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## **The evolving cultural and spiritual identity of Our Lady of Lebanon College over its 40 years<sup>1</sup>**

### **Introduction**

Our Lady of Lebanon School was opened on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1973 in Harris Park, Parramatta. Two Religious sisters from the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family Congregation, Juliette Ghorayeb and Constance Bacha (who became Principal in 1974) arrived from Lebanon and laid the foundations for the school. They were aided by Monsignor Peter Ziade, parish priest of Saint Maroun's Church. The school opened its doors with an enrolment of 115 pupils under Our Lady of Lebanon Church, situated on land that was originally occupied by the settlers and pioneers John and Elizabeth Macarthur. The purpose of the school was to provide education to Maronite families newly arrived in Australia, and to maintain the cultural, linguistic and spiritual practices of the community.

Sister Juliette returned to Lebanon the following year and when Sister Madeleine de la Croix arrived in Australia in 1974, she was assigned to Our Lady of Lebanon School. Over the years the Principals have been Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family (MSHF) and include Juliette Ghorayeb 1973, Constance Bacha 1974-1995, Irene Boughosn 1996-2004 and Marlene Chedid 2005-2013.

For Monsignor Ziade the need to establish schools was crucial to his work in Australia as written in his personal account, 'We were concerned very much with our schools, for their existence was vital to our survival as a community and to the inculcation in the younger generation of a deep attachment to their country of origin and an abiding respect for good morals and a true Christian faith.'<sup>1</sup> Maronite schools were established from 1970 onwards and today include Saint Maroun College at Dulwich Hill, Our Lady of Lebanon College at Harris Park, Saint Charbel College at Punchbowl, and in Melbourne the Antonine Primary Cedar campus and Secondary Trinity campus. Their uniqueness has been in their ethnic, religious and cultural contributions. Today these institutions are experiencing

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enrolments of children of former students, who also insist that their children maintain the spiritual, cultural and linguistic background.<sup>ii</sup>

### **Establishing Our Lady of Lebanon Primary School**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1972 an application to open a new school titled Our Lady of Lebanon Primary School was lodged.<sup>iii</sup> On the 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1972 Cardinal James Freeman blessed the future church and the bottom level which was to be the locale for Our Lady of Lebanon school. Following this on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1973 the CEO of Sydney advised that a new school, Our Lady of Lebanon, was to be established in Harris Park.<sup>iv</sup> On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1973 approval was granted for the school to purchase necessary items at reduced prices from the Government Stores Department including the Curriculum syllabus, class rolls, lesson registrars, timetables, exam report books and exam record cards and on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1973 Sister Juliette, placed the first purchase order from the Department of Education.<sup>v</sup> From 25-27<sup>th</sup> Jan 1973 discussions in regards to establishing a bus service for students was entered into. This was essential as the school would not be able to run without student numbers and these children of Maronite background were scattered over the locale including Merrylands, Greystanes, Guildford, North Parramatta, Dundas, Oatlands, Blacktown, South Wentworthville, Girraween, Seven Hills and Granville.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1973 the Catholic Education Office levied 20c per child. With an enrolment of 130 students at the time, it came to a total of \$26! Yet it was not until the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1973 that the Certified K-6 School was given under the provisions of the Public Instruction Act 1916, and this provision extended until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1978.<sup>vi</sup> It was in the same year in September that the Government cancelled the free milk scheme to schools.

Many Lebanese families would assist the Sisters and the School in the early years including Hannah Khoury and family, Joe and Freda Budwe, Chafic and Najla Wehbe, Joe and Warde Chahine, as well as the neighbours, all of whom were Australian citizens of Lebanese Maronite descent.

According to the 1974 census there were 161 students, 80 boys and 81 girls. Of these 160 were of Lebanese background and 1 Greek background student, making it evident from the outset that this new Maronite Catholic school was considered to be for the Lebanese Maronite community. Of the 161 students enrolled, their religious affiliation included 142 Maronites, 6 Orthodox, 3 Protestants, and 10 were Muslims. Staff included the 2 Sisters, Constance and Madeleine, 5 female staff and 1 male staff.

