



From the Provincial

Dear confreres

We are rapidly coming to the end of another busy and eventful year. Over the last twelve months, as a province, we have experienced many moments of both consolation and of desolation.

However, with definitely more graces than setbacks coming our way, we have a reassuring sign that we are certainly loved and Someone is looking after us.

Moments of grace

Two of the most important moments of grace for our province in 2016 that can be singled out were Fourvière and our Provincial Chapter.

Marists worldwide celebrated with joy the 200th anniversary of that occasion in the chapel at Fourvière when the band of young priests and seminarians from St Irénée Seminary, Lyons, on 23rd July 1816, pledged to found a congregation of Marists. As song, writings and electronic media celebrating

Fourvière keep coming to our notice over these last few months our prayer and reflections on this significant event continues to inspire us as Marists.

Working well together

In June our Chapter was also a great moment of grace for the province. It was a moment where quite difficult issues were addressed in a mature and serious way. That we as a group are able to work so well together, as occurred during our Chapter, is a wonderful feature of the province that has been developing over the last decade.

Apart from our decision regarding restructuring with New Zealand and Asia, which became irrelevant as a result of New Zealand's decision, the Chapter indicated to us some very clear areas where the province must keep working until our next Chapter.

More...

Over the last six months we have been working on some of those areas and will move onto dealing with other areas in the new year. Our work is against the backdrop of: *being more focused, more overtly Marist in spirituality and community life; more international; more collegial and more courageous.*

The Provincial Council and the local community of St Patrick's have begun working together to try and boost our Marist mission in this very special parish. Some encouraging things have happened and the project will continue as a priority for us in the new year.

Efforts to renew and revitalize the



Mission Centre, another of our prioritized works, is beginning to bear fruit after a few months of struggle. This is also a work in progress that will continue into next year.

Our round of regional meetings during September on professional standards matters and in November on properties and finances in the province were both follow up subjects from the Chapter. The feedback from those meetings has been most helpful to the provincial administration in coming to some of its decisions.

Revisiting

These are not matters that have now ticked off and put in the 'completed' tray but they will be revisited again by all of us again at some stage. They will be joined by 'caring for our aged confreres', an issue the Chapter still wants us to concentrate on.

In our recent regional meeting on finances satisfaction was expressed for the guidelines that have been given to help communities and individual confreres in their budgeting and financial management. We should all begin putting these guidelines into effect next year. If anyone has any queries about what is required please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Biddle.

Because of a fear that confreres could easily become sick and tired of frequent regional meetings they were not so common a few years ago. That view has changed and now we sense confreres appreciate the opportunity, through three or four regional meetings a year, to have an input into important aspects of our life and mission.

Merger possibility

Restructuring, involving Australia and Asia, is still on the table and some of the regional meetings in 2017 will be devoted to the possibility of a merger with the District of Asia.

After ten years discussing and

investigating the possibilities of reconfiguration many of us are completely exhausted and would like to see the whole matter put to rest. It has certainly taken a lot from all of us. But in spite of our exhaustion we cannot give up and refuse to see this thing through. It is essential that we have open minds and engage in the process that is outlined for us.

Our heritage and way

This is not the same situation as we have had before. You will notice in the materials that come to you for our late January – early February regional meetings that there is little detail already in place around our merger. It is we who will decide what we want, how we want to preserve things we value from our heritage and way of operating, and make sure they go into the detail around any new entity.

If the Australian province looked at our previous experience of going through restructuring process we should not have great fears of the future. We should embrace it. When our colleges of Burnie, Bellambi and Woodlawn faced major changes to their structure many of us resisted. We desperately wanted things to stay as they were. Eventually the changes that some of us resisted so passionately came about and 20, 30, or 40 years down the track none of us have any regrets about how our former colleges have been blessed in their new situations.

Result of dedication

During the past year most of the blessings that have come to the province didn't just happen. The majority are a direct result of the dedication of confreres, co-workers, friends and associates to the furthering of our Marist mission.

