



# MARIST SM AUSTRALIA

Australian Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Marist Fathers International Mission Fund (MFIM)

Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid Fund (AMCOA)



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER  
Autumn April 2014 Vol. 65, No.1

## Messages

### Sustaining Hope

#### BOUGAINVILLE & SOLOMON IS

The pain of disasters is often seen in the innocent eyes of affected children.

In recent days, natural calamities wreaked havoc and loss in the lives of poor people living in Solomon Is., Bougainville (our nearest Australian neighbours) and in the Philippines.

Torrential storms struck Honiara. In a matter of hours, untold damage affected livelihood and infrastructure in our poorest neighbouring country.

Three earthquakes of 7.3 and 7.5 magnitude hit Buin, Bougainville a few days ago. Around 50 houses were destroyed. A child is known to have died in the mishap.

#### DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES

The weekend of the Honiara storm, disaster also struck a water-front slum in Davao City, Philippines where our Marist Sisters had a centre preparing infant children from the slums for school. Their parents were sea-gypsies and begging had become a way of life.

The 9.30pm fire destroyed between 800-900 crowded shanty dwellings pitched over dirty acrid sea-water.

Marist Sister Torika says it was a miracle no one was killed. As the fire swept through the crowded slum, families leapt into water wading to safety, their few possessions all lost.

### Natural Disasters



Davao Waterfront Fire



*We must embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest and weakest, the least important.*

*The Church's mission means respecting each and every one of God's creatures, respecting the environment in which we live.*

*It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, those in need, the elderly who are often the last we think about...*

*This is a service to which all of us are called, so that the "Star of Hope" will shine brightly. - Pope Francis*



*Dear Friends and Benefactors,*



*Your wonderful generosity in 2013 meant MMC was able to distribute \$1,606,550 in your name to ensure that Marist Missionaries were the "Stars of Hope" Pope Francis called for by their joyful presence dedicated to service, social development, poverty alleviation and response to natural calamities and disasters - Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines, Solomon Is., Bougainville.*

*Several weeks ago I visited Dhaka, Bangladesh to celebrate with our Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) their 40 years journeying with some of the poorest people in the world. A photo display was a moving tapestry of a journey of faith and courage embracing Pope Francis' call to embrace "with tender affection, especially the poorest and weakest, the least important". Well done Sisters!*

*God bless and my sincere thanks.*

*Fr Kevin Stewart SM*



**Celebrating life, sacrifice and gentle service...**

**the Easter-Anzac the spirit inspiring Marist Missionaries**

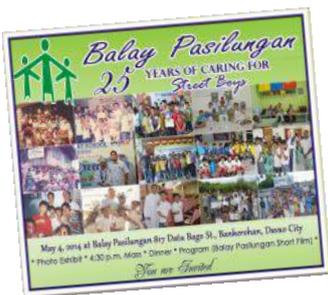
Christ Has Risen



**Education - investing in their future**

**MMC prioritises poor Children with special needs in Asia/Pacific.**

**Six of the best investments in the Marist Family world are the following...**



**Balay Pasilangan Davao, Philippines** is a refuge for Street Kids administered by Marist Fathers. In May it celebrates 25 years getting Kids off the streets and into school. It's time to upgrade their home, showers, toilets. Renov. Budget: \$25,000



**Marist Solidarity Cambodia** (formerly La Valla and YODIFEE) educates Children with severe physical disabilities. It is administered by the Marist Brothers. MMC presently gives an annual grant of \$50,000



**Anondo Neer Bangladesh** is a program for children affected by cerebral palsy animated by the Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) in two centres. It also trains parents to care for the special needs of their children. It operates from two centres. One is the size of a garage!! New facilities are planned so furnishings/equipment are needed. Budget \$20,000



**Marist Ranong (Thai-Burma) Thailand** is a special educational centre for poor Burmese Migrant Workers kids in Ranong, Thailand. Administered by Marist Fathers, MMR offers a pathway for impoverished children destined for child labour in fish factories to gain an education. 2014 is a turning point countering the pressure on parents to have children working. Annual MMC support is presently \$50,000

**St Isidro Centre Ariligo Solomon Is.** for speech and hearing impaired children is a partnership involving Marists (SM & SMSM branches) caters for youth - it is a new project with needs for further class space. Budget \$10,000



**Davao, Philippines St Luke Learning Centre and Centre for Badjao Children** on the Davao waterfront slums. Partnered by Marist Sisters (SM) this is a multi-faceted approach to getting infants ready for school, engaging mothers in small livelihood projects and countering the mendicant life-style.



