



The Marist Brothers

TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

ADVENT 2015



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

Pope Francis Visits East Harlem

Before Pope Francis left Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem (the site of the Marist Brothers' ComUnidad Juan Diego program) on September 25, he assigned the third graders from four local Catholic elementary schools some homework. It was an assignment everyone was eager to do.



Pope Francis addressing ComUnidad Juan Diego

"Pray for me," said the Holy Father to the children. He came with the same message for a group of recent immigrants and refugees gathered to greet him and listen to his message in the gymnasium adjacent to the third-grade classroom. He urged

them to dream and to never lose hope as they struggle to live their lives in their new country. He continued, "Wherever there are dreams, there is joy... Jesus is always present. Because Jesus is joy and he wants us to bring joy to everyone you meet."

Included in the group of immigrants was a group of 12 members of ComUnidad Juan Diego, a program sponsored by the Marist Brothers and the Archdiocese of New York to serve the Latino immigrant community in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York City, with a particular concern for vulnerable children and young people. Since September 2014, three Marist Brothers, one from Mexico, one from Ecuador and one from the United

States, have endeavored to build community among this immigrant group. Their goal has been to promote a "communion of cultures and an appreciation of their rich diversity."

Through programs like English as a Second Language, a vibrant Mothers Group, a craft class for women, an academic assistance/tutoring program for young people, a Champagnant spirituality group for adults and a youth group for teenagers, the Brothers and the more than 30 volunteers who work with them hope to encourage each member of the community to assume responsibility for his/her own welfare and to contribute to the betterment of everyone. Over the past year, over 100 people from approximately eighty families have participated in at least one of the ComUnidad Juan Diego programs.



Members of ComUnidad Juan Diego anxiously awaiting Pope Francis' arrival

Pope Francis' decision to visit with the Latino community and with the people of ComUnidad Juan Diego, in particular, served as a powerful affirmation of the importance of

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FROM THE DESK OF

The Provincial

ADVENT 2015

Dear Marist Family,

As 2015 ends and a new year begins both for the Church in this beautiful Advent season and for our calendar (2016), I write to thank you again for your support and care for the Marist mission in the United States of America Province and in the world. On behalf of the Brothers and the Lay Marists who dedicate themselves to making Jesus known and loved among young people and poor children, thanks for all the interest and encouragement for the Marist mission.



When the American Marist Provincials met in Brazil this fall, we joined the same chorus often sung by Pope Francis I: "In the Marist Family, we are called to have a meaningful presence among vulnerable children and young people. It's time to go out to all the peripheries that need the light of the Gospel. We are called to look at the world through the eyes of poor children and young people. To do so calls us to work with courage to protect their rights and to make their world safe."

For me, it seems that "peripheries" are never far away if our hearts and eyes are open. This Advent, what do we see through these eyes? Is it the terrible sadness and loneliness or desperation that some feel? Is it the violence that seems to explode everyday on our TV screens or in our neighborhood? Is it the fear that the future, economically and politically, is bleak?

Whatever it is, as Marist Family members, you and I are called to be the hope that is the promised Light of Advent, Jesus. There is no limit to hope. I know I see the witness of Province members and Marist Family members who pray, work, and reach out to others no matter how old they or challenged they are. I see it in the various ways we minister to make a difference by our significant presence in our Marist schools, in our spiritual retreat and parish ministries, and other creative ways to make Jesus known and loved.

2016 is the Year of Fouvriere for the Marist Family. It is the year when we celebrate the original vision and dream of creating the Society of Mary, a communion of priests, brothers, sisters and lay members in mission together to reinvent the Church with a more maternal face. We begin the 200th anniversary of Fouvriere in Lyon, France, again as we remember the birth of the child Jesus and we join Him and Mary, our good mother, as they look at our world. How will we be graced as we go forward? What hopes and dreams will we share and live in the new year? In your own prayers and looking through these special lenses, please let me and the Brothers know what God is saying to you. See you on the peripheries both far and near.

In the hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Champagnat,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Br. Patrick McNamara". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Br. Patrick McNamara, FMS
Provincial

First Profession

by
Br. Dan O’Riordan, FMS

The Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the first profession of Br. Sam Amos on August 8 in the Marist College Chapel in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Prior to entering the Marist Brothers, Sam graduated from Powers Catholic High School in Flint, Michigan; from John Carroll University in Ohio with a bachelor’s degree; and from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he earned a master’s degree in May 2013.



