A Thought from Last Week’s Gospel

I received this reflection during the week and it resonated with me. Schools are always such busy places and the beginning of the year can be particularly frenetic. I know that families also lead busy lives and that it is sometimes difficult to slow down enough to see what is really important.

‘Jesus approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.’ (Mark 1:30-31)

Simon’s mother-in-law could be the patron saint of twenty first century western society - the patron saint of fevered lives and activity. We are all in need of some healing, when frantic with work. Can we learn to bring the fever to God who alone can calm and cool it? Can we put our own hands in the hand of God and let God help us up? Can we let the process change our focus, away from things that cause fever and toward the ways in which we might serve one another?

Moving from Healing to Wholeness to Holiness?
(Adapted from Margaret Fink, 2012 A Book of Grace–Filled Days)

PRAYER:

Lord, Simon Peter said, “Everyone was looking for you,” as you spread your message across Galilee. Whole towns flocked to you with their sick in tow. We as well clamour to find you, now, in our fevered day.

Please, Lord, heal us. Take our hand, help us up … and give us peace.

Wednesday in assembly Fr Gavin Foster from the Marist missions spoke to the girls about his work with the mentally ill in the Philippines. His photos were very confronting and he certainly made me appreciate my good health and the society in which I live and work. Even in our own society there can be a stigma attached to mental illness - but the conditions these people live in is beyond our imaginations. Father Gavin gives hope to those who have none. Young people who volunteer their time to improve the lives of these people support him in his work. His address was an invitation to action and to consider those whose need is so great.

Dragon Boating

The sun finally broke though last Saturday for our Dragon Boating teams that competed in the Chinese New Year races at Darling Harbour. It was a privilege to be able to watch the girls, as the experienced paddlers looked after the younger girls, encouraging and guiding them. There was wonderful school spirit evident amongst the girls and enthusiastic support from their families.

The teams came second and fourth in the finals - well done girls! They are now preparing for their next challenge, the State competitions in March. We wish them well as they prepare for this important event.

Opening Mass

This year we are celebrating our Opening Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral on 15th February at 9.30 am. This is a very special opportunity for the community of Marist Sisters’ College to worship together in our city’s cathedral. Parents are warmly invited to join us at the Cathedral for the Mass.

It is very important that the girls arrive at the College by no later than 8.30 am on Wednesday. Buses will be transporting the girls to the Cathedral immediately after roll call.
The Building
By now I am sure that all our parents are aware that we have a major building project at the College. When this building is finished - hopefully by the start of 2013, we will have state of the art facilities for Hospitality, Food Technology, Design and Technology (including Metal and Wood Technology), Textiles, Visual Art, PDHPE and the Performing Arts of Dance and Drama. We will have a wonderful performance space to seat an intimate audience of up to two hundred people that can also be used for House groups to meet. In short, it will be the spectacular completion to a project that commenced with the building of Jarnosse, our library, and music classrooms. At the moment it doesn’t look like much, but by the second half of this year we will have access to some of these facilities.

In addition we will gain some wonderful outdoor learning spaces and playground areas that make use of our magnificent location. I have included in this newsletter some sketches provided by the architects (Thomson Adsett), showing two perspectives of the outside of the building and the foyer/open learning space outside the dance and drama studios and performance space.

Meanwhile we have timetabled Year 12 as far away from the building action as possible so that their learning is uninterrupted. We found last year that the area around the Hall, Chapel and Colin and Chavoin classrooms are very well isolated from the noise - and the girls undertaking their HSC exams in the hall were quite oblivious to the building.

So for all of us it is short term pain for long term gain. Your daughters will gain the full benefit of these facilities. I know that they will be worth waiting for!!

I would like to thank Thomson Adsett for allowing us to publish these sketches in the newsletter to enable all our families to gain a sense of what we are working towards.

A Reminder
Parents please note that if an event is not in the newsletter, nor on the College calendar, nor presented to you in a letter on College letterhead it is NOT a College event. Please ring the College if you are unsure about an event that your daughter communicates to you but is not in any of these formats and we will clarify this for you.

I hope that parents will take the opportunity to join us for Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral next week - I look forward to seeing you there.

