

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Provincial Circular



*No 3
Jun 2022*

From the Provincial

Confreres,

In the May issue of the New Zealand province's bi-monthly circular *Kōrero*, **Tim Duckworth** offered some wise words to his confreres on 'preparing for the rest of your life'.

Tim has kindly agreed to have his presentation reprinted for the confreres across the Ditch. Here follows relevant extracts. Thanks, Tim.

Tony

In recent days I've been talking to confrères and discussing their futures. In general, we expect Marists in the NZ Province to work until they are roughly 75. I usually encourage them to go a little slower from 70 onward so that the upcoming change isn't as sudden or unexpected. Those years are a time to develop interests that will last you the rest of your life...

To work or not to work? with apologies to the Bard, is a significant question for Marists. As we approach the third age, as we call it today, because we fear using words like old, and retired, the question is a significant one for many of us, because it makes a difference to how we see ourselves. For those closer in age to me, we have spent possibly 50 years or more and seen ourselves as a religious or a priest (or both). When we no longer are in front of people who call us by a title it can be a significant additional part of the feeling of loss or disappointment that age brings everyone.

... Losing status hurts too. I suspect it hurts Marists too. It's not quite as significant for us today where, for example, at the doctor's surgery, and

in many other places, no matter what we call ourselves you get called Mr.

Religious life has always canonised availability. Availability means that we are prepared to go and work (and/ or live) where we are asked. All of us, however, look for security, friendship, the familiar, a job and a style of common life that we prefer. Some who are used to a strict observance believe that there is only one preferred way of living religious life. Those who have sat where I sit now will know that formula does not work for every person in the Province all of the time....

You may have noticed when you have a battery-powered phone or other modern gadget that once it gets a little older it takes just as long to recharge the batteries but the 'charge' tends towards running out in a shorter period than it did when the phone was brand new. That's true of us too. When we are over 70 it will take two good days break to recharge the batteries to a reasonably full capacity – ready for the five days of ministry. We might have got by with one day a week off earlier in life, but it doesn't make sense for men over 70...

I try very hard not to sing from the diminishment song sheet every time I write in *Kōrero* or elsewhere. This time my tune is one about appropriate energy, and appropriate time and space in one's life. All in full-time ministry should have a supervisor. All should have time to renew and refresh the cells and the brain. All need good sleep and a good bed.

Caring for your self is about balance. Work/Life balance is a delicate dance. With increased age can come more

responsibility, more meetings, more emails and phone calls. Sometimes that bends the bow so much that things break. If it doesn't break then the tension in it can lead to problems: health suffers, burnout occurs and one's ability to do the task that you were once able to do suffers. Learning to say 'no' is important...

The rest of your life requires thinking about. When and how do you relax? How often do you take a day or two off? When did you last take a holiday? And in its other meaning, how well prepared are you for the rest of your life, slowing down and living the third age. Preparing for a time when you need to fill your day, preparing to take things easier, praying and preparing to meet the Lord, the whole reason why we do what we do.

Tim Duckworth

Provincial Diary

Jul 3 – 9

Plenary Council

Jul 17

Marist Brothers Sesquicentenary Celebrations, St Joseph's College

Jul 19

Provincial Council

Jul 22

Marist Culture and Charism Group

Jul 27

Health and Aged Care Committee

Aug 16

Provincial Council

Aug 29–Sep 1

CRA National Assembly, Melbourne

Provincial Council

At its May and June meetings the Council treated the following:

- Yearly Audit
- Marist Mission Centre Quarterly Report
- The Province JPIC Committee Report
- Brisbane Visitation Report
- Villa Maria Complex
- Professional Standards matters
- Personnel matters
- Response to the questions from the Superior General in preparation for CS2022

CLOC

On May 25, a Zoom meeting was held between the Superior General and the General Councillors, Ben McKenna and John Harhager, and the Major Superiors of MAP.

Matters of mutual interest and concern were discussed including protocols related to the presence in a province or district of members from another unit working or staying for a significant period of time.

Personnel

Tony Kennedy and Ray Chapman

arrive home from Europe on Jul 1. Tony will be spending a well-earned holiday in Australia for two months.