Br. Sam Amos receiving his cords from Novice Director Br. Rob Clark

In September 2013, Sam became a postulant to the Marist Brothers and lived in community at the Marist Brothers Novitiate in Esopus, New York. Sam was joined in formation by fellow postulants Jack O’Sullivan and James Hodges, both from the Province of Australia.

I was always impressed by the Marist Brothers’ simplicity. I found them down to earth and without pretense, and very quick to laugh at each other and themselves. There’s a beautiful warmth and family spirit in Marist communities.

Br. Sam Amos, FMS



Br. Sam Amos and Provincial Br. Patrick McNamara signing the vow book

On February 8, 2014, Sam joined with Jack and James in officially entering the Marist Brothers Novitiate by becoming Novices during a ceremony held in the Chapel at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus.

During their novitiate, they were guided by Master of Novices Br. Robert Clark. They were also joined in the novitiate community by Brothers Phil Robert and Brice Byczynski.

The novitiate was a deeply formative experience for me. I had the time and the space to come to a deeper understanding of my relationship with God, and how I wanted to follow Him in this life. I got so much life and joy out of the companionship I had with my fellow novices and brothers.

Br. Sam Amos, FMS

Brs. Jack O’Sullivan and James Hodges also professed their first vows this summer. They did so back in their home Province of Australia on August 15.

Following his profession in August, Br. Sam moved to the Our Lady of Grace Community in the Bronx, New York. He is currently teaching at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx.

I’m a first year teacher at the Mount. It’s exhausting and overwhelming, but this is exactly where I want to be. I come home every day tired out from doing the things I’ve always wanted to do.

Br. Sam Amos, FMS

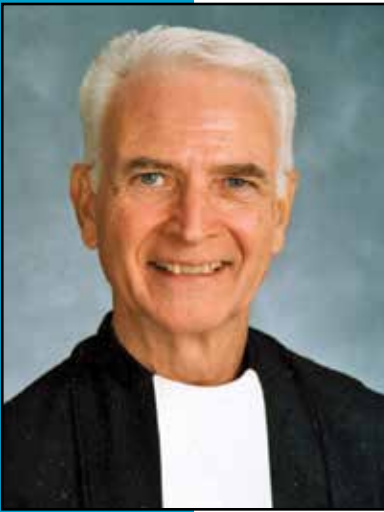
Let us continue to keep Br. Sam in our prayers as he continues his formation with the Marist Brothers, and also pray for all young people that they too may have the courage to listen to and follow God’s calling in their lives.



From left: Brothers Rob Clark, Novice Director, Sam Amos and Patrick McNamara, Provincial



Fellow Marist Brothers attending the Profession ceremony



Dear Friends,

In today's world of cyberspace communication by texting, email, Facebook and Twitter, it is no wonder that we sometimes tend to feel alone and isolated. 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-five 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 25 years, a multitude of people have helped us achieve our goals by faithfully donating to our Annual Fund. Without their help, your help, we could not have come this far!

Twenty-five 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 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. If you have not yet donated to this year's Annual Fund, please consider a gift this Christmas season.

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

**As hard as we try, mistakes happen.
The following people were inadvertently omitted from our
Annual Honor Roll of Donors this past August.
We are grateful for their understanding, friendship and support.**

*A Special
Thank You to*

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Celebrating 25 Years

**This year marks our 25th Marist Brothers Annual Fund!
Please join us in celebrating this milestone by making a gift today at
www.maristbr.com!**

Marist Brothers Elect New Province Leadership

The Marist Brothers of the United States have elected Br. Patrick McNamara Provincial for a three-year term effective June 2015. Br. Patrick succeeds Br. Ben Consigli who recently completed a six-year mandate.

Br. Patrick, a native of Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, graduated from Laurel Hill Academy. He went on to complete his undergraduate education at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and graduate

work at University of San Francisco; St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York; and Florida International University.

In the past he served as Provincial of the former Marist Province of Poughkeepsie, New York, from 1994 through 2000.

Br. Patrick also worked in several Marist Brothers ministries in the U.S., serving as a teacher, counselor and school president in congregational and diocesan institutions in New York, Mississippi, West Virginia, Chicago and Miami. Most recently he served as child rights advocate at the Marist Brothers desk before the United Nations Human Rights Council based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Gathered in Chapter in Long Branch, New Jersey, in June of this year, delegates also

elected Br. Daniel O’Riordan as Vice Provincial and the following Brothers as Councilors: Donald Bisson, Hank Hammer, Owen Ormsby, Albert Rivera, and Seán Sammon. As the Chapter came to a close, Br. Patrick and his new Council were formally installed during the celebration of the Eucharist on June 12, 2015. The Provincial team plans to open a new Province headquarters and residence in Forest Hills, New York.

