

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Provincial Circular

No 3 - Jun 2020



From the Provincial

Brothers

The 2018 Provincial Chapter declared that “the mission of the Society and our present circumstances call us to significant structural change” and mandated us to “put into place processes for new governance and leadership structures”. We are now in the process of carrying out that work: we have already had a first round of community meetings considering a draft proposal on governance. The coronavirus restrictions have slowed us down a little with our having to postpone the Assembly and the Chapter. Hopefully, we can have another community meeting to consider a revised draft proposal and associated draft statutes which will be the basis of our discernment in the Assembly.

Our Constitutions state that “The Society will be capable of fulfilling its universal mission to the extent that it functions as a coordinated whole and adjusts its activities to particular situations. Its forms of government should enable it to provide an effective presence in a variety of places without detriment to the unity required by its universal mission.” (Const. 159).

The task before us as a province in these days is to establish a form of government to enable us to provide that “effective presence” in Australia in the coming decade and to “adjust our activities” to our particular and present situation. Our seeking to make changes to the way the Province is governed and organised is being undertaken in order that we may in this time of diminishment still

be able to carry out our mission as best we can with the resources we have and in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

What is this mission to which the Province, each community and individual, remains called? according to our capacities and the opportunities offered? Our ministries, our works, are expressions of the mission and give us the means to carry it out. The Spirit of the Society will guide us on the manner in which we carry out mission, our Constitutions are our guide in how we might concretise the mission in our place, in our Church and in our world, what our particular focus might be. How then might we define the mission of the Province of Australia in these times?

Over the years we have laboured over the production of mission statements. We have had to ask how realistic were they? How effective were they? They often demanded a conversion, a change of outlook, a change of heart – did a “reception” really take place? I wonder whether we have often confused the mission with a ministry, with our manner of ministering, with



a particular modality of presence within the Church.

The Index of our 1987 Constitutions refers to about 30 instances of “mission” and yet only a few numbers make explicit what “the mission entrusted to the Society” is; for example: Constitution 74: “The Society has but one overall mission; namely, to proclaim the Gospel to the people of our time, ever conscious of the mystery of Mary in the Church” and Constitution 103: “Obedience establishes and strengthens the Society’s unity, drawing Marist together in the common mission of building up and renewing the Church.”

At the 2017 General Chapter there was a call for the Society to express a mission statement for today. The working group responsible for drawing up a *Declaration on the Mission of the Society of Mary for Today* proposed that our mission for today is no different from what it has always been, although its modality, its focus, its context will be different. It was with this in mind that the General Chapter stated the following: “Jean-Claude Colin and the first Marist believed that Mary wanted a Society called after her, to act on her behalf in a world of crisis. This was the Mission she was entrusting to them, despite their limitations.” (SD2017, 1)

“The Mission she (Mary) gives to her Society is an expression of the Mission that the Church receives from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, whom the Father has sent into the world to bring about His Reign.” (SD2017, 2)

“Like Mary, we are called to be missionary disciples, bridge builders,

instruments of reconciliation, bearers of the Good News, especially to the poor and youth.” (SD2017, 6)

“Mission is not primarily about where we are or where we go. Rather it is an attitude of heart. ‘Mission’ could be as simple as crossing the road (to help a neighbour). Mary’s Work will not be finished until, at the end of time, all God’s children are gathered together ‘one in heart and mind’.” (SD2017, 7)

Our constitutions and our tradition present us with a wide and wonderful range of ministries, arenas of battle, a multitude of people to assist, as always we have to make choices to where and to whom we go, guided by a realistic estimation of our own talents and capabilities (Const. 73) always trusting in the grace of God.

In times when our numbers decline, our resources diminish, the number and outreach of our ministries decrease, we need to sharpen our focus, hone the instruments that remain at our disposal.

