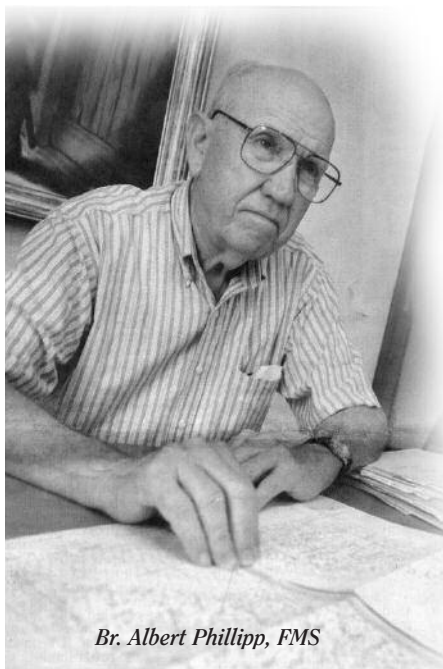


Br. Albert Brings Light to the Darkness



Br. Albert Phillipp, FMS

In 1964 Br. Albert Phillipp, FMS, presented himself to the Bishop and said, "Here I am, I can speak Spanish fluently, I have been a teacher with degrees, I love to work with my hands, and I want to work more closely with the poor and the marginalized." Thus began his odyssey working for and with the poorest in Texas.

Br. Albert Phillipp was born in Texas, one of eight children, and received his early education at St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville. He became a Marist Brother in 1951, and taught both elementary and secondary education in Texas after undergraduate and graduate work at Marist College in New York and St. Mary's in San Antonio.

Since 1997, Brother has been Pastoral Associate at San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Cameron Park, a "colonia," near Brownsville, Texas. At the heart of his min-

istry is the establishment of small Christian communities that are both spiritually alive and civically active.

Here is Br. Albert's latest story:

Jorge Alejandro and Camilo Hernandez, both 13, have spent much of the summer playing in the streets of Cameron Park. When the sun sets, however, the boys don't waste any time getting home; they know how dangerous their games would be in total darkness.

In its 50-year existence, not a single public streetlight has been placed in Cameron Park. The unincorporated colonia within Brownsville's city limits is the United States' poorest neighborhood, according to the 2000 Census.

Br. Albert Phillipp, a Marist Brother and pastoral associate at San Felipe de Jesus Catholic Church, hoped to change that. On August 8th Br. Albert, with other Cameron Park residents and local activists, presented a plan to the Cameron County Commissioners' Court to bring streetlights to the colonia.

"When will these streets get streetlights?" Br. Phillipp asked. "These people are already paying taxes to the city."

Before the sun sets, it appears as if most of Cameron Park's residents are outside. Children jump on trampolines and chase soccer balls along the streets. Women carry bags from the local

grocery store. Men hover over the popped hoods of revamped cars, some of which are parked inches from the narrow asphalt of Cameron Park's roads.

When night falls, the scene quickly changes.

"No one walks around here at night," resident Telo Angelo said. Looking out from Angelo's porch, it isn't hard to understand why. A stop sign, bent almost beyond recognition, lies on the busy street corner across from his house.

"Someone hit that at night," he said.

During the day, the intersection is a hazard for even the most defensive drivers. In the obscurity of a Cameron Park night, it's a disaster waiting to happen, residents say—a disaster they are looking to avoid.

"It's a peculiar feeling to drive into a community in absolute darkness," Br. Albert said. "It's also unsafe. These lights need to be here for security reasons."

Vehicles have struck several pedestrians in the past five years. Two years ago a young woman was hit as she walked to her home; she was taken to the

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Francisco and Rosi Lopez; Uvalina and Angel Serna, leaders of Br. Albert's civic participation project.

Inside

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In Memoriam



Br. John Klein, FMS

Dear Members of our Marist Family,

The Constitutions of the Marist Brothers of the Schools challenges each Brother to “...evangelize in order to form true followers of Jesus Christ. We do this first of all by the witness of our lives and by personal contacts, which show our capacity for listening and dialogue.” Each Marist Brother and our lay colleagues endeavor to make this challenge a reality by following closely in the footsteps of our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat.

This challenge has become a reality through several significant initiatives. Our Sharing Our Call program (a 2-1/2 day retreat experience) enables the Brothers and the lay faculty and staff of our schools to come to know the spirit and charism of Champagnat. As a result, over 450 people have increased their awareness of what it truly means to make Jesus known and loved. Through sharing their personal faith experiences, the participants have become increasingly aware that they are part of something larger than themselves, as they travel along Marcellin’s path.

