

MARIST SM AUSTRALIA

MMC Marist Mission Newsletter, Vol. 66, No 3
Spring, September 2015

MFIM & AMCOA Funds

Marist Fathers International Mission Fund
Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid Fund



Marist Missions Oceania
1836 - 2015

Marist Mission Centre 1949 - 2015



Sustaining Hope

In this newsletter...

SMSM Sisters

Reaching where needs are great

Sending & Receiving

Missionary baton changes hands

Bangladesh Tea Gardens

Marist Brothers / SMSM Sisters

Pathways out of poverty

Protecting children—child labour

Cameroon 200,000 Refugees

Displaced people fleeing violence and poverty. SMSM join JRS Team

Solomon Islands - St Isidro Centre

SMSM Sisters and SM Brother Jorge join hands for severely speech and hearing impaired Melanesian youth.

The World wakes up

Children pay the price of a scandal of poverty, violence and inaction
Pope Francis calls on European Parishes to adopt a refugee family.

It is said that around 40% of the world's poor live in Asia-Pacific.

For most of us, the stark reality of poverty is played out in shadows beyond public scrutiny on an uneven playing field off cement roads.

We cannot do nothing.



We are in danger of losing our humanity - Pope Francis

Dear Friends and Marist Benefactors,

Touching base with Marist Missionaries is a refreshing reality check. Marists have served in the Pacific for almost 180 years beginning with St Peter Chanel SM, the first Martyr of the Pacific.

Following in his footsteps, Marist Missionaries today roll up their sleeves, especially the Sisters, accepting with good grace, hardships of isolation, loneliness, disease, tropical heat and cultures whose ways are so different to their homelands. Unsung, they quietly get on with the mission.

Today this Missionary story continues. Nations that received Missionaries are sending them. Sister Therese Chaloux, a Marist Missionary Sister in the Solomons for over 50 years, mentors young Sisters. Today, Sister Jeline (Bougainville) now assigned in Africa, is in a team of Oceanians in a JRS outreach caring for waves of refugees.

The *Marist Fathers International Mission Fund* (MFIM) helps train, feed and send Marists on mission to difficult dangerous locations. The *Marist Centre Overseas Aid Fund* (AMCOA) then offers supplementary financial support for the work they undertake in social development, disaster relief and poverty alleviation.

Missionary Marists are conscious that your generous support sustains hope among very vulnerable people in an age of terrible crises. The warning of the Pope Francis a year ago echoes sadly....*we are in danger of losing our humanity.* Marists today engage in missions to uplift and promote justice and dignity for all.

On their behalf, my sincere thanks and request that we support them in prayer. Let us also pray for those fleeing violence.

God bless you and those you love.
Fr Kevin Stewart SM



Spotlight on our SMSM Sisters



Bougainville to Africa Sr Jeline Giris SMSM



Marist Missionary Sister Therese Chaloux
91 years young from the USA

SMSM = Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary



For Marists, the experience of sending and receiving began in 1836. St Peter Chanel SM, first saint of the Pacific, was in the first group to go to Oceania.



Since then the missionary journey has gone both ways. Today, Marists - Sisters, Brothers, Priests, born in the Pacific have been missioned across Oceania, Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand.

Sending

Current/former members of the Australian Marist Father Province who have served in overseas missions.

- Fr Aliko Langi SM (Philippines/Tonga)
- Br Colin Campbel SM
- Fr Bob Barber SM (Africa)
- Fr John Begg SM (Bougainville)
- Fr Jim Carty SM (Japan, Hong Kong)
- Fr Aidan Carvill SM (Fiji)
- Fr Gavin Foster SM (Philippines)
- Fr Paul Glynn SM (Japan)
- Fr John Hopkinson SM (Sth America)
- Fr Michael Jacques SM (Japan)
- Fr Tony Kennedy SM (Fiji)
- Fr Kevin Kerley SM (Bougainville/Fiji)
- Fr Ben McKenna SM (Solomons/Fiji)
- Fr Paul Mahony SM (Brazil)
- Fr Seamus McMahan SM (Fiji/PNG)
- Fr Harry Moore SM (PNG/Mexico)
- Fr Syd Nugent SM (Japan)
- Fr Osamu (Oscar) Ichiba SM (Japan)
- Fr Kevin Stewart SM (Philippines)
- Fr James Ware SM (Japan)
- Fr John L Walsh SM (Japan)
- Fr John Worthington SM (Africa)

and Receiving

Currently serving in Australia

- Fr Fred Kado SM (Oceania/Philippines)
- Fr Chris Ketsore SM (Bougainville)
- Fr Willy Melteras SM (Vanuatu)

Br Colin Campbell SM from Australia returned again from war service in the Solomons to assist the Solomon Islanders to develop their beautiful country. He later worked in Fiji before returning home to Sydney.



Fr John Worthington SM from Murwillumbah, NSW served first in Australia and then to Yaounde in Africa and back to Queensland.



