



The Marist Brothers

ADVENT 2012



A Lumen Award winning publication of the Province of the United States of America

# TODAY'S *Marist Brother*



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Br. Ben Consigli Is Elected Vice President of CMSM

Attending a Marist school provides students with a sense of service, simplicity, family, and friendship. These ideals, while inspiring, are even more so when they can be seen and felt.

To truly unite the vision of Saint Marcellin Champagnat with the formation of the individual, the Marist Brothers began Marist Youth, a program dedicated to introducing the students, faculty, and staff of Marist schools to the mission of Champagnat on a much deeper level. The program launched in 2001 and has since grown into an international gathering of students from Marist schools all across Canada, Mexico and the United States. The major event is a wonderful extension of the Marist Youth clubs that exist within each Marist school.

By participating in this program throughout the year, students are able to further incorporate Marist heritage and values into their lives both in school and at home.

This year, the gathering took place over Memorial Day weekend at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Roughly 300 students from Marist schools came together to learn and grow together as one family in their Marist faith.

The theme of the 2012 gathering was the "Power of Presence," commemorating 125 years of Marist Brothers presence in the United States. What it means to be Catholic and Marist in today's world was also shared with students, faculty and staff. This was achieved through workshop presentations by the Marist Brothers, discussion and reflection groups, and social and community building events, as well as various games and activities.

Part of the program also included an evening prayer service at the final resting place of many important Marist Brothers, including Br. Zephiriny. In an inspirational prayer service on Saturday evening, the names of 48 Brothers were read aloud and a candle was lit for each one. Part of the weekend involved a



*(continued on page 3)*

## FROM THE DESK OF



# *the provincial*

Advent 2012

Dear Members of our Marist Family,

In 1990, the then Superior General of the Marist Brothers, Brother Charles Howard, called all Marists to be “Sowers of Hope.” What actually did he mean by this phrase? The word hope in ordinary English vocabulary can generally be defined as “the feeling that what is wanted can be had” or “to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence.”

When we read the word *hope* in the Scriptures (as in 1 Peter 1:13 – “set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”), hope is not just wishful thinking. Christian hope is a confidence that something will come to pass *because God has promised it will come to pass*. This type of hope is a gift from God. This gift of hope helps us to see the potential for new life in the seed that must die and in the mystery of our daily “dying and rising” each day. This hope inspires us to deeper compassion, to generous sacrifice, to a broader vision that draws its energy, its life, from Jesus Christ.

Being Marist challenges us to be people who clearly manifest Jesus of Nazareth in our lives in the way of Mary: to be people who are witnesses of hope to the young and the discouraged. Each day we should take some time to reflect on this call: How have I been or how can I be a “Sower of Hope” in my life, my family, and in my world?

If our lives are not secured and satisfied by the recognition of a God who loves us, then we are going to be excessively anxious. This results either in paralyzing fear or in self-managed, greedy control. We end up thinking about ourselves, our future, our problems, and our potential, which keeps us from God’s greatest command and the request from Saint Marcellin in his last Spiritual Testament: “Love one another!”

If we don’t have the hope that “Christ is for us,” then we will be engaged in self-preservation and self-enhancement. But if we can accept the gift of hope, then we can be free to love others. It is then that God’s glory will shine more clearly because that is how He becomes visible. When God satisfies us so deeply that we’re free to love other people, then God and His beloved Son become more manifest – and that is really what our life’s journey is all about.

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 make Christ present in the here and now. There is no greater pursuit, no greater or more valuable and worthwhile thing, than loving and being love for others.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Br. Ben Consigli, FMS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Br. Ben Consigli, FMS  
Provincial

# The Adventures of Marists



Br. Pat Hogan, FMS, led 23 students and chaperones from Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood, New York, on a pilgrimage of service and reflection to France. This marks the eighth year the Archbishop Molloy community served the sick who travel to Lourdes to bathe in the healing waters of the Grotto, where the Immaculate Conception revealed herself to Saint Bernadette.

The women volunteered in the Grotto, where they helped the sick to dress and undress and lowered them into the water when necessary. At night, they participated in the rosary by singing and praying a decade every night.

The men had crowd control duty. They helped people off the trains that came from all over Europe, parked wheelchairs in the Grotto, and helped pilgrims find their way around during the procession. They also assisted at the International Mass and during the Eucharistic procession in the afternoons.

