

Marist Champagnat Family Newsletter

Marist Brothers New Zealand Province
December 2011

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Dear Friends

This is our last newsletter for 2011, so here is a Christmas thought for all Marists: May Christmas this year inspire us all to do what Mary of Nazareth did so well: keep bringing to life and nurturing to fullness in those near and dear to us, as well as in those who may not be quite so near and dear to us, all that is best in human nature. A very happy Christmas to all our readers!

BROTHER HILARION COWEN R.I.P. from a tribute by Brother Colin

Brother Hilarion died in Auckland Hospital on September 6th, aged 87. Born James Cowen in Wairoa on May 8 1924, he had been a Marist Brother for 68 years.



Like so many other families in those Depression years, Jim's parents made do with quite limited resources: the family cow, fruit trees in the back garden, kahawai and flounder from the river, and potatoes grown in a nearby vacant section. He had great admiration for his Mum and Dad who taught him among many other virtues a thriftiness and avoidance of waste – as indicated by his final pair of slippers!

We can thank a Josephite Sister at Wairoa Catholic School for inviting young Jim to have a go at becoming a Marist Brother. With the generous approval of his parents, off he



went to Tuakau, where he met a group of young lads of like mind who were to share his life for the next seventy years. Some of those men attended his funeral: Brothers Romuald, and Brian Wanden, with Claudius and Emilian paying their respects from Lower Hutt. Along with Hilarion, they made a formidable contribution to Catholic education for over half a century.

Hilarion spent quality years as a principal-headmaster in Wanganui and Napier, leading the community, teaching full time and coaching sport. Both schools and the Brothers' homes were brand new, modern and spacious. Classes were always full, parent support was overwhelming, old boys were keen to spoil us and we thought this golden age would never end. Hilarion never fancied himself as a good school man but numerous fellow-teachers and pupils would disagree; they remember him fondly as approachable, loyal, enthusiastic, humorous, compassionate and gentle. His unassuming, humble and practical manner fit neatly into Marcellin's footprints.

Not too many of us in New Zealand really knew Hilarion well. Apart from the last five years at Marcellin College where he did great work as a tutor, he had been in the Fiji Islands for almost 30 years. When our men there came back for a break, they would always head for Hil and share jolly memories of places like Savarekareka, Savusavu, Napuka, Suva Street and Vatuwaqa, with rowdy replays of highly debatable Scrabble games often a feature.

In his last weeks his Richmond Rd community often remembered him with these words: "Take Hilarion to yourself, loving God. Give him the gifts of peace and calmness of spirit in these last days.

May our prayer support him on his final journey home to you. We have loved him in life and we surrender him back to your loving embrace full of confidence in your love for each of us."

After Requiem Mass at St Paul's College chapel on September 9th, Brother Hilarion was buried at Waikaraka Cemetery, Auckland.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Our honoured men cut their Jubilee cake

On October 19th the Brothers gathered at Sacred Heart College to celebrate their jubilees, especially those of significant years: Brothers George McRae (70 years), Terence Maney and Sam Eathorne (60 years), Edward Clisby, Peter Henderson and Henry Spinks (50

years), Kevin Dobbyn and Kees van der Weert (40 years). Congratulations!

FINAL VOWS

Brother Luke Fong, who teaches at Marcellin Centre, Suva, will make his final profession of vows on January 14th 2012. We congratulate Luke on this major commitment and assure him of our best wishes and fraternal support.

ANNUAL RETREAT AT SACRED HEART COLLEGE



Our Brother Kieran Fenn directed the retreat, examining our present situation as a religious Order in the light of the experiences of Job, the three stages of Isaiah, and the Psalms of

orientation, disorientation and new orientation. Kieran gave us clear and positive guidelines to help us to be grateful for our past, to cope positively with our present situation, to look forward with great hope for our future – and to go easy on the Lamentations! Kieran was ably helped by Father John Allardyce SM who helped us realise Mary's rightful place in the Church and in our daily living.

THREE BROTHERS CONTINUE THE SECOND WAVE OF MISSION TO THE PACIFIC

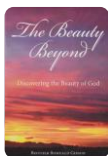
Our Provincial, Brother David, is inviting Brothers to go to our Pacific Island schools to share their expertise for a time, and there has been a ready response.

