



Dear Confreres

When the last Provincial Circular was sent out two months ago you received Fr John Hannan's latest Circular to the Society, *Be United with a Common Purpose: CS2013*. We have not organized any gatherings or events to help us to digest this material but it is a very important document and I urge all of us to read in a prayerful and reflective manner.

#### **Realistically facing the future**

Through this document the Superior General continues his prompting for us to take on board the blueprint, set out in CS13, which indicates the realistic way we are to face our future. Individuals may not agree with all the decisions of CS13 or with what Fr Hannan proposes for us but if sincerely prayed over and reflected upon the vast majority in the Society will see that facing our future together, underpinned by the spirit permeating CS13, is the only way forward for us.

#### **Blessed occasions**

Three significant events that I have been a part of in the last two months have been blessed occasions precisely because in them I have felt the "spirit" of CS13.

#### **'The North'**

The first of these was a meeting of the Provincial Council with Marists of Brisbane held at Herston on 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was only a beginning but as a result of this meeting we have an opportunity to do some realistic planning that will enable us to look after the welfare of our confreres in "the North". A few years ago our thinking and opinions were so diverse we were paralysed and unable to do anything. Now, acknowledging our aging and with an atmosphere of openness and honesty, we have very positive signs for the future.

#### **Council of Province**

A second moment of grace was the Council of the Province held at Hunters Hill on 7<sup>th</sup> June. I went to this meeting with some trepidation because I was conscious of a number of things that we could not get much traction on. However, there was a calm and serenity about our Council of the Province which indicated a peaceful acceptance of who we are; where we are at; what we are capable of; and a grateful acceptance of the magnificent effort that is being made by confreres today. There was a general satisfaction with the way things are going.

#### **MAP**

The third moment of grace was at the three-day MAP meeting Peter and I attended in Davao, the Philippines, in mid June. Again this was a good meeting where a true openness prevailed.

#### **Working with our partners**

If asked to name, as far as Australia is concerned, the most important thing to come from our meeting I would say that this MAP has put "reconfiguration" back on the agenda and it needs to be addressed because we have to keep working on it with our MAP partners.

The source of this whole issue is found in CS13. Nos. 19 – 45 of Fr John Hannan's Circular, in giving principles, and no. 51, in giving specific direction, indicate what is required of us over the coming years.

#### **Few in corporate ministries**

Without regrowth in our ranks in Australia for the best part of 30 years, each day we become an older and smaller group that cannot continue as it has in the past. We have men who are doing good things in the mission of the Church but we have relatively few involved in corporate ministry ventures. While we



'Reconfiguration back on the agenda' MAP meeting, Davao: **Bob Barber** (Aust), **David Kennerley** (NZ), **Peter McMurrich** (Aust), **Neil Vaney** (NZ), **Larry Duffy** (GA), **Ben McKenna**, **Pio Fong** (Oceania), **Pat Devlin** (Asia).

are still in a position to do so we must assume some determination for our own future and this means working with other Provinces and Districts.

### Changes in this part of the world

Over the next three to four years we will continue in dialogue with MAP, especially New Zealand and the District of Asia, in coming up with some structural / organizational changes to the Society of Mary in this part of the world.

In what comes out of this there will be very little change, if any, in the life and situation of most men in our Province. We will live as we are living now and have lived for years. No obvious change. Men, however, who are working in active corporate ministry could experience changes to their life situations.

After consulting with their councils the MAP delegates from each province will begin in August with Skype meetings to get a committee to work on our future cooperation with our other Marist units. This will certainly be a major part of the Province Assembly next year and the Provincial Chapter in 2016.

### A new prayerful reading

In conclusion, I encourage all once again to take down Fr Hannan's Circular from dusty shelves and begin a new prayerful reading of it. Stop often and reflect on how the General's message is so important to each of us.

Faternally

Bob Barber SM  
Provincial



## Provincial Diary

**Jun 27-Jul 09:** Provincial on annual leave

**Jul 09:** Provincial Committee for

Ageing

**Jul 15:** Provincial Council meeting

**Jul 20:** Fourvière Commemoration, Hunters Hill

**Aug 19:** Provincial Council meeting

## Appointments

**Frank Callanan** has transferred from Villa Maria to Montbel. His direct number is (02) 9844 2265.

**Paul Mahony** has been appointed to the Provincial Council as the Provincial's nominee from 1/11/2014 until 31/12/2015. As a result of changes made to legislation at the last General Chapter, each Province was required to enact a provision allowing the Provincial to nominate one member to the Provincial Council; any person so nominated is tied to the term of the Provincial, and is eligible for reappointment if the Provincial serves a second term.

