



MARIST LAITY NZ

INSTRUMENTS OF MERCY IN DAILY LIFE.

JULY 2018
News

Fr Tony O'Connor SM



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.

"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://>

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 offering 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.

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.



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.



Meeting in Waitara June 2018

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. It's a great opportunity to check out www.livingtheword.org.nz. Fr Frank Bird created the Sunday Mass reflections and we now