



## Provincial Circular

No.6 Dec, 2013

### Provincial's letter

Dear Confreres

The last twelve months have flown. It seems like it has only been a few weeks since I took over from Paul Cooney in the provincial's chair.

A lot of wonderful things have happened in the Province in the last year and, unfortunately, a number of negative things have also occurred. I know that by nature I can tend to bemoan that the glass is half empty, which make the negatives on my balance sheet seem big, but we have to remember this is the third week of Advent and we need a strong dose of JOY and a positive outlook as we approach 2014!

#### 'Marist Saints'

We lost three great confreres during the year but we can feel very confident that they are in a much better place today and, as Br Charles Howard FMS would refer to them, they are among our "Marist Saints". We had too quite a few serious illnesses but, for the most part, good recovery has been made or is being made.

We missed out on our "bonanza" in selling land we had at Glen Eden (Gladstone) but looking for the positives again, we are still there for when the boom returns. We had to end our 60 year presence in Burnie with the withdrawal of Tony and Fred from Burnie-Wynyard parish but our leaving was well done by Tony Kennedy and the parish and College have been left in good hands.

#### Chapter decisions

I am disappointed that we did not get enough done on implementing some decisions of last year's Provincial Chapter, particularly with being able to clearly explain, to ourselves and others, what we mean by our prioritization of ministries. But that is something we will do next year. As a province group we will begin with our studying and sharing on St Pat's in April and then move onto Hunters Hill and the Mission Centre a little later on.

#### 'The Marist Way'

The work by our Charism Committee is progressing in finding ways to help us share with lay colleagues from the Colleges and parishes we once ran what "the Marist way" is. The committee is crawling at the moment, will take a few faltering steps next year and hopefully will be a two-year old scamper the year after.

#### Vocations

For a while we were making some progress in re-vamping our "vocations" ministry but as the year went on we came off the boil. We haven't given up all hope of establishing a "House of Welcome" but some plans we had in that area have changed in recent times. We hope to recruit in 2014 a part-time lay person to assist us in our vocation promotion.

Our Properties Committee gave us good advice at the beginning of the year. We implemented the first of their suggestions but did not keep the momentum going. We will be coming back to that again in 2014 and begin work on rationalizing our holiday house situation.

#### Maryvale / Montbel

At Hunters Hill, it took a while, but we have begun reorganizing the way Maryvale / Montbel is run. Our new



Ordination of Willy Melteras on Nov 29 by Archbishop Julian Porteous.

manager is in place and when possible she will begin to fix up the staffing arrangements, to cut the workload on our Superior and Marist staff and to give better service to our older, frailer confreres.

The Royal Commission into sexual abuse into institutions in Australia is now well underway. We must keep up our prayers that this very long process will bring peace and justice to all victims and also to help improve us as Church.

### Evaluating

We will hold a Council of the Province on Jun 07 in 2014. This will be a chance for the whole Province to evaluate how things have been going in the Province since the 2012 Chapter and to help us prepare for a Province Assembly in 2015.

I am extremely grateful to the Provincial Council, Kev Bates, Gerry Hall and Kev Stewart, for all their work this year and especially to Peter Mac and Tony Biddle, two blokes it has been an absolute privilege to work with.

I wish all confreres a happy and holy Christmas. Look after yourselves and may our Blessed Mother ever be your model and guardian.

*Bob Barber sm,*  
Provincial



## Provincial Diary

- Dec 17: Provincial Council Meeting
- Dec 20: Provincial Office Closes
- Jan 02: Provincial Office reopens

## Appointments

### Garry Reynolds

Appointed to the St Patrick's parish pastoral team and Marist communi-

ty as from Jul 01, 2014

**Kevin Bates and Kevin Stewart** have agreed to be available if needed as media spokesmen for the Province.

### Mika Cilicewa and Bernie Ryan

Appointed to Maryvale/Montbel community as from Jan 01, 2014.

### Gerard Hall

Appointed interim Brisbane Marist coordinator, and superior at Herston, for 12 months as from Jan 01, 2014.

