



Provincial's letter

Dear Confreres

I have just arrived back from attending the Council of the Society (CS13) in Dublin. I consider it a great privilege to have attended this meeting on behalf of the Province.

A great meeting

While I have very little experience in being part of gatherings at this level, like most of you, I have attended so many workshops, assemblies, and the like, I can be quite critical of the whole business and very hard to please when it come to meetings. CS13, however, was a great meeting and I am truly delighted to have been a part of it.

The meeting was well planned. The hosting region of Ireland could not have been more hospitable or helpful. The conference centre where we stayed (Emmaus) was modern, well appointed, and very comfortable. Catering at the centre was excellent. Our meeting facilitators, Mick Mullins and John Honner, did a superb job.

However, in my view, the mix of the participants and the matter of the Council may have been the elements that made the meeting so successful.

Never on a big issue

In meetings like CS13 it is common to get opposition and resistances surfacing in many quarters and on many questions which prevent a group from being able to gel and arrive at a successful outcome.

I would estimate that, on a few occasions, we had at most 1 – 1½ fellows in the group who held contrary views to the rest. On these rare moments when differences arose it was never on a big issue which threatened to destabilise the meeting. This is not saying that good discussion and differing points of view were not part of the meeting. There was plenty of good constructive debate. It was the experience of our facilitators that guided us and helped us to keep moving forward.

Critical to the SM and its future

Probably the main work of CS13 focused around the Reviews of Governance and Finances within the Society. Both Reviews were asked for at the last General Chapter and over the last three years especially have been seriously pursued by the GA. We are probably more aware of the governance review because we were all invited to take part in it on a couple of occasions at regional meetings, but it is good to keep in mind that both reviews are critical to the Society and its future.

Some will look at the two finalized documents to come from the reviews and express disappointment that they don't clearly see on the

horizon major changes in the Society described in detail. What CS13 delegates approved in both reviews were a series of goals and then a number of recommendations or strategies.

No toothless tiger

Don't be misled and feel that these recommendations are very innocent and no more than a toothless tiger. They are very significant and will enable the Superior General and the GC to make really big calls and bring about substantial changes when these are needed. Over the next four years some major things will be foreshadowed out of these reports which will be for the next General Chapter to implement in 2017.

CS13 recognised a number of times that governance of the Society, with its annual meeting of the Superior General, his GA, and the major Superiors, now gathering for an annual meeting (ARC) in Rome, is much more collegial in leadership, animation, and management of the Society than it was in the past. This important modern feature of the Society will only get stronger.

Apart from dealing with the Governance and Finance Reviews many



other vital issues came before CS13 a number of times. Because of space I will not go into them here. Later "official" reports will inform us about how issues such as laity, formation and ministries developed and emerged from the process of CS13. Except if you are of a really cynical bent I am confident that they will excite you very much.

Assistants General

One significant thing to come from of CS13 was the re-election of the same General Council for the next four years: Frs. Larry Duffy (VG), Kevin Duffy, Lote Raiwalui, and Alejandro Muñoz. The General, Fr John Hannan, has flagged that they may be the same team but they may not necessarily be in the same position and doing the same things in the future.

I hope all have had a chance to see the 1 page communiqué, "Statement of Commitment", that the CS issued last week. Some confreres will dismiss it as being "too much like a motherhood" sentiment. That is a pity. This statement must be read and prayed over. It is telling us what the Society's leadership wants of each one of us.

To make a big impact

We are a "small" congregation, which each day is getting smaller in number, but is still able to make a big impact. This will only happen if we are *more focussed, more overtly Marist, more international, more collegial, working more closely with the laity and are more courageous*. CS13 were really convinced of this.

If any of us are not prepared to be a fair dinkum Marist, part of the team and committed to live as CS calls us, then we must move aside because we are blocking the Society which wants to move ahead. For my part, I will be putting my energy into supporting those who really want to follow the call of CS13 and allow our "small" Society to make an impact.

