



Greetings of hope and joy,
Happy Easter to each and everyone!

Have you cried recently? I certainly have. Not for myself but for people close to me, including Brothers, whose lives have been turned upside down by events. I see people I love

suddenly lose their physical or mental capacities, lose their livelihoods, lose their faith ... and I cry. I see Brothers under investigation for alleged abuse from decades ago, struggling with the humiliation of the process of establishing their innocence, their lives frozen for months ... and I cry. I am in touch with victims of abuse and their families, their lives scarred by betrayal of trust ... and I cry.

I get a message from a friend in India – Rev. Bro Jeff. In our place we get famine. Please & kindly give me job in your area – and I cry.

Sometimes I rage as well at injustices, the results of human greed, hatred, jealousy, lust and the other deadly sins. Then I realise that I too am complicit in a lot of this injustice through my indifference, fear and silence. Lord have mercy.

I am obviously writing this in “Passiontide”, the time for crying and rage, in the run-up to Easter, the time for uplift and joy. Then again, we can have both experiences on the

same day! The point is that we live the whole of life with its wrenching and joys with “Jesus and the Spirit as our best friends ... God’s last word on Jesus’ death was life, to raise his Son from the grave ... Jesus meets us where we are, embraces us, and holds us close when the going gets tough, and helps us find the way forward ...” (Richard Leonard SJ, Where the Hell is God?, p. 66-67). Thank God for Easter!

Jeff



Wide open

**I will not die an un-lived life.
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk
my significance;
to live so that which
came to me as seed
goes to the next
as blossom
and that which
came to me as blossom,
goes on as fruit.**

from Open Wide
by Dawna Markova

Rome meeting on association and belonging

towards our Marist Association



"I really admire the strength of some of our Marist women". That was one of my summary statements at the end of a four-day international meeting on our Marist experience of association and belonging.

Nadxielli spoke for half an hour on how she and some friends had started visiting an impoverished, violent area near their city in Mexico as part of a social outreach program. The personal connections deepened and a group of young professionals, led by Nadxielli, have made a commitment to be a missionary presence among the people of this barrio. These young people are all from a Marist



University and so they have given themselves the name *missioneros maristas*. Who knows what will become of these young Marists in the future? Right now they are doing some amazing things and they see what is happening as their experience of the charism of Marcellin Champagnat.

There were Linda and Véronique

sharing their story of connecting with the Marist Brothers through summer camps in Canada for disadvantaged kids

and how this has grown into their being leaders of such projects today and more significantly, leaders of a new association of Marists determined to keep the charism of Marcellin alive. The context is extremely tough for the faith formation of young people there, including the young volunteers

They are very conscious of living in the early days of something bigger than themselves, bigger than the Brothers but supported and inspired by them.

People such as these remind us that we Marists are about the work of the Spirit. We thank God that in our time this is so evident in Marists, Brothers but others as well. It is the practical compassion of the Good Samaritan, the generosity, humility and self-giving of ordinary and extraordinary service. The work of the Spirit can also be seen in the sensitivity and perseverance of our relationships.

Sub tuum praesidium, confugi-mus ... We fly to thy patronage ...

We take our lead from Mary, woman of the Magnificat, Dawn of the new times.

It would be so easy to simply act as a charity or as a proselytising sect.





have been graced by Carole's enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, creativity, thoroughness, generosity and, most especially, her faith. As organiser of the ground-breaking Marist International Festival associated with World Youth Day in 2008, as a leader of Marist pilgrimages, retreats, formation programmes, colloquia and many other events, as a key member of the Spiritual Formation Team, the Mission and Life Formation Team, the Oceania Partnership Commission, the AMC Pastoral Team, the Marist Association Task Force, and as friend, colleague and confidante, Carole has played a highly significant part in helping us Australian Marists to reach the place of promise in which we find ourselves today. We thank her heartfully."

Jeff Crowe and Joe McCarthy attended a gathering at the General House recently of Marists from around the world on what is happening regarding new forms of association and belonging. The Spirit is moving in many individuals and groups. Our proposal to estab-

lish a public association of Christ's faithful attracted the interest of some other Provinces and we will probably go ahead with a pilot project for the whole Institute.

Work has begun at **Brunswick** on the refurbishment of the Marist Centre. When it is finished around October, it will have a Chapel, office spaces and presentation areas. The Centre remains open during this time as they are able to do the work by sections. **Healy House at Eastwood** is now ready for occupancy as a residence for young men in life-discernment mode. The extensions to the Brothers' new residence at Forbes have started. Plans are being drawn up for two more bedrooms in the new Brothers' house in Alice Springs.