## Personnel

### Gerald Arbuckle

Gerry is to give the keynote address to the national conference of the Catholic Health Association USA meeting in San Antonio in mid-January.

The theme requested is: The Role of Mission and Culture Formation in the Midst of Change. The Association oversees about 800 hospitals, in addition to innumerable community health, clinics and aged care facilities

### Pius Jones

Pius will complete his contract as school chaplain at Marist Brothers Ashgrove at the end of this year, and has applied for the position of Director of Boarding at St Theresa's college at Abergowrie in the Townsville diocese.

### Willy Melteras

Congratulations to Willy on his ordination to the priesthood at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on the evening of Fri, Nov 29.

Newly appointed archbishop of Hobart, Julian Porteous, was in Sydney for an episcopal conference meeting, and agreed to be the ordaining bishop.

A number of Willy's family, including his mother and brother, came to Sydney for the ceremony.



Fr Willy after his first Mass

The next morning Willy celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Peter Chanel church at Woolwich.

### Lou Molloy

Welcome Back: As announced in a recent circuit message, Lou has applied to formally rejoin the Province.

The canonical position is that Lou did not take any formal steps in regard to laicisation or withdrawal from the Society of Mary, so canonically the way is clear for him to re-join the Province.

If things proceed as expected, Lou will mark his readmission to the Province with a renewal of vows on Feb 02, next year.

### Terry Garrett

While Terry will continue as a member of the Maryvale/Montbel community in the new year, because of the new arrangements in the house, he will not be looking after accounts and carrying the same responsibilities as he has previously. He will continue working at St Pat's, with the Men's Shed, and liaising with the Crow's Nest Woodlawn ex-students. After easing the new superior and manager into their roles Terry will get a chance to re-charge his batteries in the second half of 2014.

### Jim Hargrave

Jim is once again the Chaplain to



Marist Ashgrove. Being acutely aware that school chaplains are getting harder to find, Jim, in consultation with the Principal and key staff members, has come out of "retirement" and will serve the College as Chaplain in a role adapted to his availability. Congratulations on wonderful generosity Jim.

#### **Gavin Foster**

Gavin, on loan from the District of the Philippines, has been appointed as Chaplain to St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill for 2014. Gavin has been doing some chaplaincy work at Joey's over the last couple of months while he has been doing some academic work on CPE through the University of Western Sydney. Gav will continue to reside at Villa.

#### **John Begg**

The Sisters of St Joseph are doing some major renovations to their convent in Nundah and have moved the resident sisters out. John Begg also had to move out. He will be taking up a chaplaincy role with the Little King's movement and will reside in their house at 33 O'Keefe St, Buranda

#### **Lou Molloy and Chris Ketsore**

The Herston community will have two new members in 2014. Lou Molloy will formally take up membership of the province again, and Fr Chris Ketsore from



Interment of Stan Hosie's ashes

Oceania will be doing university studies in Brisbane.

## **Deaths**

#### **Stan Hosie**

Following Stan's death at Santa Monica USA on Jun 25 this year, arrangements were made for some of his ashes to be sent to Australia for repose in the cemetery at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill.

On Thu, Nov 21, local Marists gathered with Stan's brother, John, for a simple ceremony of committal led by vicar Provincial, Peter McMurrich.

#### **Bill O'Donnell**

Bill died suddenly in Hobart on Fri, Nov 08. According to his wish, he was buried without fanfare following a private family ceremony on Nov 15. A couple of weeks later, Garry Reynolds and Paul Pidcock were able to pay a visit to Bill's widow, Dorit, while they were in Tasmania for events associated with the withdrawal of the Marists from Burnie parish.

#### **John Ashwood**

d.20.11.2013, John had been on the teaching staff at Marist Regional College Burnie since 1991; he suffered a heart attack on his way to school

#### **Mark Nee**

Andrew's father, Mark, died in Auckland on Dec 03 following an illness.

