



TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

ADVENT 2008

A publication of the Province of the United States of America

Esopus Novitiate Reopens...



Novitiate, Esopus, New York

Becoming a Brother These Days!

Sometimes the question is posed, “How does someone become a Brother today?” and “Where are these potential vocations coming from?”

It is interesting to note that most of our Marist Brother inquirers are coming from the Internet. Some men learn about us either through an online service called *vocationmatch.com* sponsored by *Vision Magazine* or another publication, *Guide to Religious Ministries*. We have ads in both.

Young men from our high schools who express interest in our vocation will now either move right into **Accompaniment** or the Marist **Young Adult Program**. Our **Accompaniment** stage is designed for the college-age man as well as for those who are not familiar with the Marist Brothers. Men who are ready to explore our vocation more seriously move right into **Discernment**.

The vast majority of men in formation today in the USA are in their mid to late 20s and 30s. A man interested in exploring Marist religious life moves through a series of stages, increasing his knowledge and experiences of personal prayer, God’s call, Marist life, and the discernment process.

Accompaniment

This phase of our vocation program invites a man between the ages of 18 and 40 to initially examine his understanding of a Marist religious vocation. Accompanied regularly by a Marist Brother through personal and electronic means, he learns how the discernment process can be part of his life. Accompaniment includes community, ministry, and retreat experiences with the Marist Brothers.

Accompaniment can last for a few years, until the young man is invited to move into **Discernment**.

Discernment

A man who feels called by God to Marist religious life would be eligible to begin **Discernment**. This phase of our vocation program is primarily for the college graduate who is ready to process his call. A flexible yet focused plan of discernment is established, which includes community, ministry, and retreat opportunities with the Marist Brothers.

continued on page 5

Brian Poulin, Our New Pre-Novice



Brian Poulin has applied and been accepted to the Initial Formation Program of the Marist Brothers for September 2008.

Brian Poulin isn’t the stereotypical pre-novice. He grew up in Seattle, Washington with his Catholic dad and non-Catholic mom. He attended public grade school and Catholic high school, irregularly attending Mass as a child. Brian studied philosophy at Kenyon College, a small liberal arts school in Ohio, and went on to live and work in China for five years after graduation. While his story is unique, many of us can relate to it in one way or another.

continued on page 5

Inside

From the Desk of the Provincial

Marist Educators

Youth Conference

Letter from the Development Office

In Memoriam

Jubilarians

Marcellin Guild Members



the provincial

Dear members of our Marist Family,

This fall the superior general of the Marist Brothers, Brother Sean Sammon, F.M.S., issued a circular letter formally convoking the XXI General Chapter of the Marist Brothers that will open in September, 2009. In his letter, Brother Sean asserted that today the Marist Brothers stand in the doorway of a new chapter in the history of Marist life and mission. He continued that our founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, would “. . . challenge his brothers to re-imagine consecrated life for our day and age, a consecrated life that included the old-fashioned virtues of sacrifice, dedication, and self-transcendence above putting our needs first and settling for comfort and complacency.” The work and deliberations of the Brothers who will gather in Rome next fall will determine the direction of the Brothers for the next eight years. This is a significant moment in the life of the Marist Brothers throughout the world, and I encourage each of you to keep the success of our General Chapter in your prayers.

Part of this newsletter focuses on the theme of vocations and the re-opening of our Marist novitiate in Esopus, New York. Hopefully the articles have introduced our new pre-postulant, Brian Poulin, to you and also inspired you to continue your prayers for good vocations and, perhaps, to encourage a young man you know to consider a life as a Marist Brother.

The 2008–2009 school year began with the launching of the fiftieth anniversary celebrations at Roselle Catholic High School in Roselle, New Jersey and at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami. Part of the initial celebrations at Roselle Catholic included the dedication of the school chapel to St. Marcellin Champagnat and the blessing of a wonderful statue of St. Marcellin on the wall behind the altar. Archbishop John Favalora of Miami was the principal celebrant of the fiftieth anniversary Liturgy at Columbus. After the Liturgy, the archbishop blessed the new Mas Technology Center, a place that will significantly enhance the educational program for the over 1,400 Columbus students. We are grateful and blessed that the Lord continues to bless our Marist mission.

