



Provincial Circular

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Vol: 3 /2012

Provincial's Letter

Dear Confreres

The recent deaths of our confreres Ron Josephs, Wally Fingleton and John Bonato, the formal closure of our mission in Japan and the review of governance of the Society of Mary are all poignant reminders that here we have no lasting city.

Losing three Australian confreres within a couple of months has left me, and I am sure many of us, saddened and in a bit of shock. We all know we are ageing, but the reality of death is a blow that leaves us bruised. Let us pray in thanks for their lives of generous service and ask the Lord to bring them safely home into the Kingdom.

The farewell from our mission in Japan, formally celebrated at a beautiful Mass led by Bishop Paul Otsuka, Bishop of Kyoto, on 17th March, was tearful and joyful at the same time. The affection for our men was deeply affirming for each confrere who has ministered there, and for us as a congregation and

province. Time stood still that afternoon as our men were carried by the warmth and love of their people.

The review of our governance, while prosaic in comparison, is closely related to these other stark and painful realities. The Society of Mary is undergoing profound change, and the way we seek to be on our Marist mission needs to reflect that.

Part of our Marist call is to work closely with the laity, encouraging their gifts, sharing with them our charisma, being in dialogue with the insights of men and women of our time. Already this is happening. However, as the number of professed Marists able to be in ministry decreases, the urgency grows. In late June, I will attend the Catholic Religious Australia Conference in Adelaide on the theme "Charism without Borders", looking at how the charisms of congregations are going to continue as orders diminish. Glenn Roff, former principal of Woodlawn, has generously accepted our Provincial Council's invitation to come to that conference as well. I look forward to sharing with you some of the insights that emerge.

The next stage of the review of governance involves us in regional gatherings followed by a day open for all confreres at the Provincial Chapter (Tuesday, 3rd July). I encourage all confreres to take part in these events as fully as you can.

As Bob Dylan sang: "The times they are a - changing." Let us be agents of that change by our committed involvement in the journey ahead.

Paul Cooney
Provincial
8 May 2012

Provincial's Diary

April

29-1 May Macksville Visitation

May

2-3 Lismore Visitation
9 Towards Healing Panel
10 CLRI Executive Rosebery
15 Provincial Council
17-20 Burnie Visitation
29 Finance Committee
29-1 June Brisbane Visitation

June

12-14 MAP Leaders Meeting,
Hunters Hill

Personnel

Jack Bettridge

Over recent years Jack's condition has been in gradual decline. For quite some time now he has not been mobile, nor been able to communicate, but he clearly shows an interest in visitors and tries to relate to them. Occasionally he has a bad day or night when he has respiratory difficulties but he quickly recovers. He must have an incredibly strong heart. Mrs Joan Ludeke and her husband, Terry, John's sister and brother-in-law, are regularly with him.

The Little Sisters of the Poor and their staff have looked after Jack since his move to Randwick in a most loving and caring way.

Tom Ryan

Congratulations to Tom Ryan who recently received a letter from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame Australia appointing Tom as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Philosophy and Theology, Freemantle Campus. This prestigious appointment is in recognition of Tom's contribution to that School as a lecturer, researcher and research degree supervisor.

Gerry Arbuckle

Gerry recently returned from Rome where he consulted to the lay trustees and board of the USA Covenant Health System regarding the need to maintain Catholic identity. He was also invited to meet with Fr Nicolas SJ, Superior General of the Jesuits, on issues related to intercultural priestly formation.

Deaths

Bill Grove

Bill Grove (Woodlawn, '53 – 54), classmate of Bill Ryder and Garry Reynolds and father of Woodlawn Old Boys Tony and Lewis from the 70's, was tragically killed when his motorbike ran into a truck on the back road between Kyogle and Wiangaree on Saturday 10th March.

Mrs Enid Reneker

Enid Reneker, mother of Sr Gail, Sector Leader of the Marist Sisters in Australia, passed away peacefully at home in Sydney on 26th March. Enid Reneker experienced a fair degree of ill health over some months before her passing. She was buried from the St Patrick's Church Sutherland.