Fraternally

Bob Barber sm, Provincial
Oct 29, 2013



Provincial Diary

- Nov 07-08: Red Bend College, Forbes (Marist Bros. Schools)
- Nov 12-13: Lane Cove Visitation
- Nov 13: Investiture of Tony Biddle (Cathedral House, Sydney)
- Nov 14: Morning tea at Hunters Hill for new papal knight
- Nov 18: Towards Healing Panel (10.30-12.30am)
- Nov 19-20: Provincial Council Meeting
- Nov 23-24: Burnie Parish Farewell Weekend
- Nov 24: Holy Spirit College Annual Mass for the deceased
- Nov 27: Committee for Ageing (11am-12.30pm)
- Nov 29: Ordination of Willy Melteras (Hunters Hill)
- Dec 03: Provincial Finance Committee (10.30am)
- Dec 04-05: Lismore community visitation & ACM meeting with bishop
- Dec 07: S&L Program concludes (Villa Maria)
- Dec 12-14: St Patrick's, Church Hill, visitation
- Dec 17: Provincial Council Meeting

Appointments

The following appointments for 2014 were recently announced:

Fred Kado is appointed a member of the parish staff at St Patrick's, Church Hill, as from 1/1/2014;

Aliki Langi is appointed superior of

the Marist community at Gladstone as from 1/1/2014;

Paul Mahony is appointed community superior for Montbel/Maryvale at Hunters Hill as from 1/1/2014;

Kevin Redmond is appointed parish priest of Star of the Sea parish, Gladstone (Qld) as from 1/1/2014.

Personnel

Harry Moore: In recent weeks Harry has been doing a much-appreciated locum at St Patrick's, Church Hill, while Ray Chapman is on annual leave and Jim Harding is recovering from surgery. He recently had a call from + Michael Kennedy, bishop of Armidale, who is currently also administering Wilcannia-Forbes diocese. The bishop was looking for a priest for the parish of Hay for whatever time the priest could manage. Harry couldn't oblige, but told the bishop he'd sniff around. Anyone interested in making Hay while the sun shines could have a word with Harry.

Tony Corcoran: The General Administration has requested an extension of Tony's contract as secretary-general; this was readily agreed to by the Australian province, and we congratulate Tony on the recognition which the extension gives in regard to his competence and dedication.

Willy Melteras: Willy will be ordained to the presbyterate by archbishop Julian Porteous at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill in a ceremony commencing at 6pm on Friday, 29 November. We congratulate Willy on his call to ordination.

Gerald Arbuckle: Gerry left for the United States and places beyond on 25 September. While overseas he will give the keynote address to the Canadian Health Association Assembly, Toronto; present the Louis Luzbetak Memorial Lecture, CTU,

Chicago; and give lectures for the Institute of Religious Formation, Chicago. Then it's off to Oxford as a Research Academic Visitor for two months. Gerry returns to Australia on 29 November. In Gerry's absence Gavin Foster has been manfully endeavouring to keep the water up to the flower garden in front of the RPD headquarters at Villa Maria.

Paul Glynn was in Canberra on the weekend Oct 26-27 to join in anniversary celebrations for the sister city relationship between Canberra and Nara, and to view the special exhibition at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. Paul's brother, Tony, was a strong promoter of the sister city concept, and his role in the Canberra-Nara linking was recognised in the exhibition and the anniversary celebrations.

Paul Pearce and Ron Nissen have both returned to Villa Maria after leading pilgrimage groups in Italy and the Holy Land in the September-October period. While overseas Ron continued to maintain the currency of our website, with new entries several times each week, and more frequently when there was breaking news.

Ron worked in Rome to prepare Colin material for CS13 before spending a short time in France researching material for a kind of 'Lonely Planet guide for Marist pilgrims'.



Jim Carty: Jim successfully completed the Camino pilgrimage walk on 23 October, while somehow managing to find the time and energy to maintain an entertaining daily blog while on the journey. At journey's end he heaped praise on the quality of his boots, which saved him from blisters, while others around him were continually laid low by "severe and debilitating blisters", which were susceptible to infection, sometimes even leading to hospitalisation. Fellow pilgrims fell by the wayside through injury, the lure of local fleshpots, sundry taverns, loss of direction, and a general lack of well-being. But Jim soldiered on and won the prize. It's good to have Jim back, and we congratulate him on a wonderful achievement.