I am also delighted to announce that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed the Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice upon Brother Kevin Handibode, the president of Christopher Columbus High School. This pontifical honor is a recognition at the highest level of the Church of Brother Kevin’s outstanding witness to the Catholic faith. We congratulate Brother Kevin on this honor, which is a blessing on him and our entire Marist Family.

As we enter the season of Advent let us pray that the Lord will continue to bless us and our mission to the young people who need us the most.

With personal best wishes,

Br. John Klein, FMS
Provincial

Marist Educators

Jeannette Victoria, teacher, Monsignor Edward Pace High School, Miami, Florida



For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher or do some other job where I would work with children. In high

school, after assisting a great number of classmates with their math, I knew that was the subject that I wanted to teach. To me, teaching is not only the subject matter, but the opportunity to share my life and experiences with my students. As being Catholic is an important part of my life, I could not imagine teaching somewhere where I would not be able to share that part of my life. So I wanted to teach at a Catholic school, and to me there is no better Catholic school than Pace.

Shortly after graduation, I applied to teach. At this point the Marist Brothers had returned to our community. There always was a very

welcoming environment with a strong sense of family at Pace. With the Marist Brothers, that sense of family was even stronger. There was something about the Brothers that made everyone who entered the campus feel welcome. The Brothers I came in contact with were truly amazing. They personified what it meant to be Marist. The presence of the Brothers made Pace a much better place.

During my first year of teaching the two people who showed me what it meant to be Marist were Br. George DiCarluccio and Mrs. Ana Garcia. Br. George had this presence that lit up any room the moment he entered. He had a way of communicating with the students that was inspiring. You could see by the way he talked with the students that he truly loved each and every one of them.

Ana Garcia was the assistant

principal when I started. She was always available to assist myself and the other first-year teachers. She had this welcoming sense about her that made you want to talk to her, the same welcoming feeling that I felt from all the Marist Brothers. She genuinely cared about all the teachers.

In 2004 Mrs. Garcia was named principal. She is supportive of the students and also exemplifies what it means to be Marist.

I have since had the opportunity to attend many Marist events, and at each my spirit is renewed and I know that teaching and being Marist is what I was meant to do. I try my best to live my life in a way that makes me worthy to be called Marist.

Being a Catholic school teacher is not what I do, it is who I am.

Being a Catholic school teacher is not what I do, it is who I am.

Jim O'Neill, teacher, Central Catholic High School, Lawrence, Massachusetts



I am simply a human being trying to become more fully human and fully alive as one way to make God's glory

evident in the world today. The Marist vision of life and family spirit has been a helpful way of doing that.

I am living out that vision as a married person with three daughters. The experience of teaching religious studies for twenty-nine years at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA, has profoundly influenced who I am. I feel a connection to the Marists that goes beyond a career and a profession.

Mary the mother of Jesus has become a model and a way for me to find meaning in my life. Mary's example of making Jesus the center of her life, standing with Jesus during his suffering, guiding him on his journey,

and being no stranger to hardship has greatly influenced me and sustained me in my life. I have tried to lift up the underdogs or disadvantaged in my life because of the message of the Magnificat and Marcellin's concern for the least favored.

Brothers who live simple lives of doing good quietly have shown me the value of a life of faithfulness and commitment. I remember teaching with a Brother early in my career who loved working with struggling students. He

One student chose this Brother. When this Brother left to go to another school, I showed him the student's response and he cried. I was glad I did that, because the following fall he died unexpectedly and suddenly.

The pillars of my Marist faith are Marcellin's vision, Mary's example of standing with the poor in suffering, prayer, service, and my Marist community.

