



SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AWARD

“The Lord wants us to belong to a Church that knows how to open her arms and welcome everyone. Not a house for the few, but a house for everyone, where all can be renewed, transformed, sanctified by his love, the strongest and the weakest, sinners, the indifferent, those who feel discouraged or lost. Are we a Church that calls and welcomes sinners with open arms, that gives courage and hope, or are we a Church closed in on herself?”

Pope Francis, *The Church of Mercy*, Darton, Longman & Todd, 2014

Rationale

Saint Marcellin Champagnat established the Marist Brothers to respond to the needs of disadvantaged young people. He wanted the Brothers to work in the locations with children lacking access to education. Today, this Marist mission is no longer the exclusive property of the Brothers; it is open to all lay Marists who want to incorporate Marist values in their lives, and to share in Marcellin's fundamental plan of action each in his or her own unique way.

As a Catholic school and as part of the mission of the Marist Institute, it is appropriate that Marcellin College engages in social action opportunities which are both educative and practical in outcomes. Our focus is young people and we seek to make a positive difference in their lives, especially those who are poor, deprived of education and most in need of our support. Whether it be working with the Brothers in Pailin, Cambodia or assisting an indigenous community in Bourke, NSW, or supporting the work of local initiatives like the Exodus Community, the College remains committed to providing opportunities for our boys to contribute to society, giving witness to Saint Marcellin's solidarity with people in greatest need. It is through these experiences we are reminded to be a presence in the lives of others, to live with simplicity, to have a love of work, demonstrate family spirit and to live in the Way of Mary.

What is the Three2Six project?

The Three2Six project is run by a Marist school, Sacred Heart College, in Observatory, Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2008, Sacred Heart College started this project aimed at offering a place of hope for refugee children. Besides offering academic and social bridging into the South African schooling system, the project also aims to offer protective factors that can build resilience and reduce vulnerability.

Most of the children are refugees from Central Africa and live in very difficult conditions. Most live in inner city Johannesburg, in small spaces shared with several people. Often one family occupies one room in an apartment, shared with other families. The children do not attend regular state schools, spend much of their time indoors and receive very little stimulation.

Three2Six is an afternoon educational bridging program that partly alleviates this situation by providing 200 of these children with three hours of education per day. This is not a full school day and the children miss out on other types of learning, including sporting and creative activities. They also do not often have the opportunity to go on outings and experience the city in a more positive and meaningful way. Three2Six provides educational support, a nutritious meal each day and most important of all, hope for a brighter future. Three2Six works with the children and their families to build skills and educational foundations and then to help transition the students into local schools. The project offers a curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy but also offers life skills when possible.

What is the Three2Six Holiday program?

The Three2Six project runs a two week holiday program annually during the August and December school holidays. For the last four years programs were a phenomenal success. The children were able to revise the literacy and numeracy content and to take part in artistic, sports and cultural activities. Since the usual time is so short (3pm to 6pm during school days), this was a valuable opportunity for the children to catch up, learn new things, and have fun. The feedback from the teachers after the holiday program was overwhelmingly positive and many of the children and parents have asked for the holiday program to take place again.

The holiday program also offers the Three2Six teachers (who are themselves refugees) an opportunity to earn supplementary income and engage with different types and styles of learning.

What can you expect from the Holiday Program?

The 2017 Three2Six Holiday program will provide opportunities for the students to revise some of their literacy and numeracy work, but the focus will be on providing the sorts of activities that we can't usually offer during the term. There will be arts/crafts sessions, sports lessons per class each week, excursions, fun reading, meals and iPad classes. In addition we are hoping to have a focus on science learning and activities for this program; given that this is an area of learning that the children have no access to at other times. At the moment we are looking at one science week and one arts week, engaging with local science institutions and artist.

We will place you with one class, so you'll have a chance to get to know some of the students quite well by building positive relationships. In each classroom we aim to have the teacher, one Aussie volunteer and two – three local high school volunteers. Often we also add a local University student into the mix too when they are available. This provides a great mix and good support for each classroom, where the kids can have adequate supervision but also support and positive play. We provide lunch each day onsite for all children and volunteers.

You'll be expected to get involved in all the different activities that they do. With the more normal class sessions like numeracy and literacy the teacher will guide you in how to help. Often you'll just move around the class and if students are having trouble understanding or completing their task then you can offer assistance. These sessions are not every day and are only half an hour at a time. We have also in the past asked volunteers to each lead one particular session and move around to each classroom when this session is scheduled e.g.: iPad, dance, craft, and nutrition, wildlife YouTube clips and quiz class. We select these based on the particular skills and interests of our volunteers and it also provides the opportunity to interact with each of the grades for a session.

As an Old Collegian how can you get involved?

Exploring Faith in Action

The Three2Six project requires Australian and South African volunteers to come and help run games, sports, science, arts and craft, computer sessions and to help with reading practice and literacy and numeracy revision.

