



The Marist
Brothers

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TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

A Reflection on Roselle Catholic High School's recent pilgrimage to L'Hermitage

*"At L'Hermitage, I feel truly at peace and at home. The openness and
warmth that is shown by the community here is astounding..."*

— Corinne



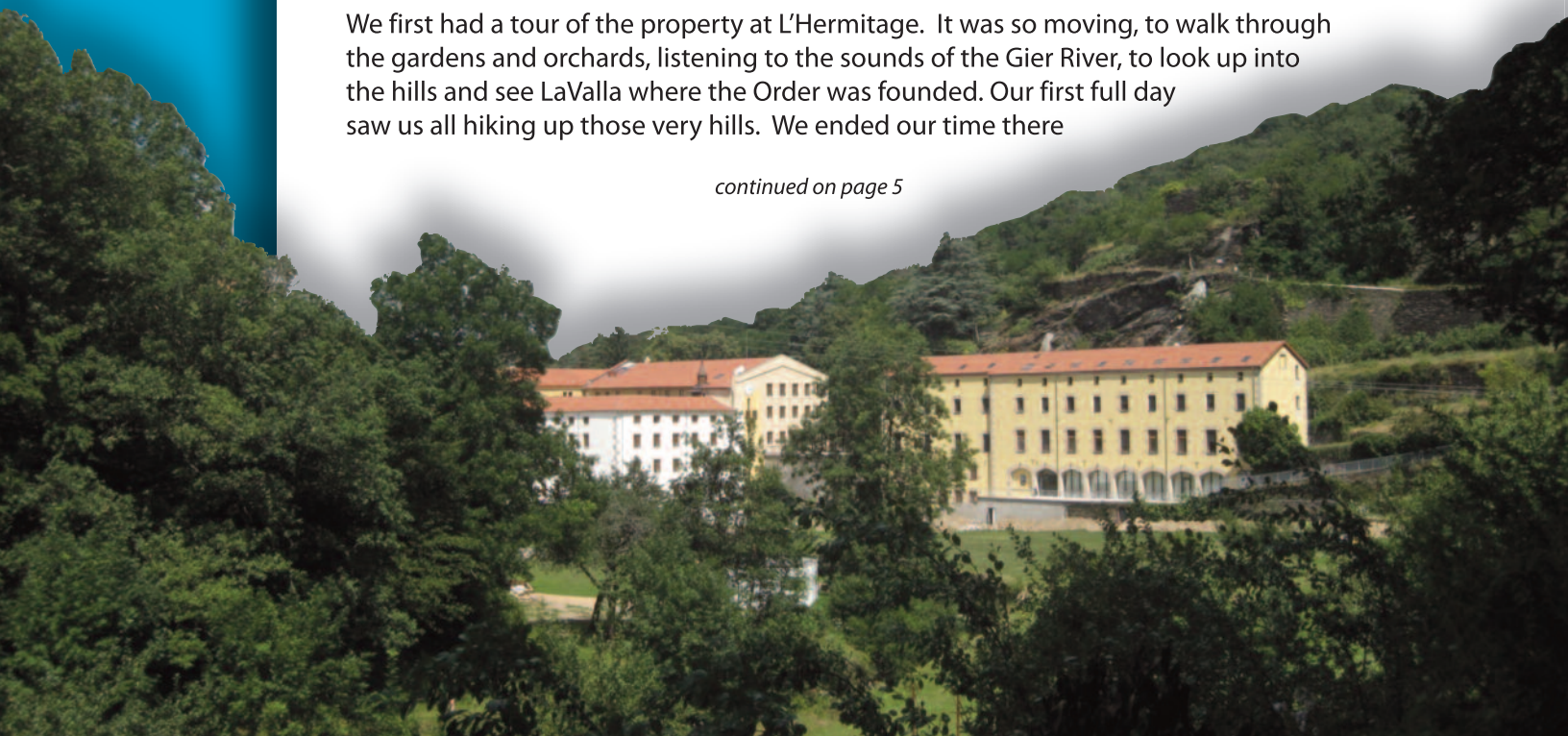
These were just some of the words written by the Roselle Catholic High School students who traveled to L'Hermitage de Notre Dame in France, the mother house of the Marist Brothers. The group of 16 (students and adults) from Roselle Catholic in Roselle, New Jersey met up with a similar group from Marist High School in Chicago, Illinois in the Paris airport on July 23.