Prior to his election as Assistant Provincial, Br. Dan O’Riordan served as a Province Vocation Director. He graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, New York, and went on to complete his undergraduate education in Ireland. In the past Br. Dan has served as a teacher, counselor, coach and campus minister at several Marist and diocesan Catholic high schools in New York, New Jersey and West Virginia.

Br. Donald Bisson is a native of Brunswick, Maine. He served as a teacher and counselor at several Marist and diocesan high schools in the U.S., and later as Novice Master engaged in the formation of young Marist Brothers. Currently he works as a spiritual director and lectures widely in this country and abroad on issues related to adult faith formation and spiritual direction.

Br. Hank Hammer hails from Seaford, Long Island. He was a member of Saint William the Abbot parish and a student in its school. Br. Hank went on to complete his undergraduate education at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York. He serves presently as president of Marist High School,



From left: Brothers Don Bisson, Sean Sammon, Dan O’Riordan, Hank Hammer, Patrick McNamara, Al Rivera, Owen Ormsby



The completed MBCE Labyrinth

Esopus Corner

We call them The LaValla Days. Students from our schools throughout the country join us here at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus (MBCE) to come together in prayer and service. Sponsored by the MBCE, the Office of Evangelization and the Office for New Membership, we provide a program that seeks to recapture the spirit and excitement of the early days of the Institute, when Marcellin lived with the Brothers in the first community of LaValla.

The students exhibit qualities of a strong faith life: generosity of service, ability to reflect and share ideas and faith, and a desire to “know and love Jesus.” Besides the physical work they do, the students also experience the sense of family spirit which marked the early days of the Brothers in LaValla: living together in simple surroundings, praying, learning and sharing together.

Chicago, Illinois. In the past he has been Vice Provincial as well as a teacher and administrator at Marist schools in New York, and Chicago.

Br. Owen Ormsby is a native of Richmond Hill, Queens, New York and a graduate of Archbishop Molloy High School. For over 30 years he served as a campus minister and administrator in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, in institutions such as Queens of Angels School, Marist High School and Roselle Catholic High School. Currently he is the Executive Director of the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, New York.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Br. Albert Rivera attended Mount Saint Michael Academy and went on to complete his undergraduate education at Fordham University. He has been a teacher and youth minister at Marist schools in New York and Miami. A past member of the Provincial Council, he also served the Province for over 10 years as Director of Marist Youth Ministry and Vocation promotion.

Br. Seán Sammon, currently Scholar in Residence at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, served as Superior General of the Marist Brothers from 2001 through 2009. He is a past-Provincial of the Poughkeepsie Province and past president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. He holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from Fordham University and serves as a consultant to Roman Catholic and Anglican religious congregations in the U.S. and abroad.



Esopus Meditation Walk

The program began four years ago, when the youth and adults who have participated in the program constructed the Chapel in the Woods and the Peace Plaza. They also constructed a Meditation Trail highlighting the pivotal moments in the life of our Founder.

This year they finished building an outdoor labyrinth modeled on the one found in Chartres, France. Begun last year, the new MBCE Labyrinth will provide visitors with a new tool for prayer as they continue to journey towards God.

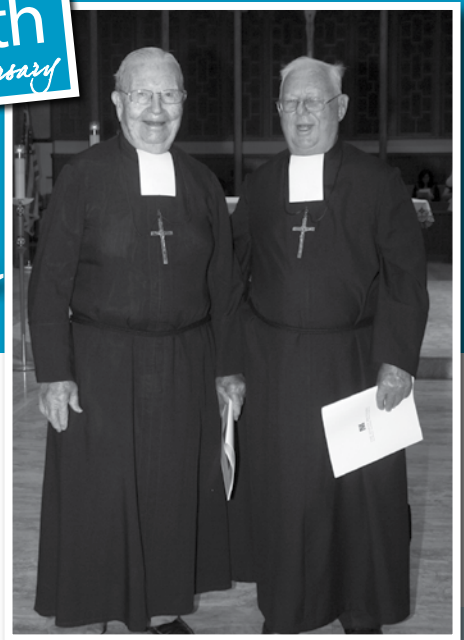
Year after year, the young people and Marist adults who have participated in the project have assisted us in keeping the spirit of the Hermitage in France, and the spirit of Marcellin and his Brothers, alive in our hearts.