Finally, my dream is that the Marist vision of life and community

By calling young people to a life of prayer, service, and community, Jesus will become someone they know and love.

also took students on ski trips even though he did not ski himself. He would take students down to Esopus in the summer to work with kids who were in need. I asked my freshman class who was the most Christlike person they have ever met and why.

may be one meaningful way of rejuvenating the Church to young people especially. By calling young people to a life of prayer, service, and community, Jesus will become someone they know and love.

North American

Marist Youth Leadership Conference



During Memorial Day weekend, 250 students from thirteen Marist schools gathered at the Marist Brothers Retreat House in Esopus, New York for the 2008 Marist Youth Leadership Conference.

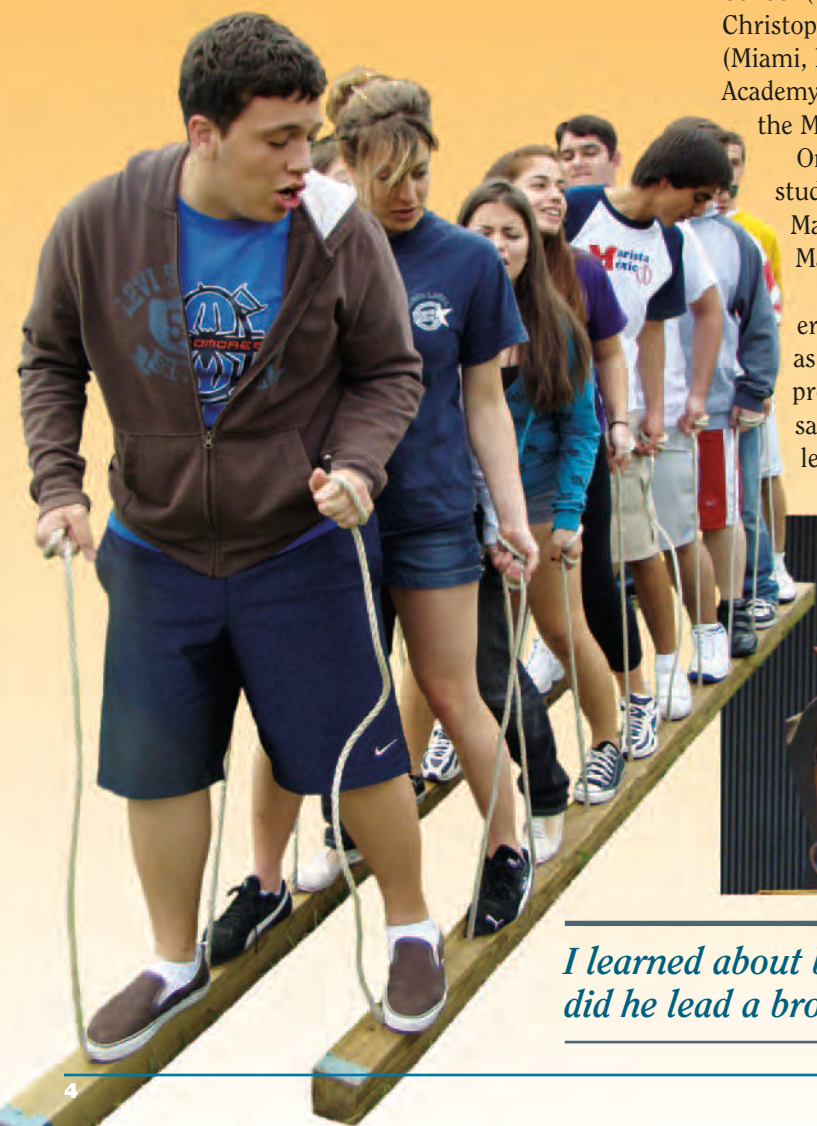
Students looked at the lives of Jesus and St. Marcellin Champagnat from the perspective of servant leadership. As the students learned about servant leadership, they also learned about their own leadership strengths and abilities through discussion and related activities.