The Schools Commission in 1977 declared the school as disadvantaged which allowed for the release of funds that went towards carpets, playground equipment and other facilities including demountable classrooms which would hold them over until the Capital grant was acquired. This was followed in 1978 by a Federal Grant of \$680,000 for the construction of premises to house an infants and a Primary department and administration. In 1978 the sisters acquired two adjoining house blocks opposite the church to accommodate the Primary school and convent which were to become known as 23-25 Alice Street, the official address of the College. Construction was completed in 1982 and housed a student population of 354 and a staff of 16 and 2 sisters. The official opening was performed by Senator Peter Baume, the Minister for Education, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1982. This first building project at the school incurred a debt of \$200,000.<sup>vii</sup> The construction of a second upper-primary set of classrooms occurred in the late 1990s to accommodate the increasing number of enrolments.

### **The Secondary Department – becoming a College**

The decade of the 1980s saw the need for a Secondary department. The Sisters were aware that unless a Secondary was established many parents would withdraw their children in Years 5 and 6, in order to place them in feeder schools that guaranteed places in Catholic High Schools. Applications were lodged and necessary plans of designing and lobbying commenced. However it was not an easy road as observed through the telegram received on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1985 from Canberra that announced that, ‘the Commonwealth Minister for Education has not approved your school as eligible to receive general recurrent funding from the Commonwealth in respect of the proposed extension of the school in 1986.’ No concise reason was offered for the adverse government funding decision but as Sister Constance recalls, the remark was given to her that the school was so beautifully built the sisters should consider converting it into a hotel! However the Maronite community were not prepared to accept the rejection, insisting on their rights to have an independent Maronite Catholic College. The community organized petitions to the Schools Commission, to local members of parliament, to the Commonwealth Education Minister Susan Ryan, and letters to the Lebanese Ambassador and Lebanese Consul-General. It took successive applications for Federal funding before approval was given three months after the commencement of the Secondary.<sup>viii</sup> This was followed by a response from the State Government in May 1986 in which a letter from the State Department of Education stated, ‘I have been advised that your school is now provisionally approved for General Recurrent Grants.’<sup>ix</sup>

During the early Secondary years students were accommodated in partitioned classrooms in the church hall and in refurbished flats at 36 Weston Street. Finally a Schools Commission Grant of \$1,218,000 was made over 1988 and 1989 with the School contributing \$730,000. The Secondary B block facing Weston Street, was completed in 1990 at a grand total of \$2,424,095. The Federal building grant was issued in 1990 for \$1,168,300 to be staggered over three years, with the school contributing around \$600,000.<sup>x</sup> Registration visits by the Education Department for the Secondary occurred consecutively in 1986, 1987 and 1988, to ensure it conformed to all regulations as its year cohort increased a year level annually. Permission was granted to offer courses leading to the award of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) and in the Year 1991, the first time the College entered students for this credential for the first time.

The beginnings of the Secondary department commenced in the Church hall before later moving to its two purpose-built buildings in 1990 and 1992 included thirty five students, two fulltime and four part-time staff. The first Secondary building included a staffroom, library, a science lab, food technology kitchen and a woodwork room. By the completion of the final stage of this project in 1992 the College had grown into a school providing education to almost 1,000 students from Kindergarten to Year 12 and employed a total of eighty staff.

The official opening of the Secondary in 1992 was performed by the Prime Minister The Honourable Paul Keating. The Maronite Bishop of Australia, His Excellency Archbishop Joseph Hitti, paid tribute to the work of the Principal Sr Constance and Sr Madeleine.<sup>xi</sup> The event was recorded in the papers with the *Telegraph Mirror* writing, 'It (the school) reflects the fact that there is strength in our cultural diversity and that the energy of an ethnic community can strengthen our pursuit of common national goals.'<sup>xii</sup> In the *Parramatta Advertiser* it was written, 'Fanfares, anthems, flags, culture and entertainment, adoration and adulation were all ingredients of the reception Prime Minister Paul Keating received when he opened Our Lady of Lebanon School at Harris Park on Friday.' He referred to the Commonwealth contribution of \$2.3 million in recent years and the community's own 'magnificent effort and sacrifice.'<sup>xiii</sup>

The 1990 census recorded 555 Primary students and 306 Secondary students which in that year consisted of Years 7-11.<sup>xiv</sup> The Census of 1995 listed the population of the Primary at a total of 623 students and in Secondary a total of 384 students. Within just over 20 years the College had advanced from a 115 Primary student enrolment school with classes held under the Church to a College with over 1000 enrolments from Kindergarten to Year 12 with

four buildings housing the students. The Australian Maronite community had supported this project that had commenced with a vision by Monsignor Peter Ziade and was made a reality through the work of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family.