#### **Fr Pierre Allard SM**

d.6.11.2013 Gatineau, Canada

#### **Fr Joseph Jennings SM**

d.18.11.2013 Galway, Ireland

#### **Fr Paul Sacco SM**

d.24.11.2013 Middlesbrough, England

## **Sick**

#### **Paul Pearce**

Paul was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Royal North Shore hospital on Nov 18. He has since made a

good recovery, and after a week in Intensive Care and two weeks in a general ward, Paul moved to the Royal North Shore Private hospital for follow up treatment on Dec 09.

#### **J V Walsh**

John continues his recovery from hip surgery at Longueville Private hospital in Sydney.

#### **Fred Limeburner**

Fred was admitted to Intensive Care at Royal North Shore hospital on Nov 14. He then transferred to a general ward, and for about a week found himself looking directly across at Paul Pearce, who was in the same ward. At the time of writing, Fred was anticipating a transfer to the Ryde Rehabilitation Centre in Morrison Road.

#### **John Jago**

John had shoulder surgery at the Mater hospital on Nov 19, and then transferred to Hunters Hill Private hospital. He is back at Maryvale/Montbel, and is making a good recovery.

#### **Mika Cilicewa**

Mika entered the Mater Private on Nov 18 for ankle surgery, but the operation was postponed while his general health is being assessed. He has now returned to Maryvale/Montbel.

#### **Bill Ryder**

Bill was admitted briefly to Royal Prince Alfred hospital on Nov 20 following issues with his balance. He has been back at Maryvale/Montbel for a couple of weeks.

#### **Jim Harding**

Jim had surgery on his neck early in November at St Vincent's Private hospital, and after being discharged, had to return for several weeks because the wound was not healing satisfactorily. He is now back at St Patrick's, but is still having follow-up treatment.

## Greg Ferguson

Greg was admitted to Ryde hospital on Dec 03 with a suspected fractured hip. Tests revealed there was no break, but Greg still spent a period in hospital recovering from severe bruising.

## News

### Review of Holiday Houses

For some years now there have been surveys and questionnaires from the Provincial Administration regarding the usage of our holiday properties at Currumbin and Bilgola.

Earlier this year the Province Properties Committee was asked to review a number of our existing properties, including Currumbin and Bilgola.

Their strong recommendation was that both properties should be disposed of in the immediate to mid-term future, and other arrangements put in place for holiday venues.

Currently we spend around \$30,000 annually to maintain both properties. The main cost to the Province however is in the \$5.9 million we have tied up in the two houses.

If they were sold, and the money invested, we would be earning in excess of \$300,000 per year.

Both houses are under utilised, Bilgola massively so.

A further factor in regard to Bilgola is that Pittwater Council have signaled a move to a more restrictive zoning and development regime which may make the property more difficult to sell if we hold on to it.

The present expectation of the Provincial Administration is that we will be closing Bilgola sometime next year, and selling the property.

There are no definite plans at this stage in regard to Currumbin; how long we retain it will depend on the amount of usage it receives.



Before any moves are made to sell either property, alternative arrangements will be put in place for other holiday accommodation options.

A range of holiday rental properties could be identified in various parts of Australia, for example, and these could be rented as needed by the Provincial Administration for members of the Province.

The saving to the Province would be substantial, since we would be paying only for the accommodation we needed, and there could be a variety of different venues.

Early in the new year, and before anything goes ahead, there will be the opportunity for comments and suggestions.

### New Business Manager

**Andrew Biddle** will commence work with us as our new Province business manager at the end of January.

There will be a transition period of a couple of weeks when Tony Biddle will also be on deck to ensure a smooth transition.

Tony will hand over his mobile-phone number to Andrew, so that Andrew can be contacted on that number.

### Maryvale/Montbel Manager

On Mon, Dec 09, **Margaret Ploskodniak** commenced work at Maryvale/Montbel as the very first house manager.

Margaret's previous position was Transition Care Manager at Wesley Gardens, Belrose, for Uniting Care Ageing.

