

**The Marist Brothers' Teaching Tradition  
In Australia: 1872-2000**

**With special attention to developments in Sydney.**

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## Preface

This historical analysis of the teaching tradition of the Marist Brothers in Australia is based mainly on archival material conserved at the Sydney Province's archives located at St Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill; in the school library at St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas, NSW; and, to a lesser extent, in the archives of the Melbourne Province, at Templestowe in Victoria. Access to these archival materials was kindly granted by the respective Brothers Provincial and facilitated by Br Michael Naughtin and his understudy, Br Brian Etherington, in Sydney; by Br Nello Facci in Melbourne; and also by Mr Michael Wondracz, the school librarian at Dundas. In addition I have enjoyed considerable assistance from the Irish Christian Brother's archivist at Balmain, in Sydney.

The present writer is not, of course, the first to mine these archives. Br Alban Doyle's *The Story of the Marist Brothers in Australia: 1872-1972* made extensive and sensitive use, especially, of the primary sources up till 1900; and other Australian Marist scholars, such as Br Ronald Fogarty, Br Michael Naughtin and Br Frederick McMahon have also blazed a trail through periods and topics which were their particular interest. Similarly, the European archival materials preserved at the present Marist General House in Rome, and the former General House, at St Genis Laval, near Lyon, have been studied and pondered by people such as Br Gabriel Marcel, Br Alexandre Balko, Br Paul Sester and Br André Lanfrey, and it is the conclusions of these French Marist scholars, rather than the present writer's own familiarity with the original texts that have provided a pedagogical starting point for the narrative of the Marist Brothers in Australia.

The overall construction and development of this thesis have been monitored, with great generosity and regularity, by my supervisor, Dr Craig Campbell and, to a lesser extent, by my associate supervisor, Professor Geoffrey Sherington. Individual chapters have been read and discussed, or commented upon, by Brs Allman Dwyer, Charles Howard, Frederick McMahon, John Luttrell, Julian Casey, Michael Naughtin, Ronald Fogarty and Walter Smith in Australia, and by Br André Lanfrey in France. Their comments have been, for the most part, affirming and supportive, and for this I am most grateful and appreciative. However, ultimate responsibility for the judgements and opinions expressed must remain with the writer.

Finally, at a personal level, the completion of this dissertation, which has been a full-time, five days a week job for the past three years, would not have been possible without the constant encouragement and assistance of my wife, Jennifer Ledingham. She not only proof-read each chapter, as it was drafted, and corrected the punctuation; she also discussed, and invited me to re-think, the emphasis in some aspects of the argument, itself. For her support, and that of my wider circle of family, friends and former confreres, I am most grateful. Without it, writing would have been a very lonely occupation.

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