

# Marist Lay Matters

March 2011



Welcome to **Marist Lay Matters**

## What's Hot

### “Tomorrow Began Yesterday”

So says the document just published by the Province of New Zealand informing about its recently held 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter in Sydney. The following are excerpts from the document:

“Three significant events in the past two years are permanently changing the face of the New Zealand Province: 1) The XXI General Chapter, 2) New Zealand Provincial Assembly and 3) Concurrent Provincial Chapters and Assembly held in Sydney in December 2010.

The Concurrent Chapters extended the work done by the previous events.

Seven guiding principles for restructuring were named:

1.Relationships 2.Marist Life and Mission 3.Culture and Cultural Values 4.Co-responsibility in Mission 5.Structures 6.Resources 7.Pastoral Care

Marist life and mission (which Lay Marists share with Brothers) is ‘carried out within the context of the evangelising mission of the Church’ and the focus for all Champagnat Marists is ‘children and young people, especially the poor.’

The call to co-responsibility includes ‘communion between Brothers and Lay Marists, expressed through co-responsibility in decision-making, requiring effective shared formation programmes taking into account the reality of people’s lives.’”



*Province Leaders sign agreement on new structures*

### Restructuring of the Provinces in Oceania

“Up until now Oceania has been structured with three Provinces, Melbourne, New Zealand and Sydney, plus the District of Melanesia. There is to be a new structure which will be worked on over the next three years. It will consist of:

- A new Province of Australia and two Districts; New Zealand and Melanesia.

There has been a strong emphasis by all involved that 'The future shape of the region will emerge in a way which reflects the special character of the four units and the practical implications of living out our new relationship.'

### Comment

Clearly all the hard work of the last year or two is bringing to fruition a new Marist world for the region of Oceania. Lay Marists are integral in that change as they fulfil many of the ministries previously carried out by Brothers. For Lay Marists to be able to have a say at the table for decision-making they need to form a clear Lay Marist identity. That was also an evidential outcome of the 'Towards a 2020 Vision' Lay Marist Conference held in Brisbane last year. In the New Zealand Province Lay Marists are beginning to work through that process and this coming weekend sees one of those opportunities for clarification arising:

### What's Up

**Lay Marist Meeting** – St Bernard's College, Saturday 26 March, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm

A group of Lay Marists are meeting to discern their local identity in the face of these rapidly changing times. They will do so considering their needs, aims and aspirations. They will do this in a spirit consistent with the calls of recent Marist gatherings.

Enquiries to me at: [champagnatpartnershipnz@gmail.com](mailto:champagnatpartnershipnz@gmail.com)

### Marist Retreat Weekend Reminder (There are still spaces available)

**Venue:** Tyburn Monastery

**Dates:** 10 am 16 April – 1.30 pm 17 April

**Purpose:** To bring people up to date with what's happening in the Marist world and to offer an opportunity to experience Marist spirituality and companionship.

**Cost:** \$90 (includes accommodation and meals)

If you, a lay person or brother, wish to attend please contact Brother Kevin O'Malley at [kom.marist@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kom.marist@xtra.co.nz), or phone: 09 636 1522 before March 30. Alternatively contact me.

### Recent Events

The Marist Secondary Schools Student Leaders' Forum was held at Hato Petera College. 38 leaders from 12 schools experienced a three-day forum led by Brothers Terence Costello, Kevin Dobbyn and myself. If their evaluations are anything to go by this experience will have strongly enhanced their sense of being Marist leaders in their colleges in 2011 and the experience itself will have been a life-changing one.



*Young Marist Leaders Gather*

In the Spirit of Mary and Marcellin  
Alan Parker  
(DCP: Director of Champagnat Partnership)