2015 LaValla Weekend volunteers

Congratulations to our Jubilarians

75th
Anniversary



From left: Brothers Paul Urban Phillipp and Norbert Rodrigue

Ad Multos Annos

This year the Marist Family is happy to be celebrating our Jubilarians' 900 years of combined service to the youth of the United States and the world in our Marist missions.

God's blessings on each of our Jubilarians for having faithfully followed in the footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat for many years—ad multos annos!

75th Anniversary
Br. Paul Urban Phillipp
Br. Norbert Rodrigue

70th Anniversary
Br. Francis Klug

60th Anniversary
Br. James Adams
Br. Thomas Delaney
Br. Charles Filiatrault
Br. Paul Forgues
Br. Eladio Gonzalez
Br. Patrick Lally
Br. John Malich
Br. Paul Meuten

50th Anniversary
Br. James Devine
Br. Richard Grenier
Br. William Maske
Br. Joseph Matthews

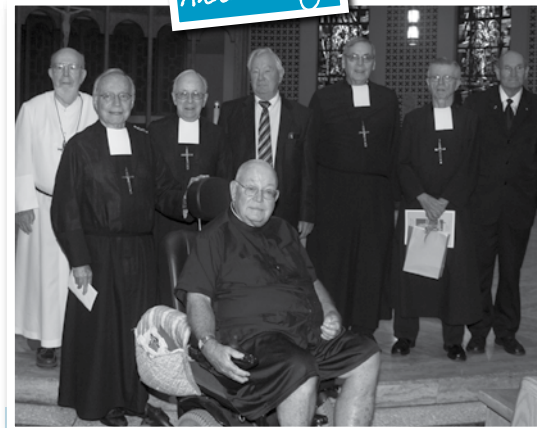
A special **thank you** to Br. Bob Warren, FMS, for the great Jubilee pictures! Br. Bob serves as our official Jubilee photographer each year.

70th
Anniversary



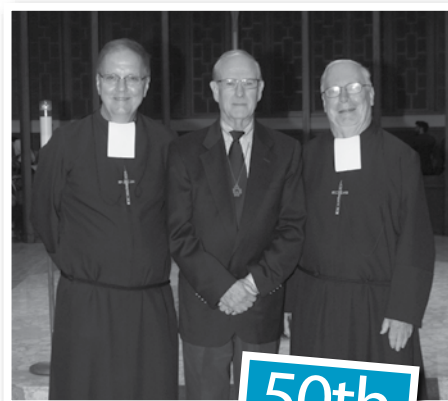
Br. Francis Klug

60th
Anniversary



Back row, from left: Brothers Paul Meuten, John Malich, Paul Forgues, Patrick Lally, Charles Filiatrault, James Adams and Eladio Gonzalez

Front: Br. Thomas Delaney



50th
Anniversary

From left: Brothers William Maske, Joseph Matthews and James Devine (not pictured: Br. Richard Grenier)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES.

The Marist Brothers are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the National Catholic Community Foundation to offer charitable gift annuities to our Marist Family.

What is a gift annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a contract in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a fixed income each year for the rest of your life (or the lives of two people). Those wishing to participate must be at least 60 years of age with a charitable gift of \$5,000 or more.

Are there benefits to this type of giving?

Yes, the charitable gift annuity is an irrevocable gift commitment, but one with excellent tax and financial benefits.

- **Income for Life** – at attractive payout rates for one or two lives;
- **Tax Deduction Savings** – a large part of what you transfer is a deductible charitable gift;
- **Tax-Free Payout** – a large part of your annual payment is tax-free return of principal;
- **Capital Gains Tax Savings** – when you contribute securities for a gift annuity, you minimize any taxes on your “paper profit”; and
- **Personal Satisfaction** – you are investing in the future of the mission of the Marist Brothers.



We can provide you with a free gift annuity analysis that answers all your questions.
Simply call our office at (773) 881-5343.

IN MEMORIAM



*Br. Richard
Rancourt,
FMS*

(Br. Richard Anselm)
Br. Richard was
84 years old
when he died at
Champagnat Hall

residence at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx on April 3, 2015. He was a Marist Brother for 67 years and followed the ideals set forth by our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, committing his life to education and service.

His varied career as a Marist saw him teaching math, Spanish and philosophy and administering programs at Mount St. Michael in the Bronx and St. Agnes High School in Manhattan, as well as a variety of programs at Pace University in New York City.

The bulk of Br. Richard's career, however, spanned four decades as a teacher in the philosophy and mathematics departments of Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and in longtime service to the Office of College Advancement there.