This fall our Province Evangelization team launched a new program entitled, “Sharing Our Mission.” This brought together the campus ministers and chairmen of the religion departments of each of our schools, to foster a better appreciation that their efforts form the critical heart of Marist evangelization in each of our schools. The theme of the program was: “Will Our Faith Have Young People?” We are confident that our response will be a resounding, “Yes!”

In addition, during the month of October, Brother Sean Sammon, the Superior General of the Marist Brothers, visited our Province. He met with Brothers, lay people and students in each of the geographic areas of the Province. He brought us the message that it is imperative that we create a “culture of vocations” throughout the Province. He challenged us that we will not be able to share our call or share our mission unless there are vowed Marist Brothers with whom to share. He also reminded us that we cannot do our mission without new members.

In a particular way, I want to ask each of you to help us create that “culture of vocations.” What can you do? First, we need your prayers and support. I also want to ask you to encourage a young man who you think might have a vocation to consider a call to the Marist Brothers. History tells us that young men who have joined religious life have done so because they were personally invited and encouraged to respond to God’s call. We need you to work with us so that many young men will walk in Marcellin’s path.

Marcellin’s vision and call is as vital today as ever, throughout the past 180 years of Marist history. This Advent, as we await the coming of the Child Jesus, once again let us all join together to ask Him to bless the rebirth of the Marist Brothers in the United States. That way, together, we can make sure that Jesus will be known and loved by the young people we serve.

Sincerely,

Br. John Klein

Br. John Klein, FMS
Provincial

Adventure-Based Retreats



Helping each other.

Br. Todd Patenaude, FMS, is the Campus Minister at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, New York. Br. Todd has received a Master's of Science in Kinesiology with an Outdoor Education specialization. He began his unique adventure-based retreat program over four years ago on the Marist Brothers' property in Esopus, New York.

The aim of the adventure-based retreat program in Esopus is to provide a venue for students to have a spiritual experience that is fun, exciting, engaging, and leaves them wanting more. The program involves the creation of an active and interactive curriculum where students feel safe to express and learn about their sense of spirituality. It metaphorically establishes connections between their spiritual life and their everyday life. This helps them to rethink many of their normative behaviors, and identify ways of incorporating more Christian behaviors into their everyday actions. John Esposito, a St. John's University student, wrote in his evaluation of the program,

"The personal observations made will benefit me for years to come. It has opened my eyes to new realizations as far as others are concerned. To have others motivate, encourage and support me felt great, and in return, I felt fulfilled in encouraging them."

The desired outcome of the adventure-based retreats is for students to realize that spirituality plays an integral role in their search for happiness and fulfillment in their lives. The majority of high school students have had limited exposure to *active ways of participating* in their faith. Far too often, their limited experience consists of primarily passive engagement in anything religious. The results of this are devastating. More and more students are expressing an indifference to religion, church attendance is drastically dwindling, parishes are closing, and vocations to religious life are few and far between, if at all existent. Consequently, it is of utmost importance for us, as Marist Brothers and educators, to provide these types of active and exciting experiences to today's youth. We cannot expect people who have had limited positive, enlivening experience with religion to suddenly have a meaningful prayer life, or be motivated to be more concerned about others' needs. They are up against a culture of advertising that is telling them what they need to own before they can be happy. Many young people, much like cars, need a key to start their engine before they can expect to go anywhere.

The adventure-based retreat program has done just that. During the past four years, on nearly two out of every ten school days, Br. Todd Patenaude and Mr. George Werner, or Miss Ekaterini Vlamis, or Miss Trodler and Mrs. Anderson, could be found running these retreats for students from Our Lady of Lourdes, John A. Coleman, St. Agnes, Roselle Catholic, Central Catholic, Mount St. Michael, The Young Women's Leadership School, St. Joseph's, or St. John's University. To date, 1,703 students have participated in the adventure-



Success!!



Learning teamwork.

based retreats and have provided nearly unanimous feedback as to

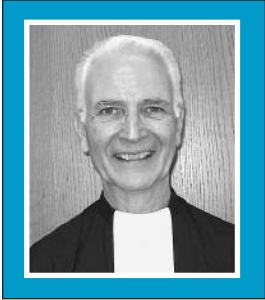
the benefits of the program.