Within a couple of days of starting work, Margaret was able to meet with Paul Mahony, the new community Superior, who came to Sydney for a few days orientation with Garry Reynolds. Garry will hand over to



Maryvale/Montbel's house manager, Margaret Ploskodniak





S & L graduates, with certificates, at their closing Eucharist

Paul immediately after Christmas.

**Spirituality & Lifestyle Program**

This year’s S&L Program concluded with a Mass and dinner at Hunters Hill on Wed, Dec 11.

Within a couple of days, program director, Paul Sullivan, was on his way back to Macksville, and the participating confreres were heading back to their postings in Oceania.

In a comprehensive report which he presented to the Provincial and Vicar on Dec 10, Paul stated: “In general there was a very positive response to the program by the participants, team and presenters.

Evaluations indicated that the needs and hopes of the participants were met and the aims of the program were satisfactorily addressed”.

Next year’s S & L will be the last in Sydney. From 2015 there will be enough graduands of this program to enable a new program to be put in place within the regions of the Oceania Province.

**New Papal Knight**

**Tony Biddle** was duly inducted as a papal knight at a ceremony presided over by Cardinal George Pell at Cathedral House, Sydney, on Nov 13.

Bob Barber, Peter McMurrich, Garry

Reynolds, and Michael Whelan represented the Province at the ceremony, and were later guests of the Biddle clan for a festive meal at the home of Paul Biddle, Tony’s son, at Artarmon.

The new knight was presented with a gold crown during the meal, and obligingly wore it during the meal, to the admiration and amusement of all present.

Once again we congratulate Tony on receiving this honour, a fitting recognition of his work for the Province and the wider Church.

**Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**

The Marist aboriginal Catholic ministry currently based at Macksville will close at the end of 2014.

The provincial recently travelled to Lismore to advise the bishop and other stakeholders.

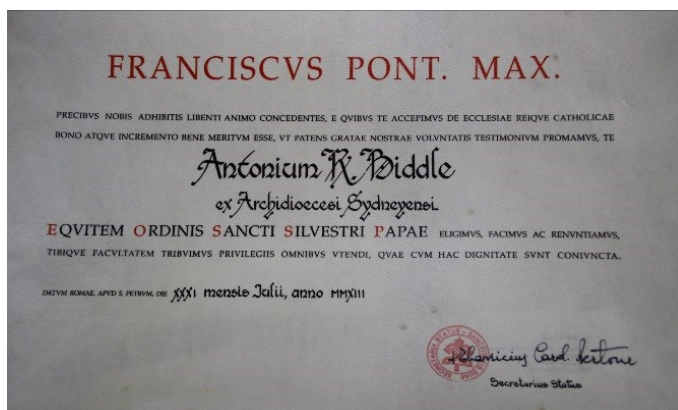
This ministry was originally established through the vision and drive of Bernie Ryan, and recent years have seen Paul Sullivan at the helm.

Towards the end of 2014 Paul will lead the final S&L program scheduled at Villa Maria, and then take a period of renewal/refreshment prior to commencing a new work.

**Marist Youth Leadership Course**

The six day Marist Youth Leadership course offered by Fr Mark Walls sm , Kim Evans and a team of helpers, graduate assistants now at university who have done earlier courses, was held at Woodlawn in the second week of December.

This year saw 75 Year 11 students from Marist Regional College (Burnie), Holy Spirit College (Bellambi), St John’s College Woodlawn (Lismore) and Marist Sisters’



College (Woolwich) participated.

The course offers theory and practical leadership components, challenge exercises of an outward bound nature, and practical prayer and spirituality experiences. Staff and students from this year's program echo the positive endorsements that the MYL program has gained over the years.

The organizers and participants are most grateful to Mr Chris Comerford, Principal, and the Woodlawn community for not only allowing this program to happen but for the great support they give to it.

## Publications

On Nov 29 Andrew Murray launched a second edition of his book based on his doctoral thesis: *Intentional Species and the Identity Between the Knower and Known according to Thomas Aquinas* (Strathfield, CIS, 2013).

You can snap up a hardcover copy at \$70, slum it with the paperback version for \$30, or do an Uncle Scrooge and read it for free on eBook.