Br. Richard was dedicated and committed to the Marist Mission. He was kind, generous and had a great sense of humor, always thinking of others and never himself. He also brought music into many lives... everyone knew this, and people sang along with him.

The Marist Brothers live with this simple statement: "The Marist Brothers do great things quietly." That was Br. Richard.



*Br. Thomas
Coyne,
FMS*

(Br. Thomas Mary)
After his Profession
as a Marist Brother
and completing his
academic degrees,

Br. Tom taught for 10 years before arriving in Laredo, Texas, in 1972. He remained there for the next 40 years.

He initially taught math at St. Joseph Academy in Laredo, but the school closed and was sold to the public school system. Br. Tom chose to enter the public school system so as to help the neediest kids.

Br. Tom taught the "most challenged" kids in his math classes. His principal knew he worked best with them. He had a gift for holding their attention and getting results.

After retiring from the public schools, Br. Tom taught adult religion courses for the Diocese of Laredo and Corpus Christi, as well as for the parish of San Martin de Porres.

For 33 years Br. Tom spent about five weeks in the summer volunteering as cook at the Esopus Summer Camps for disadvantaged children in Esopus, New York. He is well remembered for his baking of cookies, cakes, and other pastries and desserts.

Br. Tom possessed a prayerful, kind and generous heart. He always placed others ahead of himself. God was first in his life. His religious community, family, students and the needy were close to his heart.

Br. Tom died peacefully at our Marist Champagnat Hall community in the Bronx, New York on March 31, 2015.

Pope Francis Visits East Harlem



*Br. Richard
Sharpe,
FMS*

Br. Richard was born in West Virginia; educated at Central Catholic in Wheeling, where

he met the Marists; and spent the next 50 years as a Marist Brother.

Br. Richard was a true Marist educator. He first taught, then spent almost 40 years as a school administrator—in Illinois, New York, California, Pennsylvania and Texas. He was an assistant principal, principal and president.

He had a sly and dry sense of humor; he was a wonderful cook, and a welcoming host. He was highly perceptive and tolerant of others. He loved his teaching, his students and his colleagues. He loved the Marist way of life.

He accepted his call to be a Brother and to insist on being nothing but the best. And, in utmost simplicity, Br. Richard stayed close to his God, and tried to live it with all his humanness.

Years of health challenges made Br. Richard appreciate life more and accept his own limitations and those of others. He was always so appreciative of how the Brothers cared for him.

On May 27, 2015, Br. Richard passed away quietly amidst his Brothers in Texas.

To read additional obituaries on Brothers Richard, Thomas and Richard, as well as other recently deceased Brothers, visit www.marist.com, and under "About Us" click on "Marvelous Companions."

each individual and his strong support of this program. During his remarks he reminded the immigrants that at one time we were all strangers and that each of us is a descendant of immigrants. Therefore, we all have a responsibility to each other.

One of the ComUnidad Juan Diego mothers said that meeting Pope Francis was "like having God speaking directly to my heart." His call for mercy and forgiveness touched everyone's heart and the blessings of his time in East Harlem continue to bear fruit there today.



Br. Hector Dessavre-Davila with the ComUnidad Juan Diego Mothers Group

**Real Brothers.
Real Stories.
A Real Difference.**



For more information about a vocation to the Marist Brothers, visit:

www.maristbr.com

Or contact:

Br. Todd Patenaude, FMS

2115 Pitman Avenue
Bronx, New York 10466

Phone: (845) 633-0811
Email: brtoddpat@yahoo.com

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

Phone: (773) 881-5343

Fax: (773) 881-3367

Email: maristbr@maristbr.org

Website: maristbr.com

For more updates on what's happening in our Marist circles, visit www.maristbr.com and under "Communications" click on "What's New."



The Marist Brothers

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

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Editorial Staff: Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, CFRE; Mrs. Paulette Karas, CFRE; Br. John Klein, FMS; Br. Owen Ormsby, FMS; Br. Dan O' Riordan, FMS

The Marist Brothers

Remembrance in Prayer Program



The Marist Brothers offer two different series of Remembrance in Prayer cards: Traditional and All-Occasion cards. We have recently updated our signature Traditional card featuring the image of Christ and introduced a new Traditional Marial design. Both of these Traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two All-Occasion cards may be sent in honor of a birthday, wedding or anniversary or to extend 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 Traditional cards or refresh your supply of All-Occasion cards. Please send your request through email (maristbr@maristbr.org) or to the address at left.