



# MARIST LAITY NZ

INSTRUMENTS OF MERCY IN DAILY LIFE.

**JULY 2018**  
News

Fr Tony O'Connor SM



*"I lived through 14 years of terrorism in Peru, and witnessed massacred youth ... in Venezuela. However, living here in Brownsville, it fails comprehension that the most powerful country in the world*

*which promotes itself as the watchdog for human rights and democracy, has a government ripping toddlers from their Central American parents as they cross the borders..., these people all fear for their families, ... the people of Brownsville ..... welcome the stranger and the alien ... So here I am, a Marist among them, ... doing my best to help, to listen and to walk with these people. I'm not able to solve the problem, just offer 'my grain of sand in this desert land'. We pray with them and feed them ... it's the ... local people, youths, mums and dads with their own kids, grandparents who all care for these children. Here,... on an ongoing basis, we live and breathe refugees, illegals, youth, vibrancy... The hope is that with attention on the current abhorrent agony, that ... we can help find a solution. Read more at <https://cathnews.co.nz/2018/06/21/brownsville-not-all-americans-are-evil/>*

Dear Marist Friends, In recent weeks we have heard news about the separation of children from their families at the USA/Mexico border. There are differing arguments. Please pray for Fr Tony O'Connor SM is in Brownsville.

**Bev was in Waitara** on 30/31 May and Mary Shepherd hosted a gathering where we shared how things were in the Taranaki area and considered a Reflection Day. Fr Chris Skinner and Bev will be giving a time of reflection and renewal on "**Finding Joy in Everyday Life**". Mark the date **21-23 September** Please pray that our visit brings renewal in faith and hope.



Meeting in Waitara June 2018

### Visitor from Atlanta Marist:

Laura McGregor came from Atlanta school to holiday and learn about Marist here. For the first time the Marist schools apostolate and USA Marist Laity connected at a recent conference. More next month.



**Marist Laity International News** is on website.. Please share it in your groups and parish and if you need a printed copy just ask..

**July is Bible Month.** Free Resources at [www.biblemonth.nz](http://www.biblemonth.nz). It's a great opportunity to check out [www.livingtheword.org.nz](http://www.livingtheword.org.nz). Fr Frank Bird created the Sunday Mass reflections and we now edit and manage the website. Start up a group and share the Scripture reflections in your parish.

**October Youth Synod:** The October Synod on "**Young people, the faith and vocational discernment**" preparatory document is published. Young Catholics "*want an authentic church*", the document says. "*With this, we would like to express, particularly to the church hierarchy, our request for a transparent, welcoming, honest, attractive, communicative, accessible, joyful and interactive community.*" 300 young people were at the March pre-synod meeting, and 15,000 participated online. <https://cathnews.co.nz/2018/06/21/working-document-synod-youth/>

We have a lot of **prayer needs this month**. Please pray for everyone who has asked us for prayer and for Vanessa and her family. We welcome Margaret Russell who is filling in meantime. Also a big thanks to the office volunteers.  
*Blessings and prayer, Bev, Vanessa & Margaret.*

# Looking Forward from the General Chapter

Bev McDonald

July 2018

## Start with prayer, then someone read: John 15:15-17

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## Listen to the cd or read the script.

### Share from these reflection starters:

1. Share what strikes you from the Scripture or this Reflection.
2. How did you 'discover' Mary's call ?
3. How might the Society of Mary accompany you in your Lay Marist call ?
4. What do we need in the way of resources and initiatives from the Society of Mary in order to sustain and share our Lay Marist mission?
5. How can Marist Laity and the Priests/Brothers of the SM mutually enrich each other?
6. What can you do in your area to help others 'discover' the Marist call?

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention July 2018

#### Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in pastoral work, may find help and comfort in intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with brother priests.

### July Marist Dates

**Mon 16th:**

**Our Lady of Mt Carmel**

**Mon 23rd:FOURVIERE Pledge day.**

**Thu 26th: St Joachim & Anna,  
parents of BVM**



### Concluding Prayer Time

for your own intentions, the implementation of the Chapter and others needs.

Lord, at times you raise us high above the hills,  
like the Kea, wings flashing in the sun.  
At times you remind us that we are of the earth,  
like the Kiwi, searching in the dark.  
Help us always to know the joy  
and comfort of your love,  
to work for change where we can,  
to comfort the afflicted  
and to remain faithful and hopeful in prayer and  
service for Your glory and the honour of your mother.  
Mary, Queen of the Society of Mary,  
Pray for us. Amen.

*Adapted from "Conversations in Prayer",  
Otago University Chaplaincy. 2013*