



The Marist  
Brothers

SPRING 2011



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# TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

## 125 Years in the United States: Celebrating a Rich History

*While 2011 marks the 125th anniversary of the Marist Brothers' presence in the United States, the order's connection with North America reaches all the way back to Saint Marcellin Champagnat.*



The founders of the North American province, before their departure: Seated, Brs. Stratonique, Assistant General, Césidius, director; standing, Brs. Côme, Cuillaume, Louis-Félix, Bède, Pierre-Chrysologue.

After gathering the first group of Brothers in LaValla, France in 1816 to teach country children about God, Marcellin was soon eager to expand the order's reach. Marcellin first broached the idea of migrating to the United States in late 1823 or early 1824, but was rejected by the church hierarchy.

In 1886 — 46 years after Marcellin's death — the Marist Brothers arrived in the United States to staff a parish school in Lewiston, Maine. Over the next 25 years they established 10 parish schools in New England and New York. A key to the order's early growth in this country was the presence of a large French Canadian population, which sought to preserve its Catholic faith and language. *(continued on page 3)*

Lewiston: Brothers' residence (left) and school; the section to the right of the tower was added in 1905.

Frist reception of the habit in Poughkeepsie, July 26, 1908. Front row, left to right: Br. Mary Andrew, Br. Wilfrid Mary, Br. Joseph Athanasius (prefect), Br. Boniface (master of novices), Rev. Joseph Williams, SJ (chaplain), Br. Natal (teacher), Br. Paul Stratonique, Br. Peter Anthony. Back row: Patrick Gimor, Br. James Joseph, Br. Paul Ambrose, Thomas Beckwith, Br. Joseph Edward, Br. Henry Charles, Br. John Gabriel, Joseph Dumais.





FROM THE DESK OF

# *the provincial*

Dear Marists,

In their spiritual testaments, both Jesus and Saint Marcellin Champagnat, chose to invite their followers to a new communion and a life-giving community in a unique way. Jesus expressed this invitation while sharing the last supper with his disciples — an event we marked this past Holy Thursday. The “table of the Lord” is a central symbol of communion and self-giving for us as Christians. For Marcellin, the table at the first Brothers’ community at LaValla, which he built with his own hands, is our powerful symbol of family and service. According to our Marist document, ***Water From the Rock***, this table was “the embodiment of his efforts to create a community dedicated to the Lord.”



The symbol of a table is a significant one. It invites others to come and sit, to relax; it invites conversation, fellowship, and sustenance. During my childhood, it really marked the sign of family life. This was true for Marcellin as well. Life-together, expressed through family spirit, was and is an integral part of his vision...and it is this same vision that planted the seeds of Marist life and mission in the United States nearly 125 years ago.

At the core of our being as Marists, “we long for belonging, solidarity, the chance to share our lives and the opportunity to change our circumstances.” (***Water From the Rock***) As Marists, we “unite to create families, to support each other in our ideals, to transform our society” in the way of Mary while centered on Jesus Christ. Our Marist Young Adult Movement, which you will be reading about in this issue, is but one way we as Marists continue to foster that family spirit. Your generous support and prayers enable this family spirit to continue to grow for the next generation of Marists.

Thank you for all that you do for our Marist mission.

May our good and gracious God, and Mary our Good Mother, continue to bless you and your loved ones in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Br. Ben Consigli, FMS

Provincial

# Inspiring Youth

The Miami Herald lauds Br. Eladio Gonzalez and the “Squires” Service Club at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida.

Senior Manuel Macias says of Br. Eladio, his school’s freshman counselor, “He is a saint. You could ask him to walk on water and he could.”

Br. Eladio, 73, created the Squires Service Club 19 years ago. Currently 75 hours of community service are a requirement for graduation at the school. “My goal is that the students develop themselves,” says the Cuban-born Marist Brother. He transforms students into community service leaders.

Br. Eladio “is one of the most powerful and positive influences on my three sons,” says Lucy Moas. Her sons are juniors and seniors at CCHS-Miami, the third son is a freshman at the University of Florida.

Brother maintains that the students and those in need are equals. “It’s a relation that brings equality. That’s one of the most important aspects of our club.”



*(125 Years continued from page 1)*

“When we first came to this country we worked primarily with grade schools,” explained Br. Brice Byczynski, archivist. “That’s where education was centered in society in general, so that’s where we focused our efforts. In the early 1900s we began to branch out into high schools.”

In 1911, the growth of the order in the U.S. led to the establishment of the United States Province of the Marist Brothers. “This was a very big thing,” noted Br. Brice. “We were able to concentrate more on recruiting and training young people who could speak English. As a result, we focused much more on the immigrant population in the urban United States.”

In the early 20th century the Brothers also began purchasing land near Poughkeepsie, New York, an area that remained the administrative and formative center of the Province for almost half a century. Today, the site remains part of the Marist College campus.

By 1959 the order had experienced phenomenal growth and had recruited 600 Brothers. To serve even more people, the U.S. Province split into two Provinces located just 10 miles apart in Poughkeepsie and Esopus, New York. Seeking to streamline operations, the two Provinces joined together again in 2003.