Now, in our present experience of diminishment, it may be the time to go back to the basics, the fundamental mission. Here we may discover the call to mission that can be realistically responded to by every community, by every one of us, no matter how circumscribed we may be. We continue to be a group of men with a mission to build up the People of God in Australia (Const. 103) in those who pass our way. Let us remember that our strength is that we are a band of brothers, men with a mission to witness to the Gospel through our lives together, our shared faith, hope and love, ever inspired and supported by Mary.

Our work of governance restructuring and adjusting our structures must be aimed at giving us the freedom, the opportunities, the supports, the wherewithal to continue with commitment and renewed energy to be on mission, to work for the Kingdom, a kingdom of peace, justice and mercy; otherwise we are spending our energies for nothing.

Tony

Provincial Council

Among items treated at the provincial council in May and June were the following:

- Rescheduling of Assembly and Chapter
- Provincial retreats
- Sale of Lane Cove property
- Preparations for provision of a Healthcare Coordinator for the Sydney area.
- Preparations for the assembly and chapter.
- A new round of community meetings preparing for Assembly
- CPSL audit report and action plan.
- Professional standards matters: civil claims and redress.
- Report from MMC

Calendar

Fourvière commemoration: July 23.

Because of coronavirus restrictions, the expectation is that our commemoration of the Fourvière will take place within local communities. A suggested format for a prayer service accompanies this circular.

Upcoming community meetings: The Provincial and the Professional Standards and Safeguarding Officer, Kathleen Fleming, plan to meet as many confreres as possible at three community meetings (Maryvale/

Provincial Diary

Jul 15

CLOC meeting

Jul 21

Provincial Council

Aug 11

CLOC meeting

Aug 18

Provincial Council

Montbel, Herston and St. Patrick’s) in July/August to explain the CPSL Audit Report and consequences for the Province.

The Preparatory Committee for the Assembly and Chapter is planning meetings at the same venues later in August for further preparation for the Assembly, considering the restructuring proposal and associated draft statutes.

More precise information on dates for these meetings will be published as soon as practicable (Herston depending on the opening of the border).

Provincial Assembly: A reminder that the Provincial Assembly will be held on September 29 – October 1. The Preparatory Committee will be soon be seeking registrations for the Assembly.



Provincial Chapter: The Provincial Chapter is now scheduled for November 10 – 13. The process for the election of delegates will commence in mid-July.

Appointments

Jim Carty

... to Maryvale/Montbel, taking up residence by the end of August.

Pio Fong Waqavotuwale

... to the community of Herston and will be available to the Archdiocese of Brisbane for parish supply work.

David Wilson

... to Maryvale/Montbel, taking up residence by the end of August.

News

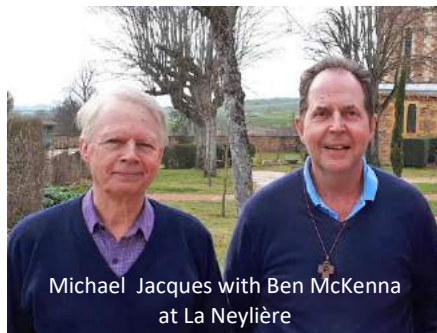
ARC

Because of restrictions on international travel and the uncertainty of when they will be lifted, there will not be a meeting of ARC, the **annual review and consultation** between the General Administration and Major Superiors of the Society, in Rome this year.

Instead there will be 'CLOC' – **combined leaders' online consultation** – once a month on Zoom from July to December. The Provincial will need to be bright eyed and bushy tailed either at 7.00 am or 9.00 pm.

Omnes Gentes Community. The plans for the arrival and establishing of the community of four confreres in the Parramatta Diocese has been disrupted by the pandemic. It has been impossible for those at present in Rome to organize visas during the strict lockdown. It is expected that the group will be able to arrive in January, spend a few months in orientation and move to Marayong in March of 2021.

