



The Marist Brothers Champagnat Trust

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

October 2016 Newsletter

Greetings to our Marist Family,

On the Eve of our Marist Bi-Centenary

On the Eve of our Marist Bi-Centenary If you were in France in the summer of 1816 you would have experienced a Nation suffering from a great Napoleon defeat. 70,000 of his grand revived army lay dead in the fields of Waterloo and Napoleon was carried off in disgrace to the island of St Helena. But from these ashes there arose a handful of seminarians who pledged their lives to help rejuvenate the disenchanted youth of the day.



Br John Paul with Br Peter in background making a point about Champagnat's vision

Among the seminarians was Marcellin Champagnat and early in 1817 he was to organise a few likely lads to help him teach the local boys in the remote village of La Valla. This small beginning was to give the birthing of the Marist Brothers and now, 200 hundred years later, half a million youngsters queue up to enter a Marist College in most parts of our World.

You and I have been part of this marvellous history and outside of France we here in New Zealand were the first to experience the impact of these Marists from La Valla.

This year I walked onto the Marae at Hato Petera on the North Shore in Auckland. There were twenty five of our senior pupils from Colleges all over NZ retracing the steps of our Marist heritage.



Gathered around the table - there is room for all Marists

In August I walked into Vaughan Park north of Auckland and there were twenty fresh young teachers of our Colleges all imbibing the Marist story to hand on and to strengthen our unique identity.

Recently all the teaching staff of our four Auckland schools came together at Sacred Heart College to revisit the responsibility in knowing and ministering the charism of Marcellin Champagnat. Inspired reflection, discussion and celebration were the order for the day but not before all of the teachers had made a prayerful visit to the Cemeteries where all of our departed Brothers are at peace. Teachers today are the inheritors of their dream and we have a job to continue this mission...

Now as we approach December I can expect to meet up with a formidable group of teachers, former students and parents who are gathering at the Franciscan Retreat Centre in Hillsborough for an Assembly. They are all part of our Marist Champagnat family and over two or three days with Dan Dungey as facilitator they will discover how to maintain and give energy to our Marist Mission in the society in which we live today.

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Those pioneer Brothers of last century came from Champagnat with a simple message for us to value. The task for us now is to rediscover it once more and strive to live it in the challenges that confront us today.

Next year, 2017, is the bi-centenary of our first Marist Brothers, you can expect to be notified of a gathering somewhere near you. We will keep you informed of the coming events in good time for you to note and would invite you to let your interested friends know as well.

Information about the bicentennial celebrations is available on the website at: maristbrothers.org.nz

Br Colin Divane



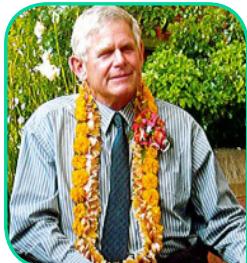
Marcellin College at Waikaraka Park



Donald Teixeira

A Modern Missionary - Introducing Br Donald Texiera - Our Personality of the Month

Brother Donald Teixeira may not be too well known to us here in New Zealand. He grew up in Waterview where the grand new tunnel is about to surface, elevating Auckland's airport traffic approaching the city. Apart from five years of teaching in NZ, Brother has spent the rest of his fifty years in Samoa, Fiji and Kiribati. When we think of a Missioner we might have St. Francis Xavier or St. Damien of Malokai in mind, but here in our time is one who has left our familiar shores to promote an education for youth in the Pacific. Donald has never been short of pupils but the building of classrooms, constructing toilets and leveling playing areas continues to speak of his successful ventures over the years.



With Thanks,

John Metherell

Chairman of Marist Brothers
Champagnat Trust

Contact details:

Marist Brothers
PO Box 24400
Royal Oak
Auckland 1345
Email: nzmarist@fmspacific.com