At age 77 when most of us would be looking for some cool place of peace and quiet, Brother Joe McDermott has volunteered to go almost to the Equator to help deaf children in Kiribati. Affected by deafness himself, he has learned how to teach sign language very successfully, in Auckland, in Fiji, and now in a School for the Handicapped on Tarawa. School starts at 9, there is a half-hour break at 10.30, lunch at 12.30 and school ends at 2.00. Joe reports that by 9.30 he is bathed in sweat, but the boys respond very well to his efforts, the staff is very supportive, and his work is most rewarding. Good on you, Joe; a wonderful effort and a real inspiration to all of us and all your pupils.



Brother Joseph with three of his students in Kiribati

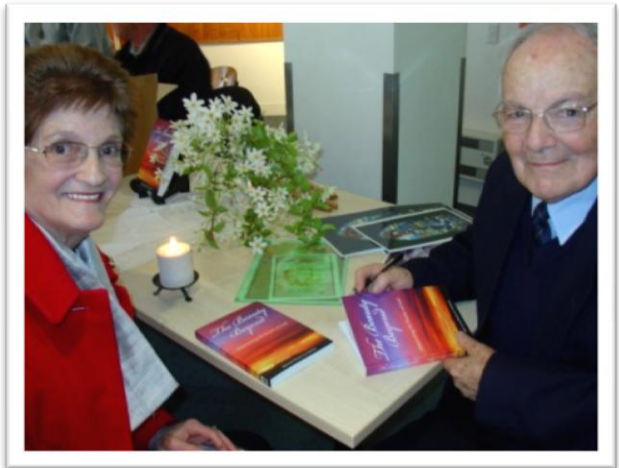
Mission to the Pacific continues with Brother Sjaosi Ioane moving from St Joseph's College in Samoa to Kiribati to help with governance and management matters at St Louis High School. As well, Brother Bryan Stanaway has made himself available to St Joseph's College to help the staff there with professional development.



**BOOK LAUNCH FOR
BROTHER ROMUALD'S
"THE BEAUTY BEYOND"**

A large crowd gathered at Sacred Heart College on September 18th to launch

Romuald's latest publication. Father Neil Darragh shared his insights into the book, then Rom spoke on why he wrote it. Brother David then led a blessing and unveiling of the book. We are happy to report that it has sold very well, especially when embellished with Rom's signature!



Brother Romuald happily signs a copy of his book at the Book Launch

**MARIST YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
THE GROVE IS TEN YEARS OLD**

In January 2001 Brothers Mark Field, Rupert and Douglas moved into Damian Grove, Lower Hutt, to begin Marist Young Adult Ministry (MYAM), a young adult Catholic community and a centre for vocation promotion ministry. In the ten years 43 young adults have spent a year at The Grove, with 8 others spending at least part of a year there. The expectations of the founding Brothers have been achieved. MYAM continues to be a real strength in the Wellington Archdiocese.

**GENERAL COUNCILLORS
CHALLENGE THE BROTHERS**



Shortly before they returned to Rome, our visiting General Councillors John Klein and Michael de Waas met 40 Brothers at St Paul's College, challenging

us to be willing to be innovative, to be prepared to challenge ourselves and one another, to keep the wider vision, and to behave as if the best years are ahead. A very profitable open forum followed, helping to clarify many of the issues facing us as we move into the future. Our thanks to John and Michael for a job very well done.



CELEBRATIONS AT ST PAUL'S COLLEGE



On August 12th St Paul's celebrated the feast of Our Lady's Assumption and opened the newly refurbished classroom block. Wonderful singing and accompaniments as usual, and the boys obviously liked a lively down to earth homily by Father Sateki linking the Assumption to present-day realities. After Mass the guests and boys gathered in front of the classroom



block for prayers and blessing of a plaque unveiled by our Provincial, Brother David McDonald. After Father had blessed each classroom, guests inspected the fine new rooms and then gathered for a festive lunch. All praise to St Paul's for arranging such a great day, and for the obvious pride the students take in their school, both in the way they made everyone welcome, their courteous demeanour, their excellent behaviour, and the way they keep their school so tidy. Congratulations to Mr Mark Rice, Principal, and Mrs Pamela D'Souza, DRS, who organised the occasion, and a special tribute to Brother Sean Hanaray, who oversaw the entire project from start to finish.