This year, Br. Pat, a guidance counselor at Molloy, also took the pilgrims to La Valla-en-Gier, the place where Saint Marcellin Champagnat founded the Marist Brothers.

## *One student reflected on her experience:*

I'm so happy that I decided to go to Lourdes this year. It's a place that's really hard to describe to people who haven't been there before, but people who have gone to Lourdes understand what a unique experience it is. Working in the baths was awesome. We got to meet so many women from different countries around the world who had their own stories and reason for coming to bathe in the Piscines. Our work days were exhausting, both emotionally and physically, but I think everyone can agree that each shift was worth it. Each time a lady thanked me in the bath with a hug or a kiss, it made me want to cry – but in a good way! As I said, it's hard to explain, but I believe that everyone should go to Lourdes at least once in their lifetime. The Hermitage was also really exciting because I think it brought our group together as a Marist family. At Molloy, we hear Saint Marcellin Champagnat's name nonstop. At the Hermitage, we were able to take a closer look at who he was as a child and what prompted him to start the Marist Brothers. This experience strengthened my identity as a Marist Catholic individual.

*Karla Hernandez*

*(Marist Youth continued from page 1)*

dose of nostalgia too, as the history of all the Marist schools represented at the gathering were on display in a special presentation on the Marist College campus.

In a press release, U.S. Provincial Br. Ben Consigli said, "It was a beautiful weekend at Marist College – we couldn't be more thrilled. We were blessed to have the opportunity to celebrate our 125-year U.S. heritage with such a diverse population of Marist youth in attendance." There is indeed

power in numbers, as the Marist Brothers were encouraged by the charism shown by all those in attendance – particularly the students who were given groups of their own peers to lead. Serving as role models, these leaders were able to relate their experiences in Marist faith to other students, in hopes that they can do the same for others in the coming years.

Br. Dominick Pujia, heavily involved in the planning of this event, relayed comments from one student. "One young person told me, 'I never realized

my school was part of a bigger reality called Marist. I am ready to work to carry this forward!' If our young people moved beyond the confines of their particular schools and connected with a greater reality, one which reaches across this nation and the world, then the Marist Youth Gathering was a rousing success." Br. Dominick believes the participating students, as well as many others in Marist schools, are ready to live the Marist vision today and carry it forward for future generations to come.

## Ad Gentes Novices



Numbered among the 11 Novices making their first vows as Marist Brothers are the young men from the Ad Gentes Sector in Asia. A thread in the tapestry of their vocations extends into the United States.

In January of 2006, Br. Sean Sammon, FMS, then Superior General of the Marist Brothers, sent a personal invitation to all the Brothers of the world to volunteer for a new missionary venture into Southeast Asia. The new chapter in our missionary history was to be called the "Ad Gentes" project, or "to the people." Over 100 Brothers volunteered.

As part of their preparations, these Ad Gentes Brothers needed to learn or improve their English, in addition to the language of their targeted countries. Many of them came through our Marist community in Chicago, Illinois, where the Brothers and school personnel of Marist High School, along with special tutors, trained them in English. These Ad Gentes Brothers are now seeing the emergence of young vocations that will continue the work of educating the less fortunate youth of Southeast Asia, lifting them out of poverty through education.

We congratulate our new Novices and their families, wishing them happiness and faithfulness to their call as Marists in their home countries.

## The Synod on the New Evangelization and Br. Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marist Brothers

On September 8, 2012, Br. Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, received a notification from the Secretary of the Synod on the New Evangelization that Pope Benedict XVI had personally appointed him to participate in the works of the Synod. The Synod will address "the new evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith."

In addition to Bishops, the Synod includes a number of priests, religious, and laity by reason of their personal experience and the specific preparation in relation to the theme of the Synod.

This appointment reflects the confidence the Holy Father has in our Superior General and, at the same time, recognizes the work performed by the Marist Institute in the evangelizing mission of the Church.



## For the Best Summer of Your Life:

# Camp Marist

There is excitement and enthusiasm in the air as one enters the property at Camp Marist on the shores of Ossipee Lake in heart of the White Mountains in New Hampshire. Over 530 kids joined us this past summer and experienced "the best summer of their lives." The Marist Brothers, an international Catholic teaching order, founded Camp Marist in 1949 with the primary purpose of establishing activities and programs in keeping with their mission, which remains unchanged today. Camp Marist was, and still is today, a place where kids continue to experience their relationship with God in their lives and in the lives of others, where they learn about character and community, develop strong self-esteem and self-confidence, and grow in confidence while learning new skills.