Corinne's words were echoed over and over again, throughout the week. For these USA Marists, after hearing the stories of Marcellin's life throughout their high school careers, coming to the Hermitage did indeed feel like coming home. The international community there, the group of Brothers, and married and single lay people were delighted to welcome these young pilgrims, showing in many ways, the spirit of hospitality and family that so characterized Marcellin's life work.

Some reflections

We first had a tour of the property at L'Hermitage. It was so moving, to walk through the gardens and orchards, listening to the sounds of the Gier River, to look up into the hills and see LaValla where the Order was founded. Our first full day saw us all hiking up those very hills. We ended our time there

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FROM THE DESK OF

the provincial

Dear Members of our Marist Family,

Each year as the Holy season of Advent approaches, there is a need within us to find an inspiration that will contribute to making our Advent more meaningful for ourselves, our families, our children and our communities. As Marists, the person of Mary is that inspiration.

Our Marist document, "Water from the Rock," states that *"the relationship of Saint Marcellin Champagnat to Mary was deeply marked by an affective and total trust in her, as the 'Good Mother,' because it was her work that he undertook"* when he went about providing a Christian education for poor, young children. He wrote once: *"Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything, because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart."* Jesus and Mary were "the treasure" on which Marcellin had learned to place his own heart.

Since Marcellin's time, the Church has deepened its appreciation of Mary as First Disciple. Marists, therefore, *"have a growing relationship with Mary as our Sister in Faith, a woman with dust on her feet, a woman who was disturbed and puzzled by God, who was challenged to trust and give without knowing all the answers, whose faith life was a journey."* Mary's "yes" to God led to the birth of our Saviour and revealed more fully God's intimate love for each of us.

As Marcellin's disciples, *"we are convinced that to follow Jesus in the way of Mary is a privileged way of bringing the Good News to all those we encounter."* With generous and faith-filled hearts, we are called to share this experience and conviction with children and young people, helping them to experience the maternal face of the Church. Your continued prayers and generous financial support have made the continuation of this important mission possible.

During this Advent season, let us reflect on the fact that Christ came among us out of love and that He remains among us in love. Our acts of loving service to others makes Christ present. There is no greater pursuit, no greater or more valuable and worthwhile thing, than loving and being love for others... *"for where there is love there is God himself."* Mary knew this and lived this. Let us join her on this Advent journey as we await the coming of Jesus into our lives.

Thank you for your support, and let us pray that the Lord will continue to bless us and our mission to the young people who need us the most. Be assured of my good wishes and prayers for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Br. Ben Consigli, FMS
Provincial

Central Catholic High School Celebrates its 75th Anniversary



Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts is in the midst of celebrating its 75th Anniversary. On September 16, 2010, 1,344 students and 125 faculty and staff gathered in St. Mary of the Assumption Church for a Mass to bless the new school year. The Mass also commemorated the opening of Central Catholic High School on September 16, 1935 in the very same Church, 75 years ago to the day.



On that day in 1935, Mass was celebrated by Rev. Patrick J. Campbell, OSA. Following the Mass, Brother Florentius, FMS, Marist Brother and founder of Central Catholic High School, led a group of 50 boys up the street to the Knights of Columbus building across from the Lawrence's Campogne Common — Central Catholic High School had begun.

The enrollment grew steadily in the first year, and the city leased the unused Hampshire Street School to Central Catholic. With enrollment continuing to swell to over 230 students, ground was broken on Auburn Street for the new school in June 1938. By November 1938, Central Catholic High School on Auburn Street was ready for occupancy.

As enrollment and programs continued to grow, the Marist Brothers with their own hands built the Memorial Gymnasium which opened in 1949. In 1970, Central Catholic High School expanded its school buildings to include a major academic building on Hampshire Street. With the decision to admit young women, Central Catholic High School renovated its existing buildings in 1996, and as demand for enrollment continued to surge, a \$12 million academic building, currently in use, was completed in 2004.



