



MARIST FATHERS AUSTRALIA

DISTRICT CIRCULAR

OCT
2023

From the District Superior

Confreres,

Recently I gave a retreat for the clergy of the Sydney Archdiocese. The theme was the Eucharist. I wish to share with you some extracts from the final conference of the retreat: *A Eucharistic Life*.

For us religious and priests an integral part in our lives is the regular celebration the Eucharistic. Within the rite of ordination of priests, at the time of the preparation of the gifts, the bishop hands over the bread and wine and says: *receive the oblation of the holy people, to be offered to God. Understand what you do and imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of Christ's cross*. This instruction can be taken on board by all of us. The Eucharist can give *form* to our lives.

Jesus' actions at the table provided a definition to the meaning and purpose of his death. They also gave definition to his entire life and mission. Jesus took bread, and giving thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples. And, in a similar way with the cup. In the taking up the bread and wine, in the blessing, in the breaking and pouring out, and in the giving, Jesus' whole life, his coming among us, his mission and his sacrifice are encapsulated: the self-emptying of the Son of God, his life lived for the glory of the Father, his complete embrace of our sinful human condition, his total giving of himself for the salvation of the world.

Having taken, blessed, broken and given, Jesus instructs the disciples "Do this in memory of me." To what is he referring? Clearly the ongoing celebration of this sacred meal. May he also be requesting of every disciple to repeat his actions, to make these key actions foundational to their lives as they were in his, "must act as he acted" (1 John 2.6)?

To take – to grasp, to embrace, to own, to receive with gratitude our lives, our humanity, our experiences, our world.

To really take up our lives entails that we exercise a faith-filled *attentiveness* to the total reality of our world, to ourselves and to the people we encounter. To own our story with its joys and sorrows. To embrace the totality of our history without editing out the "bad bits" and idealising the "good bits".

This attentiveness is a habitual willingness to look

deliberately and consciously for the presence and grace of God in all things in our lives; a focused recognition of the particularity of God's grace in each particularity of one's life - to grow in the realization of Georges Bernanos's country priest: "Grace is everywhere".

To bless – in recognising that everything in our lives is grace, to be filled with gratitude to God and to express it in praise and thanksgiving.

When we bless, we acknowledge the hidden presence of God in all our life and what that means for us. We see our lives as more than flawed biographies; instead, they are saturated with the loving presence of God and the mercy, wisdom, strength, and hope that God's presence always brings. We acknowledge that our life story has had both grace-filled and gut-wrenching experiences, and this acknowledgement leads us to discover that in all of our experiences God has held us in love.

To break – in accepting our own brokenness and the brokenness of others, to *break out* of our own self-centredness and to be ready to *break open* ourselves to others in compassionate love.

The broken bread and poured-out wine is a revelation of the stark reality of the death of Jesus, that the only way Christ could be given to us as our nourishment and sustenance is if he was broken and poured out in death. Our eucharistic communion with the brokenness of Christ impels his disciple to a self-giving to God and to God's people. To break leads to being open to give.

To give – to live so that all that we have received from God becomes transformed into a gift for others.

Really, the mass has no ending, the Eucharistic action leads to the ongoing action of mission – the Risen Lord comes among the disciples and send them out to impart the good-news. We who celebrate Eucharist have the mission to continue the presence of Christ into our world, to embody the love of God.

"We need to be living and breathing Eucharist all the time. The Eucharist needs to be the defining attitude, a way we meet life, receive it and share it with others. It needs to be a spirituality, a way we undergo the presence of God and others in this world." Ronald Rolheiser

Tony.

District Superior's Diary

- **Nov 21:** District Council
- **Dec 05:** District Finance Committee
- **Dec 12:** District Council
- **Dec 14:** Professional Standards & Safeguarding Panel
- **Dec 15-31:** Vacation

District Council

At its September meeting the Council treated the following:

- Sale of Leichhardt property
- Haberfield Community
- Villa Maria Complex Strategic Plan
- Professional Standards matters
- Revision of Marist Mission Centre structure
- District Assembly 2024
- 2024 Budget

(There was no meeting in October)

Personnel

On **29 Sep** following the retreat, the Mass and luncheon honouring the jubilarians for 2023 was held at Hunters Hill.

Fr Paul Mahony gave the toast. He acknowledged and gave thanks for the years of dedicated service of our confreres **James Collins** (50 years), **John Begg** and **Jim Carty** (60 years). Jim and John joined together in Brisbane for an earlier celebration. The "star of the show" at Montbel was **Fr Paul Glynn** celebrating his platinum jubilee (70 years).

Below are extracts from Paul's speech for Paul Glynn.

