

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Provincial Circular

No 5 - Oct 2020



From the Provincial

Brothers,

The Extraordinary Chapter of 2018 declared: *The mission of the Society and our present circumstances call us to significant structural change. We mandate that the Provincial Administration put in place processes for new governance and leadership structures . . . The 2020 Chapter will review and finalise this transition.*

The Australian Marists' desire to fulfill our Marist mission as best we can in our circumstances, as expressed by the 2018 Chapter, set the agenda for our recent assemblies and the coming chapter.

The Aims of the Society

These times of assemblies and chapter can be for each of us a time to reflect on our common mission: our commitment to it, the extent we are truly engaged in it, and our keenness to realise it into the future.

Number 10 of our Constitutions states the traditional aims of the Society: Mary, as their first and perpetual superior, inspires them with courage to pursue the aims of the Society: to grow in personal holiness, to work for the salvation of their neighbour, and to keep the faith of the Catholic Church and defend it with all their strength. It is in pursuing these aims in the spirit of Mary that they will help to renew the Church in her image, a servant and pilgrim Church.

"To Grow in Personal Holiness"

Pope Francis in **Gaudete et Exsultate** makes an intimate connection between the mission and holiness of every Christian. On the eve of the

chapter I offer a few paragraphs from that Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness, always relevant but especially to us at this time.

"A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for "this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess 4:3). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel." (19)

Your Life As Mission

"You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world." (23)

"May you come to realize what . . . the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission.

"The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens." (24)

"We need a spirit of holiness capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and our evangelizing efforts, so that every moment can be an expression of self-

sacrificing love in the Lord's eyes." (31)

A Journey in Community

"Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others." (141) Our Constitution 116 states: *in order to enter truly into the mission of the Society every Marist has a twofold responsibility: to develop his spiritual life and to build up community.* As Marists we do not carry out our mission alone and we do not walk the path of holiness alone.

"A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan." (145)

Prayer and Discernment

"Though it may seem obvious, we should remember that holiness consists in a habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration." (147)

"In that silence, we can discern, in the light of the Spirit, the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us. Otherwise, any decisions we make may only be window-dressing that, rather than exalting the Gospel in our lives, will mask or submerge it." (150)

"Nonetheless, it is possible that, even in prayer itself, we could refuse to let ourselves be confronted by the freedom of the Spirit, who acts as he wills. We must remember that prayerful discernment must be born of a readiness to listen: to the Lord and to others, and to reality itself, which always challenges us in new ways. Only if we are prepared to

listen, do we have the freedom to set aside our own partial or insufficient ideas, our usual habits and ways of seeing things. In this way, we become truly open to accepting a call that can shatter our security, but lead us to a better life.” (142)

“When, in God’s presence, we examine our life’s journey, no areas can be off limits. In all aspects of life we can continue to grow and offer something greater to God, even in those areas we find most difficult. We need, though, to ask the Holy Spirit to liberate us and to expel the fear that makes us ban him from certain parts of our lives. God asks everything of us, yet he also gives everything to us.” (175)

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to continue to enlighten and enliven us through these times of change and challenge so that this little community of Australian Marists may play our part ever more truly in the mission of the Society.

Tony

Provincial Diary

Nov 4

CLOC

Nov 10-13

Provincial Chapter (lifting of border restrictions permitting)

Nov 17

Provincial Council

Dec 9

CLOC

Dec 8

Provincial Finance Committee

Dec 10

Professional Standards & Safeguarding Committee

Dec 15

Provincial Council

CLOC

The September and October combined leaders’ online consultations dealt with:

- Protocols on Marists working outside of their own units.
- Marist Laity: ways of association.
- Pastoral Formation of Marist scholastics: timing within the program.
- Future “Omnes Gentes” projects – international works of the SM.

Provincial Council

At its September and October meetings the council gave its attention to the following:

- Review of the two assemblies
- Preparations for the Provincial Chapter
- Professional Standards matters
- Sale of properties: Lane Cove and Currumbin
- CLOC meetings with the General Administration
- JPIC report
- St Patrick’s/Aquinas Academy
- Holy Name of Mary Parish

Appointments

Tony Kennedy has been re-appointed by the Superior General as the Superior of the International Scholasticate Rome for a further three years.

Paul Mahony appointed Local Leader of Maryvale/Montbel Community for a period of three years as from 26/12/2020.

Calendar

Chapter: A final decision concerning the time of the Provincial Chapter will be made in the first days of November, when, it is hoped, it will be made clear if the Queensland border will be open by the scheduled date, November 10, to enable Gerard and Michael to attend.

Jubilarians’ Mass and Luncheon: The communal celebration of the 2020 jubilees will take place at Holy Name of Mary Church and Montbel on Friday, November 27 at 11.00am.

