



Simplicity

Flexibility Inclusiveness

## Newsletter



are detailed in the following reports and I hope you enjoy reading them!

The weekend was a 'gift' for Marist Laity and provided an opportunity for the Spirit to work through rich conversations, networking, new connections, catching old friends and celebrating. Together we recognised that the spirit of Mary lives with energy, zeal, tenderness and trust, in the body of all branches of the Marist family and is always present when we gather.

Thank you one and all!

**Margaret Woods**  
**Coordinator Marist Laity Australia**

## Fourviere Bicentenary Celebrations

Members of all branches of the Marist Family have been invited to this year's celebrations, marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1816 pledge to form the Society of Mary at the shrine of Our Lady of Fourvière, on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 beginning at 10.30 am with Mass at Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill.

Following the Mass, drinks and lunch shall be available at St Joseph's College from 12.00 followed by presentations by representatives of each branch of the Marist Family. Those interested in attending the lunch (cost \$50.00) contact Margaret Woods on 0417 682 872 prior to 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2016.

**Thank you to all the participants who gathered at St Patricks Sydney on May 28/29 2016 to enjoy time together to celebrate 200 years of Marist Charism across the world!**

The theme of the weekend recognised the dedicated journey made by twelve young French clerics on the chilly morning of 23 July 1816. As they ascended the 800 steps to make their commitment at Our Lady's Chapel of Fourviere they were not to know they would ignite the Marist Charism, that in later years would travel 7000 leagues across the seas to Oceania where, in this part of the world, 200 hundred years later, we, a dedicated group representing New Zealand, Philippines, Kiribati and Australia, would gather to celebrate and honour the birth of that Charism. Aspects of the day's events

# Reports on the May, 2006 Seminar: Journey of Mercy

## Day 1 of the Seminar by Barbara Ashwell

Marists came from as far away as the Philippines, New Zealand, Gladstone, Brisbane, Adelaide and from around Sydney, to Journey in Mercy with the Spirit of Mary at this inspiring seminar, held in the crypt at St Patrick's, Church Hill, Sydney on the last Saturday of May. On the Sunday we continued the Journey with a pilgrimage to the various Marist historic sites around Sydney.



Saturday began with a reflection, led by Margaret Woods, on those twelve young men who climbed 800 steps to the Chapel of Our Lady of Fourviere on 23 July 1816. By their pledge and vision to begin a society in the name of Mary that day, they began something that we continue as Marists 200 years later, built on the courage and daring of the pioneers, who ventured 7000 leagues into unknown territory to bring the love of God and the gentleness of Mary to its peoples.

Fr Michael Whelan took up the challenge for us Marists today by encouraging us to keep the conversation going and to see "this encounter as a transforming engagement so that we leave here today as a better human being" We Marists need to be present, to be able to communicate, not just in words, but by listening with our whole being to what is being expressed. This presence, like Mary, especially at Nazareth, will be manifest in our relationships in our families, our workplaces and with whomever we come in contact. We, like Mary, through our own vulnerability will enable the Word to be incarnated in today's society, to be instruments of mercy and healing in our troubled world. This presence will be continually enlivened by "a taste for God" in prayer and knowing that "Through a gracious choice" we are to "live, think, feel, and act like Mary" – a gentle presence in a volatile world – "get used to being misfits. We Marists belong to misfits!" Maria Baden thanked Fr Michael for his Presence and inspiring Conversation.

After a delicious lunch, including tasty pumpkin soup prepared by Sr Fidelis, we heard how Marists are continuing the work of Mary today in various parts of the world.

First of all Bev McDonald, national coordinator for Marist Laity in NZ, explained how she travels the length and breadth of NZ keeping contact with widely spread diverse groups of Marist Laity – those who make a commitment to live as lay Marists today, The Third Order of Mary are included; the Our Lady of Good Hope Ministry and the Marian Mothers Group. Bev is also responsible for the website and sending out Monthly reflections for each group and now Bev prepares the quarterly International Newsletter.

Maria Tiimon from Kiribati told of her work at the Edmund Rice Centre on Climate Change. Maria has worked tirelessly for this and she has been to most of the international

conferences as her island home is under threat.

Sr April sm spoke of her work in Davao in the Philippines where Marists work with the poorest of the poor – the mentally ill and the forgotten prisoners. Marist Presence brings comfort and hope to God's little ones.

Br Graham Neist explained the workings of the Marist Brothers Lay Association which now operates in all the Marist Brothers Schools. We were delighted with the term Marists which covers all whether lay or religious.

Interstate Groups included:

Tony Warren from Gladstone, Annette Heinemann from Adelaide and Glenn Roff from Woodlawn, who proudly told us of their involvement with Marist groups in their parishes.