The holiday program in 2017 will run from 4 – 15 December. The period comprises 10 days (two full weeks). The program will run for four hours per day, from 9.00am to 1.00pm, however volunteers are required to arrive at 8.30am to assist with set up and preparation and we are likely to stay an extra hour or two each day to plan and prepare for the following day. Children will be transported to and from the project by Sacred Heart buses as usual. The total number of children catered for will be approximately 150. Full details of the annual holiday program can be viewed via: <http://www.three2six.co.za/annual-holiday-program/>

In solidarity with Sacred Heart College in Observatory, each year Marcellin College will offer an immersion experience to Johannesburg, South Africa, for **three Old Collegians**.

Week One		Week Two	
Fri 1 Dec	Arrive in Johannesburg Transfer to group accommodation	Sat 10 Dec	Pilansburg Game Drive*
Sat 2 Dec	Induction activities facilitated by Three2Six Holiday Program Coordinator, Rebecca Bromhead, and Marcellin College Old Collegian and past Award Recipient, Michael Stavrakakis	Sun 10 Dec	Pilansburg Game Drive* and return
Sun 3 Dec	Induction activities continue	Mon 11 Dec	326 Holiday Program St Vinnie's Soup Kitchen (afternoon)
Mon 4 Dec	326 training/orientation day St Vinnie's Soup Kitchen (afternoon)	Tue 12 Dec	326 Holiday Program Soweto visit
Tue 5 Dec	326 Holiday Program Apartheid Museum visit	Wed 13 Dec	326 Holiday Program Free time (afternoon)
Wed 6 Dec	326 Holiday Program Debrief/Free time (afternoon)	Thu 14 Dec	326 Holiday Program St Mary's Children's Home visit (afternoon)
Thu 7 Dec	326 Holiday Program Constitutional Hill and Court visit (afternoon)	Fri 15 Dec	326 Holiday Program Group debrief and final dinner
Fri 8 Dec	326 Holiday Program Drive to Pilansburg*	Sat 16 Dec	Depart Johannesburg

***Please note:** The weekend trip to a Game Lodge in Pilansburg is highly recommended. This is approx. 4hours drive from Johannesburg and the cost for the full weekend, including transport, twin accommodation, all meals (not drinks) and game drives is approximately \$250 - \$300per person (TBC). The program coordinator is looking to book the following lodge, or something similar, but this will be confirmed when the group is finalised: <http://www.blackrhinogamelodge.com/index.html>

Addition Itinerary information

St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen - on the Monday night of each week the groups attend and participate in the soup kitchen at Braamfontein Catholic Church. The soup kitchen serves 150-200 homeless people (mainly men) each Monday night and the volunteers appreciate the opportunity to help serve the soup and bread and meet some of Johannesburg's homeless.

Apartheid Museum - the group spent a morning at this world class museum, learning about the Apartheid policies and the experience of different South Africans during that period. This is a particularly powerful visit and provides an in depth understanding of the profound impact of the Apartheid era on South Africa.

Constitution Hill - the group spent an afternoon exploring the old jail at Constitution Hill and the new Constitutional Court located next door. They learnt about the experiences of political and criminal prisoners during the Apartheid era, Mahatma Ghandi's cell, hear about the post-Apartheid progress and in particular it's sophisticated and world class new Constitution and associated legal process.

Hector Pietersen Memorial - the group spends an afternoon at the Hector Pietersen Memorial in Soweto, learning about the role that students played in the struggle against Apartheid and in particular the riots in which Hector Pietersen was killed and the role that incident played in the struggle, eventually leading to the end of Apartheid in South Africa.

Regina Mundi Catholic Church, Soweto - the group visits Regina Mundi, learning about the role it played as a central gathering point for locals of all denominations and for political rallies during the Apartheid era. You will view the remaining bucket holes and signs of the episode where Afrikaans soldiers stormed the Church, shooting bullets into the building to disperse crowds who had gathered there seeking refuge.

Nelson Mandela's house and museum - the group visited Mandela's old family home in Soweto, learning more about the inspirational first South African President and seeing some of his many personal artefacts, honours and memorabilia.

St Mary's Children's Home provides residential care for children in the south of Johannesburg. The children here live in mixed age and sex groups of 6 - 8 with a live-in house 'aunty', modelling a more natural family environment. We will visit the home briefly and then take a group of children on an outing.

Moyo Restaurant - the group can eat out a number of times during the program, sampling the sights and sounds of Johannesburg. A highlight is a meal at Moyo on Zoo Lake, where you could try local game meals including crocodile, kudu and ostrich at this lovely African themed restaurant.

Your commitment

The three Old Collegians are expected to actively participate in all aspects of the two week program, including additional immersion experiences during the "out-of-hours" time. The College will arrange for the three Old Collegian volunteers to arrive in Johannesburg on **Friday 1 December**. The holiday program will run for five hours each day. As per the itinerary there will be opportunities for successful applicants to experience other local projects, sights and experiences.