May 23–26, 2008

Students from Collège Laval (Canada), École Secondaire Marcellin Champagnat (Canada), Central Catholic High School (Lawrence, MA), Archbishop Molloy High School (Briarwood, NY), St. Agnes Boys' High School (New York City), Mt. St. Michael Academy (Bronx, NY), Marist High School (Bayonne, NJ), Roselle Catholic High School (Roselle, NJ), Christopher Columbus High School (Miami, FL), St. Brendan High School (Miami, FL), Monsignor Edward Pace High School (Miami, FL), St. Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX), and Cervantes Costa Rica (Mexico), gathered at the Marist Brothers Retreat House.

One of the highlights of this gathering was the presence of Marist students from Canada and Mexico. A strong sense of North American Marist identity is being developed, as well as a great awareness of the Marist world.

The presentations focused on the differences between secular leadership and Christian leadership. The hallmark of Christian leadership, as the students learned, is service. The lives of Jesus and St. Marcellin provide many examples of how to be a leader and a servant at the same time. Students were able to make practical application of the leadership qualities of Jesus and St. Marcellin to their own lives.



I learned about being a servant leader from Marcellin. Not only did he lead a brotherhood, but also he served a brotherhood.



erence



I saw how important it is and what a great joy I feel to work with young people and help them to become better Christians and Marists.



Becoming a Brother These Days!

continued from page 1

Esopus Novitiate Reopens

On Monday, September 8, 2008 the Marist Brothers of the Province of the United States of America opened their Novitiate to welcome our Pre-Novice, Brian Poulin. The formation community of Brothers Robert Clark (Novice Director), Joseph Matthews, and Donald Nugent have prepared for this important occasion. The first six months of the program, the Pre-Novitiate, is a time of transition and is meant to be a gradual immersion into Marist life. The five components of formation: prayer, community living, study, ministry, and discernment are the foundation of the program.

We are now preparing to welcome a member of a new generation to our Province. This is both exciting and challenging. We are aware that the younger members of our church see things in ways that may be quite different from novices of the older generations. This offers a particular challenge and opportunity to formation as we work to bridge the culture of who we are with the culture of our new Brothers. Let us pray that more young men will be called to join us as Marist Brothers.



Br. Michael Sheerin
Vocation Director



Br. Rob Clark,
Novice Director

Brian Poulin

continued from page 1

A change occurred for Brian while he was working in China, and he began to feel a strong pull toward the Catholic Church. He chose to initiate the process of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and, through that process, became intrigued by the possibility of living a religious life.

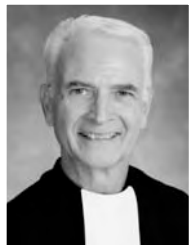
After some casual research, Brian realized that the life of a Brother might be a fit for him. Brian describes getting into bed one night, thinking about his future and all of the research he had done. Unable to sleep, he suddenly had a powerful thought that the Marist Brothers were a group he should seriously consider. They hadn't been part of his research, but a memory of his grandfather, who used to share anecdotes about the Marist Brothers, came to mind. Energized by what he felt was a strong emotional presence of his grandfather, Brian quickly looked for the Marist Brothers online. He liked the content and tone of the website (www.maristbr.com), and he especially liked the Brothers' emphasis on education, especially for those most in need. That night, Brian sent an email to the Marist Brothers vocations director, Brother Mike Sheerin, as well as his parents, to share his powerful experience.