Gavin Foster will continue as a member of the Villa Maria community in 2014. During next year he will complete his Clinical Pastoral Education qualification, and assist with chaplaincy duties at St Joseph's college, Hunters Hill.

Deaths

John McMillan: John died in Royal North Shore hospital, Sydney, on Wednesday 9 October. He had previously had surgery for a fractured hip, following a fall at Montbel on September 5. His Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on Friday, 18 October. **Peter McMurrich** presided in the absence of the provincial, and **Kevin Bates** delivered a fine homily, which comes with this Circular as an attachment. The delayed funeral date accommodated the circumstances of family members wishing to travel to Sydney for the funeral, and the availability of our funeral director.



Dr John Roughan died in Honiara on 24 October. He was an American Marist Father who went to the Solomons, left the Society and married and has since lived an exemplary life in the Solomons working for development. Confreres with links to the Solomon Islands will recognise his name.

Fr Roland Bernier SM
d.12.09.2013. Waltham, USA
(American Province)

Fr Robert Lang SM
d.22.09.2013 Ste Foy-les-Lyon,
France (Europe Province)

Fr Luis Maldonado SM
d.28.10.2013. Puebla, Mexico
(Mexican Province)



Sick

Jim Harding has bounced back well following neck surgery in early September to relieve arthritic pain in his hands and fingers. His return to the confessional box at St Patrick's is imminent.

J.V. Walsh: John had a fall on September 11 and sustained a fracture of his lower femur. Following surgery at Royal North Shore hospital he transferred to Longueville Private hospital, where he is currently recovering, prior to physio and rehab.

Br Mika Cilicewa: Mika will come to Sydney shortly for ankle surgery at the Mater hospital on 15 November. He will be completely immobilized for 3 months of recovery and will stay at Maryvale/Montbel during this period. We wish Mika all the best for a successful surgical procedure.

News

Marist retreat 2013

Fr David Kennerley sm, Provincial-Elect for New Zealand, was the retreat master for the Australian Province Retreat this year. David is well known to us having been Novice Master to our younger confreres and in recent years lived and ran novitiates for the Society here in Sydney.

Twenty-seven confreres took part in this year's retreat that was held at



Maryvale from 15th – 20th September. Most of the participants came from the Hunters Hill communities but seven came from interstate or from overseas. It was a particular blessing to have Ichiba san with us.

Age makes it difficult to sit for long periods and more frequent "pit stops" are apparently an inevitable consequence of getting older. Poor hearing is also a hassle for some as they get older. A good number of our more senior confreres remarked on these situations when they spoke of doing a retreat these days but they were quick to say how delighted they were that they could participate in the Province retreat and get David's great insight and reflections. Perhaps with age the wisdom comes and assists one to be able to recognise the signs of the times.

The province is particularly grateful to David for honouring his promise and not using what would have been a legitimate excuse to get out of giving us a great retreat opportunity.

Jubilarians' Mass and dinner

Thirty-seven Marists attended our annual prayer and thanksgiving event honouring the confreres who celebrated a Jubilee this year. As has been the practice in recent times the Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner was held on the last night of the Annual Province Retreat, this year the 20th September, in the Hunters Hill Church and Parish Hall.

Unfortunately, with Paul Glynn (60th), Jim Carty (50th), Luke Holohan (25th), and Mick Jacques (25th) all overseas at the time of the celebrations they had to be remembered in prayer and toasted *in absentia*. The jubliarians who were present were Syd Nugent (60th), John Begg (50th), Br Colin Campbell (60th Prof) and Mika Cilicewa (40th Prof.)

At Mass John Begg was principal celebrant and Bob Barber preached the homily.

Once again Avacardo Caterers provided a nice meal for us. Mick Whelan's toast to those jubilarians who were present was a sensitive tribute to these men who had given much in the mission.

