



TOGETHER GIVING HOPE...

"My name's Kevin...I'm here to help."

It's not my line but Mr Rudd's at his first Labor Party Conference as leader. He was making a pitch to become Prime Minister.



Allow me to introduce myself. My name is also Kevin. I've been a Marist 43 years. I'm here to help but I'll need your help.

My adventures as a Marist have taken me down many roads in many places. NZ to Philippines, New York to Sydney. I've been a Student and Seminary-Teacher, worked in Parishes and as a Missionary, acted as Social Worker and Entrepreneur!

A big Challenge...

Tim Costello of *World Vision* reports that there are more people in Asia-Pacific living on less than \$1 a day than in Africa.

Jesus calls us to be neighbors to all who suffer especially in our backyard of Asia-Pacific. We try to sustain their hope for a better future which helps them to survive the present. This poses a challenge for us. We begin where the big Charities stop. Our presence tries to give hope to those who feel forgotten, unloved, unimportant.

As I begin my first days in the Mission Center as "God's Beggar", my mottoes for inspiration are "Together giving Hope" or "Fools for Christ", depending on the day!

Forty-two years, I was blessed to be on the receiving end of MMC support. I know from experience the value your gifts have and the concrete impact they have on those hurt by poverty.

In Mindanao, your ongoing generosity sustained our simple ways of caring for Street Children, Lepers, the Sick, young Prisoners and disadvantaged Youth. Together, you made a difference. Let us continue working together.

A little Apologia...

This newsletter, of dire necessity, is a 'pirated' edition culled from the archives. I have yet to visit our projects. I don't have a camera, and know nothing of websites and publishing so please pardon the poverty of this winter newsletter!

I need your help. If you or your wiz-kid grand-child are web-site savvy / publisher smart, please have them call us at MMC.

Sincerely in Mary,

Kevin Stewart SM



Smiles of Children often conceal little broken hearts and smashed dreams.



From the Treasurer...

This Newsletter is the last before the end of the Tax Year. Donations to all MMC Charitable/Development Projects are tax exempt. Please make donations in the name of 'AMCOA'. (Australian Marist Center Overseas Aid) to qualify.

Our policy is that 100% of your AMCOA donation will go direct to the Asia-Pacific projects supported by MMC.

Bequests are another important source of income for Marist Outreach Projects. After providing for your loved ones, please remember a small bequest in your Will for those who struggle in life. It is a gift of love that lasts forever and follows us to eternity.

ASIA...

I have yet to visit MMC Out-reach Projects in S.E. Asia but the impressive records stand for themselves.

How are projects selected ?

Marist Project—criteria are simple: the forgotten poor, victims of conflict and poverty especially the young, the handicapped, women and the elderly.

Under Fr Ron's direction, MMC focused our compassionate concern to uplift those suffering misfortune on our doorstep viz. in S.E. Asia-Pacific. 25 projects were blessed by generous MMC support during 2006.

What follows is from MMC's 2006 Annual Report. I hope to visit these programs on your behalf this June.

BANGLADESH - Dhaka

Anondo Neer, a program for handicapped Children and Youth run by Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM)

Arahizar Youth Development Social Forestry Program. Our Partners, *Human Development Program*, offer 200 Bangladeshis skills in environmental practice /forestry development. MMC also supported development of new facilities at a Health Care Center (Mymensingh) and Youth Vocational Training at Sakhipur also with HDP.

CAMBODIA

Youth with Disabilities Foundation for Education and Employment or more popularly known as **YODIFEE**.

MMC supports living costs, transport and vocational training for physically disabled youth from poor urban and rural areas and is helping them to develop their own sustainability through an MMC-AusAID supported YODIFEE livelihood farm project.

A 2006 highlight was the opening of 'Villa Maria', an MMC sponsored residence for the young of YODIFEE.

THAILAND

Sarnelli Mission, Nongkhai

The Sarnelli Mission in Thailand's impoverished North-East was founded by Redemptorist Fr Shea. He gives special attention to the needs of young Children infected with or orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Fr Mike also runs an out-reach program for house-bound adults.

THAI-BURMA BORDER

Refugees are the poor, forgotten and unwanted people of our times. They exist in thousands on the Thai-Burma Border. When they are young, they feel hopeless and robbed of their future. To sustain their hope for a better life, MMC prioritized Youth in four Refugee Camps on the Thai-Burma Border.

Maera Moo Refugee Camp: Hostel

Now in its 9th year, the MMC hostel provides a home for 60 Karen students. A scholarship program helps students learn new skills gained in extra tuition and make these available to their peers in an in-house training program.

Mae La Oon Moo Refugee Camp

Karen Youth Leadership Management Training Center sponsored by MMC prepares Youth Leaders to avoid the pitfalls that afflict victims of conflict.

Mae Pa

Karen Youth Development Center trains young Karens as leaders to return to their community organizations in Karen state and along the border.

Mae La Refugee Camp

Karen Youth Internally Displaced Persons Hostel. 35 young displaced Karens enjoy access to the camp's range of high schools and secondary centers.