We are particularly proud of our outstanding staff of dedicated Marist Brothers, teachers, parents, former campers, and college-age students. Approximately half of our counselors hold college degrees, and their average experience is 12 years. Our staff at Camp Marist is an amazingly mature and experienced one in comparison to most camps. This past summer, 43 of our counselors were once campers and had gone through our two-year Counselor in Training program. As a result, our staff is one of the strongest assets, providing both community and a strong sense of family. Safety is our number one priority, and this is why Camp Marist maintains a camper-to-staff ratio of 3 to 1.

Originally, Camp Marist was only for boys. Ten years ago in 2002, we decided to become a co-ed camp and accepted girls for the first time. This transition went very smoothly and has tremendously enhanced the camp experience with a present 50/50 ratio between girls and boys.

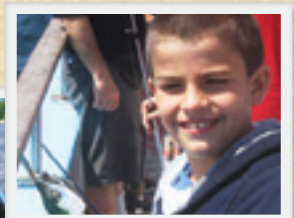
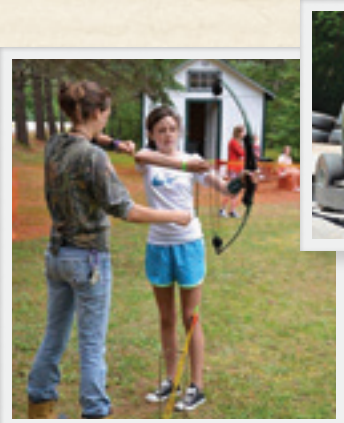
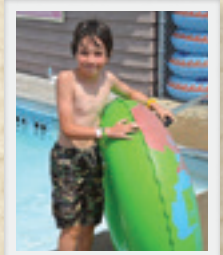
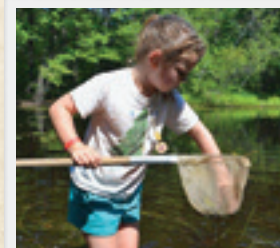


Camp Marist has not only one of the most beautiful locations around, but it also boasts of ideal facilities and innovating programming. Campers, along with their parents, individually select their activities before arriving at camp. Each camper then receives his or her own personalized activity schedule when arriving on opening day. Elective activities include: archery, arts and crafts, cycling, ropes challenge, fishing, golf, horseback riding, floor hockey, baseball, go-karts, dance, and much more. Waterfront activities include: water skiing, canoeing, power boating course, snorkeling, sailing, and wind-surfing. Certified Red Cross instructors teach all levels of swimming classes and over 18 lifeguards are on duty for each general swim.



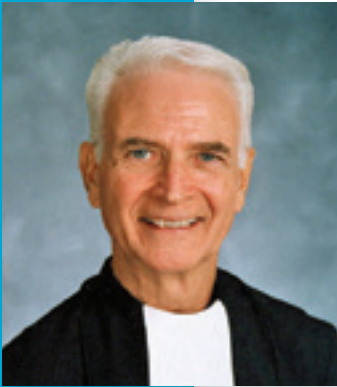
We believe that Camp Marist is a special place for kids to learn, grow, and thrive in positive and unique ways that will change their young lives forever. As a result, the experience of Camp Marist is one of the most precious life-changing gifts we can give our children. As parents and camp professionals, we understand the developmental benefits of camp. We understand that camp builds skills necessary to prepare kids to assume roles as successful adults. We understand that research has proven that camps contribute to growth in areas of leadership, self-esteem, independence, making friends, exploring and learning new activities, and spirituality.

For further information about Camp Marist, please contact the camp office at [office@campmarist.org](mailto:office@campmarist.org) or call 603-539-4552.



*Dear Friends,*

## Christmas Greetings!



Our feelings as we sit to write to you during this Advent season are those of thanks and gratitude. We are thankful and grateful for the generosity that our Marist Family has shown to our Brothers, the care you express for our elderly and disabled Brothers, and your enthusiastic support of our educational and evangelical work with youth.

These times we are living in continue to be challenging... we know that. The current state of the economy and family finances make charitable giving decisions difficult ones. We know that you are interested in many worthwhile causes, and we want you to know that the Brothers are most grateful for your support.

Your gifts to the Marist Brothers Annual Fund each year generously provide a groundwork of general support, as well as support for those special projects that need funding during the year.