Along with numerous internal refurbishments and the provision of a College-wide computer network which has moved the College in synch with the technology of the modern age, there were further constructions in the Secondary. The next building included a purpose-built library, an assembly hall, canteen and six classrooms. These additions to the Secondary were officially opened on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2004 in the presence of the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, who made reference to her Lebanese cultural background in her opening speech. The Member of Parliament Philip Ruddock and Mr Ross Cameron, Member for Parramatta were present at the official opening, as was the Maronite Bishop Ad Abikaram, and the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family Congregational Leader Gabrielle BouMoussa. Messages were sent from Prime Minister, The Honourable John Howard, and The Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson MP and Minister for Education, Science and training.<sup>xv</sup>

### **Visits by Politicians**

Political visits were common from all branches of government and from all political parties. It began in 1974 when the Member of Parliament, The Honourable Philip Ruddock visited the school and would become a regular guest. Since then notable visits included on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1982 the Minister for Education, Senator Honourable Peter Baume on the occasion of the official opening of the extension of the Primary school. In 1984 the Member of Parliament and Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Mr Barry Wild, attended for an awards ceremony. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1989 the NSW Premier, The Honourable Nick Greiner visited the school. On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1992 the Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable Paul Keating, attended for the official opening of the Secondary B and C blocks, to much fanfare! Then on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1997 The Honourable Philip Ruddock, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs was in attendance and visited again the following year on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1998 for the College's celebration of its Silver Jubilee.

The Prime Minister, The Honourable John Howard, visited the College in 2000. His visit included an address to all staff and students and the many parents who came along, followed by a meeting with the senior students to discuss economics. A reporter from the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote that 'the students at Harris Park did welcome the Prime Minister, applauding and cheering as he entered the grounds, but they were not

unquestioning. The Year 12 students said they wanted education, reconciliation and anti-discrimination on the agenda for this year's Federal election.<sup>xvi</sup>

The following year in 2001, saw the visit of the New South Wales Premier Bob Carr and two weeks later the NSW Liberal Parliamentary Leader John Brogden was in attendance. Then on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2004 on the occasion of the official opening of the A Block in Secondary, the New South Wales State Governor Dr Marie Bashir attended along with Member of Parliament Philip Ruddock. In 2004 the Minister for Education Dr Andrew Refshauge visited and more recently in March 2013 the Honourable Thomas George, Member for Lismore, addressed the Secondary students at the College ANZAC ceremony, making reference to his Lebanese heritage.

### **In more recent times**

With an increase in Federal Government funding in 2008-2009, Our Lady of Lebanon College took advantage of this to extend, refurbish and update its educational facilities. Building initiatives included the relocation and upgrading of three science labs that included smart boards as well as a new computer lab and access to wifi. Funding also resulted in a new drama room and redesigning the administration department. With the help of the Parents Association and the College's own efforts over 2008-2012 Primary classes were fitted with Smart boards.

The Federal Government in 2009 called for a push to update and modernise Primary schools with Our Lady of Lebanon College receiving \$3 million to spend on building a new Primary block which included a library, IT room, four classrooms and a multipurpose hall. The official opening of the additional Primary F block occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in the presence of The Honourable Julie Owens, Member of Parliament, the Local State MP for Parramatta, The Honourable Geoff Lee and The Lord Mayor of Parramatta, The Honourable Lorraine Wearne.<sup>xvii</sup>

### **Cultural maintenance over forty years**

The College was established from the beginning to maintain the Lebanese cultural heritage of the Maronite migrants and their children. This was carried out in a number of ways. One early example was the first excursion that took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1973 where the Years 1-6 students visited the Lebanese Consulate, Saint Mary's Cathedral, the Australian Museum, and Saint Maroun School Redfern with a picnic in Hyde Park. The cost came to 75c per child. Our Lady of Lebanon school emphasised to its students from the beginning its

hyphenated Australian-Lebanese identity, its Maronite Catholic faith and its Lebanese cultural background.