## Personnel

**Robert Hollow** left Australia on May 28 for a period of renewal, and is due to return at the end of August. He will spend time at Hawkstone Hall (UK), and also visit Ireland, Italy, and Spain.

**Andrew Murray** has accepted a request from the New Zealand Province to lead their Provincial Retreats in 2015. He will give a retreat in Auckland, Sep 27-Oct 03, and one in Wellington, Nov 15-22. At the recent MAP meeting David Kennerley indicated that any member of the Australian Province who would like to attend one of the New Zealand Province retreats next year would be most welcome. Peter McMurrich is happy to receive names for passing on to New Zealand.

**Garry Reynolds** returned to Australia on Jun 10, and after a couple of weeks at Currumbin, has now taken up his appointment at St Patrick's.

**Luke Holohan** has temporarily moved from St Patrick's to a residence at Toongabbie owned by Campion College, and will review his situation later in the year. His



best contact points are via his Campion addresses and phone numbers.

**Ron Nissen** left Sydney in mid-June for Rome and France to work on promotional material for the Founder's Cause and other Marist projects (pictured above with General Archivist and Colin Postulator, **Carlo-Maria Schianchi**).

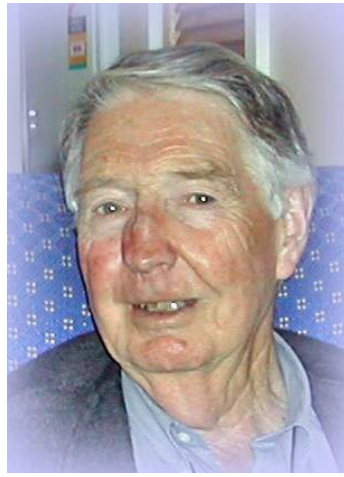
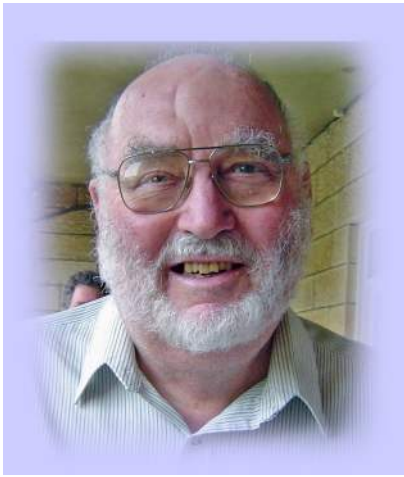
Thanks to the marvels of modern technology he was still able to format and design this Provincial Circular, and the editor expresses his gratitude for Ron's availability in this regard. He will return towards the end of August.

**Bern Ryan** is hoping to travel to New Zealand as soon as his health allows; he has had to cancel two bookings at short notice because of medical setbacks, but is hoping that in a week or so it will be a case of third time lucky.

## Deaths

**John O'Ryan** died at Longueville Private hospital on May 10, and was buried from Holy Name of Mary





Paul Mahony presides at the graveside for John O’Ryan

church on May 15; Bob Barber presided at the Funeral Mass, and Tom Fulcher gave the homily.

Carmel and Frank Testa wrote recently to let us know of a memorial Mass celebrated at St Paul’s West Sunshine for Fr John O’Ryan sm on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Held in the evening, many people attended, with five priest friends from the local deanery concelebrating. Four old-time parishioners who knew Johnno well, some for the whole of their lives, spoke of how they remembered him. Carmen said, “in all these talks the thing that stood out most was his caring nature”. Following the Mass people stood around reminiscing for a long time with Johnno stories.

**Jim Bishop** died at Caroline Chisholm nursing home on May 18 and was buried from Holy Name of Mary church on May 27; Bob Barber presided at the Funeral Mass and

Peter McMurrich gave the homily.

**Laurie Ryan**, sacristan at St Patrick’s, died suddenly at home on May 30. He had experienced poor health recently, but his death was unexpected.

**Dan Kelly** lived in Millers Point until recently and for many years was a one-man collection team for the Sunday Masses at St Patrick’s, attending and organising the collections for all 13 Sunday Masses. He was buried from Doonside parish on May 19, and a memorial Mass was held at St Patrick’s on May 29.