He will be spending some time in Gunnedah with his parents and will celebrate his 60th birthday and 30th anniversary of Ordination with the Kennedy family. Ray is returning home to Brisbane for an operation on his parathyroid. He will be staying at Herston and will spend the period of recuperation there. Once he has received a clean bill of health he will return to France later in the year to prepare for the 2023 Colnian Renewal.

Mikaele Tuimavave, a Samoan confrere from Oceania has arrived in Melbourne to begin post-graduate studies at ACU.

He will be residing with the Marist Brothers. Mikaele's studies are funded by MMC.

Pio Fong Waqavotu leaves Australia on Jul 10 for New Zealand. Pio will be taking up an appointment in the Auckland Diocese.

He will be Pastor for Otahuhu Parish, South Auckland.

Information

Status of the decisions of the 2021 Chapter on governance.

In mid last year the Superior General submitted a number of questions on the Chapter's proposals to the dicastery for Religious. It took some time for the Vatican officials to reply.

In the light of the Dicastery's responses, Canon Law, the Constitutions and Marist custom and following consultations with the provincial and council, the General Administration is now finalizing a decision on both the governance changes and the 'statutes' from the Chapter.

The provincial and council have now

given their response to the decisions to Rome. The GA has sought all along to proceed in a spirit of dialogue. We now await the outcome.

It might be recalled that central to the Chapter's proposals for governance changes was the appointment of the Leader by the Superior General after consultation with the membership and the delegation of authority to him by the General.

At the time we thought we might still retain the status of a province rather than a 'delegation'. The Vatican is insistent that canonically this cannot be the case and our governance proposals can only be accommodated by our becoming a district.

Once we have received the final approval with the emendations of the GA we will publish the results and arrange for meetings to assist in their reception.

Professional Standards and Safeguarding

The Professional Standards & Safeguarding Panel met on Jun 23, 2022, matters discussed included a new fact sheet published by the BlueKnot Foundation – *Responding to Adults Disclosing Child Sexual Abuse*.

The fact sheet provides practical advice on how to support a person who is disclosing abuse as an adult and is really important as the way you respond, being empathic and understanding and showing you believe the person and will support them, can make all the difference.

The Fact Sheet can be accessed at <https://blueknot.org.au/resources/blue-knot-fact-sheets/talking-about-trauma/responding-to-adults-disclosing-child-sexual-abuse/>



Pio Fong's farewell at Corinda

The International Safeguarding Conference (ISC) was held this month in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Mrs Jodie Crisafuli, a member of our Professional Standards and Safeguarding Panel was a participant.

The ISC is an annual event which brings together Catholic Church leaders, safeguarding professionals, trauma specialists and others to share knowledge and best practice concerning the abuse of children and vulnerable adults.

The topic for this year's conference was *Reporting Abuse: Obligations, Dilemmas and Reality*. Participants heard from a number of keynote speakers from across the world address the institutional challenges of implementing *Vos estis lux mundi*, the 2019 motu proprio by Pope Francis which established new procedural norms to combat sexual abuse and ensure that bishops and religious superiors are held accountable for their actions.

For those interested conference sessions can be viewed on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/IADC-reporting>.

An address by Fr Calisto Nyagilo, a priest in the Archdiocese of Nairobi, highlighted the cultural and social challenges of reporting in African countries, concluding his presentation with his own powerful poem:

*I reported my abuser; Told was lying;
Reported again; Told to shut up;
I resorted to walk in silence; You
called me an introvert;
In shame and guilt I moved; You called*

*me shy;
I felt like disappearing; You said I was
timid;
Soiled my beddings; You told me to
grow up;
I ran from home; You called me a
delinquent;
Infected by STI; You said I was
promiscuous;
Impregnated; You called me a
prostitute;
Reported feeling pains; You said I was
pretending;
Caught with drugs; You called me a
peddler;
Had eating disorders; You called me
obese;
Lacked personal hygiene; You labelled
me unkempt;
I went to depression; You ignored me;
When I committed suicide; You said,
you knew it was coming;
I died unheard; misunderstood; With
my shame; My secret.....*

Calisto 06/05/2016

Kathleen Fleming

Villa Maria Complex Committee

At the most recent meeting of the Committee the following was outlined as a possible way forward in our ongoing planning:

- work on further details of the vision for the site (following on from the declaration of the 2021 Chapter)
- work on a site strategy and feasible possibilities
- identify a specific mission and partners to carry on the work initiated by the committee
- propose governance structures to implement the plan.

