



The Marist Brothers

ADVENT 2022



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

TODAY'S Marist Brother

Walking in the Footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat

A Province Pilgrimage to L'Hermitage

Over the summer, more than 20 pilgrims from all over the United States Province traveled to L'Hermitage in France. The group included Marist Brothers, USA Province



employees, Marist Young Adults, and members of administration and staff from various USA Province schools. The one-week pilgrimage experience is offered every other summer and allows participants to witness the birthplace of

the Marist Institute. While on the trip, the group visited Fourviere, where St. Marcellin Champagnat pledged to begin the Marist Brothers. They toured (and stayed at) the Hermitage, the home Marcellin and the early Brothers built together. They also spent time in LaValla, La Rosey, Taize, Cluny, and Le Puy.



A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim

Lori Wilson, Campus Minister at Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, NY

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Walking in Marcellin's footsteps today brought forward a real sense of purpose. We were able to see where he was baptized, where he spent time between formation years, and where he began in LaValla as a parish priest. Then, we visited where he discovered his mission when he met a young dying boy who didn't know of God.

Being able to see where Marcellin gathered his first Brothers, and the table they built and sat around, LaValla, I am reminded that St.

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FROM THE DESK OF

the Provincial

ADVENT 2022

Dear Marist Family,

Advent Blessings to each of you. As we prepare to again celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us pause to reflect on the miraculous gift that God bestowed on our world. Let us be grateful for the witness, courage, and faithfulness of Mary and Joseph, who God called to assist in His divine plan of gifting our world and lives with His Son. May our hearts and lives, like Mary's and Joseph's, be open to bringing God into our world.



Because of Mary's "Yes," God came into our world. As we reflect on the readings of this season, we are frequently reminded of Mary's journey. As Marists today, we are called to be the face of the Marian Church and so our life and story should be reflective of Mary's life and story. Her song as expressed in her Magnificat must become our song. It's the song of the whole Church, and of anyone who has experienced God's overflowing generosity and grace. It's the song of everyone who begins to see that God loves them individually, personally, and unconditionally. "God has chosen me. Despite my sin and weaknesses, he still loves me and walks with me. Yes, my spirit does rejoice in God my savior!" Sometime during these Advent days, sit and pray with those words of Mary and make them your own.

As I share these few lines, I do so with a grateful heart as we are blessed to have so many generous and supportive benefactors like you, who partner with us in our mission to make Jesus Christ known and loved, especially among young people and among those most neglected.

We are also blessed to have dedicated Marist Brothers and Lay Marists who joyfully bring our mission to life each day in countless ways. We are similarly graced to have the prayerful witness of our many retired and infirm Marist Brothers who dedicate much of their day to praying for the many works of our Province and all our benefactors that make those works possible. I am especially indebted to our Province medical staff who take such excellent care of our retired Brothers, whose shoulders we now stand on as we continue their legacy of growing our Marist Mission.

I wish to personally thank you again for your support and care for our Marist mission in the USA Province and throughout the world. We could not continue to make the dream of St. Marcellin an ongoing lived reality without your interest, encouragement, and prayers.

Our Marist life and mission is rich with folks who pray, work, and reach out to others no matter how old they are or what challenges they face. I see it on a daily basis in the various ways we minister to make a difference by our significant presence in our Marist schools, our spiritual retreats, our camps, our work with refugees on our southern border, and our other creative ways to make Jesus known and loved.

Advent blessings and prayers....in the hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Champagnat,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Br. Dan O'Riordan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Br. Dan O'Riordan, FMS
Marist Brothers USA Provincial



Marcellin's mission—to make Jesus Christ known and loved—is as important today as it was when the Marist Brothers were first started. I am moved by the Marist charism in the same ways he was, but in our current reality and context. The world needs me, and all who are in this ministry, as much now as they did then.

I am learning our Marist history, in order to understand the present, and help create a better future.

ESOPUS CORNER

The mission statement for the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus (MBCE) states that the MBCE "is a place where a Marist approach to ministry, formation, and service work together to evangelize young people and adults." In living this, our mission takes on many forms.



During the summer months, we host a series of 10 one-week camps for marginalized children, known as the Mid-Hudson Valley (MHV) Camps. MHV Camps are a jewel in the crown of our Marist mission here in Esopus, hosting

over 700 campers each summer on the banks of the Hudson River. Some campers come from poor urban settings, some are deaf, some are struggling with fights against cancer, and others live with disabilities. All of them, however, have found a home where they are accepted and loved in a true Marist fashion.

This is made possible because over 500 volunteers, students and adults alike, choose to give up their summer vacations. The camps continue to run smoothly because of the men and women who work tirelessly on behalf of others.



Their experiences have been life-changing. Many choose their professions due to what they have learned here at camp. All of them will be quick to tell you that they receive more than they give.