Excursions since then have included 'Mirath in mind,' which includes students studying a Lebanese figure in depth, who has played a significant role in the entertainment industry, writing about the person and performing their Arabic songs or literary works at a convention. There have been regular visits to Arabic radio stations and newspapers, experiencing Lebanese cuisine, inviting an Arabic calligrapher for incursions and offering Lebanese folk dance lessons (dabke) to students. Lebanon Independence Day is also celebrated annually by Primary students and includes speeches, songs and dance.

In 2011 Lebanese Independence day was celebrated in the Secondary when Year 12 students decided to make of it a celebration with Lebanese food on sale, Lebanese music played during lunchtime, trivia competition per year group and an assembly in the hall with guest entertainer Robert Chehade of Lebanese background, who starred in *Fat Pizza* and the theatre production of *From Lebanon with Love*.

The promotion of the Australian-Lebanese identity was seen at the official opening of the Secondary as described in *Our Catholic Schools* when it 'began with the Lebanese and Australian anthems and continued with a folk dance, speeches and a prayer liturgy. Guests included Bishop Bede Heather, the Maronite Archbishop of Australia and New Zealand Joseph Hitti.'<sup>xviii</sup>

Visits from Lebanese Politicians to reinforce the Lebanese cultural identity have included Lebanese Members of Parliament Danny Chamoun, Amin Gemayel and Simon Douiehy in earlier years. Lebanese Members of Parliament Sami Gemayel and Michel Mouawad, who both visited in 2012. They emphasised that families in Australia should maintain their Lebanese culture, make frequent visits back to their homeland and vote in elections in Lebanon.

However despite nurturing a positive attitude in students in regards to their ancestral heritage, the Australian media was often a stumbling block with its persistent negative coverage of Middle Eastern people. Students from Our Lady of Lebanon College were interviewed in 1998 over racism towards the Lebanese following the New South Wales Premier Bob Carr's comments linking gang violence to the Lebanese identity. In *The Daily Telegraph* one student, Sarkis Elia, commented, 'We build our reputation up and then when this one thing happens we have to start again.'<sup>xix</sup>

The views of the College students were also sought by newspapers and two senior students Laura Jilwan and Charlie Zoghaib, appeared on the Channel 9 Sydney *Today Show*



to present their point of view in regards to the drive by shootings in Lakemba in 2000 where the Police Commissioner Peter Ryan referred to as an ethnic issue and that the Lebanese community should take responsibility for.

On Friday August 10<sup>th</sup> 2001, Premier Bob Carr visited Our Lady of Lebanon College. Two weeks after the Premier's visit, the leader of the New South Wales Liberal Party John Brogden visited the College. A journalist from *The Bulletin Magazine* wrote, 'The hot-button issue in this Catholic Maronite school, is the battering the community feels it has copped in the past year. They say that they are still reeling from a sense of unfair collective guilt after the arrest and sentencing of a group of gang rapists. All of the attackers were from a Muslim-Lebanese background and the victims were all targeted Caucasians.'<sup>xx</sup>

On the first anniversary of September 11, the US Consul-General, Eileen Molloy, attended a Mass at the College. She returned to the College a week later to discuss the events unfolding on the world's stage with senior students.

In regards to the world stage it is worth noting that although students past and present do visit Lebanon on a regular basis, there is little evidence that students from Our Lady of Lebanon College ever choose to settle there. Most students graduate from the College and pursue further studies in Australia. There are those very few who have benefitted from their Arabic language, taking up positions in the Middle East or in the case of Yaara BouMelhem who after working across News and Current Affairs at SBS in TV, Radio and Online, relocated to Beirut, to report for Australian and international networks, including SBS and Dateline. Other former students have made an impact on the world stage include Christopher Esber and Josette Hazzouri in the fashion industry.

As the name Our Lady of Lebanon College has been a point of contention over the last decade, due to negative media coverage in regards to Middle Eastern people, the College has struggled to maintain a positive image of its cultural heritage, and students have been constant victims of stereotyping. As a result, in 2013 the process commenced to change the College name to reflect its founding history. It is in the transitioning process which will eventuate with a new name, 'Holy Family Maronite College – Parramatta.' Staff, students and parents have welcomed the proposal, although a minority have argued that Our Lady of Lebanon College should remain as the identity.