Wally Fingleton



When Wally Fingleton passed away in Townsville on 15th April, the Province lost its most senior confrere. Wally was 97. He had been out for lunch with his long-time carer, Mary Connor and some of her family. On returning home he had a fall and hit his head, suffering a serious brain injury. He was taken to hospital and was anointed. With Mary by his side, Wally died a few hours later without regaining consciousness.

Wally was professed as a Marist in 1940 and ordained in 1944. During quarter of a century as a missionary in Bougainville and the Shortland Islands, Wally did valuable work in helping local people prepare for independence and the running of their own country. On his return to Australia in 1974, because of a serious eye complaint, Wally worked in Marist parishes before beginning a long apostolate of offering priestly service to rural communities, especially in the Canberra-Goulbourn diocese.

Wally's Requiem Mass on 23rd April was attended by many confreres and lifelong friends filling Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill. Bishops Pat Power and Bernard O'Grady OP assisted the Provincial at the Requiem. Fitting eulogies were given by Wally's nephew Jim Fingleton, Bishop O'Grady and the President of Bougainville, John Momis, who came from Bougainville with his wife Elizabeth especially for the funeral. John Begg preached the homily. (John's homily is included with this Provincial Circular).

Despite inclement weather, many accompanied the cortege to the missionaries' cemetery in the grounds of Villa Maria and attended the "cuppa" in the Villa dining room afterwards.

John Bonato



John Bonato died on 18th April in the Suva Private Hospital. Fiji. He was 70.

Over recent years diabetes had severely affected John's general health. He entered

hospital on 15th April and died of heart failure following an operation to remove fluid from his brain.

John grew up in Katanning, WA, entered the Society and studied at Toongabbie. Ordained in 1965, John spent seven years teaching at Belambi before he went to Oceania. His first posting was to Tonga (4 years) and then to Fiji where he worked in the University of the South Pacific for 35 years. In Australia, John is remembered and much loved by confreres and by those with whom he worked and ministered because of his simplicity and gentleness towards everyone. It would seem that the same qualities were present in John's long life and ministry in Oceania.

Harry Moore kindly accepted to represent the Australian Province at John's funeral in the Suva Cathedral on 24th April. Harry's report of the funeral together with John Crispin's homily from the Requiem (both included with this Provincial Circular) record a wonderful tribute to a fine man and Marist.

Please remember to pray for all of our deceased.

Sick

John Hill

On 23rd March, the day after he returned to Australia, John

must have become disoriented during the night and fell in this new surroundings at Montbel. He was taken to Ryde Hospital where he was admitted with a hairline fracture of the hip. John remained for a couple of weeks in hospital where he was helped to build up his strength and walk again on his weakened hip. John is now back in the bosom of the Montbel community and going well.

John Rego

Following a collapse in the street near his home on Holy Saturday, Michael Rego's father, John, was found to have a badly damaged aortic valve. This condition would normally require open heart surgery but given John's advanced age this treatment could be very dangerous. Prayers are requested by the Rego family as they, with the doctors, try to discern what should be done for John at this time. John is currently in the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Michael Moore

Michael's recovery from his second lot of back surgery on 20th April is going very well. Michael's first surgery to remove a disc in his lower back that was pinching a nerve was in Spain at the time of WYD. Recently pain forced Michael to undergo a second operation. The surgeon is confident that Michael should be have no further problem. Michael

would like to thank all confreres for their prayers.

Tony Biddle

Tony's operation for prostate cancer in March has been judged a success by the surgeons and Tony was not required to undergo any further treatment. Following a time of recuperation at home, Tony has now returned to work although may be working a few less hours while he regains his strength.

Keith Shepherd

Keith was admitted to Royal North Shore with stomach problems in late April. After a series of tests Keith had an operation to remove a very large gall stone and his gall bladder. It is expected that when Keith is discharged from RNS he will spend some time recuperating in a private hospital before returning to Monbel.