Those phone calls began Brian's discernment process with Br. Mike Sheerin. Today, several months since that critical evening, Brian is back in the United States and continuing his discernment. He feels a strong affiliation with the poor, and looks forward to helping people overcome whatever obstacles they face. Brian's goal for

Brian is especially attracted to work in schools that focus their ministry on the poor or children with learning disabilities. In this way, he is a perfect fit with the mission of the Marist Brothers.

his work is to help people in tough situations develop hope for the future. He is especially attracted to work in schools that focus their ministry on the poor or children with learning disabilities. In this way, he is a perfect fit with the mission of the Marist Brothers. Asked if there was any insight he'd like to share with others who are considering a similar path, Brian stated, "I approached the Marist Brothers with a certainty that I was called to discern. I have started down this path and embrace the process with an open mind. I expect to take many twists and turns along the way, but I have confidence that things will most likely continue in the Marist direction."

Dear Members of our Marist Family,



Br. Hugh Turley, FMS

Advent and Christmas are times of celebration and reflection. We celebrate the birth of our Savior and reflect back on the events of the past year.

As we in the Development Office prepare for the upcoming holidays and reflect back over the past year, we wish to thank all of you, our wonderful friends, parents, relatives, alumni, and benefactors, for making this past year a successful one!

Over the past several months, we have asked for your financial support to meet the soaring retirement costs for our elderly and disabled Brothers and have invited you to participate in this year's Annual Fund. Your response has been encouraging and heartwarming. We understand that you have your own family needs as you deal with the pressures imposed by our struggling economy. We also know there are many worthwhile charities seeking your assistance, and it is gratifying that so many of you affirm the work of the Brothers by your generous response to our appeals.



Paulette M. Karas

Your gifts, no matter the size, truly make a difference in keeping the Marist Brothers and our work with youth strong and vibrant.

With the Advent season upon us, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a New Year of peace of happiness.

Merry Christmas!

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

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Co-Director of Development

...we wish to thank all of you, our wonderful friends, parents, relatives, alumni, and benefactors, for making this past year a successful one!

P.S. If you have not had the opportunity to respond to any of this year's appeals, you may donate online at our secure website: www.maristbr.com Click the link for "Support the Brothers."

In Memoriam

Brother



Brother Michael Mullin

A beloved Brother and valued educator passed away on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Born in Brooklyn, Michael Mullin received the habit of a Marist Brother in August 1959 and made his final profession in July 1965. He received his B.A. degree in Latin from Marist College, Poughkeepsie.

Br. Michael obtained an M.A. degree in classics from Hunter College in New York, an M.A. in theology from Notre Dame University, an M.S. degree in counseling from Saint John's University, and his doctorate in school administration from Seton Hall University.

From 1975 to 1981, Br. Mike served as the vocational director for the Marist Brothers in Esopus, N.Y. "He was very professional

and extremely educated," said Br. Kevin O'Neill, who worked with him as vice principal at Marist High School, Bayonne, in 1981.

Br. Mike taught and was an administrator in Florida, New Jersey, and New York. He also served as principal of Our Lady in Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie. Most recently, he was a teacher at John S. Burke Catholic High School in Goshen, NY. "He was very hardworking and determined to make the schools the best they could be," recalls Br. Kevin. "He wanted the best for his faculty and students."

Over the years as teacher, counselor, vocation director, administrator, or friend, Br. Mike touched the lives of many in the gentle way that he lived, ministered, and served. Br. Mike was greatly loved and will truly be missed.

Congratulations to our 2008 Jubilarians

They came from all over—Chicago, Illinois; Lawrence, Massachusetts; General Santos City, Philippines; Laredo and Brownsville, Texas; Esopus, Poughkeepsie, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan in New York; and New Jersey. They came to the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, New York to celebrate the jubilee of 10 Marists from the Province of the United States and the Province of the Philippines. The seniors (60 years of Marist life) outnumbered their juniors (50 years) this year, with Br. Luke Driscoll (shortly before his passing) leading the procession from his wheelchair with 75 years as a Marist.

Mass was celebrated by all, with longtime friend of the jubilarians Fr. Dermot Brennan presiding. Br. Roy

George and his students from Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, New York, mastered the ceremonies, assisted by Br. Don Nugent beautifully singing and directing the music. Kudos were liberally sprinkled after Mass, then all 200 family members, friends, alumni, and Brother guests proceeded to a sparkling banquet orchestrated by Mrs. Doris Reischach, Province secretary.

