

Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers

Those of you who know the writings of Richard Rohr OFM, will undoubtedly be aware of the *Order – Disorder – Re-order* paradigm. He has referred to this in several of his books, most recently in *The Wisdom Pattern* (2020).

Rohr argues that through history, a universal pattern can be found in societies, spiritualities, philosophies and life. It's seen in the changing seasons, the rise and fall of civilisations, Biblical stories and sacred myths, and, for Christians, most clearly in the paschal mystery – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We find it in our own personal lives. He claims that growth and development occur by passing beyond some perfect order through an often painful and, at times, seemingly unnecessary disorder or chaos, to an enlightened reorder or resurrection. This is the universal pattern that connects and solidifies our relationships with everything around us. Rohr writes:

“The trajectory of transformation and growth, as I see the great religious and philosophical traditions charting it, uses many metaphors for this pattern. We could point to the classic “Hero’s Journey” charted by Joseph Campbell; the Four Seasons or Four Directions of most Native religions; the epic accounts of exodus, exile, and Promised Land of the Jewish people, followed by the cross, death, and resurrection narrative of Christianity. Each of these deeply rooted “myths,” in its own way, is saying that growth happens in this full sequence. To grow toward love, union, salvation, or enlightenment, we must be moved from Order to Disorder and then ultimately to Reorder”.

He stresses the need to see this process as a unity: *“Order, by itself, normally wants to eliminate any disorder and diversity creating a narrow and cognitive rigidity in both people and systems. Disorder, by itself, closes us off from any primal union, meaning, and eventually even sanity in*

people and systems. Reorder, or transformation of people and systems, happens when both are seen to work together”.

Understanding and embracing this pattern can give us hope in difficult times and the courage to push through disorganisation, and even great chaos, to find a new way of being in the world. This is also akin to childbirth. The final stage of pregnancy- labor- is the most dangerous and most painful. In fact, the medical term is *“transition”*. While this can feel like ‘dying’ it is the necessary stage that precedes new life.

Transformation is at the heart of the spiritual journey or search for God. All the Mystics know this; we all know it. John of the Cross refers to the dark night.

*In an obscure night
Fevered with love’s anxiety
(O hapless, happy plight!)
I went, none seeing me
Forth from my house, where all things quiet be*

He speaks of a process of enlightenment which takes us from the comfort of the senses or home, through darkness to union with the hidden God.

Rohr reminds us that *“only the whole self is ever ready for the whole God, so reorder always involves moving beyond the dualistic mind towards a more expansive, contemplative knowing. This is what the Buddhists call ‘enlightenment’”.*

In all these situations, dislocation and discontinuity are essential. It is a painful path- because it takes us away from the known and the comfortable. None of us really want to encounter difficulties or pain, but life tells us it is the way to transformation and the new order. As Rohr writes: *“to arrive at the reorder stage, we must endure, learn from, and include the disorder stage, transcending the first naive order, but also still including it”.*

When we look at the Church today, we are at some point in the disorder phase: there isn’t a clear vision for



the future. Pope Francis offers a pathway through synodality; others are resistant. Progressive elements push one way; conservatives pull another. We don't know what will emerge, but we need to believe that the future, the reordered Church, will respond to the world as equally and effectively as it did in the past order.

Sociologically, a similar three stage journey is also used in reference to community formation: the new community gathers, it goes through a period of difficulty as people debate arrangements, find their place and adjust, and this leads to a phase when matters are settled, norms are established, and life is harmonious. This is the *form, storm, norm* dynamic. Undoubtedly, it's similar in marriage and close relationships; working or personal.

In fact, it's what we, in our Institute and Province, are experiencing now. We had decades of order and stability. We know we are in a period of disorder. In the Province, we've spoken about the current time as a transitional period: we are moving from what was, to what will be, but without being fully conscious of what the future will be. We are truly navigating unknown waters. The 'new' that emerges will have elements of the past, but will be different and will include what we have learned along the journey.

Fr Rohr suggests that we are 'saved' by knowing and surrendering to this universal pattern of reality. Knowing the full pattern allows us to let go of our first order, trust the disorder, and, sometimes even hardest of all—to trust the new reorder. Three big leaps of faith for all of us!