Laura Bissonette wrote about the adventure-based retreat in her senior yearbook at Our Lady of Lourdes, "Who would have thought that a school retreat could have been so much fun? But what was there not to like...camping, falling off stone walls into each others' arms, and climbing large wooden beams? Learning how to trust in each other and trust in God has never been so much fun."



Br. Todd (far right) with Freshman students learning trust.

Dear Friends,



Br. Hugh P. Turley, FMS



Paulette M. Karas

In today's chaotic world we sometimes tend to feel alone. We go about our daily lives thinking we are alone. Then one day we raise our eyes and discover we are surrounded by folks who care.

Fifteen years ago it was clear to us that the Marist Brothers needed help: help to support our older Brothers; help to maintain excellence in education; help to expand our unique youth ministries; help with the recruitment and retention of vocations to continue in St. Marcellin Champagnat's tradition.

So with faith and a prayer, we began our Annual Fund. We raised our eyes, and we were surrounded. A multitude of people have helped us over the years, volunteering to make phone calls, process mail, doing anything to help us get our message out. We couldn't have come this far without them!

We continue to raise our eyes, and we are still surrounded by our family, friends and alumni who generously contributed to our

appeals to help us meet our needs. So many of you graciously send gifts, not only to our Annual Fund, but to our yearly Retirement Appeal to help meet the rising cost of healthcare for our elderly and infirm Brothers. Others of you frequently donate through our Prayer Card Program, and still others have told us they have remembered the Brothers in their estate plans. For all of your help, we are deeply grateful.

As Christmas approaches, we want you to know that through your unselfish support, we know we are not alone. We are surrounded by your care and concern. You have become members of our extended Marist Family, and like all families, we care for each other. Please know you are remembered in the daily prayers of all our Marist Brothers.

Our very best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas season. Surround yourselves with the peace, love and joy of family and friends. And may the New Year ahead be filled with happiness and good health.

Merry Christmas!

Br. Hugh P. Turley, FMS, CFRE
Co-Director of Development

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Co-Director of Development

Donate Online!

If you would like to make a donation to the Marist Brothers Annual Fund or any of our other programs, you can now go online and make your gift through our secure website, www.maristbr.com. Click on "You Can Help" at the top right



of your screen and then click "Donate Now." It is a fast, convenient way to lend your support to the Brothers. Thank you!

(continued from page 1)

hospital in critical condition.

Despite the project's urgency, Br. Albert was conscious of the difficulty of its implementation. "We tried this in 2000, and nothing happened," he said. "I just don't know how we can make a good plan for monthly payments."

Since that August 8th meeting, Cameron County officials have reviewed the proposal and decided in favor of funding the \$70,000 cost of installing 150 streetlights.

Congratulations, Br. Albert!

Adapted from an article by Kevin Sieff of the *Brownsville Herald*. Used with permission, courtesy of Fr. Michael Seifert, SM.

San Felipe de Jesus Catholic Church and community center was founded in 1996 in Cameron Park, Texas, just north of Brownsville. Fr. Michael Seifert, SM, and Br. Albert Phillipp, FMS, serve the parish community.



Br. Albert with Roasario, Gloria and Samatha Lopez, children whom he supervises in the Christian Formation Program.

WHY YOU NEED A *THOUGHTFUL WILL*

WHAT IS AN ESTATE?

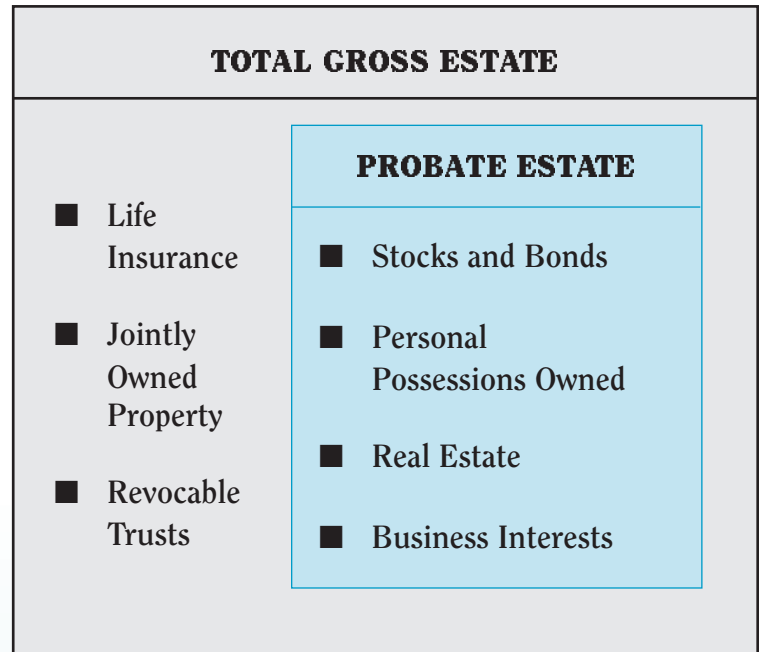
Most of our friends have two estates: a probate estate (all the assets we own outright) and a gross estate (all our probate assets plus other assets that we own but will pass by contract or operation of law at our death – e.g., life insurance, jointly owned property, employee death benefits, revocable trusts established during life, etc.).