We, both students and fellow Marists, stand on the shoulders of these jubilarians, and for them we are forever grateful. With purpose and feeling we raised our glasses on high: Ad Multos Annos, we cheered!



Pictured left to right: Br. Robert McGovern, Br. Luke Driscoll (RIP), Br. Julian Roy, Br. Stephen Bosco Wang, Br. Philip Robert, Br. Philip Degagne, Br. Aquinas Richard



Br. Richard Rancourt



Br. Ernest Beland

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Br. Luke Driscoll

Sixtieth Anniversary

Br. Philip Degagne
 Br. Robert McGovern
 Br. Richard Rancourt
 Br. Aquinas Richard
 Br. Philip Robert
 Br. Julian Roy
 Br. Stephen Bosco Wang

Fiftieth Anniversary

Br. Ernest Beland

Poet Teacher Mentor Caregiver Poet
 Friend Chaplain Minister Friend



Br. Luke Driscoll, FMS

On September 9 a gentle man died a gentle death. Br. Luke Driscoll was born to Elizabeth and Patrick Driscoll in the Bronx on September 30, 1917 and passed away quietly on the evening of September 9, 2008 at our Champagnat Hall community at

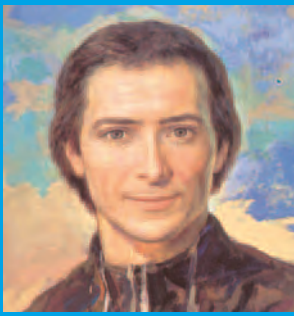
Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx. Br. Luke was 91 years old, and lived as a Marist Brother for 75 of those years.

There are Brothers who possess a special charisma. It's hard to describe that quality in a person, but once you've seen it you know it. J. P. Luke ("just plain" Luke—he didn't have the customary second religious name) was one of those Brothers. J. P. Luke was magnetic. He had "cousins" galore and admirers aplenty.

His gentle being and his inclusive, smiling glance made you feel like you were part of something; like you were someone special. It's no wonder he was so popular with his family, students, and fellow Brothers.

As Br. Luke moved through his years as a Marist he served his students as teacher, principal, and counselor, the Marist Brothers as spiritual director, and his hospital patients as chaplain in New York, Texas, Massachusetts, Georgia, Illinois, West Virginia, Switzerland, Africa, and Italy before he retired to the Champagnat Hall Community in his "home town" of the Bronx, New York.

Brother was buried in the Marist Brothers cemetery in Esopus, NY on September 13, where he continues to warmly welcome all who come to visit. May he rest in peace.



The Marist Brothers

Men of
Prayer
Men of
Community
Men of
Service

Are you interested
in making
a difference?

For more information,
please contact

Br. Michael Sheerin, FMS
1241 Kennedy Boulevard
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002
Phone: (201) 823-1115
Email:
vocations@maristbr.com

The Marist Brothers

Provincial Development Office
4200 West 115th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60655-4397

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 413
Worth, Illinois 60482-0431

Phone: (773) 881-5343

Fax: (773) 881-3367

Email: maristbr@aol.com

Website: www.maristbr.com

For more updates on
what's happening in
our Marist circles go
to www.maristbr.com
and click on
"News and Events."



THE MARIST BROTHERS

PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
4200 West 115th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60655-4397

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

So. Suburban, IL
Permit #10

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

Today's Marist Brother • A publication of the Province of the United States of America
Editorial Staff: Mrs. Paulette Karas, CFRE, Br. Hank Hammer, FMS and Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, CFRE,
Br. Michael Sheerin, FMS

The Marist Brothers' *Remembrance in Prayer Program*



Our New Designs

The Marist Brothers are pleased to offer you our new Remembrance in Prayer cards. We have updated our signature card, featuring the image of Christ, and introduced a 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.