Ongoing concern for our elderly and disabled Brothers is a duty which Saint Marcellin Champagnat considered a blessing. You may also have the experience of caring for an elderly loved one in your own family and know the diverse and sometimes pressing needs that can arise. We have the same needs – and your blessings of support through our annual retirement appeal greatly help us meet those responsibilities.

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 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

## How to Put the Marist Brothers in Your Will

After providing for your family and loved ones, you may want to put the Marist Brothers in your will, thus helping to assure the long-term future of our work. Bequests are free of tax and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government.

You can give needed support to the Marist Brothers by simply including the following words in your will:

*I give, devise, and bequeath to The Marist Brothers, Inc., 4200 W. 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60655  
[insert the amount being given here] to be used to support the ministry of The Marist Brothers.*

A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. You can also name *The Marist Brothers* as a contingency beneficiary in the event someone named in your will is no longer living.

It is recommended you consult with your attorney or financial advisor when drafting or amending your will.

## From Around the Province

**Br. Sean Sammon**, former Provincial of the Province of the United States of America and former Superior General of the International Order of the Marist Brothers, received the Linus R. Foy Award in September 2012 as an Outstanding Alumnus of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. This was the inaugural reception of the Outstanding Alumnus Award at Marist College.

**Br. Mike Sheerin** has been invited to serve on the Brooklyn Diocese Council of Religious. The Council serves an advisory role to Bishop DiMarzio and as a voice and vision of the Religious in the works of the Diocese.

**Brothers John Klein**, Assistant General in Rome, **Sean Sammon**, and **Michael Flanigan** took part in a meeting of the international Marist Network of Higher Education, held in Mexico City, October 8-13, 2012.

During the Province's Provincial Chapter, **Brothers Roy George, Kenneth Hogan, Patrick McNamara, Daniel O'Riordan, Albert Rivera, Sean Sammon**, and **Sephen Schlitte** were elected as Provincial Councilors to serve with **Br. Ben Consigli**, our Provincial, for the next three years. We congratulate these Brothers and offer our prayerful support as they take on this ministry of service to the Province.

**Br. Michael Flanigan** has been appointed to the Marist Inter-American Commission for Mission. Br. Michael is one of three persons named from the Arco Norte region (Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Central America). The national conference assists in reflecting on the Marist mission in the Americas. It suggests processes, projects, courses of action, and initiatives for the continent, while accompanying the development and the execution of the same.



### Br. Ben Consigli Is Elected Vice President of CMSM

At its recent national assembly, the U.S. Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) elected Br. Ben Consigli, FMS, Provincial of the Marist Brothers' Province of the United States, as its Vice President. Rev. John T. Edmunds, ST, was elected for a two-year term as President of the Conference.

CMSM serves the leadership of the Catholic orders and congregations of the more than 17,000 vowed religious priests and brothers of the United States, ten percent of whom are foreign missionaries. CMSM provides a voice for these communities in U.S. church and society. CMSM also collaborates with the U.S. bishops and other key groups and organizations that serve church and society. Congratulations Br. Ben!



### Br. Chanel Lambert, FMS

Br. Chanel was a Marist Brother for 71 years and taught, administered, and directed our Marist ministries in Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, California, Oregon, and Florida. He also served as a teacher and administrator at Taconic Lodge in Cold Spring, New York. His life was a reflection of our founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat. His devotion to our Blessed Lady, our Ordinary Resource, was strong. During his illness, particularly during his last few months, the Brothers would hear him reciting the rosary as he sat in his chair praying and dozing. Br. Chanel died in Miami, Florida, of a stroke on May 12, 2012, at the age of 89.

Br. Chanel's eulogy may be read at [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com). Click on "Who We Are," then "Marvelous Companions."

# Real Brothers. Real Stories. A Real Difference.



For more information about a vocation to the Marist Brothers visit

[maristbr.com](http://maristbr.com)

or contact

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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

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For more updates on what's happening in our Marist circles go to [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com) and click on "What's New."



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## The Marist Brothers *Remembrance in Prayer Program*



This is just a gentle reminder of how thoughtful it is to remember others in prayer. Our Remembrance in Prayer Program is a beautiful way for you to let others know that you are thinking of them and that they are being remembered in the prayers of all our Marist Brothers. Our All Occasion cards can be used in honor of a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or to send get well greetings. Our Traditional prayer cards can be used for expressions of sympathy or memorials. Both card designs include a special promise of remembrance in prayer from the Marist Brothers.

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