

new lands

Greetings to all of you in this season of Easter!

How would you rate your appetite for risk? It's a silly question in one way because I am sure you are immediately thinking that it depends on situation or circumstance. In another way, it is valid in as much as it evokes a broad indication of your attitude to risk at this point in your life. The topic was raised in an article I read recently about a guy who is into coffee and cafés. He runs several cafés. In the piece, he suggests that his appetite for risk has plummeted significantly as he has aged. He muses as to whether it is because he has more to lose, or if it is related to getting weary and worn down by business ventures, or perhaps it has declined as the 'bucket list' has been tamed. Whatever the reason, he has noticed

that he has not got the same appetite for risk today compared to when he first risked everything to start his first café.

It got me thinking.

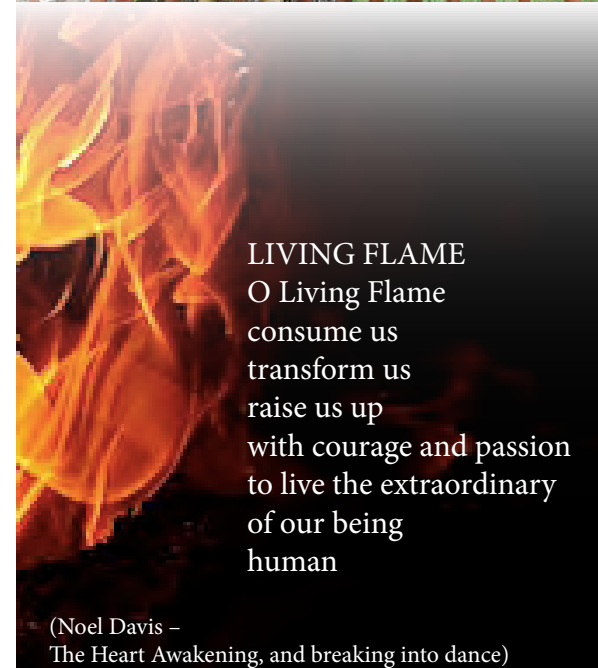
There is a direct parallel to our faith, and how it plays out in our lives. God's spirit often dares us – not recklessly, but in a way that tests our values and puts a spotlight on those things we are hanging onto deep down. It niggles and unsettles us, draws us to continual newness and has an uncanny way of changing us from within. You can almost hear the whisper, 'come on, take a risk!' Spontaneity blasts through the walls of over planned lives. Comfort zones, be they physical, material or spiritual are destroyed. Possibility is born. Hope is alive! God's spirit does all this with a smile, and with the promise that was given to Mary at the encounter of the annunciation – "nothing will be impossible with God".

So, in this season of Easter, we are challenged to be attentive to God's activity in our lives and in the world around us, and to be 'listening' for what God is asking of us. The resurrection story from Luke we heard a couple of weeks ago provides an insight for how this encounter might occur. It will be ordinary. God will meet us in our everyday. **The invitation is to detect signs of the resurrection in the small events of**

daily life. There is nothing more simple and everyday than two people walking along a road, talking to pass the time and being joined by another. As the hidden God is revealed, we are inspired to take 'risks' that lead to life.

Too often, the word risk conjures in our minds what might go wrong, the downside, the negative aspect. Looked at from another angle - God is life, God is love, God is light – and the risks God inspires in us lead to goodness, both personal and common good. They inspire creativity, imagination and dreaming. They cause communities to thicken, relationships to grow and friendships (new and old) to flourish. We grow. This, however, does not write sacrifice out of the script, nor commitment, nor uncertainty, and at times a sense of loss. It does turn the question on its head though – 'what if I don't take the risk?' There were many moments when Marcellin risked everything in response God's call in his life. Many others have done the same. What is your appetite for risk in response to God's call in your life?

Joe



LIVING FLAME
O Living Flame
consume us
transform us
raise us up
with courage and passion
to live the extraordinary
of our being
human

(Noel Davis –
The Heart Awakening, and breaking into dance)



Brother
Harry
Prout

Heidelberg West

Brother Harry has provided long and distinguished service to the community, which is unanimous in its praise of him. Since 2001, he has helped the disadvantaged through his work with the Olympic Village Exodus Community. Whether he is supporting struggling families, establishing youth initiatives or advocating on behalf of the community, Brother Harry is committed to those in need and makes himself available around the clock. The most vulnerable in our community can rely on him for practical and emotional support, from driving people to hospital to sorting out unpaid bills or life issues. He consistently, selflessly and tirelessly gives service to the community above and beyond what is expected.

"Community members have described him as genuine, loving and accepting of all...Harry has been transformative in the lives of many, all the while keeping a low profile, never seeking personal glory."

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Heidelberg West was built as the Olympic Village for the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956. The majority of the cottages and flats used by the athletes are still there and occupied. **Two Brothers, Brothers Harry Prout and Barry Lamb, live in 273 Liberty Parade**, a dwelling used by some of the Danish athletes in 1956.