Why is it important to know the difference? There are several reasons.

FIRST, we need to understand that a will disposes of only our probate estate. So a will alone is seldom a complete estate plan.

SECOND, it is clear that life insurance, jointly owned property and other nonprobate assets, should be coordinated with your will.

THIRD, we need to know that estate taxes may be levied on our entire gross estate – and even on other properties that we do not actually own at the time of our death.



In short, we all need a thoughtful will to make an efficient disposition of our probate assets. But we also need a coordinated estate plan to truly accomplish our personal objectives and to build a lasting memorial of our life and our personal values.



If You Now Have A Will...

Great! But you will surely want to keep it up to date. And every really thoughtful will must be changed from time to time.

To make a small change, you may need only a “codicil.” This will retain all the provisions of your existing will, except as those provisions are modified by the codicil. To make major changes, a complete new will (which specifically revokes all prior wills) may be preferable. Either way, you’ll need your attorney’s help.

We hope you have included The Marist Brothers in your will or codicil—and we would be appreciative if you would tell us of your plans so you may become a member of our Marcellin Guild.

The Marcellin Program

Continuing Champagnat's Vision

The ultimate academic aim of Marist High School in Chicago is to live up to its motto, "Education for Time and Eternity." Graduates are academically prepared for college, aware of their responsibilities and formed in their faith. But on the road to that goal, some students face challenges that make school a struggle. To address the needs of those students, Marist created the Marcellin Program for students with special learning needs. The program is holistic in approach and designed to support students across the curriculum with a college-preparatory education.

Students are accepted into the program for a multitude of reasons including diagnosed learning disabilities, individual learning styles and skill deficiencies, among others. Forty-five

A Peer Leader works with a student in Marcellin English on the first draft of a paper. Peer Leaders are Marist seniors who provide individual support to students in Marcellin classes.



Students enrolled in a Marcellin English course work together on an upcoming project. Small group work is one way Marcellin classes break up the material. Students get to interact with each other and have more responsibility for their work.

students are typically accepted each year, although 61 are in this year's group.

The Marcellin Program at Marist High School is based on the educational experience of St. Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers. Marcellin himself struggled with his schooling, and later realized that the key to success was to recognize the individual learning styles of students and build academic programs to support their strengths and gifts.

Mrs. Barbara Duffy, the school's Learning Specialist, oversees the program with Br. Vito Aresto, FMS, the director of the Guidance Department. "I feel [the students'] greatest challenge is learning in a traditional, teacher-centered