Br. Brian Poulin, FMS — First Profession

On Saturday, August 14, 2010, Brother Brian Poulin, FMS professed his First Vows as a Marist Brother. The Eucharist and Rite of Profession took place at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, in the presence of over 100 Brothers, family members, Marist partners and students. A luncheon followed at the Marist Retreat House in Esopus, across the Hudson River from Poughkeepsie.

Brian Poulin 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. He 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.

A change occurred for Brian while working in China when 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.

Brian now feels a strong affiliation with the poor, and looks forward to helping people overcome whatever obstacles they face. The goal for 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. As such, he is a perfect fit with the mission of the Marist Brothers.

Br. Brian began his teaching as a Marist Brother this past fall at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage



This past July, three of our Brothers from the retirement community at Champagnat Hall traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina to participate in a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. The opportunity had a special meaning for each one:

Brother Augustine was celebrating his 60th anniversary as a Marist Brother; Brother Richard was about to celebrate his 80th birthday; Brother David had the joy of being in the

company of 14 of his family members spanning three generations.



Medjugorje is nestled in a valley surrounded by mountains in an area that was

part of former Yugoslavia. Beginning on June 24, 1981 the Blessed Mother has been appearing there to six visionaries. After almost thirty years they continue to be faithful to making Mary's message known that God is real, loves us profoundly and calls us to a conversion of heart.

The focal point of the village of Medjugorje is the church of St. James where villagers and pilgrims gather to celebrate the Eucharist each day. At the morning English Mass we found ourselves disbursed among pilgrims from many states and from other English speaking countries.

A twenty-five minute walk from the church is the hill named Podbrdo.

Through both day and night pilgrims ascend this hill to pray at this site

which marks the first apparitions. There is a holiness here, a peacefulness and loving embrace. It is where we brought our concerns and our petitions and sensed deeply Mary's love for us.

At about 5 a.m. one morning, we arrived at the base of Mount Krizevac. From all points one's eyes are drawn to the large cross on its summit. There is no road to the cross. To ascend, pilgrims must manage their way over a difficult rocky path marked by large bronze stations along the way. It is a journey with Jesus and Mary to Calvary. This Way of the Cross had a profound effect on each of us. Over 25,000,000 pilgrims have journeyed here bearing with them all those whom they love with their broken pieces and their needs. At the cross we were aware that we do not come to Medjugorje alone. We bear with us all the persons we have encountered in a lifetime.



There is much more to share about our time in Medjugorje. Perhaps it could best be summarized by the youngest member of our group who had come with his three older siblings and parents. When asked by his freshman schoolmates what he had done over the summer he said, "I went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. It took a long time to get there, some bags got lost, we missed a plane, I climbed some hills and prayed a lot." "That doesn't sound like much fun," replied his friends. "No, it doesn't sound like fun, but it was the best trip I've ever made."



L'Hermitage *continued from page 1*

with a prayer around the original "dining room" table, built by Father Champagnat.

Perhaps the most awe-inspiring moment came with a visit to the remains of the home of Jean-Baptiste Montagne, a dying boy who inspired Marcellin to found his Order of teaching Brothers. A single rock remains of this house — striking in contrast to the vast basilicas and churches we had visited — yet it was this simple site that gave birth to a worldwide Marist movement which endures almost 200 years later.



Wednesday morning found us out at the "altar in the woods," where we celebrated Mass with Fr. John. The humility of having Mass outside felt more sacred than any Mass I've ever attended. It's experiences like this one, similar to the ones Marcellin had with the early Brothers each day, that helped me find my way. We then spruced up the cemetery for a few hours, and followed that with the praying of the Rosary.

Our trip ended the next evening as we gathered for prayer in Marcellin's bedroom, its starkness and simplicity heightening our sense of this Marist heritage that we had explored all week.

I came to L'Hermitage in a time of great doubt — in myself, my faith, and the world in general. But walking in the footprints of Champagnat, seeing his story come to life, has renewed my hope and nourished my spirit.

Our pilgrimage showed us the life of love that Marcellin lived — the love he received from his family and the love that he brought forth into the world through his founding of the Marist Brothers, a love that continues today, a love that each of the young people was challenged to bring into the future.



Dear Friends,

In today's world of cyberspace communication by instant messaging, email, facebook and twitter, it is no wonder that 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.