Fifteen years ago, a group led by Redemptorists from Western Australia, sought a suitable location for an alternative Christian community with special ministry to poorer and needy folk. Various places on the east coast of Australia were considered, amongst them the Olympic Village area of Heidelberg West. At the time the area was "run down" and many residents struggled with their lives, and there was a reputation for drugs and violence. Many battled loneliness,



financial problems, living with mental illness, poor parenting skills, detachment from the community and detachment from the church. How to address these personal, financial, social and spiritual needs and best minister to the folk living in the area?

Through mulling over this question emerged the "Exodus Community." The original idea was for those ministering to the people to live together like a religious community. With this in mind two modest houses were rented by the parish and Father Frank Smith CSSR and Mercy Sister Sally Bradley and some others formed the first community. Very soon after these first tentative steps to establish the Exodus Community, Brother Harry Prout joined, having recently completed his term as coordinator of the Marist Retreat Centre at Mount Macedon.

With the passing of time and changes of personnel the word "Community" no longer refers to a group living together in a particular house like a "religious community". It refers, rather, to a wider community of folk living in or near the old Olympic Village and bonded through neediness, the desire to care and friendship. The idea of the name "Exodus" springs from the hope of journeying to



something better. The logo shows several figures, young and old, straining forward. The symbolism of both the logo and the name, Exodus Community, is HOPE.

At the back of the residence in Liberty Parade (now the "Brothers' House") is a "shed" which acts as a small hall/activity room/dining room. It has a kitchen area and toilet. This is the venue for a number of the activities as well as meetings.

A somewhat special aspect of the Exodus Community outreach activities is that the local people themselves are part and parcel of the provision of the services. While some generous people who are not in need are volunteers, other volunteers are from amongst those in need themselves.

Any Marists or friends who may be passing through Melbourne may like to visit and find out more about the Exodus Community and its activities. Phone us on (03) 9457 7593 or email Barry on barrylamb@hotmail.com



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Marist Family notes

Br Paul Gilchrist has been appointed Head of Aquinas College in Adelaide, starting at the end of this year. Aquinas College caters for university students from the country areas of South Australia attending the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia and Flinders University. Today, one hundred and seventy two students live in Aquinas College. Congratulations Paul.

Br Rod Thomson will continue as Co-ordinator of the REMAR team for the remainder of 2014. His original appointment was for 6 months. The Marist Youth Ministry Council has asked for a review of REMAR to happen in the near future. This review will help shape the profile of the person sought for the Co-ordinator in the coming years. The position will be advertised later in the year. Our thanks to Rod and to Greg McDonald who is missing Rod from his Vocations Team.

Br Michael Callinan will return to Australia at the end of June. He has had lengths of time in Colombia and Mexico learning Spanish and is currently at Samat Sakhon in Thailand where the Brothers have a project with the children of Burmese refugees. He will join the Cairns community from July for the remainder of the year. He will work with the Director of Mission there on some special projects. Michael will also be involved in the REMAR review.



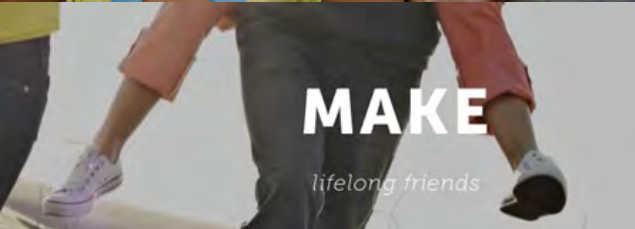
Fr Max Blumenthal was affiliated to the Marist Brothers Province of Australia on May 24. This is more than a recognition of his devoted service and friendship to the community at Randwick for the past 8 years. He is "one of the family", sharing our spirit and living his priesthood in a Marist way.

ACU has announced the dedication of one of its new buildings at North Sydney to St Marcellin Champagnat. It is a teaching and learning area on Berry Street. The official blessing and opening will be on July 22 at 2pm.



Br Michael Green has recently been appointed by the Vice Chancellor of Australian Catholic University as his nominee on the Senior Management Committee of the soon to be formed "La Salle Academy for the Teaching of Religious Education in Catholic Schools". This will be a new body within the University which will have oversight of all teaching and research in Religious Education. All lecturers in RE will need to be Members of the Academy. The existing structures for RE teaching will be "disestablished", to cite the term being used by the University. The VC's hope for the new Academy is that it will enhance significantly the quality of preparation of RE teachers at ACU, and the preparedness of its RE graduates.

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Marist Youth Ministry launches 2014 Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion

Calling all 2014 Year 12 students from Marist Schools!

Marist Youth Ministry is excited to launch the Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion to The Philippines. Led by Sally McEniry & Br Doug Walsh, a group of Year 12 leavers from various Marist Schools across Australia will spend two weeks immersed in Filipino culture, life & faith. The group will have a broad range of exciting experiences: visiting the slums of Manila, working in orphanages, engaging with the Marist Brothers from the district of Melanesia, meeting street children and their families, as well as relaxing in and touring around the beautiful sites of The Philippines!

The immersion will take place from November 29th-December 13th. The cost is approximated to be \$2500, which is inclusive of flights, accommodation, food & spending money.

For any students that are interested, more details can be found at www.maristyouthministry.com/getreal. Let's encourage our young people to Get Real this year for Schoolies and have a meaningful experience that can positively shape their future!

Sally McEniry

Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane- Regional Coordinator



*You might know a 2014 year 12 leaver
who might be interested*