Kev Stewart was okay as MC but he had a terrible (not naughty, just hopeless!) joke that he shared with the group, taking away something from his otherwise ordinary performance. However, most who attended the dinner had already forgotten Kevin's joke by the end of the evening because in replying on behalf of the jubilarians, John Begg told a parable, a very long one, that was a howler! Things threatened to turn ugly for a moment but when Beggy finally remembered the punch line the slightly inebriated crowd quietened. The attempt, by one anonymous confrere, to equate John Begg's ability as a story-teller with John Worthington was unkind and completely uncalled for.



Spirituality & Life Programme: This year's programme commenced at Villa Maria on Monday, 7 October; initially with 9 starters, with a 10th participant arriving in the second week of the programme. The programme is being directed by **Paul Sullivan**, and **Pio Fong** from the Oceania province.

CS 2013: By the time this Provincial Circular hits the streets, CS 2013 will be well and truly done and dusted. **Bob Barber** returned home from Dublin on Monday, 28 October. **Ben McKenna**, Provincial of Oceania, and **Pat Devlin**, District Superior of the Philippines, both spent time in Sydney on their way back to their respective missions.

Sesquicentenary of the St Joseph Chapel: On Tuesday, 15 October, we commemorated the 150th anniversary of the building of the St Joseph chapel, situated in the Villa Maria grounds. This was the first building erected by the Marists on their new Villa Maria site, with design and construction by **Claude Joly sm**. Around 50 invited guests (Hunters Hill and other Sydney Marists; S&L participants; parishioners and friends) gathered at 5pm at the chapel for a brief liturgy, followed by drinks on the back cloister. Claude presented to his Marist confreres as somewhat severe and aloof, so it is unclear whether he would have approved of the pre-dinner drinks. We went ahead anyway, and then enjoyed a

sit-down meal in the Villa Maria dining room. The occasion was also an opportunity to welcome the S&L participants to Sydney. In association with the anniversary of the chapel, two sculptured wall mountings were commissioned for the chapel from local sculptor, **Dan Dominguez**: one depicting St Joseph with the child Jesus, and the other an image of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The St Joseph sculpture was paid for by the estate of **Tony King's** brother, Paul.

Ron Nissen has designed an engaging pamphlet which tells the story of the chapel, and a copy is enclosed with this Provincial Circular

Burnie Parish: On the weekend of 19/20 October, the archbishop of Hobart announced that **John Girdauskas** will be the new parish priest of the Burnie/Wynyard parish, while at the same time having responsibility for the parish of the West Coast (incorporating Queens-town, Zeehan, Rosebury, and Strahan). On the last weekend of November, Feast of Christ the King, the Burnie/Wynyard parish is marking its transition from Marist administration, and this will be an opportunity to formally welcome their new par-



ish priest, prior to the handover at the end of December. A good number of confreres who have worked in Burnie will be travelling south for that weekend.

Tony Biddle: Congratulations to Tony, who is about to be made a Knight of the Order of St Sylvester for his distinguished services to the Church in the archdiocese of Sydney. The investiture will take place at Cathedral House on Wed, Nov 13: Garry Reynolds, Bob Barber, and Peter McMurrich will represent the province and hopefully bring back some photos. The honour is richly deserved, and will coincide with the conclusion of many years of dedicated and extremely competent service by Tony, most recently as province manager, and before that as business manager at CTU. The day after the investiture, the new papal knight will be feted by confreres, friends, and supporters at a special morning tea at Hunters Hill.

For those interested in the medal worn by Knights of St Sylvester, our research team came up with the following: *The current decoration or cross of the Order is a gold cross of white enamelled surface, in the centre of which is impressed the image of St. Sylvester, surrounded by a blue enamelled circle bearing the inscription in letters of gold SANC. SYLVESTER P. M. On the obverse, in the centre, are the Papal tiara and crossed keys with the date of the Order's restoration under Gregory: MDCCCXXXR, and that of the Pius X renovation, MDCCCXCV, impressed in characters of gold upon a blue circle. The ribbon of the decoration is black silk with three narrow red stripes. The star or badge is the cross of the Order attached to a silver star.* And for those wanting to know a little about the clobber worn by Knights of St Sylvester, here's the drill: *The official uniform is a black coat ornamented with one row of gilt buttons, black velvet, gold-embroidered collar and cuffs, black gold-striped trousers, a bicornered cocked silk hat with a cockade of the papal colors.* Just the thing when going to the bank, or even picking up

a takeaway pizza. Guaranteed pronto fast service!!

