

# Marist Lay Matters

September 2011



Welcome to **Marist Lay Matters**

## What's New?

- The Strategic Planning process for the New Zealand Province Marist Brothers Province has been completed over a five meeting period and now the outcomes are being refined for publication and implementation. The portfolio of 'Partnership' has been assigned two of the seven objectives to be implemented:
  1. **Identity**
  2. **Capability**
- More on this will be available in subsequent publications of Marist Lay Matters.

## What's Happened?

### • **Champagnat in the Pacific**

A group of 20 people from Marist institutions including, two brothers, attended the recent Champagnat in the Pacific programme held at Long Bay. This enthusiastic group gelled into a strong unit over the four days together. It is worth noting that they found the course enriching and enlightening for their respective roles in Marist ministry. There was strong



feeling coming from within the group that there is a need for more such opportunities of formation to occur as they wish to experience the charism of Marcellin flourish in the years ahead. This programme is a good first step to ensure that this happens.

### • **Campion College**

A short seminar was held with the staff of Campion College as they look to increase the knowledge of their founding charisms. With a Josephite sister on their staff it is an opportunity to reflect on the strengths the founding charisms offer a predominantly lay community and consider what this means in terms of application and practice in the future. *Presence* was the pillar under scrutiny.

### • **Verdon College**

A staff day at Verdon College saw it end in much laughter and frivolity as they reflected on *Simplicity* in practice at their school. A series of skits, a puppet show, songs and poetry produced talent previously untapped as they let one another know how *Simplicity* is practiced in their respective Learning Areas.

Two of Verdon's teachers (Catherine Fabre and Rose Hickey) had





attended Champagnat in the Pacific just two weeks earlier so there was an opportunity for them to share some of their new found knowledge with the group during their reflections.

- **Support Staff (Sacred Heart College, Auckland)**

This short seminar was a reminder of the important role all support and administrative staff have to offer in keeping Champagnat's charism alive in Marist schools. Twenty people attended as they reflected on their place in their Marist community. Dynamic discussion was forthcoming and valuable ideas shared. So often support staff have considerable one-on-one contact with students and are the first face of the school to parents and others, making the part they play in a Marist community vital.



- **Samoa – St Joseph's College and Samoa Lay Marists**



*Silila Bell (left) with Lay Marists*

A five day visit to Apia, Samoa, saw the staff of St Joseph's College contemplating their future with fewer brothers available to support this community which has a rich, productive and successful history of Marist Brother involvement in it. As an outcome of reflecting on the role of the Lay Marist Vocation a subsequent group of ten people gathered to

discuss a way to offer support to one another in the charism. They wish to enrich their own knowledge and reflection through creating an active shared life and an enhanced spirituality so that their mission in the school may proceed well into the future.

### What's On?

- Visits to Marian School (Hamilton) and St Marcellin School (Wanganui).

### What's Up?

- **Oceania Shared Formation Experience (November 22 – 27)** – attending are Brothers Kees van der Weert, Carl Tapp, Nevil Bingley and Brother Martin Pattison. Also attending are Mr Brian Sparrow, Mrs Louise Oliphant and myself as facilitator. There is one other Lay Marist to be named.

In the Spirit of Marcellin  
Alan Parker