Healthcare. Following on from the recommendation of the Murray-D'Arbon Review, we have engaged Catholic Health Care to provide their services to confreres in the Sydney area who have turned 70 and for younger men who have health issues



Michael Jacques with Ben McKenna
at La Neylière

and who are not resident at Maryvale/Montbel. Letters have gone out to these confreres inviting them to take up the offer. A healthcare person is already assisting confreres in the Brisbane area.

Personnel

Paul Mahony is resident at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill. Paul's plans for his year of renewal of been disrupted by the pandemic restrictions. He is continuing his renewal period privately.

Michael Jacques has come to end of the Colnian Renewal at La Neylière in late June.

Kevin Redmond continues in Ranong where he has been particularly involved in coaching students.

Our elders

Restrictions on visiting aged care facilities are slowly being eased. If you are planning a visit it remains wise to ring to make an appointment and to take with you certification of your having had a flu injection.

Brother Colin Campbell (98) had a fall recently, fracturing a vertebra in his neck. He has to wear a brace for six weeks, although the yoke is not easy he is bearing it with typical patience.

Jubilees

During July-August the following jubilees will be commemorated:

- Jul 09 - **Jim Harding** and **Tony King**, 60 years of priesthood.
- Aug 15—**James Ware**, 50 years of priesthood.
- Since the last Provincial Circular **Michael Moore** celebrated the

40th anniversary of his ordination on May 31.

Congratulations to these confreres and thanks for their years of dedicated service. We will have the opportunity to celebrate with them and others commemorating anniversaries at the Jubilarians' Mass

Deaths

Fr Paul Noblet (Europe-France)
d. 24 April 2020.

Fr Roland Lacasse (USA)
d. 11 May 2020

Fr Gonzalo Garcia (Europe/Spain)
d. 16 May 2020.

Fr Jacques Arfeuillère (Europe, France)
d. 8 June 2020.

Fr Eugen Lausmann (Europe, Germany)
d. 20 June 2020.

Br Pablo López (Mexico)
d. 21 June 2020



Eugen Lausmann who worked with Paul Mahony in Brazil.

The self-contained flat at **Currumbin** is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through the provincial office.

Assuming current restrictions on domestic travel have been lifted, the current bookings are:

Jul 4 – 18 Gavin Foster*
Jul 19 – 25 Kevin Stewart*
*(*if border restrictions are eased)*
Jul 26 – 31 Tom Ryan (Family)
Oct 15 – 30 Peter McMurrich
Nov 2 – 30 Bob Barber (Family)
Dec 6 – 12 Jim Hargrave

2021

Jan 13 – 23 Gavin Foster

Please ensure if you stay at Currumbin you leave the place neat



and tidy. It is the responsibility of those that use the facility to take care of it.

On a number of occasions, the property has had to be cleaned by the people entering rather than those that have enjoyed the facilities.

This is particularly the case with the flat – if you use it, before you go you should vacuum it, clean the

bathrooms, clean benches, mop down tiled areas, and dispose of garbage and perishables.

The upstairs section of Currumbin is for the exclusive use of professed Marists. The exception is for approved group use, e.g. Marist Charism Group planning meeting, where the usage is notified to confreres well in advance.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

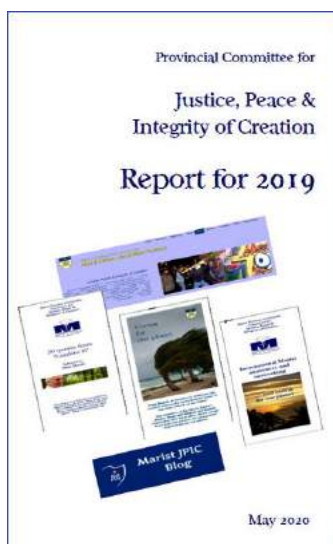
During the lockdown, the committee, with Marist Family members, held its first Zoom meeting.

The session was hosted by Andrew Dumas and led by Jim Carty.

One agenda item was the presentation of a report for 2019 by our province JPICC.

