



The Marist Brothers

ADVENT 2014



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

TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

Marist Young Adult Program

**"It was the best youth gathering ever!"
said a sophomore from the Bronx, New York.**

**"I really liked the fact that we were all
Marist, no matter what school we were from,"
said a junior from Brownsville, Texas.**

**"When the conference ended I felt sad.
I made so many new friends.
It was tough to say goodbye,"
said a student from Miami, Florida.**

**"I felt renewed in spirit,"
said a teacher from Chicago, Illinois.**

**"My spiritual faith is stronger,"
said a student from Canada.**



came from our Marist schools in Texas, Illinois, Massachusetts, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Canada and Mexico. The program was organized by the Marist Brothers' Office of Evangelization (Province of the USA).

Young people and adults who participated in the Marist Youth Gathering developed a wider understanding of their Marist identity, charism and mission which goes beyond their immediate school identity. The activities which made up the program— talks and workshop presentations, interactive games and initiatives, discussion and reflection groups, prayer and worship experiences, and social and community building events—were meant to transmit a sense of Marist heritage, family spirit and spirituality, while inspiring, motivating, and building confidence in youth who want to take up leadership roles in their schools and in the local Church. This year's theme was "To Jesus Through Mary."

Br. Tony Leon, co-director of the secretariat for "Brothers Today" in Rome, Italy, was the conference's main presenter. He offered



They're all talking about the Marist Youth Gathering 2014 that took place at Mount St. Mary College, Newburgh, New York, over Memorial Day weekend. The Marist Youth Gathering is a biennial event. Over 230 youth, school staff and college-age young adults attended this four-day youth festival and leadership-building conference. They

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FROM THE DESK OF

The Provincial

ADVENT 2014



Dear Members of the Marist Family,

The great font of cyber information, Wikipedia, defines Advent as “a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a ‘time of expectant waiting and preparation’ for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning ‘coming.’” In our secularized world, decorations in department stores and the nonstop Christmas music on numerous radio stations mark the “coming” of this joy-filled season. But is that really what this season is all about? How does the incarnation of God’s love for us actually come to us? I believe part of the answer to that question is through “joy.”

Pope Francis reminds us that we need “to fill our hearts with joy.” This joy is not a “useless ornament,” but rather a necessity, the “foundation of human life.” In our daily struggles, each of us tries to attain joy and abide in it with all our being.

Sometimes abiding in joy is easy; at other times in our lives it is difficult. In our world today, there is often a lack of joy. We are not called to accomplish great or historic things, but our call as Marists, as Christians, is to give witness to the joy that arrives from the certainty of knowing we are unconditionally loved and embraced by our God. Each of us is called to be bearers of Christ’s message of hope and love in the same way that we are called to be receivers of this hope. Advent reminds us that God is saying: “You are important to me. I love you. I am sending my Word, my Son to you!” The source of our joy can be found in prayer, charity towards each other and unceasing thanksgiving for all that has been given us.

Our joy is born from that understanding that we are precious in God’s eyes...and He is coming into our lives again and again. Let this Advent call us to deeper prayer, greater charity, and thanksgiving for all that we have been given.

Be assured of my good wishes and prayers for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Br. Ben Consigli, FMS
Provincial

three presentations focusing on the stories of St. Marcellin Champagnat: first, how the stories of each youth in attendance form the Marist story today; second, a Marial spirituality for young people today; and finally, how each is responsible to be Marist today. Te Deum Ministries offered a multimedia, multidimensional program called "Array of Hope." It included Christian rock and rap music, witness presentations, prayer and worship experiences, and a reflective visual presentation on the life of St. Marcellin Champagnat. As part of the program, Luis Ramos, a Marist Young Adult and leader of the Province's Marist Young Adult Advisory Committee, offered a personal witness on how his commitment to Christ has grown through his involvement in Marist Youth Ministry.

Workshop presentations included, among others, a session on the International Mission Assembly which was held in Nairobi, Kenya; use of the labyrinth and mandala as tools of prayer for young people; ways of being Marist; and how adventure games and challenges can build family spirit. One youth group offered a workshop on how they include teachers, school administrators, families and friends in their Marist youth program. A skills-based, formation-focused workshop was held for adult youth ministers on effective ways of talking and interacting with youth.