Sisters Janet, Ruma, Jhorna and Jenny with Binita and Promila (left) SMSM aspirants.

**MARIST MISSIONARY SISTERS (SMSM)** celebrated 40 years presence in Bangladesh. Sr Jenny Clarke SMSM writes:

*We are blessed these 40 years by people who support us financially and by people who volunteer to work with us in Tuital and in Dhaka, especially in our project with the disabled. May God reward them all with eternal life for those who do us good.*

*Many times in the past, celebrating forty years would have seemed impossible....(it is one of the most challenging missions in the world). 32 Sisters have been part of their journey (many of them Aussies). Service has been mainly in health education for mothers and children and in more recent years, working with children suffering cerebral palsy together with their mothers.*

**(MMC assists the Sisters' programs for mothers, and their children and female garment workers.)**



Sisters Jenny and Janet with friends



Sister Jenny reads greetings from their SMSM Congregational leader.



Marist Family at the 40th celebrations SMSM Sisters, FMS Brothers and Fr Kevin SM

# NATURAL CALAMITIES AND DISASTER RELIEF - MORE HELP NEEDED

## Davao City Philippines - Fire



Marist Sisters Leader in Davao Philippines, Sister Torika SM reflects on the fire in the waterfront slums that destroyed the Marist Sisters Centre for their Mother-Child programs for Badjao people (sea gypsies) and for many Moslem families:

*These people must be devastated. They may not have lived in palaces but this was their home. To lose everything when you already have so little had to be truly awful!*

*I hope that their government steps in and helps them find decent homes. Yes, with so many now homeless it will be difficult but they must do something !!*

Sister Torika SM



Last week, the Philippine Bishops/Caritas made a new appeal for Typhoon Haiyan victims. Recovery is still a long way off.

*“Given the catastrophic scale and impact of the destruction... urgently needed rehabilitation programs are expected to be prolonged and massive in order to rebuild not only shelters but the lives and livelihood of the devastated communities.”*

The same urgency applies to Davao fire victims. All donations are tax-deductible and go 100% to the victims through our Marist networks.

## Tacloban, Philippines - Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan was the monster storm that battered the Philippines with winds of more than 330 kilometres per hour and had a diameter of approximately 800 km wide. The UN estimates that 4.3 million people were affected. Fr Pat Devlin SM ( Marist Fathers Asia) continues:

*For a week before Christmas I was with 150 other volunteers helping in the typhoon devastated areas of Leyte and Samar..*

*It was a painful experience to witness the absolute devastation of the area which cannot be portrayed by the video camera. As we drove for 30 km along the main road, we saw continuous and widespread destruction. Nearly all houses were damaged and most totally destroyed. Trees toppled and power poles smashed. Tangled wires, destroyed vehicles and housing debris scattered everywhere with people living in tents or makeshift shelters.*



*We were able to reach the less accessible areas where international aid had not penetrated and since most of us were Religious, we offered survivors group counseling and trauma rehabilitation, as well as personally delivering relief goods to 5000 families.*

*In the midst of such chaos and destruction there was an inspiring resilience and courage demonstrated in so many ways. People were working together to secure their own lives and cooperating to rebuild community infrastructures. There were hastily painted signs saying that their place would stand again. In one tent a family had decorated a tiny Christmas tree with shiny debris.*

*So 40 days after the event there were signs of hope and a promise of a future even though the hurdles are huge, particularly restoring livelihoods which are dependent on agriculture. One woman we talked to had found and buried her four children, husband, mother, father and niece. Her house had disappeared. All she had was her life and a tent to live in. She wished us a “Merry Christmas!”*

MMC through your generosity was able to send significant aid through Fr Pat to assist people re-establish their lives. We hope to send him a further assistance package as the needs are still so great.



Marist Fathers Leader in the Pacific, Fr Ben McKenna SM originally from Tasmania, briefly reports ...

*Solomon Islands: Continuous rain in the last week has brought about devastating floods in the Solomon Islands, especially in Honiara. It left at least thirty people dead and thousands homeless. Relief efforts are underway.*



*Buin, Bougainville: Three earthquakes of 7.3 and 7.5 magnitude hit the Buin area of Bougainville on Friday and Sunday last week-end. There were many land-slides and more than 50 houses destroyed. One child is known to have died.*



MMC acknowledges the generous solidarity of Fr Adrian Meany of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Mission Office who has sent Marist Archbishop Smith of Honiara \$25,000 through MMC to assist people affected by this latest Solomon disaster.