From the ASSISTANT Principal
A proud moment
It was a pleasure and a privilege to welcome to our Assembly this week a number of girls from last year’s Year 12 class. At last count, 22 girls from the 2011 HSC group received an ATAR of 90 or over, with Sarah Morgan’s singular achievement of 99.25 being the highest. While the College does not receive direct notification of a girl’s ATAR as it is only sent to the student, we nonetheless enjoy hearing of their success and we were able to congratulate publicly these girls’ achievements and thank all teachers who have helped them reach this milestone. Three of the girls proceeded to entertain and encourage with some helpful tips on how to cope with the HSC year and a few do’s and don’ts that they found useful. We are very grateful for their acceptance of our invitation and wish them well in their future studies and careers.

Some plain good old fashioned manners
One thing girls at MSCW do very well is say “please” and “thank you”, “good morning” and “good afternoon” and in most cases are very polite when talking to others.

However, last week a senior girl visited me to discuss the problem she had observed of girls from MSCW not standing for members of the public when travelling to school on a public bus. I have also heard from other adults that girls have remained seated while people older than them have had to stand. It is common courtesy, whether in school uniform or not, for younger people to stand for their elders or for women with children or even for men to stand to allow a woman to take a seat. There is something very nice to at least offer this courtesy even if the older person refuses the gesture.

Another common courtesy is that when two people reach a doorway at the same time, it is polite for the younger one to allow the older person to go through the doorway first. Yet, many times I have observed girls pushing their way ahead of a teacher or younger girls pushing ahead of older girls in order to get through the doorway first. Again girls, standing back and letting someone else go first is something that should be practised anywhere and not just here at school.

(continued on page 5)
Excerpts from the diary
Each week I will be including a short excerpt from the diary about College expectations in regard to behaviour and uniform. This week’s excerpt is about treating others with respect:

EXCERPTS FROM THE ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

EXCERPTS FROM THE ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

RIGHTS OF GIRLS

Dimensions of rights
So that all girls will experience the safety and the resultant empowering relationships with other members of the College community espoused in the philosophy underpinning Marist Education, it is essential that her rights be known and protected.

ALL GIRLS HAVE A RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE ALL THE TIME

• Physical safety
• Social safety
• Psychological safety

THE COLLEGE’S ROLE IN PROTECTING THESE RIGHTS

In keeping both with our philosophy and with the spirit of the State’s legislation the College will not tolerate activities or behaviours such as:

• another person’s calling her names;
• teasing her;
• excluding her;
• intimidating her;
• writing, sending electronically or passing insulting notes about her;
• writing, sending electronically or passing threatening notes about her;
• invading her personal space;
• physically intimidating her;
• making racist comments, innuendoes, gestures or;
• making insulting comments, innuendoes or gestures;

• another person’s engaging in similar activities or behaviour;
• another person’s encouraging a third person to engage in these or similar activities.

THE COLLEGE’S RESPONSE TO A DENIAL OF THESE RIGHTS

Where a girl is placed in a position that violates her right to physical, social or psychological safety, the matter must be redressed, and this will be done in the spirit of restorative justice.

NOTHING IS SO BAD THAT YOU CANNOT TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT

The avenues for redress could be:

• the girl’s reporting it to a trusted friend, Senior or member of staff, who will report the matter to a Tutor and/or House Coordinator; or,
• the girl’s reporting it to the Tutor and/or House Coordinator.

Where a girl is found to be involved in activities that violate any other girl’s right to physical, social or psychological safety then processes pertinent to the situation and involving any of the following may be pursued:

• restorative justice practices will be employed;
• she will be interviewed by the Tutor and House Coordinator;
• she will be interviewed by the Principal/Assistant Principal;
• her parents/guardians will be notified;
• she will be placed on suspension;
• she may put her place at the College at risk.

Ms Ann Freeman, Assistant Principal

School Fees 2012

All School Fees were emailed or mailed to families last week. The schedule of fees for 2012 is located on our College website in our enrolment section for your reference.

We would appreciate your prompt payment of all fees by the due date advised on your statement. Payment of School Fees is integral in the successful operation of the College, as with any business we have financial obligations to meet.

