Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

In our staff bulletin this week I quoted the following passage from Ronald Rolheiser. It is taken from the book ‘The Holy Longing’.

When Israel’s great prophets are called, God initiates them through an interesting ritual. They are asked to physically eat the scroll of the law, to eat their scriptures. What a powerful symbolism! The idea is that they should digest the word and turn it into their own flesh so that people will be able to see the word of God in a living body rather than on dead parchment. The task of taking God to others is not that of handing somebody a Bible or some religious literature, but of transsubstantiating God, the way we do with the food we eat. We have to digest something and turn it, physically, into the flesh of our own bodies so it becomes part of what we look like. If we would do this with the word of God, others would not have to read the Bible to see what God is like, they would need only to look at our faces and our lives to see God.

The quote reminded me very much of our recently deceased Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. He was very much a man of prayer and a man of compassion. He lived the Gospel on a daily basis, bringing hope and meaning to the lives of so many people. To witness the presence of so many world and church leaders at his funeral Mass was a tribute to the positive effect he had on so many. John Paul II bought many people together where others have failed to do so. He commenced the necessary healing process and built bridges to mend the hurts of previous times. He was in essence exhibiting the word of God in a tangible way by his compassionate presence.

Rolheiser reminds us that the last thing Jesus asked of us before he ascended was that we go to all peoples and nations and preach His presence. The challenge is to radiate the compassion and love of God, as manifest in Jesus, in our faces and our actions.

Pope John Paul II certainly did this in a clear and unambiguous way—we also need to do the same in our own unique ways. It is often via simple gestures that we can take the Gospel message forward. Our themes of Service and Generosity at Marcellin are reminders to our boys of the great hope we can bring to one another by our support and presence. Our St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol, our Ministry Week, Lenten Appeal and Christmas Appeal are just some of the ways we bring God’s face to the needy in our local community.

May the following words taken from Corinthians be a reminder to us all that when we bring comfort and support to one another we are indeed bringing the touch of God to the lives of those we encounter.

“There is a variety of gifts but always the same spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them”

1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

With best wishes for the term ahead,

Br Bill Sullivan fms
Headmaster
From The Headmaster

Special Achievements

Congratulations to the students pictured below on their outstanding achievements in a variety of endeavours. Well done, boys!

Special Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded prizes at the end of Term One for full attendance

| YEAR 7 | Zane Johnston-King, Sean Gilsenan, Jake Hoareau, Tony Azzi, Tony Chalmers |
| YEAR 8 | Josh Hamer, Tayt Lahene, Marcus Day, Samuel Taucher, Angus Robson |
| YEAR 9 | Edwin Kollar, Allen Behjan, Mitchell Links, Brendan McKinnon, Chris Tanudjaja |

| YEAR 10 | Eric Lee, Adrian Duong, Sean Groves, Jacob Taucher, Steve Psmadellis |
| YEAR 11 | Axel Sukianto, LJ Young, Elliott Brooks, Renardi Tanuwidjaja, Jason Llauw |

| YEAR 12 | David Higgins, Mattias Juhi, Reece Durante, Patrick Mei, Chad North |

Congratulations to the following students presented with a Bronze Award for Academic Effort Term 1 2005

| YEAR 7 | Tony Chalmers |
| YEAR 8 | Antonio Wooldridge, Adam Vella, Stelios Pikoulas, Isaac Serhan, Dimitri Adamou |
| YEAR 8 | Zac Panaretos, Dylan Cleary, Dan Morgan, David Tharratt |

Important Dates Term 2

- **Wednesday 11th May**: Parent & Son Mass at OLSH Church 7.30pm. All families are welcome to attend. This function is compulsory for all Year 8 boys.
- **Monday 16th May**: Exams commence Years 9, 10, 11.
- **Tuesday 24th May**: Parents in Touch 7.30pm.
- **Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th May**: School photo days.
- **Wednesday 1st June**: Year 11/12 Parent Teacher interviews.
- **Thursday 30th June**: Lessons conclude for Term 2 after sport.
- **Friday 1st July**: Parent Teacher Day for Years 8, 9 and 10. This is a compulsory day for all boys in Years 8, 9 & 10. Interview times will be held between 10.30-1.00pm, 2.00-3.30pm and 4.00-6.30pm.
Enrolment Year 7 2006—Important Reminder
A reminder to those wishing to enrol their son in Year 7 2006 that it is necessary to complete the enrolment package available from the College Office for ALL students, including siblings of students currently attending Marcellin. Interviews for positions in Year 7 have begun, and as our intake is limited it would be wise to submit applications as soon as possible if you wish to guarantee your son a spot.

Email Addresses
A letter will be sent home to all parents over the next several weeks regarding the placement of our Newsletters on the College website. Please ensure the form is returned to your son's Homeroom teacher. My intention is to discontinue the printed version of the Newsletter and instead make it available via the website. A reminder will be sent to all parents via your email address when each edition is added to the website. Printed copies will be available from the front office each fortnight for those who prefer to have the current hard copy version.

Change of Dates
The following two dates have been changed owing to a clash with the State of Origin. Apologies for any inconvenience. Please alter your calendars accordingly.

* Parents in Touch     **NEW DATE** Tuesday 24th May 7.30pm * Year 11 & 12 Parent-teacher **NEW DATE** Wednesday 1st June

News from the Science Department for Year 10 Parents
To assist our Year 10 students in the preparation for the Science School Certificate we are offering students the opportunity to purchase the Excel Revise in a Month School Certificate Science text book. The book covers all of the topics required, provides lots of revision questions and sample School Certificate Science tests. The book can be purchased from school for $15 (RRP $20). If you would like to order a copy of the book please ensure that $15 is paid to the school office no later than Friday 13 May.