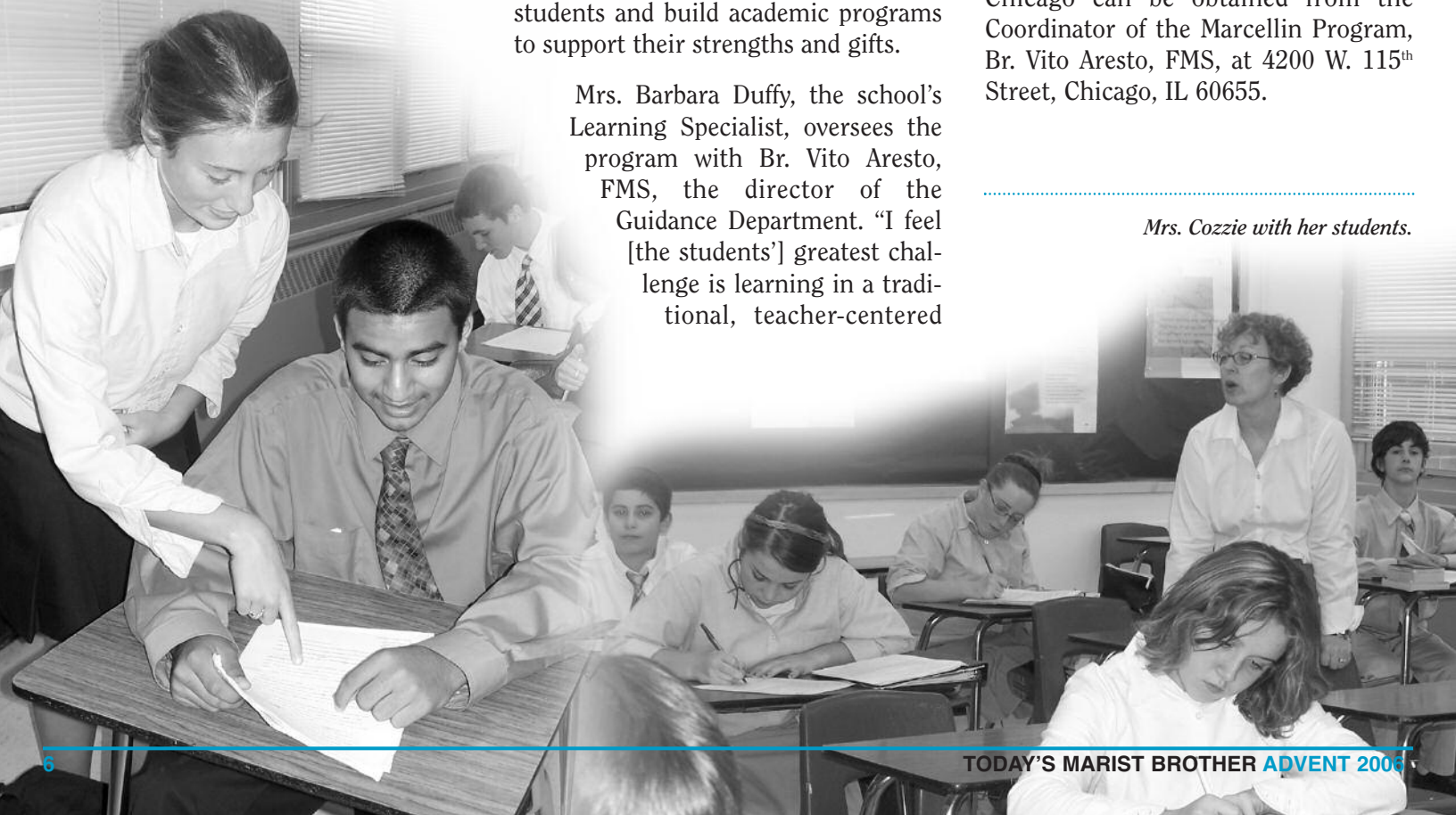
classroom. They need more individualized and direct instruction," Mrs. Duffy explained.

"The program is designed to have non-traditional, student-centered classrooms. Teachers use various methods of teaching, incorporating multimodal lessons into their instruction," Duffy said. Peer Leaders, senior students who aid in small group work, are also in the classroom.

Mrs. Mary Cozzie has taught English in the Marcellin program for more than three years and has found the experience very meaningful. "I think the Marcellin program is critical to carrying out Champagnat's vision of education," she said. "Some of the students feel they are not as bright as others, and it's not true. I teach the same material, but approach it differently. They are bright and talented." She also uses repetition and a lot of praise. Ninety percent of Marcellin students enroll in college.

More information on the Marcellin Program at Marist High School in Chicago can be obtained from the Coordinator of the Marcellin Program, Br. Vito Aresto, FMS, at 4200 W. 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60655.

Mrs. Cozzie with her students.



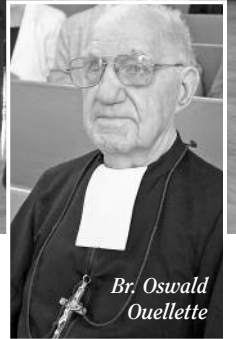
Congratulations to our Jubilarians

CELEBRATION 2006

Sunday, June 18th, the feast of Corpus Christi, saw our Marist Jubilarians gathered at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Douglaston, New York for our annual Province jubilee celebration. Msgr. Richard Guastella, pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Staten Island and friend of the Marist Brothers, celebrated the jubilee mass.