And why do they do it? The simple answer is because they want to make a difference. They believe, as did Marcellin Champagnat, that all children deserve to be loved, and that by loving them the world is made a better place.



The Advent season calls each of us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." How can we best respond to this call throughout the year? Our work in the Mid-Hudson Valley

Camps seeks to proclaim the Gospel message that "God is with us," not simply by our words, but more importantly, by our deeds.

This Advent season, as we wait in expectation to celebrate the Incarnation of our God's love, let us give thanks for the gift of Esopus and for all those who join in our mission "to make Jesus known and loved."

A Province Push for Ecology

When Pope Francis recently met with our Marist Provincials in Rome, he challenged us as Marists to pay particular attention to the area of ecology. He stressed that we as Marist educators play a critical role in working with young people who have a great passion for ecology and are the best hope our planet has for a sustainable future.



In a further effort to respond to this, and to the Calls of our 22nd General Chapter, the USA Province recently hired Mr. Sam King as the Director of Ecology and Sustainability to assist us in better responding to the Call to be in Solidarity with our

Common Home. Sam has been specifically working with us to develop realistic responses and steps towards the goals of Pope Francis's Laudato Si' Action Platform. He presented to the leaders of our USA Marist schools at the Marist Leadership Conference over the summer and invited them to ensure that all of our ministries will develop clear goals to respond more deeply to embracing and living an integral ecology.

He has also offered a webinar called Living Laudato Si as part of the Marists of Champagnat ongoing formation offerings. Living Laudato Si is a two-part program

that introduces participants to the Laudato Si' Action Platform based on Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment. During the webinar, participants had the opportunity to make personalized action plans to carry out in their home communities.

Sam King is a Research Associate with the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology and a Project Manager for Journey of the Universe. A former Fulbright scholar, he has taught in Peru, Sri Lanka, and Connecticut. Sam recently completed a master's degree in religion and ecology at Yale Divinity School with a certificate in educational leadership and ministry. He has worked closely with Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Co-Directors of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, and helped them build six massive open online courses (MOOCs) on religions and the environment. Sam is passionate about how ecological spirituality can inspire the transition to a more just and sustainable world.

We are grateful to the expertise and passion that Sam will bring to our Province in the years ahead as we work to build a greater response to this critical and needed area of engagement.



Sharing Our Mission: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Maureen Hagan, Director of Adult Formation



The second annual Sharing our Mission for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion retreat was held in September at the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus (MBCE), NY. Sixteen people from USA Marist schools around the Province were joined by the Postulants, Novices, members of the MBCE staff, and members of the MBCE board.



Br. Dan O'Riordan, Provincial, Marist Brothers USA, was able to join us, and we are so grateful to him and his Provincial Council for making it known that this work is indeed a ministry to those who are on the margins of society. We had two excellent presentations from Raisa Carrasco Velez of St. John's Prep, Danvers, MA, on "Building Allies" and Peter Rojas of Merrimack College on "The Intersectionality

of Programming." They provided us with many ideas, as well as inspiration and affirmation. LaToya Hayes from Marist High School in Chicago, IL, and Aliali Belkus from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA, facilitated group processing and discussions following these presentations.

Dr. Alice Prince and JR Zerkowski were with us, and Dr. Alice spoke about "What To Do BEFORE It Happens." JR shared the difficulties the LGBTQ community and its allies face within our evolving church. In addition, Dr. Alice and JR provided incredible support and encouragement to the group, as well as concrete ways to move forward. The group worked hard and leaned on one another, as these are people doing difficult work, and this opportunity to be together was both nourishing and restful.

DEAR

Marist Family,

ADVENT 2022



Christmas and New Year's greetings from the Development Office! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and look forward to a new year, we send you our best wishes for beautiful holidays filled with the laughter and love of family and friends.

Our Annual Fund focuses on Faith, Togetherness, and Gratitude this year. These three individual pillars support a life well led. At the same time, it is amazing how faith, togetherness, and gratitude also work in beautiful harmony to create a truly blessed life.

We rely on the kindness and generosity of you—our friends, family, and alumni—to work together with us to further our mission to new generations of young men and women. Your support has kept and will continue to keep the vital presence of our Brothers in our educational institutions and ministries as well as enable us to provide for our elderly and disabled Brothers. Your financial support also allows us to expand our vocation awareness program to reach more young men contemplating religious life.

Each year, traditional funding sources continue to shrink, and our fundraising efforts become more and more critical to our ongoing efforts. If you have not yet become a financial supporter of The Marist Brothers, please consider sending a gift today. Your donation, no matter the amount, will be gratefully appreciated. Or go online to our secure website, www.maristbr.com, and click on "Donate" to charge a gift to your credit card. We are proud of your role in our continuing success and hope you will seriously consider a gift to one of our recent appeals. With faith, togetherness, and gratitude, we can carry out St. Marcellin's mission and continue to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Always remember, you and your loved ones are in the Brothers' daily prayers.