*Let us remember and support one another as we serve the Lord's struggling People.  
With His Strength and Peace, Fr Ben McKenna SM*

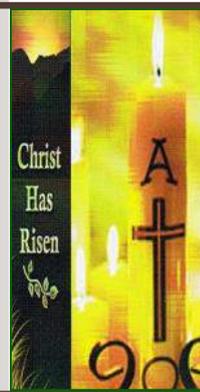
**Solomons & Bougainville:** Both were traumatically affected by conflict. The region rates 6th on the world index for vulnerability to natural disasters. GDP is 1/12 that of Australia. 80% of the population live in rural areas dependent on subsistence agriculture and fishing. Literacy rates / basic education are low compared to other Pacific Countries. Many children live below the poverty line especially after floods/disasters. 38% live on less than a dollar a day. They're our nearest neighbours.



MMC is a signatory to the Code of Conduct of the Australian Council for International Development



**MARIST MISSION CENTRE**  
An Australian Marist Fathers' outreach addressing poverty and social injustice by raising awareness and resources within Australia for Marist networks engaged in poverty alleviation and social development of youth, children and women facing social, physical and mental challenges.



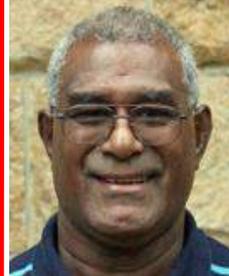
**Our Beloved Dead**

Marists remember with gratitude in all their Masses our deceased friends, relatives and benefactors, their families and all who have died in Christ.

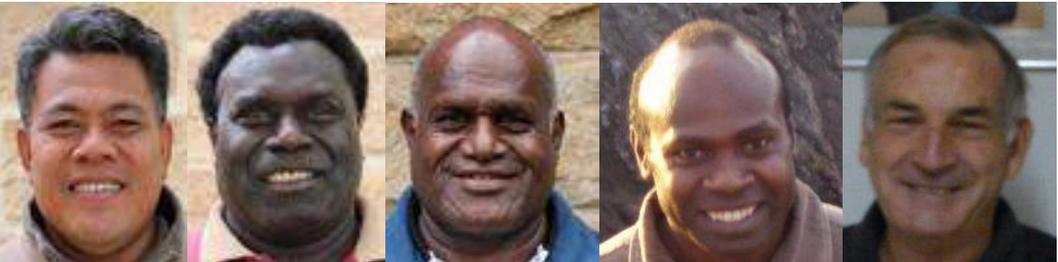
# Missionary Faces

## 2013 Partnerships, Places & Support

AMCOA Partners in Asia-Pacific come in all shapes, colours and sizes, drawing inspiration from their Easter Faith, determined to make a difference. Years in remote regions, serving and dedicated to empowering the poorest, is a powerful witness to their tender compassion that their God inspires.



<b>2013 Financial Overview</b>	100% of all AMCOA donations go directly to beneficiaries. Totals below include MFIM counterparts to AMCOA Grants	
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>\$895,929</b>	
India/Bangladesh	Child protection, Women/Children's health	86,135
China/Vietnam	Mental Disability Life Skills/shelter - education	56,764
Thai-Karin	Child Refugees – 3 Camps: Education/Protection	55,000
Thai-Burma	MRR: Migrant Workers: Child Education/HIV Aids	235,074
Philippines	Street Children / pre-school education / Badjao projects	103,346
	Typhoon Haiyan Disaster Relief	43,958
	Pre-school Ed./Health Centre - Mindanao Marist solidarity/Lay Marist Stipends	11,500
Cambodia	Youth - Education - Livelihood - Physical disability	142,500
Myanmar	Health/Lepers//Women Child protection/Livelihood	82,803
Thailand	Child Protection/HIV Aids/Women Health/ Educ'n	31,040
Japan	Tsunami Orphan Victims - Education	47,809
<b>PACIFIC/ OCEANIA</b>	<b>\$672,496</b>	
Timor/Solomon Is	Child Protection / Community Development	96,816
PNG/Samoa/Aust	Youth Education; Disaster Relief; Indigenous Education	27,100
Fiji/Wallis/Cook Is	Frail Elderly - Shelter/Media advocacy/ Education	75,100
Oceania solidarity Mission Subsidy	Formation/Community Development/ Education Marist Solidarity: Bougainville, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Solomons, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands.	473,480
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>\$28,125</b>	
Senegal/Sudan	Child protection/teacher training	4,950
Tanzania	Mother & Child Health Centre equipment/Education	8,000
Kenya/Cameroon	Youth non-formal Education - Social disability/HIV/Aids	15,175
<b>CARRIBEAN</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	
Jamaica	Community Development - Education	10,000





Fr Bob Barber SM  
Australian Marist Leader

## MARIST MISSION CENTRE THE ROAD AHEAD ...

### **A 65 year team effort (1949-2014) - Planning the road ahead (2015 –2025) - MMC from Fr Michael to Fr Kevin +**

In 1966, Fr Michael O'Halloran was appointed to Sydney to take charge of the newly-formed *Marist Mission Centre*, a work of the Australian Marist Fathers that grew from a meeting in Sydney in 1949 organised by Fr Sam Marsden, a POW in Changi, to help the fledgling Marist Mission in Japan.