The Three2Six program is not a travel agent. While they are thrilled to have international volunteers participate in the holiday program, and are happy to make some arrangements in return for the generous donation of time and energy, they understand that you are independent travellers who will organise and take responsibility for your travel and experience in South Africa.

As a returning volunteer, Rebecca is happy to help organise some of the logistics for the group (e.g. accommodation options and transport) to make the program run smoothly and help those who are not familiar with Johannesburg to prepare for their time here. She is also excited to share some additional elements of Johannesburg and South Africa with you while you are volunteering with the Three2Six program. However, all volunteers need to take full responsibility for their choices, safety and any risk or liability that activities may hold.

Travel Costs and Accommodation

The *Saint Marcellin Champagnat Award* covers the cost of **return airfares** and **travel insurance**. The Three2Six Holiday Program Coordinator will arrange safe local accommodation. Successful applicants are expected to contribute to a small group allowance for meals and groceries as listed below. Successful applicants will also need to cover costs, at a reduced price, for a weekend safari with other volunteers over the weekend in the middle of the program.

The accommodation venue for group members in Johannesburg is close to Sacred Heart College and provides a secure and pleasant place to stay. It is very likely that this will be a family house, which includes a single/twin share room for each volunteer, shared clean bathrooms and kitchens and use of a group living space while the programme takes place. For the ease of group facilitation, transport and coordination Old Collegians participating in the program are expected to live in the shared accommodation as arranged by the Three2Six Coordinator. The group training and debrief sessions will be held on site at this venue or at the school.

Below we have included guidelines for costs which we hope you find useful in planning for your expenditure for the duration of the two week program:

Item	Cost pp	Notes
Flights: return to Johannesburg	-	Marcellin College covers cost
Travel insurance	-	Marcellin College covers cost
Passport, vaccinations, etc.		Participants to source and organise
Accommodation	nil	Arranged by the Three2Six Holiday Program Coordinator.
Johannesburg group transport	nil	Sacred Heart College will provide a vehicle for the group to use and will cover the cost of fuel.
Meals (Monday to Friday, B'fast and dinner)	\$100 AUS Approx.	Group members each contribute to a kitty and at the training organise a simple roster for preparing and sharing evening meals. Pay in ZAR and put in kitty on training day. This usually also covers a few meals out.
Local activities e.g. museum visits etc.	\$100 AUS Approx.	This would be the maximum needed. Pay individually as you go.
*Pilansburg weekend	\$300 AUS Approx.	Includes all travel, accommodation, meals and game drives. Payment details TBC.

Please note: Immunizations, passport application, personal spending money and personal items (power adaptors, money changing, exchange rate /cards, international phone cards, roaming for mobiles) are additional costs at the successful applicants' own expense.

Safety

Your safety is of great concern to the two Colleges and Three2Sixholiday program organisers. The Coordinator takes great care in making recommendations for secure transport, accommodation and activity options. That said, things can unexpectedly happen in any experience and we are not able to guarantee individual's safety or take responsibility for your decision to participate in this program or additional suggested activities.

As a volunteer with the Three2Six Holiday Program, you will be covered by Sacred Heart College's public liability insurance while onsite at the College for the daily program. We consider you an independent traveller and you are responsible for your own health and safety for the duration of the two weeks. While the Three2Six Holiday Program Coordinator can offer you suggestions for accommodation, transport and activities, they need to emphasise that you select these options at your own risk and we expect that you will undertake appropriate research and preparation to look after yourself while you are in South Africa.

All volunteers are required to hold a valid *National Working With Children Check* from Australia (this is with the AFP) to ensure the safety of our children.

Passports

It is important that all applicants hold a valid passport before departure and that it is valid for at least 6 months whilst he is in the country. Please ensure that your name is correct on the passport and that it matches with all other travel documentation and airline tickets.

Volunteers will be met at the airport by the Three2Six Holiday Program Coordinator Rebecca Bromhead and Marcellin College Old Collegian and past Award Recipient, Michael Stavrakakis and transported to accommodation.

Criteria for Selection

Applicants must address the following criteria in their application:

1. Commitment to the Catholic ethos and Marist mission
2. Ability to be flexible and supportive of the Three2Six Coordinator and work as an active member of a team
3. Ability to demonstrate proven success with positive relationships with a range of students and adults
4. Possess high levels of adaptability and interpersonal skills
5. Be able to demonstrate necessary travel skills

Successful applicants should be open and have a willingness to learn from new experiences. Successful applicants will be expected to share their experience with our community via our various Ministry programs upon return.

It is vital that all applicants understand that this trip may require physical stamina and an ability to cope with demanding situations.

All applications must be addressed to Mr. Mark Murphy and received by Sian Cameron, PA to the Principal, by June 6, 2017.

Contact details

If you have any questions about this immersion opportunity please contact Carolyn Young, Assistant Principal (Mission) at the College on (+61) 3 9851 1540 or Rebecca Bromhead, *Three2Six Holiday Program Coordinator*, at 326development@ischool.org.za Rebecca is also happy to skype or speak by phone if that suits you better.