Paul was ordained at 24 years of age. His journey has taken him to so many places around the globe. Significantly to Japan and his homeland here in Australia.

More significantly are the countless number of people with whom he encountered and shone for them a very special light of Christ with our Marist charism. These people have become a most

significant part of Paul's life and equally, Paul has become a part of their life.

It is very difficult to do justice to this most important part of Paul's life. He has touched the lives of so many people in a most profound and spiritual way.

For us as members of his community, the amount of correspondence that arrives in his mailbox and the amount that goes out, is nothing short of amazing.



Paul Glynn during jubilarians' Mass

Deaths

Mr Chris Wilson, brother of Fr Brian, on Oct 20, 2023

Mr Noel Kennedy, father of Fr Tony, on Oct 20, 2023

Together with this, the number of people who visit Paul is difficult to count.

Paul as a missionary in Japan was there very close to the beginning of our Marist presence in the Far East. Learning the language and culture of the people, it would have been a great challenge to the young fellow from the Northern Rivers of NSW.

Paul made great inroads with intercultural dialogue especially with Buddhists. Paul had three appointments to Japan. 1955-1971, 1977-1983 and 1994-1995.

His ministry brought him back to Australia in the 1970's and he was here at Holy Name of Mary Parish. This was a time of great renewal in the life of the church following the Second Vatican Council. The Charismatic renewal was on fire in this parish, Paul was very much in the midst of it.

Paul the author. Paul's books are so "very well researched", quoting here Jim Harding who recently reread *A Song for Nagasaki* recently, possibly the last book he will read... it was so well researched and so readable at the same time.

Paul's six books opened his beautiful ministry to the world. It is not only the books that were translated into many languages, increasing even further his contacts around the globe and with the resulting financial returns being entirely donated to many great missionary causes.

Blessings on you Paul for this most wonderful journey and thank you for sharing so much of it with us.

Publications

Gerald Arbuckle

Gerry's latest book, *Conspiracy Theorizing: Analysis and Scriptural Critique*, has been accepted for publication by Routledge Publications. It deals with critical contemporary issues as the chapter headings indicate: 1. Gossip: The Breeding Ground of Conspiracy Theorizing; 2. Conspiracy Theorizing Uncovered; 3. Conspiracy Theorizing Drives Scapegoating, Populism; and Polarization; 4. Conspiracy Theorizing and Magical Thinking: Is There a Connection? Each chapter ends with a Scripture critique.

Calendar

Dec 23 – Jan 01: Office closed for Christmas-New Year

JPICC Corner

Reflection on **Pope Francis'** Apostolic Exhortation, *'Laudate Deum'*, is likely to be on the agenda of the Marist Family Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee meeting on Nov 04 and in forthcoming JPIC international Blogs.



Clockwise from top left: Fr Paul Chandler O Carm with retreatants at Montbel. | Jim Carty back at Maryvale/Montbel from Byron Bay. | Newly-arrived 'Aisake Vaisima with Paul Glynn and Neville Byrne at Montbel. | Lauro Da Silva with parishioners at Marayong. | Paul Pidcock and Sr Clare Francis with Jim Harding at Southern Cross Aged Care, Marsfield. | Paul Glynn with Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs and consulate staff, with Pius Jones. | George Baruka and Iosefo Amuri visiting Montbel. |



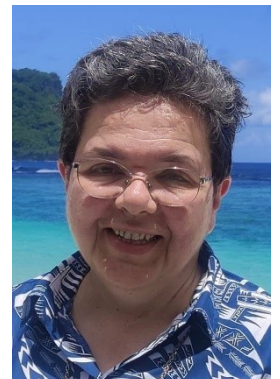
Above, left: Kitchen refurbishments, Montbel. Right: Improvements to Mary Street, Hunters Hill.



International



International. Clockwise from top left: Birthday cake for **Ben McKenna** at General House, with **Tony Kennedy**. | **Kevin Redmond** in Bougainville. | Younger confreres at Marist Mission Studies, Bangkok and Ranong with Superior-General, **John Larsen**. | Newly-elected SMSM Superior-General, **Sr Cristina Giustozzi**, and council members including Australian, **Sr Denise McMahon**, second from right. | **Ray Chapman** at Marist Sisters' 200th anniversary, Cerdon.





*Clockwise from top left: **Clinton Kube** after diaconate ordination, Oct 22, with **Archbishop Paul Martin** and **Tony Kennedy**. | Clinton's final profession, General House chapel.... and with **John Larsen**, Sep 30. | During FMS *Third Age* program: **Ben McKenna** and **Ron Nissen** with group visiting Monteverde..... free haircut at Turin community by Harry Moore lookalike..... with Marist Brothers' former General, **Br Emili Turu**, at Manziana.*