Through Fr Michael's hard work and contact with many wonderful people who wanted to support the missionary endeavour in Asia-Pacific, *Marist Mission Centre* flourished.

Since Fr Michael O'Halloran's 24 year tenure, MMC under Fr Jim Carty, Sister Vivienne Goldstein, Fr Ron Nissen and now Fr Kevin Stewart, has continued to grow, doing very wonderful work, quietly helping very needy people.

MMC remains an entity with which the Australian Marist Fathers are proud to be associated. We are proud of the diversity of MMC's work. Although mainly concerned with Asia and Oceania, MMC's scope extends right around the developing world, helping many thousands of poor people in need and assisting in all sorts of traumatic areas.

MMC is not a big NGO-type operation. It is small, and being focused, is very effective in what it does. We are proud that "every cent a donor gives to an AMCOA project, gets to the project". We are also proud of our small team working with generous volunteers that keeps the MMC operating so well. Especially, we are proud that the personal friendly engagement with donors and our beneficiaries which characterised the outreach established by Fr Michael fifty years ago, continues strongly today.

During the second half of this year, the Marist Fathers will conduct an external review of MMC to make whatever changes are necessary to ensure a fruitful future for MMC and those it serves. Everyone involved in any way with MMC (donors, recipients and volunteers) are welcome to offer us any advice they wish on MMC to help us shape its future for the road ahead.

A very happy Easter and blessings to you all.

*Fr Bob Barber SM*  
MMC-AMCOA CHAIRMAN  
Leader, Australian Marist Fathers

### **Service without counting the cost - Volunteers Cycling , Auditing, Advising, Sorting stamps - Making a difference.**

#### **2014 Cycling for Seminarians**

Br Charles Randle once again, with your great support, raised just under \$50,000 for the training of young Marists. In seven years, Br Charlie has now cycled 3500+km and raised over \$340,000. A golden effort. Congratulations and thanks to everyone!



#### **Annual Audit**

Robert Gray (L) & Ian Milne (R) conduct the annual external audit to ensure MMC maintains financial best practice.



#### **SUSTAINING HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION** (Easter Message - Pope Francis)

*In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast...Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness. - Pope Francis*



Hopefully Fr John Larsen SM, of the founding team of *Marist Ranong*, is soliciting support for *Marist Ranong* from his new friend! "Love makes Hope Blossom"



*Marist Australia Mission Newsletter* is published quarterly by *Marist Mission Centre*.

Postal: Locked Bag 5002, Gladesville, NSW, 1675 Office: 3 Mary St., Hunters Hill NSW AUSTRALIA 2110.

Tel: + 61 2 9844 2275 Fax: + 61 2 9816 1737 [www.maristmissions.com](http://www.maristmissions.com) & [www.maristfathers.org.au](http://www.maristfathers.org.au)

Fr Kevin SM: [director@maristmissions.com](mailto:director@maristmissions.com) Jane: [admin@maristmissions.com](mailto:admin@maristmissions.com) Annie: [donaions@maristmissions.com](mailto:donaions@maristmissions.com)

# YES



I would like to make a donation to  
**MARIST SM AUSTRALIA**



*Lord,  
when did I see You  
sick and not care for you ?  
hungry and not feed you ?  
naked and not clothe you ?  
thirsty and not give you water ?  
a stranger and not welcome you ?*

- Jesus, Gospel of Matthew 25:35

My details are: (please print clearly)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred greeting e.g. Bill / Peggy \_\_\_\_\_

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State / Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid (AMCOA)**  
(donations are tax-deductible)

**Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)**  
(non tax-deductible - Religious purposes)

Please send me information on Estate Planning

**My donation:**

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500 Other \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose cheque  money order  cash

**I would like to make a direct debit from my credit card:**

Monthly  Quarterly  Half-yearly  Once only

Visa Card  Master Card

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pls. Post: Marist Missions, Locked Bag 5002, Gladesville, NSW 1675  
Or Fax to (02) 9816 1737 or donate online at



*With compassion and caring we create Hope.*