Mika Cilicewa

Mika recently underwent surgery to have a graft performed on a perforated ear drum. The injury was the result of deep sea diving when Mika was a child. Mika is currently weighing up whether or not to have surgery involving "fusion" of bones in his right ankle, another injury from Mika's boyhood.

Please keep all of our sick confreres, relatives and friend in your prayers.

News

Catholic Religious Australia National Assembly

The CRA's National Assembly this year will be held 25 – 29 June in Adelaide. The theme of the assembly is "Charism Without Borders."

To take seriously this theme the CRA organizers are encouraging congregations to involve in the Assembly people who are living and/or working in a particular charism but who are not members of the congregation. As the Province Council has been looking for some time at ways of working more closely and sharing our charism with lay collaborators in our mission, Glenn Roff was invited and has agreed to attend this conference with Paul Cooney. Glenn, as the past Principal of Woodlawn, did an immense amount in trying to understand the Marist spirit and keep it alive at Woodlawn. It is hoped that he will come from the Conference with ideas that will help Marists share their charism with others.

Bellambi's Golden Anniversary Building

Bishop Peter Ingham blessed and opened the Grant Learning Centre at Holy Spirit College Bellambi on 29th March. Paul Cooney attended. The guest of honour was Sr Angela Grant who now lives at Hunters Hill.

The past principal, Mark Baker, planned for the opening of this building in 2012 to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of Catholic secondary education in Bellambi by Fr Myles Gilmartin and his community on behalf of the Marist Fathers. The Sisters of St Joseph came a few years later.

Holy Spirit College now has a building on the eastern perimeter of the campus that is named in recognition of Fr Gilmartin, founder and first principal of St Paul's, and another on the west named in honour of St Angela Grant rsj, founder and first principal of Holy Cross College. The Casey- Ryder Centre, named after the first principal and assistant of Holy Spirit College, is found in the middle of the campus.

Planning is continuing for a Reunion Dinner on 8th September and Mass on 9th September to mark the 50 years.

2012 Provincial Chapter

The Pre-Capitular Committee has now had five meetings to



John Honner at a recent meeting of the Pre-Capitular Committee with Paul Mahony, Peter McMurrich, Bob Barber and Tony Kennedy.

prepare for the Provincial Chapter in the first week of July. Facilitator John Honner has been working with the PCC and is being proposed to help facilitate the Chapter itself.

Together with materials from our Regional Meetings, a good number of postulata have been received. The final materials, including reports from the Provincial, the Business Manager and from the third round of Regional Meetings, will go out to delegates towards the end of May.

Please note, day 2 of the Chapter, Tuesday 3rd July, is intended to be a part of the Chapter that focuses on the Review of Marist Government currently being undertaken. This day will be, as it were, a workshop within the Chapter that is open to all members of the Province to attend and take part in. Paul Sullivan will facilitate the day for us and John Honner, who is doing the Review on behalf of the Society, will be a resource person.

A communique from Tony

Kennedy, chair of the PCC, will go out to all members of the Province inviting you to take part in this day and informing you how to register.

Finally, among the enclosures with this Provincial Circular is a laminated prayer card containing a prayer for the success of our Chapter. Individually and in communities, you are asked to keep this important event in the life of the Province in your prayers.

Men's Shed Open Day



Terry Garrett and parishioner Garry Trail from the Men's Shed.

Although the Men's Shed Open Day (18th April) fell on one of Sydney's wettest days in years, 80 visitors came to see how the Hunters Hill –

Ryde Men's Shed is shaping up. Some of the bright new equipment that has recently been installed in the workshop made a tremendous contrast with the displays of 19th and early 20th century tools that had belonged to the Marists and were used in the building many years ago.

Occupational, Health and Safety protocols will take time to implement before the Shed is operating.

The opening day should not be too far away.

While the Men's Shed is located in the historic sandstone (workshop) building, Terry Garrett has been doing a good job in setting up a workshop for Marists in the old double-door garage.

This too is getting close to completion.