Deaths

Br Robert Sokolowski (USA) who died on May 19, 2022.

Fr Bernard de Verneuil (Europe/France) who died on May 16, 2022.

Fr Michael Simison (Europe/England) who died on Jun 2, 2022.

Fr Jean Rodet (Oceania) who died on Jun 4, 2022.

Fr Charles Sureau (Europe/France) who died on Jun 26, 2022.

Year of Vocations

The final reflection for the Year of Vocations can be found at <https://bit.ly/mvy7vid>



Plenary Council

The Second General Assembly is taking place in Sydney from Jul 3 to 9.

Please keep the Council in your prayers



More news...

... of the Australian Province and the wider Society may be found on the provincial website <https://maristfathers.org.au>



JPICC Corner

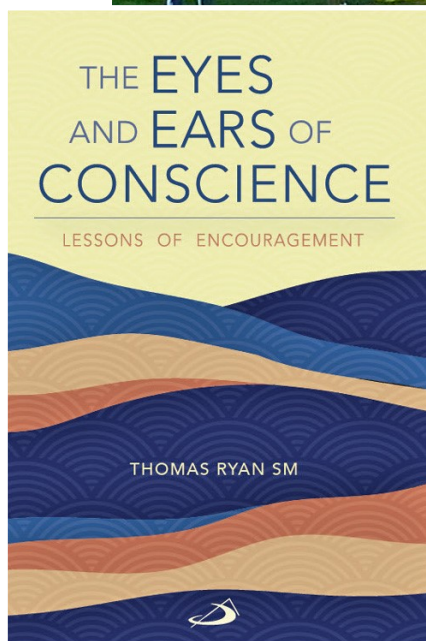
Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

The Committee continues to host Marist Family JPIC sessions with increased lay participation. *Pictured, from top and left, during the May 21 Zoom:* **Cathy Gallo, Ron Nissen, Andrew Dumas, Paul Mahony, Mary Farrell SM, Margaret Tisch SMSM, Kevin Stewart and Jim Carty.**



Clockwise from top left: **John Hopkinson's** 77th birthday celebrations in Bolivia. | Four Superiors-General of the Marist Sisters, including two Aussies, **Grace Ellul** and **Gail Reneker**. | SM Sisters' new General Council: **Srs Mari Aranda Sánchez-Lara** (Mexico - Councillor), **Kate McPhee** (Australia - Councillor), **Sylvette Mané** (Senegal -- Superior-General), **Silvia Sanz de Diego** (Spain/England - Councillor) and **Noelene Simmons** (Australia - General Bursar). | Refurbished statue at Belley, first erected by Fr Colin in 1833. | **John Larsen** in Brazil with local bishop and **Paddy O'Neil** and **Juan-Carlos Pina**. | **Ben McKenna** with fellow members of the Marist Family *Laudato Si* committee in Rome.





Clockwise from top left: Lou Molloy with Kim Evans and Gerard Hall. | Peter McMurrich and St Joseph's College staff group tour of Villa Maria. | Kevin Jackson and Woodlawn gown. | Scenes from Brian Wilson's golden jubilee. | Post-wedding coffee in Villa Maria driveway. | Floyd Gatana in Brisbane with Gerard Hall. | Tom Ryan's latest book.





*Clockwise from top: **John Worthington's** liturgy and interment. | Provincial's birthday, Villa Maria. | Thai Redemptorist visitors, **Frs Bom and Olé**, at Montbel | ... and Villa Maria | ... and with **Alik Langi** and parish ukulele-ers. | **Tony Kennedy** and **Paul Mahony** returning from Rome.*