Maryvale/Montbel: Job advertisements have recently been placed for a full-time manager's position based at Montbel, which may eventually also incorporate the management of Villa Maria. The provincial has recently met with the Villa Maria and Maryvale/Montbel communities, and with our employees at those communities, signaling the possibility of management changes, and consideration being given to engaging contract services for catering and cleaning at both places. It is expected that job interviews will take place early in November.

Parched Earth: for 3 months Sydney has had no significant rain, combined with some early season hot days. The result is that the Villa Maria grounds are looking increasingly dry and heat stressed. The grass is turning white, and is starting to make a "crunch" sound when walked on. We're hoping for a significant turnaround in the weather before much longer.

Holy Name of Mary Church: Every decade or so the ongoing rising damp problem in Holy Name of Mary church needs attention. So at the moment work is under way on the lower stones of the walls to try and arrest the deleterious effects of the moisture buildup and the corrosive salts which the moisture carries. From time to time weekday Masses will have to be held in the chapter hall adjoining the church, but Sunday Masses, weddings, and funerals will be able to proceed as normal while the work continues.

Publications

Congratulations to **Gerry Arbuckle** on the publication of his new book, [Catholic Identity or Identities](#), Liturgical Press, 2013, paperback. Way back in the 1990s we referred to Gerry's fecund pen, and 5 books later that description is even more apposite, though the advent of the computer means that it's not quite literally true.

Advertising

NSW Working with Children Check:

Thanks to all the NSW based confreres who have forwarded copies of their WWCC clearances to the provincial office. For confreres working in the archdiocese of Sydney, copies of these have now been forwarded to the Sydney chancery. Just a reminder that anyone currently holding faculties in Sydney archdiocese must provide their clearance to the provincial office for sending on to the chancery. **Faculties will be withdrawn from any priest who has not furnished a WWC clearance as at 31/12/2013.**

Queensland Blue Card: Again, thanks to all the Queensland based confreres who have forwarded details of their Blue Card to the provincial office.

Notice to Individual Subscribers: If you receive an individual copy of this Circular (as opposed to copies sent to communities and works), you may prefer to have your copy emailed as a PDF attachment rather than receive it through the mail. This may appeal particularly to people overseas.

Anyone wishing to change their status to email recipient can contact: vicarprovincial@maristfathers.org.au and we'll do the rest.

Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse

The Royal Commission is currently operating on a number of levels: it has held a limited number of public hearings; it is conducting private interviews with victims who wish to tell their story of abuse; it has published three "Issues Papers" inviting public submissions on particular topics; it is active in conducting investigations and research; it has issued "Notices to Produce".

So far 6 Catholic dioceses/archdioceses have been issued with "Notices to Produce": Rockhampton, Brisbane, Wollongong, Bathurst, Bunbury, and Geraldton. These units are required to surrender all docu-

ments in their possession relating to institutional child abuse.

Because the Marist Fathers have worked or still are working in the dioceses/archdiocese of Rockhampton, Brisbane, and Wollongong, we have been expecting to receive a parallel "Notice to Produce" in relation to those three areas. Similarly, when and if other Catholic dioceses are served with Notices, we would expect parallel Notices to be served on us if we worked in those dioceses.

It may be, and is probably likely, that individual religious orders will also be served with their own Notices, requesting all the documentation they have in relation to child sexual abuse for all their works throughout Australia.

So far Catholic Church units and agencies have not featured in public hearings of the Royal Commission. However, in December the Royal Commission will hold public hearings in Sydney in relation to the Church's Towards Healing process; and early next year a particular (and so far unnamed) religious order will be the focus of public hearings.