**John Rego**. Michael’s father, John, died in hospital in Brisbane on May 22; his Mass of Christian Burial was at Indooroopilly on May 30.

**Sr Pat Kent RSM** (Parramatta) died on Jun 22 at the Stella Maris Nursing

Home, Cronulla after a long illness. Michael Mullins provided the following: “Pat was the Registrar at CTU in the 1980’s and played a key role in the setting up of the Sydney College of Divinity. In an earlier life with the Grail she helped establish a bookshop and resource centre in Suva under the auspices of Victor Foley SM. Her commitment and generosity towards the Society of Mary over the years was extraordinary”. She was buried on Jun 30 at the Sisters of Mercy Chapel, Parramatta. Michael Mullins was celebrant for the Funeral Mass.

**Fr Robert Fahey SM**  
d.1.5.2014, San Francisco, USA.

**Fr Thomas Bambrick SM**  
d.16.5.2014, Kilkenny, Ireland.

**Fr Jacques Peuchot SM**  
d.3.6.14, Ollioules, France

**Fr Laurent Verver SM**  
d.7.6.14, Hulst, Nederland.

**Fr William Leeming SM**  
d.19.6.2014, Silverstream, NZ

## Sick

**Jake Roff**, son of Glenn & Sue, was taken to Brisbane early May with a brain tumour; he is aged 41. Glenn was the first lay principal at St John’s College, Lismore.

**Etienne Melteras** experienced a stroke at Easter time; Willy went to Vanuatu, Jun 01-11 to spend some time with his father.

**Maria Rego** was admitted to the Mater Hospital in Brisbane in mid-May with an obstructed bowel.

**Ann Randle**: Charlie’s sister Ann had surgery in Brisbane early in June; Charlie has been in Brisbane helping her family while Ann has been in hospital.

## News

**Council of the Province:** The Council of the Province met on Sat, Jun 07. At the last Chapter our legislation was changed: the Council is no longer required to meet annually, but must meet at least once between Chapters. A copy of the Minutes is included with this Provincial Circular.

**Marist Fathers Indigenous Fund:** At the time of the handover of St John's College, Lismore, to the diocese, a sum of money was set aside in the Provincial portfolio as The Marist Fathers Indigenous Fund, which was to be invested, with the interest being made available each year for assistance to aboriginal families with children at Catholic secondary schools. Paul Sullivan reports that last year, 175 families were assisted; families with children in years 11-12 received \$250 towards out of pocket school expenses; and families with children in years 7-10 received \$150.

**MAP Meeting:** this year's annual MAP meeting was held in the regional house at Davao in the Philippines from Jun 17-19. Participating were Pat Devlin (District of Asia), David Kennerley and Neil Vaney (NZ), Ben McKenna and Pio Fong (Oceania), Bob Barber & Peter McMurrich (Australia), and Larry Duffy representing the General Administration. A summary of the meeting is included with this Provincial Circular.

On the day prior to the meeting, the participants boarded a motorised outrigger for an excursion to a nearby island. The voyage had some elements in common with the 1965 Stanley Kramer film, "Ship of Fools", which was shown to the students at the seminary at Toongabbie in 1967. The day generated its own drama when the cable to the rudder snapped, rendering the vessel directionless. Fortunately the captain was up to the task, and by sending members of his intrepid crew to the extremes of the out rigging, as human weights, was able to cause the boat to veer to port or starboard as required. Eventually a water taxi was sent from Davao to rescue the passengers, who experienced the unique thrills associated with a transfer on the high seas.

**The "Paul Pidcock" Performing Arts Centre:** The new performing arts centre at Woodlawn is nearing completion, and it was recently announced that it would bear Paul Pidcock's name. Paul produced many highly regarded operettas and musicals at Woodlawn in the 1960s, recruiting cast members from St John's College and from St Mary's in Lismore.

**Normal Transmission Resumed:** Thanks to Tom Ryan, the Foxtel reception at Currumbin has been restored. A new entry point has been established for our property, replacing the hanging cable arrangement which was susceptible to damage by

clumsy Council workers digging where they shouldn't.

**Easter Bunny Calls Hunters Hill Home:** Sometime around Easter a tame white rabbit materialised on the Hunters Hill precinct and has been here ever since. It moves freely around our property, dividing its time between the church surrounds, and the Villa Maria grounds and buildings. Several confreres have established a close bond with the bunny: Paul Glynn has been overheard conversing with it in Japanese, and Willy Melteras has given it a name and claims that the rabbit comes to him when called. Kevin Bates has put several notices in the parish bulletin in case the original owner is fretting, but so far no response.

