college has worked hard at honouring each and including all. Donna sees the array of backgrounds of the families as a microcosm of the Marist world, each striving to follow Jesus with their understanding of Champagnat and Mary. "Marist means being inclusive of all, regardless of background, and it all happens here at Trinity."

One of the highlights of Donna's life has been the 2014 Marist Pilgrimage to Champagnat country via India. She says, "the experience of the pilgrimage is 'slow release'. It keeps re-emerging in

my life. The experience of hearing about the Montagne student keeps returning to me; meeting those who work for the protection of children in Geneva had a profound effect; interacting with Marists of other nationalities who share the same spirituality was enriching; and meeting a diverse range of Australian Marists has been enlightening and supportive".

What struck Donna most in the Indian Marist schools was the basic family spirit, with senior students taking the lead looking after the younger ones and the younger students responding. Donna says, "you can see the same thing happening here at TCC. The senior students run the school assemblies, lead the liturgies, commit themselves and are generous in their volunteering, and the younger students respond. This is family."

Donna and the Marist School

Donna has been at TCC for 21 years. She has been the English Coordinator and a campus director. Now she has been the Deputy Principal for 9 years. When asked if it is time to move on Donna replies, "I have had many opportunities and invitations to apply for other deputies' positions and even to apply to be principal, but when you already have the best why would you give it all up to go anywhere else? I am very, very happy here. For the past 21 years I have had 3 excellent and amazing principals: Br John Thompson, Paul Fensom and now John Kyle-Robinson. All 3 have had a good fatherly presence in the school, strong leadership and fatherly care. They really have been 3 Father Champagnats."

Being a committed Marist, Donna wears her Marist medal of the three violets with pride. Having experienced mass at the 'chapel in the woods' at l'Hermitage while on the Pilgrimage, she knows that this is where Champagnat was inspired to use the three violets to symbolise the Marist values of humility, simplicity and modesty. Hardly seen but evident by

their scent, they are simple but effective. Anyone who knows Donna sees that she strives to live out these same values in her own life, living her Marist life simply and effectively, quietly going about her work.

Donna and the Marist Association

Donna is one of 4 local coordinators for the Marist Association at TCC. Br Tony Vaughan at Regents Park, Maria Tripaldo at Auburn and principal, John Kyle-Robinson and Donna co-ordinate the coordinators. Donna has seen the Association grow over the past 2 years and has built momentum. But as Donna says, "The Association is pre-dated by a very healthy Marist spirit which has been in the school for a long, long time. Belonging, family, simplicity and hospitality are well established here."

"The Association for us is like a model of Church re-emerging" says Donna. "It is wonderful to see our staff, especially the young ones, sitting around sharing their beliefs, spirituality and faith stories. Because Marcellin and Mary define so much for us, we can talk about following Jesus in real and tangible ways, and then see those very ideals being lived out in the College. Our sharing has been about Jesus based in the real world, as he lives and breathes amongst us here and now. Our worshiping, sharing our stories, and praying with one another, are the core of our being here together. We can each be a role model to each other. It's an exciting time to be in the Church and to be a Marist."

On leaving the college after our coffee and chat, I saw Donna helping the year nine boys retrieve their ball which has bounced onto the roadway. Donna is at home in the thick of the student body and emanates, strongly, that Marist quality of Presence. With care and concern, like Champagnat, she is there among them. Thank you, Donna.