From left: Brothers Stephen Kappes, Bernard Curtin, Brendan Brennan, Raymond Albert, Valerian Doiron, Thomas Coyne, John Alexius, Vincent Moriarity, Felix Anthony and Ramon Bereicua. Not pictured: Brothers Francis Hughes (RIP) and John Venturella.



Honored during the jubilee mass were jubilarians:

75th Anniversary:

Brother Valerian Doiron
Brother M. Oswald Ouellette

70th Anniversary:

Brother Bernard Curtin
Brother Francis Hughes (RIP)

60th Anniversary:

Brother Raymond Albert
Brother John Alexius
Brother Ramon Bereicua

50th Anniversary:

Brother Brendan Brennan
Brother Thomas Coyne
Brother Felix Anthony Elardo
Brother Stephen Kappes
Brother Vincent Moriarty

25th Anniversary:

Brother John Venturella

As a Province, we are grateful for the brotherhood and witness of our jubilarians. May God continue to bless them as they continue to live out their call to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

Brother

In Memoriam



Brother Joseph A. DiBenedetto, FMS (1941-2006)

On Saturday, March 18th, the feast day of Mary Our Good Mother, Brother Joseph A. DiBenedetto died of cancer. In three years Br. Joe would have celebrated his 50th year as a professed Marist Brother.

Br. Joe was many things to many people. There was Joe the cook, the teacher, the administrator, the missionary, the Dean. Then there was Joe arriving back at Esopus, a place where his enor-

mous spirit always found refreshment, light and peace. Esopus, for Joe and for so many of us, was experienced as holy ground. How fitting his last ministry was at this place.

For the Lakota people, with whom Joe lived in Pine Ridge, SD, each person's acts are measured in terms of their impact on the tiyospaye, the extended family. It is not a stretch to say that Joe's acts have impacted a very, very extended family. For each of us that impact will be felt until the day when, please God, we will join Joe and all the saints who have gone before us, who from their labors rest, and for whom life has changed, not ended.



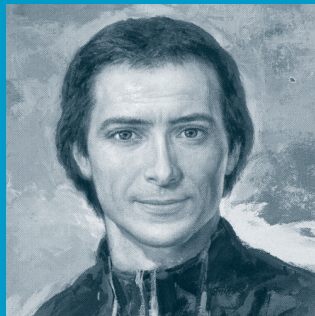
Br. Francis "Scotty" Hughes, FMS, died August 26, 2006—shy of his 88th birthday by a month. This past summer he marked 70 years as a Marist Brother. His long life was power-packed and overflowing with both brilliance and love.

Br. Francis was a "Renaissance Man" in our day. He earned advanced degrees in Latin and English Literature from the University of Glasgow, in Comparative European Literature, with Honors, from the University of London, in French from the University of Louvain, Belgium, and Electronic Engineering from the Royal College of Technology in London. Even though he could

juggle so many "things" with an admittedly near-photographic mind, people always came first.

Br. "Scotty" taught at St. Joseph's College, Dumfries, Scotland; Mount St. Michael Academy, Bronx, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie and Marist High School, Eugene, Oregon. He was Director of the community at our Cold Spring property, and from 1978-83 he treasured his time at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In all circumstances, no matter what his apostolate was, he influenced and touched people's lives greatly.

During his final days, he penned these lines that reveal his vitality: "I've reached the youth of old age and celebrated seventy short years among my brothers." Scotty, you'll be missed...



The Marist Brothers

Men of
Prayer
Men of
Community
Men of
Service

Are you
interested in
making a
difference?

For more information,
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For more information about the history of the Brothers, their spirituality, their mission and ministries as well as current events, please visit our web site – www.maristbr.com.

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Contributors: Ms. Patti Arvesen, Br. Hank Hammer, FMS, Br. John Klein, FMS, Br. Todd Patenaude, FMS

The mission of the Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS) is to bring Christian education to young people, especially those who are most neglected.

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The Marist Brothers' Remembrance in Prayer Program

Introducing Our New Designs...

The Marist Brothers are pleased to announce the debut of our new Remembrance in Prayer card designs! We have updated our signature card, featuring the image of Christ, and introduced a brand new Candle and Cross design. These Traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two new All Occasion cards may be sent in honor of a Birthday, Wedding, Anniversary or to send Get Well greetings. All cards carry a special promise of Remembrance in Prayer from the Marist Brothers.

We would be delighted to send you a complimentary packet of our new cards. Please request them through email (maristbr@aol.com) or send your request to the address on this newsletter.