The jubilarians for 2020 are:

- 60 Years: J Harding 9.7.1960 and A King 9.7.1960
- 50 Years: J Ware 15.8.1970
- 40 Years: K Kerley 6.9.1980 and M Moore 31.5.1980

2021 Provincial Retreats.

The retreat preacher will be Fr Brian Cummings sm of New Zealand.

The retreats will be available at two venues:

Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston, Qld – September 12 – 17, 2021.

Maryvale/Montbel, Hunters Hill, NSW – September 19 – 24, 2021.

Christmas Office Times

The Provincial Office will close at 4pm on Wednesday 23rd December 2020 and reopen on Monday 4th January 2021 at 8am.

Information

StarCard is still accepted at over 1,900 Caltex and Ampol locations

Caltex is beginning to roll out revitalised Ampol stores across Australia. Your local store may be branded **Caltex or Ampol**, in either case your StarCard can be used. Product names, descriptions and logos will start to change from 12 October.

Health and Aged Care

One of the outcomes from the Aged Care report has been the partnering with a Catholic Health Provider to provide to support confreres in their retirement years, in particular those who are living on their own or in smaller communities.

The province partners are Catholic Healthcare in NSW (Ann Greco) and St Vincent’s Private Hospital in Queensland (Tracy McCullagh). Both have a great deal of experience in assisting religious organisations, providing support to individuals to access a wide range of quality services that will increase and enrich their independence while ensuring health, lifestyle and well-being needs. The following services can be provided to individuals by the Health Care Coordinator (HCC):

- Work with the individual Marists

Deaths

- **Sosaia Vaka** (Oceania, Tonga) who died on 12 September 2020
- **Fr Vincent Curtain** (New Zealand) who died on 20 September 2020.
- **Fr Maurice Linossier** (Europe/France) who died on 14 October 2020.
- **Fr Roger McCarrick** (Oceania, Fiji) who died on 16 October 2020.

via regular visits and telephone calls providing advice, assistance and support in order to:

- Provision of flexible and holistic management of the individual
- Assessment of needs and referral to appropriate services
- Assessment and monitoring of health status providing proactive management plans
- Implementation of strategies and care plans to maintain health and well being ensuring independence and confidence
- Provision of information and assistance regarding dwelling modifications and equipment to assist in maintaining safety and independence
- Provision of educational support to enhance their decision making with regard to health issues and lifestyle management.
- A timely response to any health crisis as it occurs
- Provision health care advocacy as needed.

How all this actually works is as follows: Initially the coordinator contacts the individual by phone for a conversation concerning what is on offer, from which he can decide whether to proceed or not. Should he wish to go ahead, the confrere will receive a second visit to further ascertain his requirements.

The coordinator then undertakes a **confidential, holistic assessment of an individual's needs** including spiritual, physical, emotional, social, culture and environmental. Together with the confrere the coordinator develops a plan to meet those needs based on his values and lifestyle.

We began the programs in Queensland and NSW by providing the coordinators with lists of people over 70, together with those younger who have health concerns who believed may benefit. A majority of these have taken up the offer thus ensuring their needs are catered for into the future. If now or into the future you would like them to contact you, please don't hesitate to contact the administration and we can organise the process.

We strongly advise everyone as the years fly by to be proactive in ensuring you are well prepared for your senior years. - Andrew Biddle

Personnel

Ray Chapman is visiting his homeland from La Neyliere, France. His temporary return to Australia is to follow up on some routine medical appointments, to visit family, friends and confreres in Queensland and NSW (hopefully) and to enjoy a short holiday. He returns to Europe on December 28.



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

- **Nov 02-30:**
Peter McMurrich
- **Dec 01-05**
Ray Chapman
- **Dec 06-12**
Jim Hargrave
- **Dec 13-25**
Ray Chapman
- **Dec 26-Jan 12**
Michael Carroll
- **Jan 13-23**
Gavin Foster

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice,
Peace and
Integrity of Creation

The **Bridge Program** for 2020-21 has a record fifteen participants. Two members of the Marist Family JPICC, **Jim Carty** and **Andrew Dumas**, are pictured (*below*) with BP-ers in a recent Zoom session.





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1. Sydney Assembly, parish hall, Hunters Hill.
2. Brisbane Assembly confreres with Marist Brothers at Lavalla Centre.
3. Paul Mahony and massive clean up at Villa Maria.
4. Marist Sisters celebrating Holy Name of Mary, Chapter Hall, Hunters Hill.
5. Lane Cove exterior and...
6. Interior, in pristine state.
7. Gavin Foster, latest Aussie citizen, with iconic gifts.



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