Miss Williams, Science Co-ordinator

College Resource Centre
The College Library will be open each Wednesday for Year 11 and 12 students during Term 2. Hours of opening will be 3.30-5.30pm and 6.30-9.00pm. Students are welcome to come to the library during these times for private study and to access some tutoring when available. A letter has already been sent home to Years 11 and 12 parents regarding this.

Debating
Round One of the CSDA Debating season began last Friday night. Marcellin was represented by six teams at OLSH Kensington. It was an amazingly successful evening with all six teams registering victories. I would like to thank the coaches and adjudicators who supported the event. Marcellin will host the next two rounds here at the College, competing against St Ursula’s and St Clare’s. Good luck to all teams.

Mr C Maoudis, Debating Co-ordinator

The Facts about Catholic School Funding
This following information for parents will be the first in a series of excerpts from Br Kelvin Canavan, Executive Director of Schools in the Sydney Archdiocese, on the funding of Catholic Schools. Each fortnight further information will be published on this topic. If you would like to see the document from Br Kelvin in its entirety, please visit http://www.csa.sydney.catholic.edu.au/pdfs/funding_facts.pdf

Debate continues within the community on the issue of funding for both government and non-government schools. This information will help to clarify how Catholic systemic schools are funded. You need to take into account both Federal and State funding, as well as contributions from parents, to get the full story about how governments fund schools.

- In the 2002-2003 financial year, the Federal government allocated 67% of its education budget to non-government schools (including Catholic schools). The remaining 33% was allocated to government schools. This means that Catholic schools received more Federal funds than government schools. In the 2002-2003 financial year, the NSW State government allocated 7.3% of its education budget to non-government schools. The remaining 92.7% was allocated to government schools. This means that government schools received more State funds than Catholic schools.
- When Federal and State funding are combined, the average student in a government school receives considerably more funding than a student in a Catholic school.
- In the 2003-2004 financial year, NSW government schools received $8,227 per student from Federal and State sources. By contrast, NSW Catholic systemic schools received $5,933 per student from Federal and State sources (2004 calendar year). (Schools owned and operated by the Religious Orders are funded using a different formula.)
- In other words, each NSW Catholic systemic school student received, on average, $2,294 less in government funding than a student in a government school. This gap is partly offset by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as by support from parishes.

How much funding does your child receive in government grants?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PER SCHOOL STUDENT</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student in NSW government school (2003-2004 Financial Year)</td>
<td>$8,227*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student in NSW Catholic systemic school (2004 Calendar Year)</td>
<td>$5,933**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>$2,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: CEC NSW Audited Accounts for 2004 as reported to DEECD

This funding gap is partly offset by fees, building levies and other charges paid by parents, as well as by support from parishes.
Marcellin A Grade Basketball team participated in the 16th Annual Australian Marist Carnival held in Brisbane. The carnival was hosted by Marist College Ashgrove and included eighteen teams from States and Territories throughout Australia. The carnival is a special event in our yearly sporting calendar as it enables students from Marist schools all over Australia to get together in their common love of sport.

Marcellin A Grade team was excellent in its attitude on and off the court. The competition is of a very high standard with nine games spanning four days. Marcellin won 6 from 9 games and were eventual winners of The Australian Marist Carnival Plate defeating Trinity College Lismore in a very convincing manner. Special acknowledgement should go to Michael Benda who was the highest scorer in the whole competition, beating nearly 200 other students to the honour. Michael scored a total of 199 points averaging 22 points per game.

Every member of the Marcellin A Grade Basketball Team deserves high praise for their spirit and effort in all facets of the carnival-their behaviour was exemplary.

A trip such as this would not be the success it was without the wonderful support of many people. Special thanks to Ms Rachel Thompson who accompanied us, giving up five days of her valuable time. Rachel was a great support to all of us with her enthusiasm and hard work. A very special thanks to Br Bill who not only encouraged our participation in the carnival but gave up his weekend to fly to Brisbane and support the boys. The participation in a competition such as The Australian Marist Carnival is a great experience for our boys as part of the wider Marist Community. The boys greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend the carnival and represented Marcellin exceptionally well by demonstrating the true spirit of Marcellin College.

Miss Jenny Dove, A Grade Coach

The Marcellin A Grade Basketball side went on to further success over the past weekend, being Runners Up in the Combined Catholic Colleges Regional. The team won all its pool matches on Friday, then went on to win the Quarter Finals on Saturday morning against St. Patrick’s, Sutherland. They then competed in the Semi-Final against St Dominic’s, Penrith (MCS Premiers this year) and this win put the team into the Grand Final on Saturday evening against Edmund Rice, Wollongong. The boys gave it their all, but the team had some injured players by this stage and were just beaten in the final five minutes of a very exciting game. Becoming the runners up ensures our team’s place in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges State Championship to be held in June. On an individual note, three boys from the team were selected to trial for the NSW CCC team later this month: Michael Benda, Richard Benda and Laurent Lahey.

All the boys played with great spirit and focus over the two days of this carnival, and they are to be congratulated for their discipline and efforts. It shows remarkable dedication and College spirit for students to represent their school on so many occasions during weekends and holiday breaks. Thank you also to the staff who were involved in the coaching and management of the squad, who gave up their own time for the boys. The success of the team is due in no small part to these teachers and to the parents for their enthusiasm and help.