The Invitation ...

Jesus calls us to be compassionate neighbors to our Refugee brothers and sisters. Your generosity helps MMC answer this call on your behalf for the thousands seeking haven in Thai-Burma

Photographs from previous MMC Newsletters and MMC Archives.



PACIFIC...

The Pacific Region enjoys a special place in the hearts of Marists. Inspired by the martyrdom of St Peter Chanel SM., young Marists from the Nations of Oceania are now serving in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific.

Oceania is the Mother-Mission of the Society of Mary. From its experience new Mission ventures have come to pass. The Mission Center Archives document an impressive record of unpretentious dedication in some of the World's most difficult missions.

PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

Sepik Educational Resource Center

MMC collaborated with AusAID to assist the Australian Marist Brothers "Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity" outreach supervised by Br Chris Wills.

They focused on the development of four educational resource centers in the East Sepik District providing important resources for teachers and staff in the schools of that region.

Solomon Islands

Peace, stability and poverty reduction

This is part of an Australian Coop. Agreement with the Solomon Is. Now in its final year, its focus is the continued redevelopment of a Tanagai Rural Training Center. Fr Norm Arkwright SM is supervising this project.



THE OCEANIA PROVINCE



The Provincial of Oceania is Fr Paul Donoghue SM. The Oceania Province extends from Fiji to PNG with outreaches in Australia and NZ.

In early April, he visited the Mission Center as part of the Oceania Finance Council meeting.

The expense of training young Marists from the Pacific is a constant strain on resources. Marist Fathers International Mission Fund (MFIM) is administered by the Mission Center as a resource to support the more specifically religious ministries of the Oceania Province.

Fr Ron Nissen's "bike-ride" exploits inspired many donors. Fr Paul expresses his thankful relief at another problem solved for 2007. The amount raised for seminarians was over \$50,000 thanks to Fr Ron and your generous selves.

P.S. Fr Kevin is looking for volunteers to ride for him next year. "Lets keep those wheels turning".

FIJI

"We would like to thank MMC and all your generous benefactors for the financial help... We are now proud owners of a new slasher mower to keep our school environmentally friendly."

Fr Sam Young SM

St John's College, Cawaci. Fiji

Photographs from previous MMC Newsletters and MMC Archives.

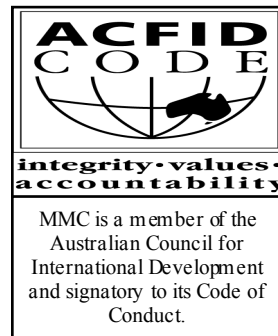


Care of the Elderly at the new Law Home in Fiji Supported by Marist Mission Center

The Home Front...

MARIST MISSION CENTER PROJECTS 2006

Country	Agriculture	Capital Works	Clean Energy-Water	Disadvantaged Youth	Education	Health Pastoral	TOTAL
Bangladesh	25,000				37,000	42,000	104,000
Bolivia						2,000	2,000
Bougainville					43,000	10,000	53,000
Cambodia	20,000	43,000		85,000	23,000	5,000	176,000
China			35,000				35,000
East Timor					50,000		50,000
FIJI				15,000	11,000		26,000
Hong Kong						5,000	5,000
India						2,000	2,000
Philippines				20,000	45,000	20,000	85,000
PNG			7,000		14,000		21,000
Solomons	20,000				3,000	7,000	30,000
Sri Lanka					25,000	4,500	29,500
Thailand				185,000	34,000		219,000
Vanuatu		50,000					50,000
TOTAL	65,000	93,000	42,000	305,000	285,000	97,500	\$ 887,500



Data from Veronica
our MMC Accountant

Project totals include
Partner designated
donations, AusAID
FMS and AMCOA
Funds,

Visit www.maristmissions.com

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**Masses are being offered by Fr Kevin for the
following deceased Marists, Friends and
Mission Center Benefactors.**

Alice Gillen, Jean Bambridge, John Charteris, Fr Albert DeTheye SM, Sr Emilian Gerathy SM, Irene Gestner, Joyce Larkin, Gwen Mackey, Patrick Meehan, Richard Mullen, Roger O' Halloran, John Shackley, Sr Julienne Vincent SM, Norma Wade, Annie Wunsh, Nick Dyer, Betty Fletcher, Charlotte Collins, Richard Mullen, Betty Hartley, Mary Cullinan, Joyce Larkin, Wilga Cunningham, Pie Aye, Clare Cashman, Alice Coleman, Elizabeth Delaney, Bernard Demee, Mollie Fitzgerald, Paula Hancock, Frank Kneipp, Gregory Knight, Gerard Loff, Sheila Mulhearn, Mary Pollock, John Skehan, Molly Stewart, Cynthia Topley, Constance Tulloch, Jack Twomey, Robert Vince, Alfred Wilson, Billie Woodland, Charles Zarb.

*May all our beloved dead who have gone to Eternal
Life, Rest in Peace.*