Student groups from different schools planned morning and evening prayers. Eighteen university-age young adults participated in the conference, assisting as group

leaders. Mr. Larry Kupferman, campus minister from St. Mary High School, Manhasset, New York was the conference's music minister and Mr. Brian Klimas, a math teacher at Archbishop Molly High School, Briarwood, New York was emcee. Fr. Richard LaMorte, chaplain at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and an affiliate of the Province, led the Sunday evening liturgy. Following the Mass, participants enjoyed an outdoor BBQ and a dance. The evening ended with a Taize prayer experience led by Br. Dan O'Riordan, FMS, a member of the Province's vocation team.

The conference closed on Memorial Day with a solidarity event which remembered our Marist Brothers and lay colleagues now suffering in Aleppo, Syria.

Esopus Corner

The Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus is devoted to the work of Christian evangelization. Here the presence of God is discovered in a new way by young people and adults alike (Vision Statement). Each year over 4,000 young people come through our doors to participate in retreats, encounters and days of reflection. We have the privilege to witness God's grace in action as God is experienced in their encounters with nature, other people and the solitude of one's own heart. God's presence is what makes this space sacred. In our popular U.S. Marist tradition, Esopus is "holy ground."

Sacred spaces are important. They remind us that God is indeed present in our everyday lives. Here at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus we have been giving some attention to our sacred spaces. Our Chapel has recently



been renovated and repainted. During LaValla service weekends young people from our schools throughout the country have worked together to construct



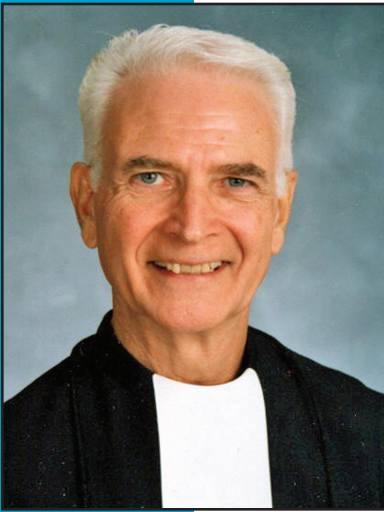
an outdoor Chapel in the Woods and a meditation path on the life of St. Marcellin. They have also begun work on the construction of an outdoor labyrinth and helped to restore the Stations of the Cross surround-

ing our cemetery. A committee has been formed to evaluate how this sacred space can be improved upon to properly recognize the giants on whose shoulders we stand. None of these improvements were in our budget, but God's grace and the generosity of many have made them possible.

All our efforts are focused on one single aim: to lead young people to Jesus through Mary.

During this Advent and Christmas season let us "take off our shoes," as Moses did when he recognized he was standing on holy ground, and ask for the graces needed to transform our own hearts into a sacred space where God can dwell within us.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!



Dear Friends,

In today's chaotic and troubled world we sometimes tend to feel alone. We go about our daily lives thinking we are alone. Then one day we raise our eyes and discovered 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 older Brothers; help to maintain excellence in education; help to expand our unique youth ministries; help with the recruitment and retention of vocations to continue in St. Marcellin Champagnat's tradition.

So with faith and a prayer we began our Development Office. We worked hard and raised our eyes. We found ourselves surrounded by a multitude of people who have helped us, both financially and prayerfully, over the years.

We continue to raise our eyes, and we still find we are surrounded by family, friends and alumni who generously contributed to our appeals to help us meet our needs. So many of you graciously send gifts to our Annual Fund, as well as to our yearly Retirement Appeal to help meet the rising cost of healthcare for our elderly and disabled Brothers. Others of you frequently donate through our Prayer Card Program and this newsletter, *Today's Marist Brother*. Still others have told us you have included the Brothers in your estate plans. For all of your generous support, we are deeply grateful. We could not have come so far without your partnership!

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

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

Merry Christmas!

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

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Co-Director of Development



THE MARIST BROTHERS ARE NOW

OFFERING 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;”
- **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.

Noteworthy News



Brothers (from left) Sam Amos (USA novice), Rob Clark, James Hodge (Australia novice), Sean Sammon, Brian Poulin and Jack O'Sullivan (Australia novice) gather at the Novitiate in Esopus, New York.

Br. Brian Poulin recently renewed his vows during morning prayer at the Province Assembly. Let us join the three new Marist novices in fraternal support and prayer as Brian continues to deepen his commitment as a Marist Brother.

Br. Albert Phillipp, FMS was recognized in the *American Bar Association Journal* for his work in the Brownsville, Texas, parish of San Felipe de Jesús. Br. Albert worked tirelessly for several years helping the desperately poor people who lived in the colonia in ramshackle houses, many of which were unsafe. Today, Br. Albert is retired and still does volunteer work in the parish.