## Advertising

### Council of the Province 2014

The last Provincial Chapter changed our legislation with regard to Councils of the Province.

Previously there was one required each year except in a Chapter year.

The new requirement is that the Council needs to meet at least once between Chapters.

Accordingly, the Council of the Province will meet next year, 2014, on Jun 07, 2014.

There is a panel of 12 names elected by the 2012 Chapter; 6 of these attend the Council of the Province, together with various *ex officio* participants.



### Provincial Retreats 2014

This year we will trial a slightly different format for the Provincial Retreat. In fact, there will be two:

- One retreat will be hosted & organised by the Maryvale/Montbel community at Hunters Hill, with an invitation to any Marist who wishes to attend;
- The other will be organised by the Provincial Administration, possibly in the Sept-Oct period, and possibly at Mittagong.

We will finalise dates and other arrangements early in the New Year.

### Give Us a Break!

Santa's elves at the Provincial Office have been dropping hints to the boss like wildfire about having some time off over Christmas. Accordingly, the Province Office will close on the afternoon of Fri, Dec 20, and reopen on Thu, Jan 02. Happy Christmas to everyone from the elves.

## Council Discussed

At the monthly Council meeting on Nov 19-20 the following matters were discussed:

- Appointment of Vocations Director and Marist Charism Executive Officer
- Marist Mission Centre Quarterly Report
- Membership of Provincial Com-

mittees

- Herston: Appointment of Superior; composition of community in 2014
- Council of the Province 2014
- Province Media Spokesman and Media Protocol
- Burials, Cremations, and Various Options
- Closure of Macksville Ministry
- Meeting with Lou Molloy

## Provincial directory

Please note **Andrew Murray's** new residential address:

Andrew Murray  
4112/10 Porter St, Ryde, NSW 2112  
Ph. +61 2 8094 9302  
[apmurray9@optusnet.com.au](mailto:apmurray9@optusnet.com.au)

## Combined Anzac Directory

In 2014 we will be again combining with the New Zealand Province in the production of a joint Province Directory.

Copies should be available towards the end of January. Next year also sees us due for a new edition of the SM International Index; again, it is hoped to print this in Rome in mid-January, which should see it in your hot little hands towards the end of the month.



## Marist Family

### Marist Sisters' Renewal

A group of a dozen or so Marist Sisters junior professed from the Pacific, Asia and Europe are currently on a six-week renewal program at the Christian Brothers' Centre at Mulgoa.

The program commenced on Dec 01. On Nov 26 Peter McMurrich conducted them on a tour of St Patrick's and The Rocks, and later in the day showed them around Villa Maria.

A group of six or so confreres from the Sydney area are taking it in turns to provide Mass at Mulgoa for the participants.

## Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

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:

**Dec 01-06:** Tom Ryan guests

**Dec 15-22:** John Thornhill

**Jan 01-14:** Michael Carroll

**Jan 15-Feb 12:** Tom Ryan

**Feb 13-20:** Maintenance (refer Tom Ryan)

**Mar 04-10:** Kevin Stewart (all Currumbin)

**Mar 28-Apr 05:** Tom Ryan guests

**Apr 06-12:** Jim Hargrave

**May 18-20:** Provincial Council (all Currumbin)

**Jun 29-Jul 19:** Bob Barber

**Sep 16-30:** Peter McMurrich

**Oct 01-31:** Ray Chapman

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 are:

**Dec 05-18:** Gavin Foster

**Dec 27-Jan 04:** Michael Mullins

**Jan 05-11:** Tony Kennedy

## Enclosures

- Kalendarium 2014
- John McMillan memorial card



## JPICC Corner

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

In a ceremony at Maesot on the Thai-Burma border, Thailand, on Nov 23 six former members of the 'Bridge Program' graduated from Australian Catholic university's online liberal arts course.

Around the same time five BP-ers from the current 2013 program were accepted by ACU for 2014.

*Left:* Some of the ex-BP-er graduates. *Right:* BP-ers of 2013.

