



Marist Youth Ministry Australia

Mission Assembly Report - 2015

Introduction

In 2013, Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) embarked on a new journey moving towards a National approach to Youth Ministry. Full Time Regional Coordinators (RC) and a National Remar Coordinator were appointed in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with one of the RC taking on the additional role of the National Coordinator. In addition there was a team of volunteers and paid assistants in those cities. This was a significant investment by the Province in Youth Ministry. For the first time, school-based Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry will operate in conjunction with one another.

Furthermore, the formation of the MYM Council was symbolic of the Province's desire for an integrated approach to our Youth Ministry across Australia. The Council began by working on a three year strategic plan 'Seeing new visions, dreaming new' with three goals: Spirituality, Community and Mission. The plan identified key priority areas for MYM and clear mission statement: 'Marist Youth Ministry's mission is to make Jesus known and loved. We see MYM as a space to engage youth and young adults, inviting them to an authentic encounter with Christ. Accompanied on their personal and shared journey of life and faith, young people discover the Marian face of the Church. This empowers them, as committed Marists, to be agents of change in the world.'

What will follow is a brief report on the key achievements in each region as well as nationally flowing from the Mission Assembly, 2012, which called for a commitment to 'animating, encouraging and supporting Young Marists, both brothers and lay, who are our future. Special attention must be given to their development and formation.'

Report - The Journey thus far

This report will be based on the achievements made under each of the Priority areas.

1. Community

a. Exchange nights:

Continuation and growing community gatherings with Young Adults and Marist Brothers prayer and hospitality – This has now become a formative flagship event in each of major cities. There are Exchange nights in Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney.

2. Prayer and Worship

a. Mass and Dinners

Continuing to grow Mass and Dinners in different regions. Currently Melbourne is the only region that has a separate event where Young Adults attend Mass and Dinner.

b. Prayer

Continuing to run regular prayer gatherings in the style of TAIZE in the Melbourne region.

c. Retreats

Continuing to Run regular Young Adult retreats in Brisbane and Sydney at Brothers residence in Gerroa and Tugun.

d. Pruning retreat

Continuing to organise and run yearly Pruning Retreat at Mittagong. This has been a flagship event on the calendar bringing together young Marist's and Brothers to journey together for a week of manual labour of pruning combined with practicing and living reflective and prayerful lives..

d. Holy Thursday

Continuing to gather regionally as Young Marists for Mass and dinner on Holy Thursday.

3. Leadership and Formation

a. Internships

Inviting internship for Young Marists in Youth Ministry program that provides opportunities for young adults to receive hands-on experience in MYM (Brisbane and Sydney)

b. Pub Forums

Continuing to organise and prepare pub forums as an avenue for promoting conversation and formation in Melbourne.

c. Young Marist Formation - Similar to Footsteps

Organising a bi-annual formation experience for a selected group of Young Marists from across the Country at Mittagong. This is run by MLF. The first retreat was in 2014, tentative plans for a second in Oct/Nov 2016.

d. Formation programs

Organising the the Brisbane region Young adult formation programs during specific time in the liturgical season. E.g. Lenten Series

4. Social Action

a. Melbourne region

Organising Toasties every Friday night to feed the homeless in a particular location in the city. Participating in bread runs with the Exodus Community has been a great way for hands on faith and also backyard blitz for known families needing a helping hand. Participating in homework Club is underway and looking to be introduced in other states.

b. Sydney and Brisbane

Providing Young Marists to connect individually to different social action initiative with John Berne school, Marist Youth Care and Blind Eye Ministries.

c. Get Real Alternate Schoolies Immersion - Manila

Organising an annual Immersion experience as an alternative to schoolies to the Philippines available for all MSA Yr 12 students. The first Immersion was 2014 and will be running again at the end of 2015.

5. Remar and other School Ministry

a. Remar

- Continuing to Grow Remar across the Country. The program is now present in 20 schools across the Country .
- Continuing to support the Remar Ministry team and organising billeting arrangements and comprehensive lengthy formation at the start of each year.
- Moving towards a more regional model of Remar.
- Br Michael Callinan conducted a comprehensive Remar review and made recommendations to the various Councils.
- Formed a MYM Working Party which has given recommendation for school ministry into the future.

b. School Visits and leadership days

Continuation of visits to MSA schools to meet with principals and key staff as well as the senior student leadership group to facilitate connection to post school MYM and conduct reflection days.

c. MSA Student Leaders Gathering
Assisting MSA in planning and organisation of Annual Marist Student Leaders' Gatherings across all regions.

d. Year 11 Social Justice and Year 12 Vocations Forum - NSW/ACT + QLD
Continuing to assist the Vocations team in organising and running the Year 11 Forum and Year 12 Forums.

6. National Events

a. Marist Youth Festival

We have recently experienced a national Marist Youth Festival in 2015. It's been a hugely significant event in the Australian Marist Community, which has built on the tradition of exceptional Marist Justice Festivals in Melbourne and the Marist International Festival 2008. The National Marist Youth Festival took place from 12 to 15 January, 2015 with the theme: 'JUST Living: Hearts without Borders'. All participants were accommodated for a live-in experience at Sancta Sophia College, Camperdown; and main events were held in the historic Locomotive Workshops at the Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh.

MYF15 attracted 180 young people including 89 Marist Year 12 school students, 75 young adults, 16 teachers, 31 volunteers and Students from 25 Marist schools across Australia

The excitement, faith and energy from the participants have resulted in a proposal which is currently under way to look at MYF 17.

b. IGMY & WYD EVENT

A Young Marist group of 13 including a young Brother attended IGMY & WYD events in Rio 2013.

Organising WYD Pilgrimage to France and Krakow in 2016 is underway and exciting for the Australian Marist's to be represented on a global level.

7. The MYM Team

- Organising Formation and induction for all team members
- Established professional standards and protocol for ministry

The future

Challenges

- How do we continue to attract new faces to our ministry?
- How be cost effective in the way we run youth ministry?
- What are our sustainable methods of succession planning, to ensure that when leadership changes into the future, the region ministries can continue to thrive?
- How can we become national and form MYM in the remaining cities NT, TAS, WA?

New Directions/Energy

- Young Adult Immersions
- School Based Ministry

Opportunities

The MYM working Party has made comprehensive recommendations. The MYM Working Party was convened as a response of the MYM Council to the Review of Remar conducted by Br Michael Callinan. It identified four Mission Objectives of MYM

1. Evangelisation and faith development
2. Personal development and leadership formation
3. Strong experience of being a part of a **Marist** community
4. Social justice, ministry and service to others.

Recommendations included:

1. MYM Regional Coordinators work more closely with the relevant Regional Director of schools in promotion of MYM
2. MYM Regional Coordinators focus their work primarily on building ministry within Marist schools. (Recommendation of an allocation of 70% school ministry and 30% post-school ministry with MLF assisting in sourcing or delivering training to MYM staff and volunteers to equip them for youth ministry and Formation of staff involved in youth ministry in schools conducting MYM programs is a high priority)
3. A flexible MYM option will be developed and offered to Marist schools, as an alternative to REMAR.
4. Adapt the nautical language of REMAR to provide a greater Marist connection and a more explicit Christian expression.
5. The financial model of the Marist Mission and Life Team be adopted for MYM.
6. A writing party be developed to take the recommendations forward.