The report included summaries of five meetings, publications, web items, MMC 70th anniversary, Bridge Program and Wilai Foundation.

It is likely that future meetings will use Zoom conferencing.



And also...



1: **Michael Carroll** with **Dr Wendi Sargeant** (Uniting Church chaplain) and **Carol O'Ryan** (Anglican Church chaplain) at RBWH.

2, 3 & 4: From Herston recently, **Charlie Randle**, **Harry Moore** and **'Alatini Kolofo'ou**.



5: Pentecost dinner at Paddington. 6: **Paul Mahony** inspecting stonework repairs on Montbel driveway. See province website for more pictures. 7: **John Hopkinson** with pandemic supplies at Tarija, Bolivia. Hoppy's 75th birthday letter is on the province website.



1: Paul Glynn and the Gingko tree, Villa Maria. **2: Kevin Bates** and helper during Mass videoing. **3: Peter McMurrich** with confreres during St Joseph's College staff tour of Villa Maria historic sites. **4: Pio Fong** at St Anne's Nursing Home. **5: ...** and preparing gourmet delights at Villa Maria. **6 & 7: Balay Pasilungan** youngsters at Davao remember **Philip Callaghan** on his 15th anniversary.



***A COMMEMORATION OF THE FOURVIERE PROMISE
JULY 23***



REMEMBERING FOURVIERE IN THREE ACTS.

This service of readings, reflections, songs and prayers is offered to communities or individual Marists of the four branches as we remember the foundational event of the Marist Project - the Fourvière Promise.

The prayer is divided into three "acts". A community may decide to use only one or two or all three.

A selection of songs is suggested to choose from. AOV refers "As One Voice" volumes I and II; other alternatives can be found online.

I. The Twelve Go Up to Fourvière.

Lyons, France, 23 July 1816. It is early morning, and twelve young men are climbing the 800 steps leading up to the ancient Marian shrine of Fourvière on top of the hill that dominates the city. Five of them had been ordained priests the day before; the others had not yet completed their studies for the priesthood. During the preceding months, they had formed a group and made a commitment. Now, they were about to separate. But, before they broke up, they wanted to seal their act of commitment before the venerated statue of Our Lady of Fourvière. . . . During the Mass it was placed on the altar under the corporal, thus uniting their commitment with the sacrifice of Christ. . . . (From this day) the multi-branched Society of Mary, envisaged by the seminarians at Saint-Irénée and the object of their act of commitment consecrated at Fourvière gradually took shape. (Justin Taylor sm)

Reflection:

“We solemnly promise” – what audacity! Or what naivety?

The commitment is simple: “we irrevocably dedicate ourselves and all our goods. . . . that we shall spend ourselves and all we have” – to the extent of our possibilities. Are we capable today of making such a promise?

For them, as for us, the only guarantee for the promise is the gift they make of themselves without being assured of what they will become and what they will be able to accomplish. . . . What makes these pioneers hold on, the foundation that justifies the gift they make of themselves, is love and the trust that love gives – love of God, love of life. . . . There is a great similarity between this commitment and that which a man and woman make to each other without knowing what they will become. There is the same madness. When we give, we give to one another that which we do not yet have, that which is not yet, for the present and the future, no money-back guarantee, in trust alone. “The glory of God and the honour of Mary” seem to these pioneers the sufficient guarantee for risking their lives. After all they know, as we know, these words of Jesus: I have come so

that they may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). They love life and believe in life, apparently this is sufficient for them to dare the adventure.
(Francois Drouilly sm)

Song: *Let God's Dream Be Born* – K. Bates (AOV II-30)
Galilee Song – F. Anderson (AOV I-5)
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (Pescador de Hombres)
– C. Gabarain (Hymnary.org)

Prayer:

**Mary, Virgin and Mother,
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,
welcomed the word of life
in the depths of your humble faith:
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
help us to say our own “yes”
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the good news of Jesus. . . .**

II. Mary Goes with Haste to Visit Elizabeth.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' (Luke 1:39-45)

Reflection:

How lyrical that is, the opening sentence of St. Luke's description of the Visitation. We can feel the rush of warmth and kindness, the sudden

urgency of love that sent that girl hurrying over the hills. "Those days" in which she rose on that impulse were the days in which Christ was being formed in her, the impulse was his impulse.