Brunswick



Three Marist schools have had buildings opened recently: **St Peter's Maitland** (Br Clarence block of general teaching areas, a TAS facility, re-furbishment and extension of the former Brothers' house as an administration area),



St Peter's Maitland

continued over ...

Red Bend College (Hospitality Trade Training Centre and Technology and Applied Studies Facility)



and **Assumption College Kilmore** (boarding accommodation). Our congratulations to all those involved in the planning and realisation of these outstanding facilities.



Money for the mind:

Lavalla Catholic College teacher John de Souza and James Fahey of the Marist Lay Partnership present a \$500 cheque to Derek Amos of Barrier Breakers.

Page 17
Latrobe Valley Express 20/3/2014
your community



Money for the mind: Lavalla Catholic College teacher John de Souza and James Fahey of the Marist Lay Partnership present a \$500 cheque to Derek Amos of Barrier Breakers.

Breaking through for support

LAVALLA Catholic College staff, together with the Marist Lay Partnership, raised \$500 in three days to donate to Barrier Breakers.

Barrier Breakers, a local charity, provides advocacy, accommodation, care and support for those in need across Gippsland.

John de Souza and James Fahey began the fundraising initiative and found people were exceptionally generous with their contributions.

The donations raised will go towards various projects.

Barrier Breakers chief executive Derek Amos said many fundraising initiatives were planned for the coming months, including a race day at Sale Turf Club in July with a marathon cycle ride and charity dinner to be held in October.

Barrier Breakers is the only organisation of its type in the region providing systemic and individual advocacy services.

The association lobbies to improve the delivery and effectiveness of mental health care services in Gippsland and provides advice and advocacy assistance to people with mental illnesses and their families and carers.



In a previous life this was the Brothers' Monastery at 8 Alice St Auburn. Now part of student life at Trinity Catholic College, Auburn campus.



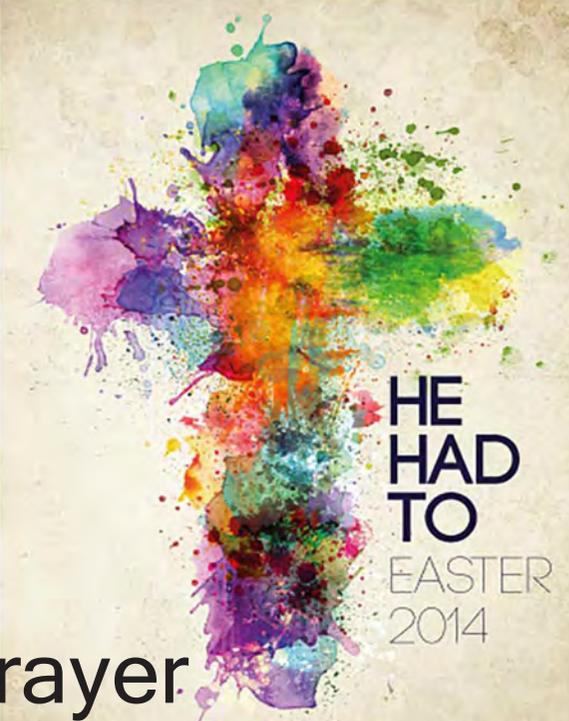


As you see more clearly that your vocation is to be a witness to God's love in this world, as you become more determined to live out that vocation, the more doubts will arise. You will hear voices saying, "you are worthless, you have nothing to offer." Do not be afraid. The more you are called to speak for God's love, the more you will need to deepen the knowledge of that love in your own heart. The farther the outward journey takes you, the deeper the inner journey must be.



Today I was thinking how nobody recognises Jesus immediately. They think he is the gardener, a stranger, or a ghost. But when a familiar gesture is there again – breaking bread, inviting the disciples to try for another catch, calling them by name – his friends know he is there with them. Absence and presence are touching each other. The old Jesus is gone. They no longer can be with him as before. The new Jesus, the risen Lord, is there, intimately, more intimately than ever.

The word that best expresses this mystery of God's total self giving love is "communion". It is the word that contains the truth that, in and through Jesus, God wants, not only to teach us, instruct us, or inspire us, but to become one with us. God desires to be fully united with us so that all of God and all of us can be bound together in a lasting love. The whole long history of God's relationship with us human beings is a history of ever deepening communion.



Becoming poor doesn't just mean forsaking house and family, having nowhere to lay one's head, and being increasingly persecuted; it also means parting company with friends, with success, and even with the awareness of God's presence. When, finally, Jesus is hanging on the cross and cries out with a loud voice, "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?," Only then do we know how far God has gone to show us his love. For it is then that Jesus not only reached his utmost poverty but also showed God's utmost love.



quotes from *Jesus a Gospel* by Henri Nouwen

Easter Prayer