Brother Sean



NEW PRINCIPAL FOR ST JOHN'S COLLEGE HAMILTON



The Brothers have sent congratulations to Mr Shane Tong on his appointment as principal at St John's. Shane is an Old Boy of both the College and the former Marist School in Firth Street.



The recent review of the Catholic Special Character of St John's shows that Shane will inherit a school in which the Catholic and Marist character is strong and vibrant.

MARCELLIN COLLEGE GYMNASIUM DEVELOPMENT

The new gymnasium, at least twice as big as the original one to allow for the increased roll, is well on track to be finished in November as scheduled. Work will then begin to transform the old gymnasium into a performing arts centre. Well done, Marcellin.



Papakura, and Titirangi to Howick. Each raffle raised over \$40,000, half of which went in prizes. With a dollar for dollar government subsidy, \$80,000 became available to build the gym. It opened for less than that, thanks to tremendous carpentry by Brother Jim Donald and Malcolm and Walter Stoneman on a labour-only basis, numerous Saturday working bees very well attended by teachers, parents and their sons, and plenty of building material and services donated or sold to us at cost, thanks to much astute bargaining by PTFA men who understood perfectly how to call in favours. So the original gym is a monument to the spirit of a wonderful group of Marcellin people, younger and older, and with few material resources, who joined forces back in the early 70s, believed in the school's motto, 'Seek the Best', and turned their dream into a remarkable reality which has served the College so well for the last 37 years, and will continue to do so as a centre for the performing arts.



Three Marcellin College First XV players who made the Auckland Under 18 Divisional team pose proudly in front of their gym which is under construction

The original gym, built in 1973-74 before Integration, was funded mainly by two Mystery Envelope raffles brilliantly masterminded by Brother William Lawson and Mr Gerry Wanden, with students, staff, parents, Old Boys and friends strategically spread for two days for each raffle from Long Bay to



**Carlo Ramos, Head Boy
Father Bernard Thomas, ofm, Chaplain
Maria Masinipeni, Head Girl.**

BROTHER JOHN HAZELMAN REPORTS ON MAPAC, IN THE PHILIPPINES Part I

MAPAC stands for Marist Asia and Pacific Centre, the place where our young Brothers from the Asian and Pacific regions continue their religious and professional training after



they have completed their novitiate. MAPAC is situated in Manila, one of the sixteen cities which make up Metro Manila, a supercity of some 16,300,000 people, the most densely populated city in the world.

MAPAC is the biggest Marist community in the Asia and Pacific region. This year it has 49 Brothers from 13 countries: 17 Filipinos, five from Papua-New Guinea, five from Vanuatu, three each from Kiribati, South Korea and India, two from Pakistan, and one each from China and the Solomon Islands. Among the staff are three Australians, 2 Filipinos, a Kiwi, a Sri Lankan and a Samoan. The chaplain is from Vanuatu.



New Zealand Province members: Ueani, Borerei, Carl, John, Amberoti

We live in five different buildings called fraternities, each having a staff member as an animator. The La Valla fraternity consists of four staff brothers and our chaplain. For the final semester (five months) Brother Carl Tapp, our former New Zealand Provincial and a former Rector of MAPAC, joined this fraternity, where his brotherly presence was highly appreciated. As well, he helped the student Brothers with one-on-one tutorial work in written and spoken English, reading and public speaking, a big help in improving the

proclamation of Sacred Scripture during our daily Masses.

The Alfano fraternity, seven third-year student Brothers, have just completed their post-novitiate training and are heading back to their countries to complete their academic studies.

Our first and second year students Brothers are divided into three fraternities, Chanel, Francois and Chinoy, each having a resident staff member living with eleven student brothers. Our own Amberoti, from Kiribati, is bursar of Chanel fraternity, a good role for developing his leadership qualities and interpersonal skills. Uenimatang, also from Chanel, uses his many creative abilities in the chapel and garden. Yours truly is the staff animator in Lorenzo, with Borerei, also from Kiribati, chairman of the fraternity liturgy committee. More on MAPAC next year.



AN INVITATION



If you know any people who would like to receive our newsletter, just let Brother Bryan McKay know (address on front page) and he will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

Every blessing on you and yours at Christmas and throughout 2012.

Brother Humphrey O' Connor FMS