## Publications

**New Book from Gerry Arbuckle:** Orbis Press, N.Y., has accepted Gerry Arbuckle's latest book for publication: "*The Francis Factor and the People of God: From Aging to Youthfulness*". His last book, *Catholic Identity or Identities? Refounding Ministries in Chaotic Times* (Publisher: Liturgical Press, 2013) achieved a second place award in the Theology category of the Association of USA Catholic Publishers' "Excellence in Publishing Awards 2014." This is the fifth such award that his books have received.



Council of the Province





**Bishop Gerry Loft:** A devotee, Kathleen Baran, has privately published a tribute with the title *Lofty No Ordinary Bishop*. For copies @ NZ\$49, contact the author, 72 Jaemont Avenue, Te Atatu, Auckland, 0610. Ph.09 834 5707; Fax 834 9211; email [kathleenbaran@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenbaran@gmail.com)

**Tom Ryan** has had a number of articles published recently:

‘Does Liturgy Always Mean Being On A “High?”’, *Liturgy News* (43:4), Dec 06-07, 2013.

‘Christian Ethics Today: Is the Ground Shifting?’ *Compass: A Review of Topical Theology* 48:1, Autumn 2014. 14-19.

‘Abortion Before Marriage, Marriage Tribunal Jurisprudence and Moral Theology’, *The Australasian Catholic Record* 91:1, 2014, 58-72.

‘Second Person Perspective, Virtues and the Gifts in Aquinas’s Ethics’, *Australian eJournal of Theology* 21.1: (Apr 2014).

## Advertising

### Annual Provincial Retreats:

This year there are two retreats:

**Sun, Sep 07 – Fri, Sep 12, at The Hermitage, Mittagong, led by Br Bob O’Connor FMS.** Confreres will have received a mailed invitation to nominate for this retreat. Thanks to everyone who has sent in an acceptance. Those attending will receive a confirmation acknowledgement and further details shortly.

**Sun, Sep 28-Fri, Oct 03, at Maryvale/Montbel, led by Br Bob O’Connor FMS.** Confreres who are not resident at Maryvale/Montbel are welcome to join this retreat and accommodation can be provided. Please contact the vicar provincial soon if you wish to attend.

**Jubilarians’ Mass and Dinner.** This year the Jubilarians’ Mass and dinner is a stand-alone function not linked with the Provincial retreat. It will be held on **Fri, Oct 17, 5pm Mass followed by the meal.** Invitations will be sent out shortly. In the meantime, claim the date in your diary if you’re intending to come.

**Passwords.** One particularly insidious aspect of modern life is the need to remember passwords and pin numbers. So, wishing to be ever

helpful, from time to time we publish the user names/passwords for access to the members-only sections of the General Administration and Australian Province websites:

**General Admin:** sm & colin; **Aust Province:** sm & colin, newsletter & colin or circular & colin (all combinations work).

### Commonwealth Bank Plastic Cards:

On a related matter, just a reminder that as from Aug 01 it will no longer be possible to use a signature for credit and debit cards, and a pin number will be obligatory. If anyone has concerns that they may forget their pin over time, it may be worth leaving details with your community Business Manager or some other trustworthy person.

The Provincial Administration is happy to provide a service particularly for confreres living at Hunters Hill, whereby we will accept an envelope with a confrere’s name on it and which contains a pin number (or numbers), and keep it securely in a safe until needed.



Usernames/passwords: **Above:** sm/colin

**Below (three choices):** sm/colin | newsletter/colin | circular/colin



## 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:

**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.

Current bookings:

**Jul 01-07:** Neville Byrne  
**Sep 05-08** (whole of Bilgola) Marist Mission Centre

## Enclosures

- CLRI (NSW) Stipend rate for religious, 2014-15 (replaces sheet previously issued)
- Council of Province minutes
- MAP meeting summary

## JPICC Corner

*Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*

### Combined Marist event

Representatives of all Marist branches are currently meeting to arrange a combined event later in the year.

As convenor, Jim Carty has done a sterling job of bringing the group together, organising venues and contacting potential keynote speakers.

### Bridge Program

The third year of this program is well under way assisting Burmese youth prepare for tertiary studies. Their smiling faces are below....

