Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

“What is the truth?” Pilate asked Jesus but did not stay for an answer (Gospel of St John, 18:38). During the past few weeks, I have been reflecting on this question and how it relates to the role of the teacher at Marcellin College. There are three reasons for this reflection; first of all, it was forty years ago that I started teaching in Cairns, North Queensland, and naturally I’ve been reflecting on my own role as a teacher over that time. Secondly, Steve Biddulph’s reflections on educating boys has given both parents and teachers much to think about. Finally, the ongoing controversy over “performance pay” for teachers has raised many issues for all involved in education – parents, students and teachers. So, what is the truth, about the role of the teacher?

The political ‘truth’ of performance pay based on student results seems very attractive but is difficult to implement across the range of educational and classroom settings. We all agree that we want quality teaching and learning for all our students but how to measure and then reward such teaching is another matter altogether. Over the past forty years I have come to the conclusion that teachers generally don’t do it for the money, they’re altruistic. Moreover, research has shown that when performance-based pay is used as a major motivational factor, it creates more problems than it solves. So, what is the truth?

Steve Biddulph’s in-service for our staff last week, confirmed my conviction that a good teacher makes a difference to the lives of his or her students. Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, knew this from his own life experiences. It is said that as a child he experienced great difficulty in learning to read. Later on, having examined the cause of this difficulty, he believed that it arose from the incompetence of the teachers and the bad methods of teaching then used. But to educate a child, Marcellin went on to say, it is not enough to teach the child reading and writing and the other branches of knowledge. To educate a child is to make that child a good citizen and a good Christian. Ultimately, this involves educating the heart of the child. So, to educate children, one must love them, and love them all equally. In this way teaching becomes a calling, a true vocation, which cannot be measured in monetary terms alone. And like all true vocations it should transform the minister as well as the ministered.

When I look around me at the staff of Marcellin College, both teaching and auxiliary, I see a group of men and women who believe that they are making a difference to the lives of the students. The time and effort that they put into their work is usually over and beyond the remuneration they receive. They also know that the vast majority of parents and students really appreciate what they are trying to do. This is a transforming experience for the staff as well.

I can honestly say that the thousands of students I have been privileged to encounter in eight different schools over the past forty years have deeply changed me. And, since I am still happy to be teaching, the impact students have made on me has been, in the main, very positive and life-giving. Hopefully, the majority of those students can say the same of my impact on them. This is the truth for me this Easter.

Wishing you all a Holy Easter.

Br Joachim Fabbro, fms
Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements in a number of different fields. Well done!

Christopher O’Brien
Year 12
Selected in CCC
Opens Hockey Team

Tom Beroukas
Year 12
Selected in CCC
Opens Hockey Team

Scott Cleary
Year 10
Selected in CCC
Opens Hockey Team

Corey Morrow
Year 10
Selected as a shadow for the U/16 CCC Hockey Team

Nathan Galway
Year 9
Won Gold Medal in the 66Kg Illawarra Shield Wrestling Competition

Adam Sparrow
Year 11
1st place U/19 Beach Relay, 2nd place U/17 beach flags National Titles held in Perth

Will Kemp
Year 11
1st place U/19 Beach Relay, National Titles held in Perth

Kris Papadatos
Year 11
1st place U/19 Beach Relay, National Titles held in Perth

Pat Renford
Year 11
Placed 8th in the finals of the Tube Race, National Titles held in Perth

ORATORY - CSDA FINALS

Congratulations to Tom Bracken (Seniors), John Harding-Easson (Year 10), Matthew Edwards (Year 9) and Christopher Edwards (Year 8) on representing the College in the CSDA Finals last Friday. Special congratulations to John Harding-Easson on winning Year 10 and to Matthew Edwards on being placed third in the Year 9 Division.

ENROLMENTS 2008

Year 7 interviews are well under way and will be concluded by early May. Late applications will see prospective students placed on the waiting list. All prospective students must submit an application and attend an enrolment interview. Please contact the enrolment secretary as soon as possible.