Merry Christmas!

Paulette M. Karas

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Director of Development

IN MEMORIAM

Br. Seán Sammon

Died September 9, 2022



Br. Seán D. Sammon, FMS, died September 9, at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY. He was 74 years old and in his 56th year of Marist religious life.

Br. Seán was born in Manhattan, NY. After attending St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary School in Manhattan, he began studies at St. Agnes Boys High School (staffed by the Marist Brothers) in New York City in 1961. The following year he continued his high school education at the Marist Juniorate in Cold Spring-on-Hudson, NY. Upon graduation in 1965, he entered St. Joseph Novitiate in Tyngsboro, MA, and pronounced his first vows in 1967. He then went to the Marist Brothers' Scholasticate at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, and graduated with a BA in psychology in 1970.

Br. Seán began his ministry as a guidance counselor at St. Agnes Boys High School. While he was at St. Agnes, in addition to his duties at the school, he received

an MA in psychology from the New School for Social Research, then an MA in general psychology from Fordham University. He made his final profession of vows in 1981. That same year, he received a PhD in clinical psychology from Fordham and worked in ministries as a licensed psychologist in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

In 1987, Br. Seán was elected Provincial of the Marist Brothers' Poughkeepsie Province. During his term as Provincial, he served as President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM). In 1993, at the General Chapter of the Marist Brothers in Rome, he was elected to an eight-year term as Vicar General, and at the 2001 General Chapter he was elected Superior General of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools. He served as Superior General until 2009, during which time he oversaw the work of 4,000 Brothers ministering in 79 countries. During this period, he established a relationship between the Marist Brothers and the United Nations Human Rights Council, oversaw the expansion of the Marist Brothers in Asian countries following the wishes of Pope John Paul II in the Mission Ad Gentes program, and was invited as the only Brother to serve on the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of

Apostolic Life.

Throughout his life, Br. Seán was a writer and scholar. He wrote several books on psychology, religious life, and spirituality. He received awards for these efforts from the Catholic Press Association and the National Religious Vocation Conference's Outstanding Recognition Award. He was also the recipient of the St. Edmund's Medal of Honor from the Edmundite Fathers and Brothers for his contributions to the Catholic Church.

After finishing his term as Superior General, Br. Seán returned to the USA, and in 2010 went to Marist College as a member of the Board of Trustees and Scholar in Residence. There, he continued his work with young people as well as contributing to the development of many programs at the college. In 2017, he was also appointed Novice Director for the Marist Brothers' USA Province.

In addition to his many experiences, contributions, and accomplishments, Br. Seán was a simple, loving, and caring person. He deeply loved his family and his fellow Marist Brothers, and had a gift of showing that care and concern to all who knew him. He will be deeply missed, yet those who knew him will be forever grateful for his presence in their lives.

Br. Kenneth Robert Ouellette

Died September 10, 2022



Br. Kenneth Robert Ouellette, FMS, died September 10 at Calvary Hospital, the Bronx, NY. He was 89 years old and in his 71st year of Marist religious life.

Br. Kenneth was born in Fort Kent, ME. He studied at St. Joseph's Prep, the Marist Brothers' Juniorate in Tyngsboro, MA, and

upon graduating, entered the Marist Postulancy at St. Ann's Hermitage in Poughkeepsie, NY, in 1949. He entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1950 and made his first profession of vows in 1951. After first profession, he did his scholasticate at Marist College in Poughkeepsie and graduated with a BA in education in 1954.

Br. Kenneth began his teaching career in 1955 at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA. In 1958, he was assigned to St. Mary's High School in Manhasset, NY, and remained there for the next 60 years. During his tenure at St. Mary's, he served as a teacher, guidance counselor, assistant athletic director, and athletic director. Under his leadership, numerous athletic teams were established (including the school's hockey program)

and countless championships were won, including many New York state titles.

He professed his final vows as a Marist Brother in 1956 and obtained an MA in history with a minor in guidance from St. John's University in 1962. Br. Ken happily worked every summer at Camp Marist, in Center Ossipee, NH, from 1963 until 2018. He held many positions at Camp Marist including camp director, counselor, and CIT director. This international camp flourished under his tenure as director and continues to provide young people with "the best summer of their lives."

In 2018, Br. Ken retired to the Marist Brothers' community at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, NY, where he remained until shortly before his death.

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Real Stories.
A Real Difference.



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The Marist Brothers Remembrance in Prayer Program



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.

The Marist Brothers offer two different series of Remembrance in Prayer cards: Traditional and All-Occasion cards. Our signature Traditional cards feature the image of Christ and a Marial design. Both of these Traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two All-Occasion cards may be sent to honor birthdays, weddings, or anniversaries 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 Traditional or All-Occasion cards. Please send your request through email (maristbr@maristbr.org) or to the mailing address at left.