



# TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

SPRING 2008

A publication of the Province of the United States of America

## ONE *Heart*

## ONE *Mission*



Vince Andiorio (left) and Br. Hank Hammer attended the recent “One Heart, One Mission” international mission assembly in Mendes, Brazil. The challenge and purpose of the event was for participants, as Marist Brothers and laypeople, to respond to three essential queries: **1) Do we live, think, act, and work with one heart, true to Champagnat’s mandate? 2) What is the essence of our mission? 3) Are we one in mission?**

*Here are some of Vince’s thoughts on the experience and his ideas on the implications of this assembly for all Marists throughout the world.*

After a three-hour flight from Chicago to Miami, a mad rush to make our connecting flight to Brazil, another eight hours of flying time to Rio...only to realize that we had made it to Rio but our luggage had not, cranky would be a kindly expression of how I was feeling. Leaving the baggage area I asked Hank, “Do we know who’s meeting us?”

I found out around the next corner, when we saw a small crowd of teenagers in “Marista” T-shirts in front of a very large sign with the “One Heart, One Mission” logo on it. When we identified ourselves, two of the students welcomed us in remarkably good and almost accent-free English. They brought us to a snack bar, helped us order lunch, showed us the sites we could see from the airport windows, and carried on a very friendly conversation. I began to feel reassured and relaxed, and excitement and curiosity began to replace the fatigue.

Mendes is a somewhat shabby little village stuck on the side of a mountain. The buildings were mostly faded stucco (many with satellite dishes!), and there were little shops, bars, and “lanchonettes” throughout. Farther up the mountain we finally reached Fazenda São José das Paineiras, the Brazilian Brothers’ training house-turned-hotel. This sprawling, three-level facility is surrounded by mountains. The grounds were immaculate and carefully groomed, and the profusion of flowering bushes and trees reminded me that we were indeed in the tropics.

We were from many countries, with many languages, doing many different types of work, and living greatly diverse lifestyles...but there was a link that was almost palpable. Have you ever met a distant relative and felt an immediate sense of recognition in a facial feature, or an idiosyncrasy, or perhaps a turn of phrase? That was what I felt there. We were all Marist. And while we worked hard to define exactly what that means in today’s world, our family name and our common heritage shaped us. The Marist world is very broad, very much alive, and very energetic.

Perhaps the biggest challenge involved in this gathering was a personal one, as each of us was asked to allow the Spirit to work within us. At the outset this was a scary process, but it became clear as one day moved into another that we were being reaffirmed in what was uniquely ours, yet challenged to become energetic, bold, and even risk-taking in living out our Marist heritage. Our focus on youth emerged as a theme that seemed stronger than ever. Up against the reality that even in our

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An open-air flower arrangement symbolizing “One Heart, One Mission.”

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# the provincial

Dear members of our Marist Family,

This past fall, Brother Sean Sammon, our Superior General, announced that beginning on October 7, 2007, the Marist Brothers and our Marist lay partners would begin a special “Year of Marist Spirituality.” Brother Sean called on each of us to use this time to recommit ourselves to making Jesus the center of our lives; to increase our understanding of what we mean when we say that our spirituality is both Marial and apostolic; and to focus our attention and prayer on the newly published Marist spirituality document *Water from the Rock*. The latter document attempts to capture the unique spirituality articulated by Marcellin Champagnat and lived by Brothers and laypeople throughout the world.

I want to invite each of you to join with us in this special time of prayer and reflection. In order to do this, I recommend that you access our province website, [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com), and click on the “spirituality” section. There you will find sections dealing with praying with Scripture, evening prayer, and weekly vocation prayers as well. In addition, we have recently introduced a feature entitled *a Marist Minute* that offers brief selections from *Water from the Rock* and suggestions for personal prayer and reflection. I believe that these resources will prove to be useful as each of us strives to deepen our relationship with God and with His people. Father Champagnat often reminded the early Brothers that their main apostolic responsibility was to let young people know that Jesus loved them. Hopefully your participation will enable you to experience Jesus’ love for you, as well.

In the past, I have requested that you continue your prayers for new vocations to the Marist Brothers, for we realize that without Brothers it will be impossible for us to continue our ministry to young people. In January several young men participated in a discernment workshop designed to assist them in their vocational journey. Currently, some of them are in the process of applying to the novitiate. This sign of hope and new life is vital to all of us, and I want to encourage you to keep them and several other young men who are in conversation with our Vocation Director in your prayers.

Finally, on behalf of all the Marist Brothers in the province I want to thank you for your financial, spiritual, and moral support for us personally and for our efforts to make Jesus known and loved. We promise to keep you and your families in our prayers as well.