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Congratulations to editor, Mr Brian Vane-Tempest, production assistant Mrs Joanne Kessey and the magazine committee - Mrs Ciesiolka, Ms Donovan, Mrs Webster, Br Joa, Ms Wehbe and Mr Maoudis - for all your efforts with the 2006 magazine. All families should have received their copy via their son.
OPEN DAY

On March 21st the College was open for prospective students and their parents. We were fortunate that the rain held off and didn’t deter our numerous guests. During the three hours that the College was open to the public well over a thousand people visited classrooms, spoke with teachers, viewed student work, listened to student speeches, watched a DVD highlights presentation and were entertained by the College band. Many of our visitors were very impressed by the friendliness and politeness of our Year 7 tour guides who were great representatives for the Marcellin community. There are too many individuals, parents, staff and boys to thank for the way they contributed to the success of Open Day 2007. This was truly a whole community event that reinforced the great traditions of service and spirit that exist amongst the Marcellin College family. For all your efforts in preparation and on the day a hardy thanks. I look forward to opening the doors of the College again in March of 2008. See you then!

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest

TERM 2 DATES

| Monday 23rd April | Lessons resume at 8.40am  
| Special Uniform shop opening hours 8am to 11.15am. Blazers are available for purchase $170. The Uniform shop will be open as usual on Tuesday and Thursday |
| Wednesday 25th April | ANZAC Day public holiday |
| Wednesday 2nd May | Parent and Son Mass. All families welcome. Year 8 sponsor this Mass so all Year 8 students must be in attendance. |
| Sunday 6th May | Mothers trip to Mittagong |
| Wednesday 9th May | Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews 3.45pm to 8.00pm |
| Wednesday 30th May | Parents in Touch Evening 7.30pm. Details to follow. |

PARENTS IN TOUCH

During this past week the College has been fortunate to have renowned parent author Mr Steve Biddulph visit us. On Monday 26th March the staff spent a day looking at ways to make Marcellin an even better place for boys to be educated. It was a great opportunity for the staff to share with each other their experiences and devise strategies to further enhance the learning opportunities of our boys. The following evening Steve spoke to over 500 parents from Marcellin and many schools in the area. His talk received an overwhelmingly positive response with many parents staying after the conclusion of the evening just to have a few words with Steve. On both occasions Steve’s message was clearly aimed at improving the relationships that boys have with the significant adults in their lives, particularly fathers. He was in no doubt that the key to connecting with our boys today was through a relationship that needed quantity time not just quality time. The College wishes to thank Steve for enlivening a discussion amongst our community that can only be of benefit to the boys in our care.
THANK YOU
Recently the College has installed air conditioning units in offices in the Greenstead Hall area. The College wishes to thank and acknowledge the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Science and Training for providing the funding for this project to take place. This initiative is part of the Investing in Our Schools program and has been a welcome addition to the facilities provided for staff and students in this area of the school.

GOLF AND TENNIS
The last two Thursdays have seen the school Golf and Tennis championships take place at The Coast Golf Club and Snape Park Tennis Centre respectively.

In Golf there is some tremendous young talent coming through giving us a strong team for the MCC Championships later in the year.

The Age Champions were as follows:

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At the tennis some 100 boys played over all divisions with many close games taking place:

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EX-STUDENT NEWS
In December 2006, ex student Rick Pendleton (1997-2002) went to the Disabled World Titles in South Africa to represent Australia in swimming. He had a very successful swim meet, with bronze in the 100 breaststroke, silver in the 200 individual medley, and gold in the medley relay. Rick currently holds World Records in the 100 breaststroke and 200 breaststroke (short course) and 200 breaststroke (long course). He will be trying out for the team to go to Beijing in 2008. We wish him well.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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RANZWICK BIBLE STUDY GROUPS
Randwick Parish offers an effective Adult Education program in Bible study. Over 100 people attended the groups last year. This year's focus is on St. Luke's Gospel. There is no charge for the program, however textbooks are $20 or you may give a donation. The course begins on April 11th from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Please contact Fr Tony O'Brien on 0427621538 or tonyobrien@sacredheart.org.au or Patricia at North Randwick on 0408640432 or email mmmsec@bigpond.com

VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM
The Sisters of Charity Outreach are interested in hearing from prospective volunteers who can attend a training program over 7 weeks. Volunteers are needed for visiting the aged or disabled, transport, support fundraising, assisting in parent education program or crisis accommodation refuge, teaching basic computer skills or ESL. Next course begins on May 21st (Liverpool) or May 23rd (Darlinghurst). Please call 9822 5980 or 8382 6431 or email outreach@stvincents.com.au for further details.

RESIDENTIAL SOCCER CAMP
There is a residential soccer camp being held in the April school holidays on the Gold Coast with former Chelsea, Manchester and World Cup Player, Terry Phelan. Places are limited to 24. For further information please phone 0433 815 533 or visit the web page: www.tfiaustralia.com.au.