Marist Asia Pacific

This year's meeting of MAP Provincials, Vicars and District Superiors will be held at



The Men's Shed, Hunters Hill

Hunters Hill from 12-14 June. Visitors for the meeting will be Brian Cummings and Phil Cody (New Zealand), Ben McKenna and Susitino Sionepoe (Oceania) and Pat Devlin (The Philippines). Paul Sullivan will be present for part of the meeting as we review the first MAP Ongoing Formation and Spirituality Program from late last year and plan for this year's program to be held at Hunters Hill from 7th October to 12th December. Paul will be on the team again for that program and will be replaced at Macksville during that time by Aliko Langi.

Marist Regional College opens new facility



Archbishop Doyle at the blessing of the new training facility.

On April 26th Archbishop Adrian Doyle blessed Marist Regional College's newest facility, Cradle Coast Trade Training Centre. The centre,



Tony Kennedy and Fred Kado, with Sr Kathlyn O'Brien RSM At the opening of Marist's new facility..

boasting a superb view of Bass Strait, is situated in the former common room of the founding Marist community of the College. The Centre will soon feature its own restaurant, 'Cloud 9', which will be staffed by College student will open on Thursday evenings from June.

Advertisements

CIS Conference: Yves Congar and Vatican II

2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening, of the Second Vatican Council . To commemorate this historic occasion in the life of the Church, this year's Catholic Institute of Sydney Conference, from Friday evening 8th June until Sunday afternoon 10th June, will focus on the significance of the French

Dominican theologian Yves Congar at the Council. During the conference, jointly organised by ATF Press and CIS, there will be the launch in English of diaries which Yves Congar kept during the Council.

Memoire of Major-General Murray

Among the enclosures with this Provincial Circular is a flyer from an article in the Newcastle Herald's Anzac Day edition promoting the memoir of Major-General John Murray, grandfather of Andrew Murray. The book which contains memories and papers of Major-General Murray from the days when he was leading Australian troops at Tobruk was prepared for publication by Andrew.

Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

The self-contained flat at **Currumbin** is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through Judy Saliba at the Provincial Office. Current bookings are:

1 -14 May R Chapman
18 -28 May T Ryan
7 -28 Jul B Barber
30 Sep-12 Oct P Cooney
17 Oct-7 Nov T Fulcher
20 -30 Nov P McMurrich

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 Vicar-Provincial. Current bookings are:

15 -31 May R Chapman
1 -31 Aug P Kervin

2013

2 -16 Jan T Kennedy

Enclosures

1. Death Notices:

Fr Bernard Laarveld sm
Br Francis Aiga Vasa sm
Fr Walter Fingleton sm
Br Eugeneio Durosini sm
Fr Cyprien-Jean Roberton sm
Br Joe Kelly sm

2. Major-General John Murray—Newcastle Herald

3. Homily - Wally Fingleton's funeral.

4. Homily & Report from John Bonato's funeral

5. Provincial Chapter Prayer

Directory

Michael Moore
Mobile: 0408 670 147

Anniversaries

May

4 Fr Augustin Aubry
1919
5 Fr Lionel Marsden
1971
6 Fr Francis Laurent
1948
7 Br Alphonsus McKenny
1944
8 Fr Augustin Ginisty
1912
9 Br Gennade Rolland
1898
10 Fr Eugene Englert
1913
12 Br Edward Herbel
1961
12 Fr John McHardy
1979
16 Fr John Rausch
1956
16 Fr Vincent McSherry
1984
16 Fr Peter Guiren
1987

17 Fr Stephen O'Connor
1988
17 Fr Maurice Walsh
2000
18 Fr Thomas Bergin
1961
24 Fr Charles Matthieu
1856
25 Br (Scholastic) George Heydon
1866
26 Fr Henry Davis
1973
27 Fr Carl Heesh
1985
29 Fr Antoine Freydier-Dubreul
1902
31 Fr Honore Hebert
1958



The ones that didn't get away... Fred Kado has a good catch