While we are aware of the generous contribution done by some we will never know of the hugely important 'hidden and unknown' contributions that are made by others. To all those who have so generously given of their time and energy to the well being of our province over the past

year, thank you most sincerely.

Inspiring finish

Because it is Christmas, I would like to finish with an inspiring little thought that you can hold on to for a while. All I can think of is to pass on a little thought from Terry Garrett that you can contemplate: *Forgive your enemies; it messes with their heads.*

Happy Christmas to all



Bob Barber sm
Provincial

Provincial Diary

December 20

Provincial Council Meeting

December 21

Provincial Office closes at midday

January 4

Provincial Office reopens

January 17

Provincial Council Meeting

February 9

Professional Standards Panel

February 21

Provincial Council Meeting

Appointments

Gavin Foster: reappointed to the chaplaincy at St Joseph's college, Hunters Hill, for a further period of three years as from 1/1/2017

Kevin Stewart appointed to assist at St Patrick's, Church Hill, either as a live-in member of the St Patrick's community, or commuting from Maryvale/Montbel. A decision will be made regarding place of residence in the near future.

Michael Carroll appointed a member of the Herston community as from the beginning of 2017.

Personnel

Andrew Murray has been asked by the Provincial of Oceania to attend the Oceania Marist Province Chapter in January, to provide input and advice in relation to the report he completed during the year on secondary education in the Province.

John Hopkinson will be back in Australia this year during the Christmas-New Year period. To get here he will be embarking on a jaw dropping flight schedule which sees him boarding a plane at Tarija (Bolivia) on 19 December and emerging at the other end in Sydney on December 23, having transited La Paz, Bogota, Mexico City, Los Angeles, and Nadi. Some of us may have stopped believing in Santa Claus because we figured he couldn't travel all over the world in such a short time, but Hoppy's itinerary maybe calls for a rethink on that one.

Tony Kennedy departed Fiji and returned to Australia on December 13. He has allocated a week to negotiate a visa from the Italian consulate. Good luck. No visas needed to go to Gunnedah though, and he's off there for Christmas before leaving Sydney on 12 January for Rome via Perth. During 2017 Tony will be directing the Colnian Period of Renewal programme centred on La Neylière.



Aliko Langi became a citizen of Australia in Gladstone on 16 September this year having already become a member of the Australian Province several years back.

Hayden Kennedy's application to join the Australian Province's formation programme was recently approved. It is anticipated that Hayden will commence his formation in New Zealand.

Michael Carroll will conclude his appointment in the Murgon parish at the end of the year and is taking up an appointment as a full-time hospital chaplain within the archdiocese of Brisbane. He will join the Herston community. Later in the year he will be taking up a request from the archbishop that he become temporary Director of Canali House, the archdiocese's residence for individuals considering the priesthood, while the regular Director is on sabbatical leave.

Gerard Hall has accepted an invitation from the New Zealand Province to lead the Province retreats in 2017.

Ray Chapman will be returning to Australia in January. For 2017 he has enrolled in a live-in Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Direction programme at the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, Box Hill, Victoria.

Deaths

Fr Leo McAteer sm, d.2.11.2016, Timaru, NZ

Fr Edward Francis Fuss sm, d.23.11.1016, Lutchter, LA, USA.

Fr Patrick Kinsella, aged 89, of the Province of New Zealand, who died on 2 December

Joe Hall, died on 14 November in Ballina, and was farewelled on 21 November, the day he would have celebrated his 100th birthday. Gerard Hall presided at his father's funeral Mass at St Francis Xavier's church, Ballina. Around 10 confreres concelebrated the Mass

Sick

Paul Cooney continues to receive treatment and travels regularly from Wollongong to Sydney with his sister, Anne, for monitoring, tests, and infusions.

Kevin Bates entered St Vincent's Private hospital on 28 November for lung tests and intensive physio in relation to an ongoing asthma condition. He was back on the job in the parish the following weekend, and found the time in hospital to be very beneficial.