With personal best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Br. John Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Br. John Klein, FMS  
Provincial

# Marist Educators

## Mr. Carl Semmler, Archbishop Molloy High School, Briarwood, New York



My first experience with the Marist Brothers was when I began my employment at Archbishop Molloy High School as a religion teacher eleven years ago.

Teaching was a second career for me. Previously I had been involved in working with Catholic youth. Most of my past ministry was part-time in the parish setting. I was proud to work at Archbishop Molloy because I heard about its reputation as a quality school. After years of teaching and also directing campus ministry, I have learned that the school is so much more.

The Marist Brothers have helped me to stay focused on the concept that each child has infinite value. We are teaching students so that they can become constructive

instruments of change in a hurting society. St. Marcellin was a master at combining compassion and discipline in the lives of students. It is wonderful to see what a great vision the Brothers have created since St. Marcellin's humble beginnings. The Brothers clearly show great concern for each student. They have a wonderful balance between loving the student and holding them accountable for loving themselves.

Teaching in a Marist school is more than a job; it is a lay vocation. The school community molds the students in so many ways. All aspects of the school work together for the greater good: academics, liturgy, campus ministry, athletics, and numerous clubs. I would be remiss if I did not mention the example of many wonderful Brothers. The epitome of a Marist Brother for me was Br. Steve Urban.

I still remark at his humility, love, and desire to learn from the young. He treated all whom he encountered with respect. He truly had an interest in growing as a person. The sincerity with which he approached life has been an inspiration to me.

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*We are teaching students so that they can become constructive instruments of change in a hurting society.*

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Looking forward, I am encouraged by the actions the Marist Brothers are taking towards lay leadership. Programs such as "Sharing Our Call" are a wonderful beginning. I am confident of the future success of Marist schools. I am proud to have had a Marist school be instrumental in my formation as a teacher and lay leader.

## Mrs. Lindsay Irwin, St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville, Texas



I always knew that I was meant to be a teacher, and when I came to Saint Joseph Academy, I had spent more than

fifteen years working in education. Those had been wonderful years, filled with challenges and rewards, but I had often felt as if there was something missing—a sense of common mission and purpose that I felt deeply and longed to share with my colleagues but which I never heard expressed by others.

That all changed when I arrived at Saint Joseph Academy, because I found here Marist Brothers who were saying out loud what I had always known in my heart to be true for me—that we do this work because we are called to do it, that we do it first because we love the young people

with whom we work, and that we do it because we love God.

I found that in coming to Saint Joseph Academy, I had, quite without realizing it, come home.

During the past ten years, that sense of having found my home has only grown stronger as I have become more fully a member of the Marist Family. Part of the comfort of being at home is to know that you are understood, and it is a great blessing to work with a group of

embraced and affirmed in my vocation as an educator. I have been encouraged to grow professionally, personally, and spiritually.

I believe in the work we do. As the mother of two graduates of our school, I believe in it because I saw the difference it made in my sons to go to school in a place where they were reminded all the time that they were part of a community that cared about them and that they were loved by God. As an educator, I have seen

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*...we do this work because we are called to do it...we love the young people with whom we work...we do it because we love God.*

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people who share the same values—who value excellence, who care deeply about our students as individuals, who work hard, and who laugh often. I am grateful that as a lay woman, I have been

the Marist charism at work, enriching and transforming the lives of our students. I know that I am privileged to be a part of that mission, and I am truly blessed to be able to call myself Marist.





# For the **Best Summer of**

The Marist Brothers, an international Catholic teaching order, founded some of the best schools throughout the world. But did you know that they also founded a great summer camp for boys and girls on Ossipee Lake in the heart of the White Mountains of New Hampshire?

Camp Marist was founded in 1949 for the purpose of creating a “special blend of sports, friendship, learning, and an appreciation of the great outdoors in a beautiful environment.” It was to be a place where children could learn about character and community, develop strong self-esteem and self-awareness, and grow in confidence while learning new skills.

This mission still continues today. The Brothers are particularly proud of the outstanding staff, which consists of dedicated Marist Brothers, teachers, parents, many former campers, and college-age students. The staff, which numbers about 115, is unique in that over 70 percent return each summer. This constitutes a staff to camper ratio of 1:3 overall, with the average activity group size being 15 to 20 for large sports and 10 or fewer for specialized areas. The camp instructors are fully qualified and accredited in their fields. The staff hiring policy involves careful screening, recommendations, interviews, and background checks by an outside organization. Only solid Christian role models are employed at Camp Marist.