If you have changed your email address, please advise your new email address to accounts@mscw.catholic.edu.au.

School fees can be paid by Bpay, Cash, Cheque or Credit Card. We now offer BPoint which is an automated direct debit to your credit card on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Should you wish to pay by BPoint please also email your details to accounts@mscw.catholic.edu.au so we can calculate your payment and complete the necessary paperwork.

If pressing financial circumstances make it difficult to meet the ontime payment of fees, parents are asked to contact Mrs Kathleen Baudolato (Business Manager) by phone or email to baudolato@mscw.catholic.edu.au. If needed, a confidential appointment will be made to discuss possible options for payment of fees or a fee reduction.
**Newsletter attachments.** For further information and an invitation to join the High Resolves Global Leadership Program please refer to the Newsletter email if you are interested.

Over the last four years Marist Sisters’ girls have had a great opportunity to experience sessions with the High Resolves Initiative. Year 8 girls are involved in two separate days during which they observe their own place in the world, and to contemplate their role as ‘Global Citizens’. Year 9 and 10 students have the option of joining an enthusiastic and dedicated team who develop leadership skills and bring about some form of positive awareness and possible change.

Most of you will remember the efforts of last year’s Year 10 girls with ‘Pencilling for Poverty’ which gained the awareness of thousands of people.

The opportunity for Year 9 and 10 students is again open.

For further information and an invitation to join the High Resolves Global Leadership Program please refer to the Newsletter attachments.

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**Student Testimonials:**

“The ASX Sharemarket Game is a wonderful and exciting way to learn how our sharemarket system works and experience first hand, the shares you can buy as if you were a real world investor. You never know what happens in the sharemarket. That’s why the game is exciting.” Matthew, Yr 8 Student, ACT

“I found the Sharemarket Game a real learning experience. I learnt how to manage money and I will definitely be more confident in the real world. I found that making the game match with the current sharemarket made the game 10 times more intense.” Marianne, Yr 9 Student, SA

“I believe that participating in the Sharemarket Game will not only introduce us to the world of shares, but help us thrive in it.” Julie, Yr 10 Student, WA

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**DUTY GIRL ROSTER COMMENCING MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY**

- **Monday:** Nada Balhun and Stefanie Costas
- **Tuesday:** Analise Babhore and Caitlin Casbanks
- **Wednesday:** Kayla Bardeleben and Alanah Curry
- **Thursday:** Stephanie Bartolillo and Balee Danos-Deluka
- **Friday:** Fiona Buitt and Victoria Daskalakis

Girls report to Student Office by 8.30 am

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**ASX SCHOOLS SHAREMARKET GAME 2012**

Commencing in 2012, the HSIE Department will offer training and coaching to motivated students who would like to participate in the ASX Schools Sharemarket Game (see flyer below).

The Sharemarket Game is an exciting way for students to enjoy an interactive learning experience of the real world of share investing, while developing financial literacy skills. It is highly realistic, making online trades and using live share prices to reflect real market conditions. Syndicates will be provided with $50,000 in ‘trading’ money. The $25,000 prize money though is in real Aussie dollars (and much more in US$).

Training and coaching will be provided during study period (period 5) on Tuesdays as an extracurricular activity, and is open to motivated students in Years 7 to 10. There is place for 24 students in this activity.

To express interest in joining Sharemarket Game, email me at naicker@mscw.catholic.edu.au by WEDNESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY 2012 providing your name, year, tutor group and a brief statement explaining why you would love to be invited to participate in the Sharemarket Game. Should there be more than 24 expressions of interest, the statements provided will be used to select participants.
College ID Swipe Cards
Girls who are unable to swipe in due to a lost or forgotten ID swipe card must report to Mrs Wallace at Reception prior to attending period 1.

Cafe Lyons Week 3 Specials
Homemade Pizzas - $2.50 per slice, $4.00 half pizza
BBQ Chicken, Margherita with fresh basil, Hawaiian

Available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Week 3 only
Order on-line or by 8:45am at the coffee/hot chocolate window.

Don’t miss out!

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