Greg Ferguson was in the Lifehouse Unit at RPA hospital at Camperdown for several weeks from mid-November for removal of a small growth in the throat. Pathology revealed the growth to be benign, and Greg is now back at Villa Maria.

Bob Barber spent several days in hospital in late November after his right leg became infected and inflamed. After discharge he had daily visits at home from the home nursing service for several days to complete a course of intravenous antibiotics.

After that he graduated to a programme of oral antibiotics. One confrere, enquiring after Bob's welfare, asked the vicar provincial if Bob had finished his programme of "oral contraceptives!!" The startled

look on the vicar provincial's face was enough to alert the confrere that he needed to recalibrate the question.

Kevin Kerley was due to have a pacemaker fitted on Friday 16th December at North Shore Private. He may be in hospital for a day or so afterwards.

News

Ryde Parish History: Peter McMurrich attended the book launch of the Ryde parish history, Remember, Rejoice, on the evening of Friday 4 November. In the early days Hunters Hill was part of the Ryde parish, and the Marists were given care of Ryde parish in 1856.

Fr Jean Rocher built the original St Charles church, and was the first parish priest. He was succeeded by Claude Joly, although Zeph Muraire did most of the day to day parish work.

The parish was divided in 1889, with the Marists retaining the Hunters Hill section, and the last of the English Benedictines, archpriest Sam Sheehy, becoming pastor of Ryde. Shortly afterwards Sheehy fell out of a carriage, and the Marists once again helped out in the parish during his long convalescence.

Royal Commission: The Royal Commission has completed its series of public case study hearings. It is now moving to re-engage with all the institutions which have been the focus of the various hearings for the purpose of checking on progress which has been made by each institution in establishing processes and procedures to minimise the risk of child sexual abuse into the future. Because the Catholic Church has featured prominently in the work of the Commission,

it will be subject of considerable scrutiny in regard to the above matters, and 6-24 February has been set aside by the Commission for meeting with Catholic Church representatives. These will be public

hearings, but are envisaged as being less "confrontational" than the earlier case studies; it is expected that Church representatives will constitute panels to discuss various matters in dialogue with the Commissioners.

Areas for discussion and investigation will include mandatory celibacy, the seal of the confessional, the under representation of women in Church structures, canon law, laicisation of offenders, Church structures, and the National Ministry Register.

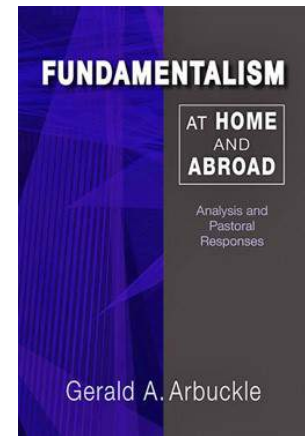
The Commission has also announced that while there will be no more public case studies, it will eventually publish up to 60 "case summaries" relating to various dioceses and religious orders, and probably post these on its website. The case summaries will be based on documentation obtained from Catholic Church Insurances under Notices to Produce; they will be illustrative of situations where the insurance company denied liability on the basis that the order or diocese had "prior knowledge" of an individual's propensity to offend, and yet continued to appoint him to parishes and/or schools where further offending occurred.

We have been put on notice that the Marist Fathers will be the subject of two of the case summaries. In addition to the summaries, it is anticipated that all the background documentation will likewise be made public.

Herston: next year there will be several vacant units at Herston, and already a couple of expressions of interest have been received from other religious orders. It seems we will have no difficulty in letting the units to members of other religious congregations.

Publications

Weaving a Mantle of Mercy by **Francois Drouilly**, has been distributed to communities and also to confreres with individual addresses.



Gerry Arbuckle's latest book **Fundamentalism at Home and Abroad** is being prepared for publication in May. The blurb says: "For most people fundamentalism in the modern world has become synonymous with a radical form of Islam. But fundamentalism in many shapes and forms is also very much present in Western societies. Yes, fundamentalist economic, political, nationalistic, religious movements are aplenty in the West. Using the lens of cultural anthropology, Gerald Arbuckle examines fundamentalist attitudes and movements in this book, exploring why they arise and how readers can constructively respond to them". Published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MIN, and soon to be available online from Amazon and all good bookshops. .