### **Linguistic maintenance over forty years**

In the opening two years of the school, in 1973 and 1974, aside from English, students were taught Arabic and French as secondary languages but French was stopped in 1975 as students

favoured it over Arabic! The Sisters insisted on placing emphasis on the Arabic language as a first priority although French has been offered as an elective in Secondary. Over the years Arabic has been compulsory as a second language through Primary and Secondary. This insistence has been beneficial to students who graduate with two languages and there have been numerous occasions where students have achieved first ranking in the State for the HSC course Arabic Continuers. The College also holds appeal to students who migrate from Lebanon and wish to pursue studies in Arabic and French.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1994 an Arabic Reading Routes programme was produced by the school under New South Wales Ethnic Schools Programme and sent for review. After a few recommendations and changes, printing funds totaling \$3,300 for one thousand copies was given to the school and 5 copies of the programme forwarded to the Ethnic Schools Centre for resources.<sup>xxi</sup> Through the work of the Primary Languages other than English Coordinator Mr Charbel Bainsi, Our Lady of Lebanon School annually published Arabic reading and writing texts for the students.

Primary Arabic Concerts have been a regular feature and very popular with parents. Performances over the years included: Ghost Town in 1990, Indian from Lebanon in 1991, The Lebanese Street in 1997, Our Aboriginal neighbour in 1998, Hello Australia and others. These annual concerts involve students speaking in Arabic, dressing in cultural costumes and performing the Lebanese folk dance accompanied by Lebanese instruments and as can be imagined these Arabic plays are popular with the parents who are nostalgic for their homeland. Secondary students have also performed Arabic plays although not frequently. However Lebanese music, instruments and dance feature prominently in their concerts, talents quests and Expo Extravaganzas.

However with second and third generations of students coming through the College in more recent times, less students speak Arabic and fewer families use the Arabic language at home. As a result compulsory Arabic to Year 10 was re-considered and in 2012 it became an elective subject for Year 9 students onwards.

### **Religious Maintenance over forty years**

The first Maronite Bishop, Abdo Khalife, visited the school regularly and would preside annually over the celebration of the Year 3 First Holy Communion. Bishop Joseph Hitti, followed by Bishop Ad Abikaram, have since presided over this celebration.

Maronite Masses have always been celebrated by the College and the chaplain has always been a Maronite priest. Masses throughout the year include celebrating the feast of

Saint Maroun held around 9<sup>th</sup> February as well as the celebration of Our Lady of Lebanon feast day on 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Feast of the Assumption. Masses have also been celebrated for the Feasts of Saint Rafqa (in March), Saint Charbel (in July) and Lebanon Independence Day (21<sup>st</sup> November). The College also prepares for Lent with a Mass on Ash Monday, unlike Ash Wednesday in Roman Catholic Schools.

A significant event that consolidated the Maronite Catholic College identity was the visit of the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, Nisrallah Boutros Sfeir, in 1993 when he was welcomed by applauding students and parents. The Patriarch returned again in 2008 to celebrate Maronite 08 and Secondary students of Our Lady of Lebanon performed liturgical dances before the patriarch and a crowd of 20,000 Maronites at Parramatta Stadium.

## **Conclusion**

The establishment of Our Lady of Lebanon School, which would later become known as Our Lady of Lebanon College, was unique for a number of reasons. Most significantly, it was, along with its sister school Saint Maoruns, the first Maronite schools in Australia and one of the very few Maronite schools outside of the Middle East. Our Lady of Lebanon school was located in Parramatta and the only school of the area to offer compulsory Arabic as a second language from Kindy to Year 6 and later through to Year 10, with it being an elective in senior years. Its students have always been of a Lebanese background, with a minority from Egyptian, Syrian or Australian background. The College has also consistently celebrated the Maronite Catholic Liturgy and its chaplains have always been of the Maronite Rite. However over forty years times have changed.

