



Newsletter

Simplicity

Flexibility

Inclusiveness

“Be still and know that I am God”

Marist Laity Retreat Weekend 29–31 May 2015
La Valla, Our Lady of the Hermitage, Mittagong – Written by Barbara Ashwell



“I think....I feel....I desire.....” I am sure that these words accompanied by the gong, which began every prayer session, will resonate for a long time to come with the Marist Laity who were fortunate to participate in this wonderful weekend of prayerful stillness. We arrived on Friday evening from our various areas of busyness to this haven of peace owned and managed by the Marist Brothers. Comfortable accommodation and good food complimented the well thought out program prepared by our presenters which led us into dialogue, reflection and meditation that both challenged and energised us.

Andrew Dumas set the scene on Friday evening – “**Be still and know that I am God**” by presenting Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15 and a Nooma video – shells.



Saturday Morning Maria Baden continued the theme – “**Be still and know that I am**” with Matthew 6: 25-34 and allowing us experience the “I am” in Christian Meditation

Unfortunately Andrew became our “suffering servant” confined to his room with a 24hour virus so Margaret Woods and Maria Baden carried us through the next session – “**Be still and know**” Psalm 139, onions and Shrek helped us look at our true selves.

Each session allowed people time to express themselves in journal writing, Haiku verses, art & craft, or silent prayer. After lunch we had a couple of hours free to roam the farmlands, walk the labyrinth, read, rest, meditate or chat to someone.

Session 4 with Margaret – “**Be still**” looked at Jesus calming the storm in Mark 34: 35-41 with another of Rob Bell’s





vignettes on rain and how we deal with our own life storms.

From this session we went to the beautiful chapel where Fr Paul Mahony sm celebrated Mass of Trinity Sunday with us around the altar.

Sunday morning, after Christian Meditation, Fr Paul presented the final session which brought together all the other sessions – “Be” – Luke 10: 38-42 “Mary has chosen the better part”. A very robust dialogue helped clarify our own understanding of the balance between work and prayer or being and doing. In the ritual farewell we shared various words and thoughts that had touched us during the weekend. The final surprise was the gift to each of us of a Woodstock Chime from the Retreat Team. Something we will treasure and use with our own Marist prayer groups.

The well planned program led us through an insightful process of personal and shared experiences. Thank you Andrew, Maria, Margaret and Father Paul, for all the hard work that went into the preparation of this Retreat weekend and for your tireless, joyful, spiritual presence during the weekend. May Mary continue to lead many to her Son through each one of you who seek to live her daily “Fiat”.



St Patrick's Lay Group Church Hill Sydney

During February and March eight people gathered on a Thursday night at St Patrick's to explore themes from the Magnificat. Andrew Dumas had previously interviewed and videoed four Marists around key themes from the Magnificat. The Thursday meeting would start with a light meal, a 20 minute video (from the interviews), discussion and prayer.

Thank you Father Kevin Bates, Father Ray Chapman, Father John Thornhill and Sister Marie Berise for providing great insights into this program.

Following up this program many of the participants are attending a retreat entitled “Being Still” at Marist Brothers Hermitage Mittagong. It is hoped that in spring a similar program will run focusing on “key Marist themes” at St Patricks.

Currently, Marist Laity Australia is sending a DVD and resource booklet “Themes of the Magnificat” to some contacts internationally. If you would like to receive this resource, please contact MLA.

Marist Encounter Program

Themes of the Magnificat



DVD

2015



By Andrew Dumas

New Resources Available

Marist Laity Australia recently received into our safekeeping an extensive collection of books, pamphlets and papers belonging to the recently retired veteran Pacific missionary Father Kevin Kerley SM, 86, (pictured above).



Included in the collection were original "Messenger"s, "Harvest"s, Marist Mission Newsletters, and historic anniversary publications and newsletters meticulously kept by Father Kerley. The collection is a time capsule of Marist endeavour over a lifetime.

A listing of the resources we received is on the MLA website, as well as a sampling of the more significant Marist papers that has been scanned and is also available by following the link maristlaityaustralia.com/scanned. If you would like to borrow any of these, please contact any of the members of MLA and they will be made available on a loan and return basis.

By Jen Bolster



News from Hunters Hill Marist Laity

Last year, Father Long SM from The Philippines and Father Eneriko SM from Vanuatu underwent a



spiritual renewal programme at Hunters Hill and towards the end of the programme, Father Kevin Bates SM their host and our Parish Priest, arranged various meetings on Marist themes with the two Fathers and invited members of the parish, including Hunters Hill Marist Laity members, to attend.

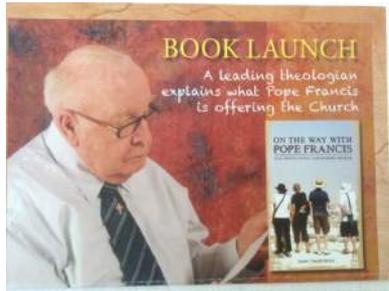
In the course of the meetings and the interchange that followed, a consensus developed amongst the members of the Marist laity to support the Fathers in each of their ministries. Some Spirit was at work- it could've been the wine kindly provided by Father Kevin, but we believe it was something deeper as well.

The group resolved to "adopt" Fathers Long and Eneriko in their ministries and support them spiritually as well as financially- with Mary's help, paying for a social worker to help Father Long with his orphans and by assisting in the provision of school needs for the children in Father Eneriko's parish.

With Mary's help, our efforts so far have been successful, and we pray that She continues to bless our endeavours in Her name.

Book Launch

On Friday the 17th April, we attended the launch of "On The Way With Pope Francis" a book written by the leading theologian and Marist, Father John Thornhill (pictured above) in which Father Thornhill explains what Pope Francis is offering the Church



The launch was held at the Marist Fathers Villa Maria Dining Room, Hunters Hill and many members of the Marist family attended.

It was a privilege to be there to hear Fr John's insightful observations and explanations, shared so effortlessly, concisely and with such clarity

The book offers an understanding and appreciation of Pope Francis and the inspiration and hope he brings to our Church and the world of our time.

The book is available through the Marist Fathers at a cost of \$10.00

On a lighter Note:

A man is talking to God:

"God, how long is a million years?"

God answers, "To me, it's about a minute."

"God, how much is a million dollars?"

"To me, it's a penny."

"God, may I have a penny?"

"Wait a minute."

Retiring Liaison

Appointees and New Liaison Appointees

The Committee and Marist Laity Australia farewell with regret our retiring liaison members Sr. Noelene and Brother Ray Arthur. Over the time with us we have not only benefited from their guidance and input but have also been grateful for their ready good humour and friendship and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

The Marist Fathers have appointed Father Paul Mahony and the Marist Sisters have appointed Sister Fidelis as our new liaison members. We welcome Sr Fidelis and Father Paul and look forward to working with them, and thank the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters for their appointments.