Twenty years ago it was clear to us that the Marist Brothers needed help. Help to support our elderly and disabled Brothers; help to maintain excellence in education; help to expand our unique youth ministries; help in bringing the Marist charism to our lay colleagues; help with the recruitment and retention of vocations to continue in St. Marcellin Champagnat's tradition.

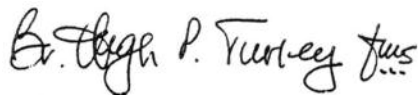
So with faith and a prayer we began our Annual Fund. We raised our eyes, and we were surrounded. Over the last twenty years, a multitude of people have helped us achieve our goals by volunteering to make phone calls, process mail...anything to help us get our message out. Without their help we could not have come this far!

Twenty years later, we continue to raise our eyes, and are still surrounded by our family, friends and alumni who generously contribute 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 older Brothers. Others of you frequently donate through our Remembrance in Prayer 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.

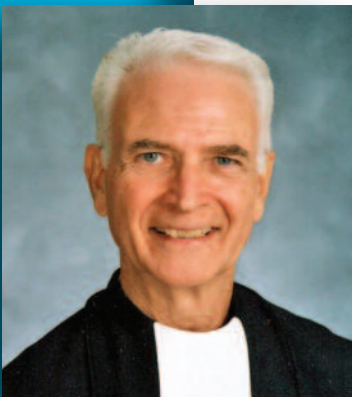
As Christmas approaches, we want you to know that through your unselfish support, we know we are not alone; we are surrounded by the wonderful members of our extended Marist Family. Please know you are remembered in the daily prayers of all our Marist Brothers.

Our very best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas season. May the peace, love and joy of this holy season be with all of you. 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





Brother James Stevens, FMS

Br. James Stevens, FMS, died on August 18, 2010. At the time of his death Br. James was teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Br. James Stevens was born in New York City to John Stevens and Grace Williams on April 25, 1940 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts in 1958. He made his first Profession in 1960.

Br. James taught Mathematics at Cardinal Hayes High School and Mount Saint Michael Academy, Bronx, New York; Christopher Columbus High School and Monsignor Edward Pace High School, Miami, Florida. Br. James graduated Marist College and received his M.S. degree in Mathematics from Saint John's University, Queens, New York.



Br. Joseph Belanger, FMS

Br. Joseph Belanger, FMS, passed away on April 21, 2010 at the age of 84.

Joseph Lucien Roland Belanger was born July 11, 1925, in Lawrence, Massachusetts and took his first vows as a Marist Brother on July 26, 1944. He earned his M.A. in English from St. John's University, a M.A. in French from Middlebury College and his Ph.D. in French from New York University in 1970.

Br. Joe was a master teacher, scholar, intellectual, and innovator who served and resided at Marist College for more than 50 years. Students, colleagues, and all who knew him were touched by his great intellect, deep faith, and unbounded enthusiasm for life. A dedicated Marist Brother for 66 years, he served God, his religious congregation, and his fellow human beings with passion and humility.

Marvelous Companions

A new feature on our website, www.maristbr.com, is **MARVELOUS COMPANIONS** which commemorates Brothers who have recently died. If you want to check it out, click on **WHO WE ARE** and scroll down to **MARVELOUS COMPANIONS**. Included is an excerpt from their eulogies. Click on a particular Brother and the excerpt will open.



The Marist Brothers
 Provincial Development Office
 4200 West 115th Street
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The Marist Brothers Mission

To bring Christian education to young people, especially those who are most neglected.
 (Article 2, Constitutions)

The Marist Brothers

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 413
 Worth, Illinois 60482-0413
 Telephone: (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."

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 Editorial Staff: Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, CFRE, Mrs. Paulette Karas, CFRE, Br. Dan O'Riorden, FMS, Br. David Cooney, FMS

The Marist Brothers

Remembrance in Prayer Program



The Marist Brothers are excited to announce the addition of two newly designed All Occasion cards! These new designs are unique and created especially for the Marist Brothers by the well known company Barton Cotton, of Baltimore, Maryland.

The new All Occasion cards may be sent in honor of a birthday, anniversary, wedding or to send get well greetings. We still offer our Traditional prayer cards that are used for expressions of sympathy or memorials. Both card designs offer a special promise of remembrance in prayer from the Marist Brothers.

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