In preserving the culture, language and religious traditions of Lebanese Maronites, the emerging reality was that over time communities de-ethnicize. Over the forty years Our Lady of Lebanon College has experienced the changing demands of Australian life, second and third generation students as second language learners, and parents of varied bilingual skills. Furthermore there are also never-ending building programmes, increasing government compliances, competing academically with local schools and the need to be astute in politics and business.<sup>xxii</sup> Despite the many demands and struggles, today with a student population of 687 in the Primary and 490 in the Secondary, the College's unique aspects are still sought and valued by the Maronite community. The young people still identify and take pride in their Lebanese heritage and their parents, many of whom have been born in Australia, still value the Maronite spiritual practices and morals that their parents taught them and the cultural patterns they grew up with.

The College has had to become competitive in the academic and sporting arena, has had to update its resources and teaching facilities, expanding its playgrounds and constructing new buildings, however its cultural, linguistic and spiritual identity has remained relatively stable, which is what parents and students value in a time of ever changing demands.

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- <sup>i</sup> Peter Amin Ziade, *Memories and documents of a priest*, (The Maronite Diocese of Australia, 1973), 144.
- <sup>ii</sup> Margaret Ghosn, 'Maronite Institutional development across Australia' in *Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society*, Volume 31/32, 2010/2011, pp15-26.
- <sup>iii</sup> Document dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 1972, sent by Mr T. H. Barker, Secretary, found in College archives.
- <sup>iv</sup> Document sent from the Metropolitan West Area by J. A. Thomson, Director of Education, found in College archives.
- <sup>v</sup> Document addressed to The officer in Charge, Supply Branch, Department of Education, Brickfield Hill, Sydney. Items requested included 6 complete sets of curriculum syllabus, 12 large sized timetables, 6 class rolls, 6 lesson registrars, 2 general sized timetables, 6 exam report books and a quantity of exam record cards. Found in College archives.
- <sup>vi</sup> Document received from Department of Education, Area Metropolitan West, signed by J. A. Thomson, found in College archives.
- <sup>vii</sup> *Celebratory Booklet, Official Opening 1992*, Our Lady of Lebanon School p9, found in College archives.
- <sup>viii</sup> The appeal against the rejection of the funding application was heard on 26 March 1986. This was upheld and approval was granted on 7 April of that year.
- <sup>ix</sup> Letter from Department of Education, Schools General Program Section to Sr Constance Bacha, Principal, May 30, 1986, found in College archives.
- <sup>x</sup> *Celebratory Booklet, Official Opening 1992*, Our Lady of Lebanon School, Sr Constance's speech, p11.
- <sup>xi</sup> *Celebratory Booklet, Official Opening 1992*, Our Lady of Lebanon School.
- <sup>xii</sup> Cheryl Critchley and Mark Gold, 'PM Cultivates our tall poppies' in *Telegraph Mirror*, Saturday, September 5, 1992.
- <sup>xiii</sup> 'Keating makes a Hawkish promise' in *Parramatta Advertiser*, September 9, 1992, p1.
- <sup>xiv</sup> 1990 Census of Non-Government Schools 1990. Summary of Final Staff and Student Data. Census No. 1485, August 1<sup>st</sup> 1990, found in College archives.
- <sup>xv</sup> *Our Lady of Lebanon College Official Opening Ceremony Booklet*, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2004.
- <sup>xvi</sup> 'Prime Minister goes back to school for the tough questions', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 March 2001, p. 6.
- <sup>xvii</sup> *The Official Opening of the New Primary Building booklet*, Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, found in College archives.
- <sup>xviii</sup> *Our Catholic Schools*, CEO Parramatta, Term 3, 1992, Vol 3, No. 3, p1.
- <sup>xix</sup> *The Daily Telegraph*, Friday November 6, 1998, p4.
- <sup>xx</sup> Maxine McKew, 'Lunch: John Brogden', *The Bulletin with Newsweek*, 27 August 2002.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Letter from NSW Ethnic Schools Board, Lancelot St, Five Dock, Signed Natasha Post, Executive Officer, 16<sup>th</sup> May 1994, found in College archives.
- <sup>xxii</sup> Margaret Ghosn, 'The Eucharist and Religious Life: A Maronite Outreach in Australia' in *Religious Life Review*, Dominican Publications, Volume 51, Number 273, March/April 2012:99-107.