Andrew Dumas finished our day with a beautiful closing prayer. Sr Marie Berise, sm thanked Margaret, other members of Marist Laity Australia Committee who planned and prepared this wonderful seminar day.

Thank you for sharing 200yrs of Mary's Spirit!

*Written by Barbara*

## **Review of Day 2 of the Marist Seminar**

by Bev McDonald,  
Co-ordinator, Marist Laity New Zealand

"A pilgrimage is a journey, often a long one and on the weekend of 28-29 May I became a pilgrim with Lay Marists from around Australia and the Pacific, including the Philippines, to celebrate 800 steps, 7000 leagues and 200 years of Marist life.

'Encounter' is an important theme for Pope



Francis and on Day 1 of the Seminar Fr Michael Whelan unpacked it for us with a rich exploration of faith, prayer and action as conversation with ourselves, God and each person. That conversation Fr Michael suggests, calls us to conversion, to be vulnerable, always willing to grow and to welcome ongoing transformation. I was deeply touched by his depiction of every one of us as 'misfits' who should simply give up trying to fit in and be acceptable because we never will. But we are called to the beauty and freedom of accepting ourselves as misfits, who are nevertheless chosen by Mary to belong in her family just as we are.

Day 2, Sunday, saw us move into pilgrimage proper as we travelled around Sydney. It struck me how much older than New Zealand Australia is. We stood in the alley behind St Patrick's Shrine and recognized we were at an architectural pivot point of the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st Century of Marist presence in Sydney. Mary's work is as needed today as it ever was. She calls Laity to move forward in hope in this 21st century. We can bring from our storehouse the great treasures of history we share and let them help us read the signs of the times for our day as we move forward in Mary's name.

I cannot share all the places we visited. Fr Peter McMurrich was our wonderful guide as we went to St Brigids, the first Mass center in Australia. We saw the tiny sacristy with a plaque where three sisters were accommodated by the Marist fathers en route

to the Pacific.

We went to Hunters Hill and were touched by its natural beauty but also by the graves of those early Marists who gave up everything so we could be Marist today and gratefully receive the baton of Mary's work they pass to us. The legacy they have left us is not static history, it is a dynamic living call for us to listen to Mary today, to converse with her as we say our own "yes" to Go

Afternoon tea with the Marist Sisters



The impact St Josephs alumni have had on society and the value of Marist education as a ministry of presence and hospitality was evident at 'Joeys' where we had lunch. We ended our pilgrimage with Mass celebrated at St Peter Chanel by Fr Barber. We prayed for the whole Marist family, Marist Laity and Mary's work around the world. Our last call was to receive the warm welcoming hospitality of the Marist Sisters at Woolwich. It was a cold day but something of the fire of those first Marists seemed to rekindle the flame in us. We parted as not only fellow

pilgrims but friends, beautiful misfits called by Mary to be her presence of mercy moving forward. We have much to be grateful for, much to ponder and much to discern moving forward in Mary's name. Thanks Aussie, you did a marvelous job. "With Mary we advance"

## 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chanel martyrdom

On the Pacific island of Futuna on Apr 28, 1841, pioneer Marist missionary, Fr Peter Chanel SM, was bludgeoned to death. This year Marists across the world honour their first Saint on this 175th anniversary.



Anyone who has worked in loneliness, with great adaptation required and with little apparent success, will find a kindred spirit in Peter Chanel. A timely reminder for us that what looks like failure is but a building block in God's hands.

*Our pilgrimage group at the Marist Fathers dining room Hunters Hill*



*Photos of the pilgrimage to Marist Sacred sites on Day 2.*



**Villa Maria Church**



**The Marist Monastery Hunters Hill**



**St Joseph's College**



**Lunch at Joeys**



**St Peter Chanel tour**



**Mass at St Peter Chanel Church**

## Celebrating Our Marist Beginnings

Many, many years ago, a Marist Sister, Sister David was working with Marist Laity at Church Hill and in the course of her work had a display of Our Lady, made with handmade lace. After many years, Sister David died and Sister Fidelis came into possession of the lace decorated piece, had it framed and put into the Chapel at Woolwich Marist Sisters School for safekeeping.



She understood that it had been sent by the Marist Laity Lyons for the Marist Laity Sydney, but all those who may have had first-hand knowledge about the piece and how it came to be in Australia had died.

But the piece, thanks to the foresight of Sister Fidelis, has been preserved and shall form part of the offertory procession for Marist Laity at this year's Fourviere Mass at Hunters Hill.

