



## **SOLIDARITY AGENCIES OF THE TWO AUSTRALIAN PROVINCES**

### **Overview:**

1. MSO is the agency of the Southern Province of the Marist Brothers
2. MAPS is the agency of the Northern Province of the Marist Brothers
3. MSA is a joint entity allowing a combined approach to be made to the public.

Below are three brief descriptions of their goals and mandates.



### **MARIST SOLIDARITY OFFICE**

In July 2003, the **Melbourne Province** launched a new office to provide a range of services in solidarity. The new Marist Solidarity Office (MSO) has been given a mandate to offer these services.

### **FUNDING FOR MISSION**

Financial planning and external funding of province solidarity and international commitments.

### **ADVOCACY**

Advocacy on national and international issues especially for children and young people who are poor, marginalized and at risk.

### **EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE**

Public education in the province on national and international justice and solidarity issues.

### **SUPPORT OF PROVINCE COMMITTEES**

Provide research and follow-up assistance to province committees.

### **FOUNDATION FOR MISSION FUNDING**

Research the potential in Australia for establishing a national Marist foundation, or other charitable body, for funding mission.

### **INTER-PROVINCE COLLABORATION**

Explore more possibilities for developing existing lines of collaboration with the Sydney Province and other Marist Provinces in mission funding, public education and advocacy.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY**

International consultancy work on funding for mission with other Marist provinces and other missionary congregations.



**MARIST ASIA-PACIFIC SOLIDARITY**



MAPS (Marist Asia-Pacific Solidarity) began operations in 2002 as the international development agency of the Marist Brothers **Sydney Province** in Australia.

MAPS provides financial and material support as well as education and volunteers services for the Marist Brothers' ministries in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, East Timor, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and other places in the Pacific.

To achieve its goals, MAPS fosters a strong relationship with staff, parents and students of Marist Schools in Australia and supports them with educational and experiential programs.

**THE MAPS CORE VALUE - "SOLIDARITY"**

Solidarity is a unity of feeling and action among Marists, united by our common heritage and charism.

This is the value at the core of our mutual inter-dependence and its expression includes:

A belief that only Justice will bring Peace.

A focus on knowing the life of each other.

An understanding that each of our brothers and sisters should have the means to determine their own future.

A desire to share our resources.

**MAPS MISSION**

MAPS will invite Australians to a relationship of solidarity with people in Asia and the Pacific. This is our Marist way of sharing with them human, material and financial resources vital for sustainable human development.



**MARIST SOLIDARITY AUSTRALIA**

In December 2004 the Marist Brothers of the two **Australian Provinces** formed a new legal entity incorporated in ACT. Marist Solidarity Australia (MSA), has a board appointed by the two Marist provincials. It is the forerunner hopefully to a more formally sustained commitment to solidarity by Marists in Australia.

The objectives of MSA are:

To enhance collaboration between the two Australian Marist solidarity offices, MSO and MAPS, in new solidarity projects.

To allow MSO and MAPS to act as one in agreements with other entities such as governments, NGOs and international agencies

To sponsor a public fund for the purpose of providing financial assistance to development activities in Oceania and other parts of the Marist world.

To provide a single legal entity in Australia in order to qualify for donor taxation exemption.

As its first task MSA will manage a solidarity investment fund. Resources for this fund have come from monies raised by private and corporate donations, celebrity dinners and ongoing appeals.



**MARIST BROTHERS BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**  
General House, Rome



**ABOUT BIS**

The Bureau of International Solidarity (BIS) is an office of the General Administration of the Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS), an international congregation within the Catholic Church.

Established in 1995, the office assists the General Council of the Marist Brothers in the animation and governance of the Institute with respect to issues of justice, peace, development, and solidarity, especially they impact the lives of children and youth.

**WHAT BIS DOES**

The Bureau of International Solidarity serves the administrative units (Provinces, Districts and Missions), the brothers and their lay colleagues and partners in the following areas:

- Providing resources, information and tools for education and animation in justice.
- Helping administrative units in developing countries to write, propose, present, coordinate and evaluate projects for funding.
- Advocating on behalf of just causes
- Networking with Marist NGOs and Province/District Solidarity Coordinators.

**BIS IN AUSTRALIA, OCEANIA AND ASIA**

BIS currently assists with funding of a variety of projects in most of the countries in our Asia and the Pacific region. These are called micro-projects and typically provide USD\$5,000 of funding support to projects which promote Education, Development, Marist Formation and Emergencies. BIS also provides assistance in preparing submissions to International funding agencies such as Kindermissionswerk in Germany, Manos Unidas in Spain and Aiutare i Bambini in Italy

**BIS AND THE UNITED NATIONS**

2006 is the first full year of Marist representation in ECOSOC, the UN council for Economic and Social Development. An Marist office has been established in Geneva in partnership with Franciscans International. BIS will concentrate on advocacy on behalf of Children at Risk and provide input on the developments concerning the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A similar partnership with Franciscans International is being investigated in Asia. Australian Marists are monitoring its development and will position themselves to take part in the new body for advocacy on behalf of children.

These opportunities for advocacy allow Marists to speak out in world forums on behalf of children..