



Dear Confreres

I trust that all have had a most joyful Easter. I was in Rome at the Marist Brothers General House with a group of Marist pilgrims and had a wonderful Easter experience. Tony Corcoran, Paul Cooney, and Garry Reynolds were at Monteverde, and send their greetings to all.

With a passion and love

John Thornhill was the seed of one of my most positive experiences this Easter. Here is John, well into his 80s, with a passion and love for the faith that he must still share. It is a tribute to him that at his age, and with great physical handicaps, he can still get a book published on a topic, Pope Francis, where the market is already saturated.

When I was a student in the Philosophy classroom at Toongabbie, John, in classes on the nature of religion, explained to us the linear and cyclical aspects of religion. Judaism was different to other faiths of the Ancient Near East in that it was linear. It was going somewhere, progressing to a destination. Judaism also possessed the cyclical characteristic of repeating itself, but it was basically linear.

Cyclical and linear

During the Easter period we are very conscious of both the cyclical and linear aspects of our religion. The Jewish Passover, recalling and repeating the special love God had for His People, is a strong background element on Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. We are also very conscious of our own yearly cycle and the repetition of Paschal Mystery. This we must appreciate.

When we concentrate on the linear,



Good Friday, over Hunters Hill. *"We can reflect on and recall God's love for us individually and as a Province over and over and over"*

and see salvation history as a journey forward ending ultimately in the fulfilment of God's plan, we miss something. Going forward, progressing, seems to be quite basic to our core and that is good when we are growing, expanding, and see our achievements come about.

When growth, expansion, and the reaching of new goals is not obvious in our Province and in the worldwide Society today as it was 30 and 40 years ago, we can be a little dispirited. But let us not be completely focussed on the linear and ticking off new achievements as the only value we have.

God's love for us

If the Jews are able to spend time on Passover Night recounting and reminiscing God's love for them, there is certainly a lesson for us. We can reflect on and recall God's love for us individually and as a Province over and over and over.

This continual remembering is a cyclical sort of process. It is reflective, it is prayerful. It is not going forward (linear) but it is spiralling (cyclical) deeper. It can put us more in touch with God.

May the lesson of Easter, our God's love for each of us, whatever form that may take individually, be rich for each and every one of us.

Bob Barber SM
Provincial



Provincial Diary

May 02: Back from FMS pilgrimage

May 18-24: Brisbane: Provincial Council meeting & visitation

Jun 03: Provincial Finance Committee meeting

Jun 07: Council of the Province

Jun 09: Provincial Council meeting

Jun 10: Towards Healing Panel

Jun 15-21: MAP Meeting, Davao

Jun 28: Commence annual holidays

Appointments

Paul Mahony: appointed part-time vocations director for three years as from Apr 01, 2014

Personnel

Jim Carty has just returned from 2 weeks at the detention centre on Christmas Island, which is housing almost 1500 detainees. He travelled there on Apr 10 in the lead up to Easter. A group of 130 young Vietnamese men were the main participants in the Holy Week ceremonies, themselves downloading the various liturgies in Vietnamese from the internet.

Garry Reynolds departed Sydney on Apr 15. As well as catching up with several former members of the Province now living in Europe, he will spend a couple of weeks in Rome and will do a renewal at St Bueno's in Wales. He returns to Sydney on Jun 10 and will join the community at St Patrick's.

Paul Glynn is away from Apr 24-May 13 for commitments at the Auckland Eucharistic Convention. Paul stressed that this was a Eucharistic Convention rather than a Eucharistic Congress, and that he was not going with the status of a papal legate.

In addition to Paul's missionary exploits an item on the province web site records adventures of a more local nature:

"Fighting off an attack of flying foxes Marist missionary and author, Fr Paul Glynn SM, has won the battle of the bats and saved a treasured persimmon crop from failure."

"A large colony of fruit bats has moved into the Villa Maria precinct, Hunters Hill, NSW, in time for the ripening of Fr Paul's persimmons."

"Using copious netting and north coast cunning, Fr Paul has won the battle of the bats and provided the Villa Maria community with one hundred and sixty pieces of succulent fruit."

"Thank you, Fr Paul. Bad luck, bats."



Colin Campbell: arriving by jeep, Colin was an honoured guest at the Anzac Memorial service at Hunters Hill Town Hall, NSW, on Apr 23. Colin, who turns ninety-two on Apr 27, joined the army aged eighteen and served in World War II in Ramu Valley, PNG, then Bougainville where he was wounded, and carried from the jungle by local people, who thereby saved his life.

Kevin Stewart: unbelievable but true, Kevin is 50 years professed this year, and travelled last month to NZ for celebrations with his band there.

Ray Chapman and Bob Barber were both on pilgrimage in the late April-early May period. Bob was chaplain to a Marist Brothers' pilgrimage group travelling to India, Rome, and France; and Ray was leading a Harvest Travel Marist pilgrimage in France.