Fr Jim Harding SM from Gerringong, NSW served as a medical doctor among the people of Bougainville and later worked in Fiji before returning to St Pats in Sydney for many more years as a spiritual director/confessor.

Fr Kevin Kerley SM from Gympie was on Mission in Bougainville throughout the troubles. A man of many skills he was recently awarded by the Australian Government for his service to the people of Bougainville.



Fr John Hopkinson SM (above) from Brisbane served in Mexico and for many years in Bolivia building up Basic Christian communities.



Fr Jim Carty SM (left) from Sydney was part of the Japan Mission. He became involved with Vietnamese Refugees in Hong Kong and continues his interest and work on social issues in Sydney today.



Fr Willy Melteras SM (right) from Vanuatu presently on Mission in Hunters Hill and St Pats Church Hill, Sydney with **Fr Justin Ratsi SM** from Bougainville, now pioneering a new parish in Pt Moresby.

Br Mika Cilicewa SM (center) Fiji for Australia and served in NSW as a jail chaplain and was involved for years in pastoral care of local Indigenous communities before going back to Fiji.



Fr Paul Glynn SM



Fr Syd Nugent SM



Fr John Hill SM

The post-war Japanese Mission was a special Mission of the Australian Marist Fathers for 63 years. 26 Marists served in Japan. MMC was founded in 1949 to support the Marist Japan Mission.



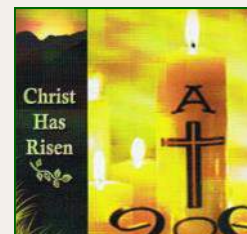
Marist Mission Centre is a signatory to the Code of Conduct of the Australian Council for International Development.



Our Beloved Dead

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord...

Each November, Catholics remember with prayer their deceased family and friends. The enclosed envelopes are for the names of your deceased loved ones and if you so wish and for Mass stipends to help support our retired Marist Missionaries.





Spotlight on Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) (MMC Christmas Newsletter will shine on our Marist Sisters (SM) in the Missions)

What is still to be done ?

Marists are called to set out again and again, responding to where needs are great.

Our Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) are trail-blazers in the Marist Family. Two new challenging missions responding to urgent needs of vulnerable people have been launched in Bangladesh and in the Camerouns (Africa) and another continues in the Solomon Is.

With your help, MMC hopes to support these Sisters from Oceania and Australia.



1. Tea Gardens Bangladesh

Why partner Marist Brothers in setting up a 'High School' in Bangladesh's Tea Gardens?

The short answer: Education is the best way to prevent child-labour and trafficking girls.

Without education, one is born in, works in and dies in the Tea Gardens. Always poor.

The Reality

- 53 poorly-resourced primary schools in the area, mostly two-teacher schools.
- Economically, extremely poor students.
- Child marriages of girls not uncommon.
- Pick 25 kg per day, earn \$5 per week.

The Response

- A Co-ed High School for 600 students to be opened January 2017. Construction is well under way.
- A dormitory on Campus for 150 girls from the Tea Gardens. Construction almost complete. Sisters will live in with the girls.
- Sisters are already visiting the families to win their support. There is economic pressure to work. Excited girls children greet the Sisters, crying out 'in two years I will go to Marist School'.



One example

Sr Janet SMSM (from Solomon Is) noticed an under-nourished baby. On her first visit, there was electric light. On a second visit, no light. Why? No light bulb!

When the husband died, the mother stopped work in the Garden to care for her disabled baby. That meant she no longer qualified for a house.

Her 12-year old son stopped school and went to work in the Tea Garden to keep their house. He picked 25kg per day and earned \$5 per week.

That was what they lived on. A light bulb costs \$4 so they could not afford any light in the house.

2. Refugees in Cameroun

Marist Missionary Sisters are sending three Sisters to work with Refugees in Cameroun. All the Sisters are from the Pacific.

Sr Jeline Giris, SMSM from Bougainville who has been working in Cameroun with Street Children and Youth in partnership with the Marist Fathers. And from Samoa, **Sisters Jacinta Fidow SMSM** formerly leader in Australia and **Sosefina Stowers SMSM** who was at one time assigned in Algeria.



The Reality

- 200,000 refugees from Central Africa in Cameroun
- First time Jesuits are establishing a JRS service with the refugees in Cameroun.
- The Sisters began work in April 2015.



3. Araligo - Tenaru, Solomon Is.

Marist Missionary Sisters assigned Sisters to share their lives with the hearing and speech impaired youth at a special training centre built by Br Jorge SM, a veteran Missionary in the Solomon Is.

Sisters **Sonia** (Vanuatu) and **Maria Fe** (Philippines) are deeply involved in valuable supportive roles. Sister **Akineti** (Kiribas), as a trained nurse, provides valuable medical advice to the young students.

She also runs a small dispensary at a Womens Care Centre run by the Anglican Sisters where abused women and children seek refuge.