So, Brothers, let's maintain our faith that Champagnat Marist life and mission will emerge in the future, vibrant, healthy, reordered!



Br Peter Carroll
Provincial



Initiatives of the Marist Solidarity International Network, and Corazón Solidario Network

The Ecology Working Group of the **MSIN**, in partnership with other Marist entities, has organised some online meetings during the Season of Creation. All Champagnat Marists are invited to participate, via Zoom, always at 9.00am (Rome time):

(Zoom Meeting ID: 895 3765 1260 | Passcode:576865).

- 1 September: Creation Day
- 7 September: Water, rivers and oceans
- 14 September: Loss of biodiversity
- 21 September: Pollution of air, water & Earth
- 28 September: Climate change
- 4 October: Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

The Integral Ecology working group of the Corazón Solidario Network has also organised a prayer, on 1 September, to open this moment of reflection, at 4.00PM (Rome time). [Click here for the Zoom link:](#)

(Zoom Meeting ID: 959 6726 4730 | Passcode:040185).



Join
Marists of Champagnat
celebrate the

SEASON OF CREATION
September 1 - October 4, 2023

through online gatherings
on the following dates:

September 1 | Creation Day
September 7 | Water, Rivers, and Oceans
September 14 | Loss of Biodiversity
September 21 | Pollution of Air, Water, & Earth
September 28 | Climate Change
October 4 | Feast of St Francis of Assisi

 **Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023
A Mighty River
Amos 9: 24

Time:
8:00 A.M. West Africa | 9:00 A.M. Rome
10:00 A.M. Madagascar | 12:30 P.M. Sri Lanka
2:00 P.M. Vietnam | 3:00 P.M. Malaysia & Philippines
4:00 P.M. Japan & South Korea
5:00 P.M. Sydney | 7:00 P.M. New Zealand

Br Kelvin Canavan honoured



On Tuesday, 5 September, the chancery of the Archdiocese of Sydney moved from the soon-to-be-demolished Polding House in the Sydney CBD to St Martha's at Leichhardt, the former location of the offices of Sydney Catholic Schools.

In recognition of the long service of our own **Brother Kelvin** as Executive Director of Catholic Education in Sydney, one of the sections of the complex – where the Archbishop has his base – has been named the '*Br Kelvin Canavan Wing*'.

Congratulations, Kel! An ongoing Marist legacy in a diocese that has such a strong Marist presence in its schools for over 150 years.

Congratulations to Francis and Susan Marai!



Francis Marai and his wife, **Susan**, welcomed their third son, Nehemiah, on Wednesday, 30 August. Francis, our congratulations and very best wishes to you, Susan, Junior Francis and Jimmy Xavier.



CMSPI

ASSEMBLY 2023

TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH
A JOURNEY OF HOPES,
DREAMS, DIFFICULTIES.



Brothers Anitelea Fidow and John Hazelman participating in the Conference

From 29 August - 1 September, around 200 participants of bishops, major superiors (and delegates), formators, priests, sisters, brothers, lay people and seminarians gathered at the Pacific Regional Seminary (PRS) in Suva, Fiji for a 1-week conference organised by CMSPI. The previous conference was held in 2019. The participants were from 21 countries of origin.

Brothers John Hazelman and Anitelea Fidow represented the Star of the Sea Province.

The themes discussed during the Conference were:

Synodal Church, Oceans (Moana) and Climate Change, Human Trafficking, and Initial Formation.



(L) John Hazelman (C) Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen - Bishop of Parramatta Diocese, NSW, (R) Fr Kim Jongoh msc, Pastoral Team Coordinator at the Pacific Seminary



LOMERI AND VATUWAQA (FIJI) COMMUNITIES

Lomeri and Vatuwaqa communities in Prayer



L-R: Fr Gabriel msc, Anitelea, Chris, Damien, Parish member. Stain glass window of St Marcellin and Fijian boy & St Peter Chanel in the background.



Tia boo to Br Tainga (on his way to Rome for the Inter-Brothers Congregational gathering), Ni sa moce to Br Damien (going to Tarawa Kiribati)

Brothers Chris Poppelwell and Anitelea Fidow on their way to visit the Namosi Eco-Centre