John Hopkinson recently sent his Easter newsletter, greetings and photos for the province web site.

Hoppy notes that he celebrates thirty-seven years in Central-South America on May 05.

Kevin Kerley was due to receive his Order of Australia Medal at a ceremony at Government House, Sydney, on Thu, May 01. Accompanying Kevin as his invited guests were Paul Pearce, Villa Maria house manager Kerrie Sanders, and Peter McMurrich.

Deaths

Fr Paul Rougeul SM

d.4.3.2014, Noumea, New Caledonia.

Fr Raymond Fournier SM

d.14.4.2014, Waltham, MA, USA

Fr Gerard E. Pelletier SM

d.21.4.2014, Boston, USA

Fr Jean Seneclauze SM

d.18.4.2014, Ste Foy-les-Lyon, France

Marie Murnane died on Mar 15. She will have been known to numbers of Marists as she and her family stapled lucky numbers and worked at the Field Day at Toongabbie through the late sixties and early seventies. She also worked as librarian at the Marist Sisters school at Merrylands. Her husband died a number of years ago. Her children are Paul, Leoni, Maura and Kieran.

Sr Tarcissius Donovan, sister of Dennis Donovan and a Sister of Charity, died in Brisbane on Mar 23.

Syd Thomson, brother in law of Pat & Vin McCabe, died on Anzac Day, Apr 25. His funeral was at St Thomas More Church, Brighton le Sands, on Thu, May 01.

Sick

John L Walsh: John experienced a medical episode on Mar 15 which rendered him unconscious and required ongoing use of an oxygen mask. There were some concerns



"Eucharist in the fields of San Pedro, asking the Lord to send down rain on the withering crops"

regarding his recovery, and he was visited by his family members and anointed by Kevin Bates.

John has since made a remarkable recovery, and continues to be wide awake and eating normally at Ashburn House in Gladesville.

Kevin Jackson: Kevin recently had knee surgery at John Flynn Memorial Hospital at Tugun, and was recuperating for a period at Currumbin.

Jim Bishop: experienced fall at Minnamurra on Apr 05, and was overnight in Royal North Shore hospital.

John O'Ryan: John was admitted at Royal North Shore hospital on Apr 09 with circulation problems. Since then several medical issues have been identified, and surgery may be required at a later time.

Frank Callanan: Frank has been unwell for several weeks following a fall. He spent a substantial part of Easter Sunday at RNS casualty with

some pain issues; he is having further tests and following through with his GP.

News

Changes at Montbel: On Monday in Holy Week, Catercare food services commenced providing meals at Maryvale/Montbel, replacing our cooks, Maeve and Melissa.

An impressive TV monitor was erected by the caterer in the Montbel dining room to display photos and descriptions of forthcoming meals, but this gave up the ghost after a couple of days. The food, though, is apparently pretty good.

In addition to the changes in the kitchen, Elizabeth Machado stepped down as Province Aged Care coordinator, and a new structure is now in place.

A registered nurse, Judy Walker, will be in regular attendance on Fridays to monitor confreres at Maryvale/



Welcome Anastasia and Catercare



Farewell and thank you, Maeve

Montbel, and more use will be made of the registered nurses who are always on hand at the Ryde Road Medical Centre, and nurse-on-call services.

Aquinas Academy & RPD annual reports: Each year Michael Whelan for Aquinas Academy, and Gerald Arbuckle & Michael Mullins for RPD, present comprehensive annual reports to the Provincial Council.

The RPD report chronicles an impressive degree of involvement in both secular and Church contexts, both nationally and internationally. The services which RPD provides through Michael and Gerry are addressing crucial areas in the Church and in contemporary society, including religious leadership, healthcare reform, and the sexual abuse crisis.

The Aquinas Academy too is meeting important needs, particularly in the areas of spirituality and scripture: last year thirty-two courses, programmes, and retreats were offered at Church Hill, in the suburbs, and elsewhere in NSW.

St Patrick's Ministry Study: the last Provincial Chapter prioritized St Patrick's, the Hunters Hill precinct, and the Mission Centre, as key apostolates in the Province. Working parties have been established for each grouping, to review the work being done and to plan for the future.

The St Patrick's Ministry Study will be co-ordinated by Michael Whelan;

other current members are Ray Chapman & Bernie McFadyen, Sr Fidelis McTeigue SM, and John Honner. A preliminary meeting was held just prior to Easter.

Annual Way of the Cross: once again the grounds of Villa Maria provided a perfect context for the Hunters Hill ecumenical Way of the Cross on Good Friday. A report in the local paper suggested that over 1,000 participants took part this year, but this figure can be safely dismissed as creative accounting. Certainly, there were several hundred present on a beautiful, warm, sunny day.