This year, of course, is the 200 Year anniversary of the Fourviere Pledge, and last year the heads of the branches of the Marist Family were invited to commemorate the Bicentenary in some significant way. As Marist Laity, we wanted to celebrate our Marist beginnings by acknowledging the largely hidden and unknown contribution of early Lay Marists to the work of Mary. The needlepoint piece, photographed above, was the outcome- a modest, handmade symbol of our joint privilege- to bear Mary's Name, enjoy her protection and share in her

mission. And the wish to symbolically celebrate the universality of our Marist family and to reciprocate the gift that was used so faithfully by Sister David in her work with Marist Laity in Sydney so many years ago, led us to choose to give this piece to Marist Laity Lyons.

On the 29th May, 2016, during a Mass celebrated at St Peter Chanel Church, Woolwich, Fr Robert Barber, Provincial of the Marist Fathers in Australia, blessed the framed needlepoint, and later this month it shall be taken to Lyons by a member of the Marist Laity to be presented to the Marist Laity Lyons in time to be part of their Fourviere celebration, should they so wish. All are welcome to attend our Fourviere Celebration at Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill on the Saturday, 23rd July, 2016 at 10.30am, to celebrate the countless input of so many from those who climbed the 800 steps, sailed the 7,000 leagues and worked on Mary's mission of mercy to whatever distant shore for the last 200 years and to look to the future, to renew our commitment to work towards the whole world Marist.

## Marist Laity Hunters Hill

As the month of May is dedicated to our Lady we resolved to work on raising more funds in supporting the works of "our" two Marist Fathers, Father Eneriko and Father Long, who are working to give young children hope, love and a better way of life in their respective countries of Vanuatu and the Philippines.



## Raffle and Holy Land Photo Night

With donations from group members, plus support of a local hotel, we filled a large basket as a raffle prize, tickets being sold at the local hotel and at Villa Maria and St Peter Chanel Churches on the weekend of 22nd May. The



prize was drawn the following week, at our Holy Land photo night on Thursday, 26th May, where entry was by gold coin donation.

The Holy Land photo night took us on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land undertaken by two of the members of Hunters Hill Marist Laity, Marvic and David Blowers, who hosted the evening and shared with us their photos and a comprehensive commentary. We travelled with them to the places their pilgrimage took them, from Mary's home in Nazareth and then onto numerous sites significant in the life of Jesus and the early Church, including the Church of St Joseph, where we saw the stained glass window depicting the marriage of Mary and Joseph, as pictured. With them, we travelled to Mt Tabor, Mount Carmel, the Sea of Galilee, the site of the miracle of feeding the five thousand, the River Jordan, Cana, through the Jordan Valley and to the Dead Sea, Bethany, then to Bethlehem including the Church of the Nativity, the Mount of Olives, the garden of Gethsemane, and the site of the Last Supper and the Holy Sepulchre, the tomb of Jesus. One photo that drew comment at that location was a bust of Our Lady of Sorrows, presented to the Sepulchre by the King of Portugal the same year Captain Cook sailed into Botany Bay, which is believed to be still working miracles, reproduced below.

Lastly we accompanied them on the Via Dolorosa, visiting all 14 stations, sharing with them their experience of reliving the passion of Our Lord where it actually took place. A moving experience.

A comprehensive report by Marvic and David

of the places and churches visited can be found on the web page of Marist Laity Hunters Hill on the web site of Holy Name of Mary Church.

We thank Marvic and David for all their efforts in putting together such an informative and memorable evening. It certainly was an enjoyable way to raise money for the work of Fathers Long and Eneriko.

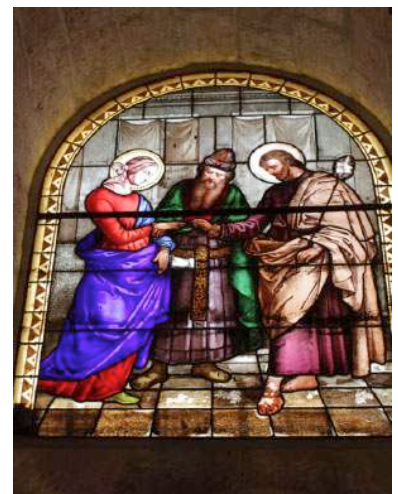


## Biscuit Baking and Selling

The Hunters Hill Marist Laity group worked with the Confirmation candidates from Villa Maria Primary School again this year in making biscuits to sell at the weekend masses. We are grateful to the students for again joining with us in this cause, working for Fr Long's orphans and the impoverished children in the parish of Fr Eneriko. The fundraising is important, but of greater importance is the awakening in the students of the role they can play as young Marists, working in a Marist cause.

The combined funds raised from these drives reached \$2,300.00.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Hunters Hill Parish, Villa Maria School and the local community in raising these funds and joining with us in our mission.



# Photos from the Day Seminar: Journey of Mercy



Photos by Barbara and Jenny.