Tom Ryan has written a commentary on Chapter 8 of *Amoris Laetitia*, which he is submitting to the Australian Catholic Record for publication. He sent an advance copy to a certain Queensland archbishop for comment, and has received a very enthusiastic endorsement.

Advertising



Santa's elves in the Provincial Office are putting up their hands for a slice of the Christmas action, so in order not to unduly antagonise the elves and allow them some well-deserved time off, the Provincial Office will close at **midday on Wednesday 21 December** and reopen on the morning of **Wednesday 4 January**.

For any emergencies which may arise the Provincial's mobile is 0418 260 686; the Vicar Provincial is 0419 271831 (ignore the off-putting greeting, and leave a message after the beep if the phone isn't immediately answered).

National Ministry Register: About 40 confreres are now registered online. The Ministry Register was supposed to eliminate the need for those pesky Professional Standards documents every time someone wanted to perform ministry in a different diocese from the one where they lived. However, some dioceses either don't know about the National Register or have decided not to play ball.

We have had recent experiences of dioceses still insisting on the traditional paperwork, including (alarmingly) Sydney archdiocese and Melbourne archdiocese.

Enquiries are being made, but it will be a pity if after all the work of registering, confreres find that they are, in fact, no better off. However, top marks to Brisbane archdiocese and Broken Bay diocese who are both National Ministry Register friendly and a pleasure to deal with.

Finance Document: One of the documents distributed for the recent round of Regional Meetings outlined expectations regarding income from stipends, Mass supply,

and pensions, which should be paid into the common fund. A copy of that document is included with this Provincial Circular for your attention and action.

Provincial Directory



Lou Molloy is now settled at:

**St. Andrew's Village
150 Florence Price Place
BALLINA NSW 2478**

Ph. 02 66 811144
poustinia@iinet.net.au

John Begg is at :

**Poinciana Apartments
158/27 The Boulevard,
Chermside. Qld. 4032.**

Ph. 07 3350 5813.
jimbegg@iinet.net.au

Horton House, next to the Congregational church at Hunters Hill, where **Kevin Kerley** lives, is to have a name change to Hunters Hill Village.

The address remains the same. The new sign (see below) says, ominously, 'Twilight Aged Care, Hunters Hill'.



Currumbin 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:

2016

21-23 December John Thornhill (guests)
26-30 December Tom Ryan (guests)
31 December Michael Carroll

2017

1-21 January Michael Carroll
22-26 January Gavin Foster
26 March-8 April Jim Hargrave
14-17 May (all Currumbin, Provincial Council Meeting)
16 July – 4 August Bob Barber
25 August-9 September Peter McMurrich

Enclosures

- Kalendarium 2017 (printed copies supplied to non-email subscribers only)
- Financial Document: "Financial Guidelines for Individuals and Communities"

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Jim Carty recommends two recent bulletins from the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW (CLRI) which will soon be linked to the Province web site's JPIC page:

Watermark, especially 'Extreme Weather' by Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, UNSW Climate Science Research Centre: *'The question is not whether climate change is the cause of an extreme event, but whether we are seeing more of these events because of climate change.'*

Just in time: 'Treaty and constitutional recognition: mutually exclusive or mutual goals?', outlining the main arguments for a treaty or constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Ron Nissen reports that sixteen applicants for the latest 'Bridge Program' (BP16-17) have successfully negotiated their trial period.

The 20-week online program prepares Burmese refugee youngsters for tertiary studies.



The BP-ers smiling faces appear on the Home Page of the Bridge Program web site, www.maristtraining.org

... and also



Clockwise from top right:

1. Advent liturgy, St Patrick's. 2. Asia District chapter. 3. MMC's project-finance person, Anne Martinus, with Paul Sullivan. 4. Camp Runamok, Villa Maria. 5. Lightning strike eye witness. 6. 80th birthday gift.