Peter McMurrich alarmed some visitors he had staying in the cottage by telling them that the judgement scene with Jesus & Pontius Pilate would be taking place on the cottage balcony; as the visitors cowered in the cottage they were mighty relieved to see the procession bypass the cottage and head in another direction.

Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse: the Commission has been established for eighteen months now, and has held ten public hearings, in Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide. The latest hearing commenced in Perth on Apr 28. The Commission will present an interim report to the Federal Government in the middle of this year.

In common with dioceses and other religious institutes, our Province has identified and prepared any documents from the past which fall with-

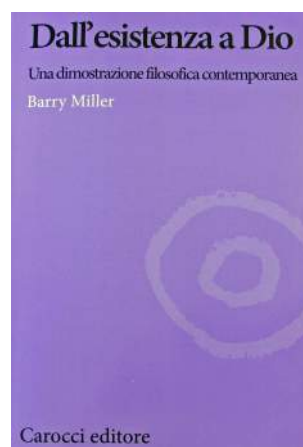
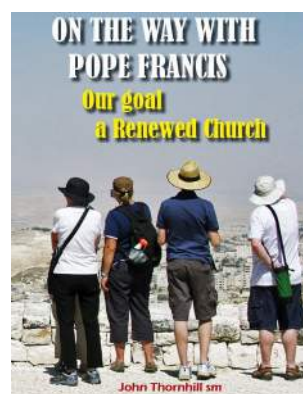
in the Commission's terms of reference, but we have not to this point been served with any Notice to Produce. Hearings held so far seem to have arisen out of interviews which the Commissioners have had with individual victims.

Bowraville Murders: Paul Sullivan was due to appear on May 01 before a NSW Parliamentary Enquiry into aspects of the unsolved murders of three Bowraville children about 20 years ago. He was one of seven witnesses at public hearings on the Thursday; on Friday family members were due to appear before the enquiry in a closed hearing.

Publications

John Thornhill has a new book in preparation, *On the Way with Pope Francis: Our Goal a Renewed Church*. He is currently in discussion with St Paul Publications as the likely publisher.

Barry Miller's philosophical writings continue to be of interest to scholars. Recently we received a copy of the Italian edition of Barry's 1992 *From Existence to God: A contemporary philosophical argument*; published in Italian as *Dal' esistenza a*



Way of the Cross,
Villa Maria grounds

Dio (2013), Carocci editore, Rome. In addition, a Canadian philosophy professor, Elmar Kremar, has just published an analysis of Barry's philosophical writings. He has posted us a copy, but it seems to have got lost on the high seas.

Provincial Directory

Bill Ryder's number: Bill's direct number at Maryvale is 02 9844 2234, and not the number incorrectly given in the latest Provincial Directory.

John Begg: John is now a fully paid up member of the Herston community, and is no longer at O'Keefe Street, Buranda. He is in Unit 7 at Herston, and his direct number is 07 3852 4816.

New fax number for Woodlawn: please note that the fax number has changed, and is now 02 6626 2677

Judy Walker: on page 12 of the Provincial Directory, under Maryvale/Montbel community, please substitute Judy Walker's name for Elizabeth Machado, and delete the mobile number given there. The landline number remains the same ie. 02 9844 2252. Judy's email address at Montbel is nursemv@maristfathers.org.au

Currumbin & Bilgola bookings

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:

May 8-10: Michael Mullins
May 18-20: Provincial Council
Jun 27-Jul 21: Bob Barber
Jul 22-Aug 12: Tony & Bernice McKenna
Sep 16-30: Peter McMurrich
Nov 04-25: Tom Fulcher
Dec 14-31: Jim Hargrave
Jan 01-14: Michael Carroll
Jan 15-Feb 15: Tom Ryan

The self-contained flat at **Bilgola** is available for Marists to book for an

extended holiday, a retreat, or an extended period of study. Bookings are made through the provincial office.

The only current booking for Bilgola is a whole of Bilgola (flat & other buildings) booking by the Marist Mission Centre for **Aug 29-Sep 01 & Sep 05-08.**

Enclosures

- Superior General's letter: Be United with a Common Purpose:

going forward into mission from CS2013 (some of the larger communities may receive this separate from their Provincial Circular mailing)

- Aquinas Academy; Mary McAleese
- Information Bulletin: Office of Clergy Life & Ministry
- I was a stranger and you welcomed me: What the Catholic Church teaches on Asylum and Immigration



Above: Marists from all branches were represented at the Sydney Alliance's 'March Assembly' at Sydney Town Hall.

Right & below: Newly-ordained Karen priest, **Fr Augustine Shwe**, arrives at remote Mae La Oon refugee camp, Thailand, for his first Easter ceremonies. Fr Augustine's formation was supported by the Burmese Catholic community in Australia and the camps by MMC.