Camp Marist in New Hampshire had another successful year with over 500 campers enjoying "the best summer of their lives!" Go to www.campmarist.org for more information and sign up for next year!

Br. Ben Consigli, Provincial of the Province of the United States, is the vice president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and met with Pope Francis in May to discuss male religious life in the U.S. Pope Francis spoke about the need for Catholic education, vocation promotion and ongoing formation of religious.



The second Marist Mission International Assembly began on September 15 in Nairobi, Kenya. The assembly, "New Marists in Mission," was to explore the relationship between Marist laity and Brothers, seeking greater vitality together.

Representing the U.S. were Ms. Alice Miesnik, principal of Marist High School Bayonne, New Jersey; Mrs. Maureen Hagan, campus minister at Roselle Catholic High School, Roselle, New Jersey; and Br. Steve Milan, FMS, director of the Marist Young Adult program.



Ms. Alice Miesnik



Mrs. Maureen Hagan



Br. Steve Milan, FMS

See more at:

www.maristbr.com/newsfiles/250_II_MIMA.pdf

Br. Patrick McNamara (fourth from left), an American Marist, is now living in an international Marist community in eastern France near the Swiss border. The other Brothers in the community hail from Malawi, Brazil, Switzerland and Australia. This new community will be working at our office with the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.



In Memoriam

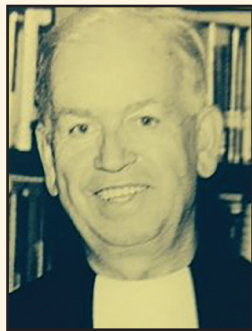


*Br. Anthony
Jazzeppi,
FMS*

Br. Anthony Jazzeppi, FMS, entered the Marist Brothers' Novitiate in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts,

in 1961 and was a Marist Brother for 52 years. He taught and served as assistant principal or principal at eight primary and secondary schools around the country before retiring to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, New York. Br. Anthony passed away on June 1.

Brother Anthony had a long and diverse career as an educator. After graduating with his B.A. in chemistry from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, he went on to serve as a teacher and, later, a school administrator at Marist schools around the country. He also continued his own education, earning his master of science in natural science from Seattle University, a certificate of advanced study from the University of Oregon and a master of science in administration from the University of Notre Dame. In 1992, he earned a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco. Br. Anthony was a former member of the Marist College Board of Trustees and served on the Academic Affairs, Student Life and Technology committees at Marist College.

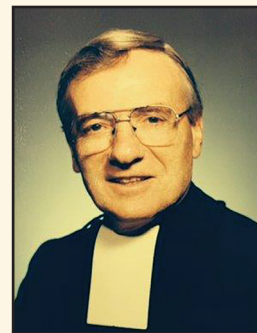


*Br. Francis
Bernard
Ryan, FMS*

Br. Francis Bernard Ryan, FMS, died on June 5 at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, New York, after 65 years as a Marist Brother.

After completing his religious and academic studies, Br. Francis spent the next 47 years ministering at St. Ann's Academy, Mount St. Michael Academy and Rice High School in the Archdiocese of New York; Archbishop Molloy High School in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York; St. Mary's High School in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York; St. Joseph Academy in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas; and Marist High School in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.

Br. Francis retired to the Marist Brothers' residence at Champagnat Hall in 2000. He was buried in the Marist Brothers' Cemetery in Esopus, New York.



*Br. John
Peter Bantz,
FMS*

Br. John Bantz, FMS, began and ended his career at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx, New York,

first as a fledgling freshman in 1952 and finally as its president starting in 1997.

As a young Marist Brother he began his teaching at St. Joseph School in Trumbull, Connecticut, then continued at Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, New York. He also taught at Luke M. Powers High School in Flint, Michigan, and at Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensberg, Pennsylvania. He took on administrative duties at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida, and St. Agnes Boys High School in New York City. Br. John came back to Mount St. Michael Academy as President from 1997 - 2006, after which he served the Mount community by working in the Development Office until his death.

Br. John died on September 6 at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx at the age of 76 and after 55 years as a Marist Brother.

To read additional obituaries on Brothers Anthony, Francis and John, as well as other recently deceased Brothers, visit www.marist.com, and in "About Us" click on "Marvelous Companions."

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



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The Marist Brothers *Remembrance in Prayer Program*



New Designs Now Available!

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.

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, visit www.maristbr.com and over "Communications" click on "What's New."