Many women, if they were expecting a child, would refuse to hurry over the hills on a visit of pure kindness. They would say they had a duty to themselves and to their unborn child which came before anything or anyone else.

The Mother of God considered no such thing. Elizabeth was going to have a child, too, and although Mary's own child was God, she could not forget Elizabeth's need—almost incredible to us, but characteristic of her. She greeted her cousin Elizabeth, and at the sound of her voice, John quickened in his mother's womb and leapt for joy.

I have come, said Christ, that they may have life and may have it more abundantly. [Jn. 10, 10] Even before He was born His presence gave life.

With what piercing shoots of joy does this story of Christ unfold! First the conception of a child in a child's heart, and then this first salutation, an infant leaping for joy in his mother's womb, knowing the hidden Christ and leaping into life.

Song: *The Magnificat* – P. Kearney (AOV I-52)

All That I Am – D. Haas (YouTube)

Holy Is His Name – J. M. Talbot (YouTube)

Tell Out My Soul – T. Dudley-Smith (catholicymn.blogspot.com)

Prayer:

**Mary, filled with Christ's presence,
you brought joy to John the Baptist,
making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
you sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
with unyielding faith,
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
so that the evangelizing Church might be born. . . .**

III. The Church Who Goes Forth.

The word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him “to go forth”. Abraham received the call to set out for a new land (cf. *Gen* 12:1-3). Moses heard God’s call: “Go, I send you” (*Ex* 3:10) and led the people towards the promised land (cf. *Ex* 3:17). To Jeremiah God says: “To all whom I send you, you shall go” (*Jer* 1:7). In our day Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples” echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church’s mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary “going forth”. Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel.

The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. *1 Jn* 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy. . . . An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. (Pope Francis: *Evangelii Gaudium* 20, 24)

Reflection:

How did Elizabeth herself know what had happened to Our Lady? What made her realize that this little cousin who was so familiar to her was the mother of her God?

She knew it by the child within herself, by the quickening into life which was a leap of joy. If we practice this contemplation taught and shown to us by Our Lady, we will find that our experience is like hers.

If Christ is growing in us, if we are at peace, recollected, because we know that however insignificant our life seems to be, from it He is forming Himself; if we go with eager wills, "in haste," to wherever our circumstances compel us, because we believe that He desires to be in that place, we shall find that we are driven more and more to act on the impulse of His love.

And the answer we shall get from others to those impulses will be an awakening into life, or the leap into joy of the already wakened life within them.

(Caryll Houselander: *The Reed of God*)

Song: *Here I am Lord* – D. Schutte (AOV I-90)

Prayer:

**Mother, obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.**

**Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.**

**Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,
that she may never be closed in on herself
or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.**

**Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.**

**Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,
pray for us.**

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

IV. Intercessions

Let us give thanks to Christ, our Lord, who has called to be his disciples after the example of Mary, his Mother. Let us pray:

Sun of Justice, you showed your day was dawning in the immaculate Virgin Mary; *help us to walk in the daylight of your presence.*

Eternal Word, you taught your mother Mary to choose the part that was best; *let us follow her example and hunger for the food of everlasting life.*

Saviour of the world, by your redemptive power you preserved your mother Mary from every stain of sin; *deliver us from the evil that lies hidden in our hearts.*

Christ, our Redeemer, you made the Virgin Mary the sanctuary of your presence and the temple of the Spirit; *make us bearers of your Spirit, in mind, heart and body.*

The Lord's Prayer