*“This camp is the best. I’ve been going for 10 years and I was on the staff last year. It’s my favorite place in the world. All the activities are awesome, and the staff is the best. Go to Camp Marist for the best summer of your life!”*




For the **Best Summer** of Your **Life!**  
 A Traditional Summer Overnight Camp with A Great Catholic Culture  
 A Fun Place... A Safe Place... A Friendly Place  
 Your Child Will Make “Friendships That Last A Lifetime”

Our 59<sup>th</sup> Summer!  
 Boys & Girls – Ages 6 to 16  
 Great 2/3-week Sessions

**More than 35 Activities** to choose from...  
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For More Information, A Brochure & DVD  
 call: (603) 539-4552  
 Email: [office@campmarist.org](mailto:office@campmarist.org)  
 Or check us out on the web at:  
[www.CampMarist.org](http://www.CampMarist.org)

**CAMP MARIST**  
 OSS�PEE LAKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



# Your Life

Camp Marist offers a wide variety of activities, including baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and lacrosse, as well as more individual activities such as tennis, ropes challenge, go-karts, skate park, horseback riding, or martial arts. An excellent waterfront program includes water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and Red Cross swim instruction.

The Camp Marist activity program operates on a two-day cycle. Campers, along with their parents, individually select the activities they would most like by completing an activity selection form before arriving at camp. Each child then receives their own personalized activity schedule when they arrive at camp.

During the 2007 camp season we had campers from over ten different countries, with an excellent international staff from all parts of the world. It is truly remarkable that with all this diversity, everyone really gets along and respects each other's culture.

We continue to offer scholarships to campers from the inner city. In 2007 over 30 scholarships to boys and girls from Lawrence, MA and Boys' and Girls' Hope of Staten Island, NY were awarded. This commitment by the Marist Brothers to those who are less fortunate is very much part of the mission at Camp Marist and certainly reflects the spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

Br. Jim Halliday has been the summer camp Director since 1998. He had previously served as a guidance counselor, assistant principal, and a principal, and currently works as the Director of Activities at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, during the school year. Executive Director Joe Bouchard was a classroom teacher for 39 years and has been involved in youth camping at Camp Marist for over 40 years. Both men work hard to promote the importance of character education, leadership development, and child advocacy.

Camp Marist is also very fortunate to have thirteen Brothers dedicate their summer vacation to our mission. Brothers can be found teaching cycling, instructing Red Cross canoeing and power boating, driving campers around, manning the canteen, doing manual labor, and serving as camp administrators.

Camp Marist is located on Lake Ossipee in Effingham, New Hampshire. For more information visit their website: [www.campmarist.org](http://www.campmarist.org).

## One Heart, One Mission

*Continued from page one*

so-called civilized world children and young people are being neglected, used and abused, poorly educated, and/or indoctrinated into materialistic and Godless cultures, the needs of the young seem ever more poignant. Even in our own country, while we continue to struggle to engender a Catholic Christian spirit in our young people, we cannot neglect those who lack even the most basic of human needs—a reaffirmation of what we are doing and a challenge to look further!

Where do we go from here? Dare we dream? Many questions remain: What form will our work take in the coming years? Will some endeavors need to be abandoned to focus on new objectives? Will new forms of lifestyle emerge to meet the needs of the times? What is the relationship between work and lifestyle, especially with regard to Marist laity? Do we envision a future in which laity fully share in responsibility and therefore in authority, use of resources, etc.? What about formation for Brothers and for laypeople? What is needed? Can it be done together?

These are the memories, thoughts, and questions that remained with me as I hit ground at O'Hare after two weeks away. They bother me still, even as I struggle to catch up and to focus on the people and work that are part of my life. For me, it was an exciting, intriguing, and challenging experience, and I am still thrilled by the honor of being asked to go. I feel strongly that the Marist world is alive and well, and I look forward to an exhilarating future as the work of the Mendes assembly filters its way into our provinces and local communities.

For comprehensive coverage of the Mendes gathering, log on to [www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org) and enter "Marist International Mission Assembly" in the search box. There you will find complete coverage of the event, along with pictures and final reports from the gathering.



A welcome banner outside the Chapel

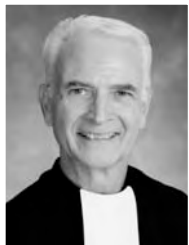


ABOVE Participants from North America: Mexico, USA, and Canada

LEFT All the participants from around the world



# Dear Members of our Marist Family,



Br. Hugh Turley, FMS

Happy spring! Hopefully spring has arrived in your part of the country. Here in Chicago we suffered through a record-breaking winter of cold and snow. The beauty of spring is a welcome sight as trees begin to bud and flowers begin to bloom.

The theme of this year's Annual Fund is "Sharing the Legacy." Our friends, relatives, alumni, and benefactors—our Marist Family—share in the 190-year legacy of the Marist Brothers to bring Christian education to young people, especially those most neglected. St. Marcellin Champagnat would be proud of the legacy that lives today through the entire Marist Family.

This legacy lives on through our schools and ministries. Through our students and all the young people we serve each day. Through our retreat programs and programs to enhance the understanding of the Marist charism in our lay colleagues. Through our younger Brothers working tirelessly and our elderly and disabled Brothers praying quietly. Through all of us who believe that the Marist Brothers make a difference in the world today.

