

***A message to Fr Paul Glynn's community from Fr Ben McKenna SM,
former Assistant-General of the Society of Mary.***

I just wanted to acknowledge Paul as a very significant Marist confrere in my formation days.

I am grateful to have been part of the Charismatic Prayer group he started - Mary of Pentecost - in what was the Parish Hall in those days, back in the mid-70's.

I remember well the first meeting: some 10 people or so in the Hall. Then within 3-6 months we had to move to the Church because of the numbers - 100-200 hundred or more. They were certainly days of life, inspiration and fire of the Spirit.

Paul always focussed on the Fruits of the Spirit being more important than the Gifts of the Spirit: so he had a solid foundation.

He engaged many lay people, and seminarians in his Prayer Group: and facilitated the work of the Spirit in enabling so many to have the direct personal experience of God working in their lives: which is what God so much desires.

For a man who helped so many receive new life and inner healing it remains a mystery why he himself had to suffer so much in the dark night.

I have kept his photo on my cell-phone this last year: so that I could say a small prayer for him each time I opened my phone.

He has been one of our living Marist saints: and inspiration to all of us: one of Christ's suffering servants.

May he receive the fullness of life, rejoice in the company of our God, with so many he has helped to arrive in God's Presence; and pray for us to complete our Journey well.

Fraternally,

Ben McKenna SM

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