From left: Sisters Maria Fe, Agnes, Therese and Sonia



Sr Anne Sklenars, RNDM, is a Sister of *Our Lady of the Missions* (who are quasi 'cousins' in the Marist family). A trained educator with great linguistic skills, Sr Anne worked many years in Myanmar, Philippines and Cambodia. She is the 2015 guest speaker for the *Marist Mission Appeal* at the Marist-staffed St Pats, Church Hill, Sydney.



A HUMAN DISGRACE

"...this is a human disgrace that we were letting people die and seeing dead bodies on the beaches when, together, Europe is such a wealthy place...What is coming through, screaming through at this moment, is the human tragedy of this moment to which we can be more generous."

"It's no longer an abstract problem of people who are on the scrounge, it's not; it's people who are desperate for the sake of their families, their elderly, their youngsters, their children..."

- Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster



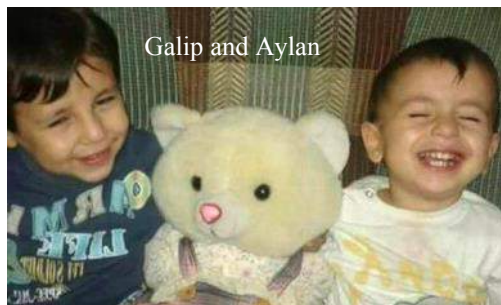
I felt sick with an overwhelming sorrow, despair and anger at the image of the drowned

Syrian toddler, Aylan Kurdi.

I turned away, but that image will never leave me. That photo is not just a story of one tragedy. It is a story of 1000's of real people in a fight for life itself.

It cannot be business as usual again. The PM can count on NSW to do whatever is needed.

- Mike Baird, Premier, NSW



Galip and Aylan

"You have to understand, that no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land."

- Warsan Shire, Kenyan-born Somali-British Poet, herself a refugee who has been in detention



Photo Reuters/CNA

3 year old Aylan Kurdi, his 5 year old brother Galip and their mother Rehan, drowned fleeing Syria after their petition for asylum to Canada, where their relatives live, was rejected.

With good fortune comes great responsibility

If you have food in the Fridge, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, You are in the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you have a computer or tablet you are part of the 1%

If you have never experienced war, the loneliness of prison, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you can read this you are more blessed than over two billion in the world who cannot read at all.

To whom much is given, much will be expected.

St Matthew

EVERY CATHOLIC PARISH IN EUROPE TO ADOPT A FAMILY OR TWO—Pope Francis asks. "A change of attitude towards migrants and refugees is needed on the part of everyone, moving away from attitudes of defensiveness and fear, indifference, marginalization... this calls for international cooperation and a spirit of profound solidarity and compassion."



In an age of such vast movements of migration, large numbers of people are leaving their homelands with a suitcase full of fears and desires, to undertake a hopeful and dangerous trip in search of more humane living conditions...

We sense in our conscience the call to touch human misery... a more decisive and constructive action is required which relies on a universal network of cooperation, based on safeguarding the dignity of every human person...to fight against the shameful and criminal trafficking of human beings, the violations of fundamental rights, and all forms of violence, oppression and enslavement.

Fleeing from situations of extreme poverty or persecution in the hope of a better future, or simply to save their own lives, millions of persons choose to migrate. Despite their hopes, they often encounter mistrust, rejection and exclusion, to say nothing of tragedies and disasters which offend their human dignity.

Working together requires reciprocity, joint action, openness and trust in the knowledge that no country can single-handedly face the difficulties associated with this phenomenon...more than anything this calls for international cooperation and a spirit of profound solidarity and compassion. A change of attitude towards migrants and refugees is needed on the part of everyone.

Ignoring brothers and sisters at sea is an assault on life...broken lives compromise the dignity of the international community and we are in danger of losing our humanity".

- Pope Francis

AUSTRALIA CAN DO BETTER What we can do ...

- ⇒ Individually and as families, pray for those suffering persecution.
- ⇒ Write to the Prime Minister, the Premier, your Member of Parliament asking them to accept more refugees in this emergency humanitarian crisis without multiple demands.
- ⇒ If Australia accepts more, follow Pope Francis—each Parish adopt a family or two.

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I would like to support

- Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)
- Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid (AMCOA)



My details are as follows: (please print clearly)

Title: _____ First name _____

Preferred greeting e.g., Bill / Peggy _____

Family name _____

Address _____

Suburb /Town _____

State / Postcode _____

Phone (____) _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

- Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid (AMCOA)
(tax-deductible donations - 100% goes to the project)
- Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)
(non tax-deductible - Religious purposes)
- Please send me information on Estate Planning

My donation:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other _____

I enclose cheque money order cash

I would like to make a direct debit from my credit card:

Monthly Quarterly Half-yearly Once only

Visa Card Master Card

Card No. _____

Name on card _____

Expiry date _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Post: Marist Missions, Locked Bag 5002, Gladesville, NSW 1675

Or Fax to (02) 9816 1737 or donate online.

For general information, please contact Jane 02-9844 2275

Regarding donations Annie 02-9844 2275

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 3.30pm

Thanks for helping us to help ourselves!



Marists plan with the people a way out of their dire Poverty



*Protection and Education
Marist priorities*