The Catholic Church's Truth, Justice, and Healing Council is acting as a conduit between the Royal Commission and the various Church agencies, dioceses, and religious orders, for the assessment and production of documents. The TJH Council, through its lawyers, Gilbert & Tobin, is reviewing and assessing material held by each Church unit, and as necessary, making that material available to the Royal Commission.

A flyer from the Truth, Justice, and Healing Council is attached with this Provincial Circular. Apologies to Marists who work elsewhere than in Sydney, in that all the quotes in the attached flyer are from Sydney metropolitan bishops. There are variants of the flyers, targeted to various areas of Australia, so that the episcopal statements are adjusted to match wherever the flyers are distributed.

Council Discussed

Items on the agenda for the September meeting of the Council included:

- Donation of \$5000 to the Pacific Regional Seminary, Suva, for their ruby anniversary
- Approval of expenditure for sculptured wall mountings for St Joseph Chapel
- Construction of a columbarium in association with the Villa Maria cemetery
- Herston: possibilities for the future
- Marist Youth Leadership Camp, 2014

- Financial Report
- Vocations and Formation issues;
- Future planning Maryvale/Montbel
- Professional Standards and Towards Healing Matters
- Staffing of Gladstone parish.

Provincial directory

Paul Cooney's official email address in Rome is: paul.cooney@maristism.org. Contact him for an interest free loan, or free financial advice.



Combined JP event

Marist Justice & Peace groups from Villa Maria parish, the Marist Sisters and the Marist Fathers combined to host an afternoon event at the parish hall on Oct 19.

The afternoon was introduced by **Sr Vivienne Goldstein SM** and parish priest, **Kevin Bates**. Keynote speakers were **Prof Louise Newman** from the Centre for Developmental Psychiatry & Psychology at Monash University, Vic, and **Abdi Aden**, Somalian refugee, arriving in Australia in the 1990s as a young teenager.

Girls from Monte Sant' Angelo school gave first hand reflections of their 'detention cage' experiences at school, simulating the plight of detained asylum seekers.



General Administration

2015 Marist Renewal: The General Administration has advised of a Marist renewal program, to be held at La Neyliere, France, in the first 6 months of 2015, for confreres fluent in either French or English. The focus of the renewal is to assist men to deepen their conversion and bind them more closely to the mission of the Society. It can be described broadly as a creative retrieval of the second novitiate of Fr Colin, which consists of a five-month period of withdrawal from full-time active ministry. It is aimed at Marists who are about 10 years forward of their final profession, and provincials and district superiors are invited to submit names for consideration.

Council of the Society 2013: Many confreres would have watched the YouTube audio-visuals from Dublin, and read the regular news bulletins. Attached with this Circular are two important documents which emerged at the end of the meeting: **Review of Government Document** and **Statement of Commitment**.

Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

Currumbin

The self-contained flat at Currumbin is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through the provincial office.

Current Currumbin bookings

Nov 03-16: Jim Hargrave
Dec 01-06: Tom Ryan guests
Dec 15-22: John Thornhill
Jan 01-14, 2014: Michael Carroll
Jan 15 – Feb 12: Tom Ryan
Feb 13—20: Maintenance (refer Tom Ryan)
Feb 04 – 10: Kevin Stewart
Jun 29 – Jul 19: Bob Barber

Booking of Currumbin Nov 30 – Dec 01 incl: For Fr Mark Walls sm and team conducting the Marist Youth Leaders camp at Woodlawn in early December. All upstairs area is booked – not the flat.

Booking of Currumbin Feb 04-10 incl.: both the flat and the upstairs area in use for meeting (refer Kevin Stewart)

Bilgola

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.

There are currently no bookings held for this facility

Enclosures

- Homily for John McMillan (Kevin Bates)
- Clergy Life & Ministry: Information Bulletin No.97
- Truth Justice & Healing Council flyer
- Review of Government Document (CS2013)
- Statement of Commitment (CS2013)
- St Joseph's Chapel pamphlet