Currently, we are in the midst of our yearly retirement appeal to provide support for the needs of our elderly and disabled Brothers. We rely on the generosity of our friends and benefactors to help us meet these rising costs each year. As members of the

Marist Family, we invite you to join us in "Sharing the Legacy" by lending your financial support to the Marist Brothers. You may use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter or donate online through our website, [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com).

Another direct way of "Sharing the Legacy" is to place the Marist Brothers in your will or estate plan. Our latest informational booklet, "Planning Your Bequest," may be helpful to you. Request your copy today by either calling the Development Office at (773) 881-5343 or emailing us at [maristbr@aol.com](mailto:maristbr@aol.com).

Once again, thank you for the kindness and generosity you have shown the Brothers. We are grateful for having you as part of the Marist Family.

Our thanks and best wishes,

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

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE  
Co-Director of Development



Paulette M. Karas

## IN MEMORIAM

# Brother

Teacher Mentor Caregiver Poet  
Chaplain Minister Friend



Brother George Mathews  
September 8, 1920–December 31, 2007

Brother George Mathews was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on September 8, 1920. After his secondary education and a year at the University of Chicago, George joined the Navy in 1943. Following his discharge from the Navy in 1946, George was an interstate bus driver until he entered the novitiate in Tyngsboro in 1952.

George received the habit in 1953 and professed first vows in 1954. His early teaching years were spent at St. Mary's and Archbishop Molloy in New York, Marist in Bayonne, New Jersey, and St. Joseph's in Lowell, Massachusetts.

After a year at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling,

West Virginia, George headed north to Mt. St. Michael Academy, where he spent the remainder of his teaching career. It was during his early years at Mt. St. Michael that George initiated the driver education program at the Mount. He served as conference chairman for the New York State Driver and Safety Educators Association and received their "Teacher of the Year" award in 1977. From 1984 to 1996, George served on the National Safety Council.

Even in his retirement, George remained active and obtained a Substance Abuse Education Certificate from the Archdiocese of New York in 1991.

Br. George loved to tell stories about his life. Now we have his life and brotherhood as a testament of his faith and his belief in our Marist mission.

# New Marcellin Guild Members



A warm welcome and sincere thanks to **Mrs. Charlotte Conrad, Mr. John W. Gehrig, Rev. Dr. Eric R. King, Nicholas and Amelia Limongelli, Mr. and Mrs. David Marsh, Rev. David L. Martin, Mrs. Theresa M. Nolan, and Mr. Robert S. Stewart**, our newest members of the Marcellin Guild. Guild members have included the Marist Brothers in their will or other estate plan and in a special way share in the future of the Marist Brothers. Their distinguished legacy to the Marist Brothers and to the youth of our country is admirable.

*Thank You!*

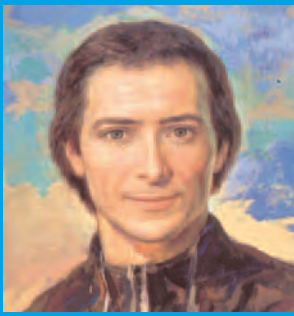
## The Marcellin Guild

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Mr. John R. Robinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Ryan  
Mr. Ralph Saier  
Mr. Robert S. Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew C. Zebrowski

If you have included the Brothers in your will or other estate plan and are not listed above, please let the Development Office know of your legacy. Recognition as a **Marcellin Guild** member is a statement of our appreciation, and seeing you named among the men and women of the **Marcellin Guild** will remind others of their potential to follow your example.



# The Marist Brothers

Men of  
**Prayer**  
Men of  
**Community**  
Men of  
**Service**

Are you interested  
in making  
a difference?

For more information,  
please contact

Br. Michael Sheerin, FMS  
1241 Kennedy Boulevard  
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002  
Phone: (201) 823-1115  
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vocations@maristbr.com

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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  
"News and Events."



## THE MARIST BROTHERS

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For more information about the history of the Brothers, their spirituality, their mission and ministries, as well as current events, please visit our website — [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com).

*Today's Marist Brother* • A publication of the Province of the United States of America  
Editorial Staff: Mrs. Paulette Karas, CFRE, Br. Hank Hammer, FMS and Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, CFRE

### The Marist Brothers' *Remembrance in Prayer Program*



#### Our New Designs

The Marist Brothers are please to offer you our new Remembrance in Prayer cards. We have updated our signature card, featuring the image of Christ, and introduced a new Candle and Cross design. These traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two new all occasion cards may be sent in honor of a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or to send 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 cards. Please request them through email ([maristbr@aol.com](mailto:maristbr@aol.com)) or send your request to the address on this newsletter.