The worldwide Marist order received a distinctly American infusion when Br. Sean Sammon was elected Superior General of The Marist Brothers, serving from 2001 through 2009. “He would never say this was important, but I

certainly would,” Br. Brice said. “He has been a great gift to our church and all of our Brothers with his energy and his vision.”

Today, approximately 175 U.S. Marist Brothers count themselves among the more than 3,700 Brothers fulfilling Marcellin’s mission across 78 countries on six continents. There are 14 Marist schools in the United States, as well as two summer youth camps in New Hampshire and Esopus.

The original population of French Canadians served by the order has melded into the fabric of U.S. society and the Brothers now work with diverse ethnic groups. But through the sweeping changes of the past 125 years, one thing hasn’t changed — the mission of the Marist Brothers.

“Our primary mission is one of evangelization,” said Br. Ben Consigli, Provincial of the U.S. Province. “We not only bring Catholic students to the realization of their faith, we welcome and teach students of other faiths as well. It’s all about helping them realize that they are loved by God. Our mission of making Jesus known and loved is still paramount in our ministries.”

The Marist Brothers will begin to celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the U.S. on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, with a liturgical celebration at Saint Jean Baptist Church in New York, New York. Other celebrations will be taking place in the regions of the Province throughout the year.

# Young Adults In Act



Young Adult Day  
of Reflection



Summer Retreat  
and Meeting



Advent Retreat at  
Mt. St. Michael  
Academy, Bronx,  
New York

Retreat within a  
Retreat, Esopus,  
New York



Young Adult Gathering  
Christmas 2010, New York City

Young adults today often describe themselves as “spiritual but not religious.” The Marist Young Adult Program challenges its participants to grow spiritually while strengthening their connection to the Marist, Christian tradition.

Most of the Marist Young Adult Program members were involved in the Marist Youth programs in their high schools. Matt Fallon, the chair of the Marist Young Adult Advisory Committee, believes that the Marist Young Adult Program offers former Marist Youth the best opportunity to continue to be Marist and that is why he stays involved. “There is something about being Marist that constantly challenges me to learn and to grow in my faith,” according to Fallon, who currently teaches at the Marist Brothers’ Christopher Columbus High School in Miami.

Why do others become involved in the Marist Young Adult Program? According to Jackie Fortich, Miami regional chairperson, the answer is easy, to give back. Jackie wants others to have the same good experiences that she has had since her time with the Marist community at Msgr. Pace High School. Jackie organizes monthly evenings of reflection in Miami, as well as service opportunities such as yearly participation in Walk MS and fundraising poker tournaments!

Danny Bradley, the Massachusetts regional chairperson, sees the Marist Young Adult Program as a place where he can grow as a young person. “We all have potential to do great things that make a difference and the Marist Young Adult Program gives me a chance to actualize my potential.” Danny organizes gatherings in the Boston and Lawrence, Massachusetts areas for young adults to connect with others who share their Marist values.

Many other activities take place at the Marist Young Adult community in Esopus, New York where young adults come for retreats, days of reflection and service opportunities. The Esopus community also hosts a nine month service experience where young adults live, work and pray together while sharing in the retreat ministry of the Marist Brothers. According to current community member, Chris Clesca, his experience has given him the opportunity to share his passion for being Marist and for spreading the good news of the Gospel. Clesca describes his service year as “transformative” and “the only time in my life where I have been forced to take a long look in the mirror and truly decide who I want to be as a man.”

Begun in September 2007, the Marist Young Adult Program invites interested young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 to explore their Christian faith through spiritual, social and service activities, both online and in person. The program has about 500 members who connect through Facebook, the Marist Young Adult Program website, or in local regions.

For more information about the Marist Young Adult Program visit [www.MaristYoungAdult.com](http://www.MaristYoungAdult.com) or the group’s Facebook page: Marist Young Adults.

# Marist Youth: Model UN Gets Capitol Treatment

Thirty-four students on the Model United Nations team of Marist High School in Chicago, Illinois spent five days in Washington, DC, for the North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN). Hosted by Georgetown University and with over 3,000 students participating, NAIMUN is the largest Model United Nations conference in the Western Hemisphere. At the conference, Marist students represented Egypt and Ghana.

Mr. Duffin, club founder and moderator, said "The purpose of the club is to help students become better informed about international issues and to inspire them to pursue careers that lead to positive change in the world."

In addition to attending NAIMUN, students visited some of Washington's most important sites such as the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Capitol, and the Central Intelligence Agency. At the Pentagon, students were greeted by Col. James Capparelli, a 1979 alumnus who is currently stationed there as a member of the Army Reserve.



# Dear Friends,

Has spring finally arrived where you live? Here in Chicago, signs of spring are blooming all around us! So many parts of the country experienced such a brutal winter of record breaking snow and cold that spring is certainly welcomed this year! We wish you an enjoyable springtime in your hometown.

In the Development Office, our fiscal year is ending soon. This past year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Annual Fund Appeal. We thank all of you who have supported the Brothers through this appeal over the past two decades!

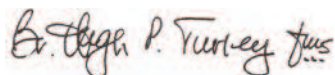
Our country's economy remains difficult for all of us and we are especially thankful to the very many of you who have contributed their time, talent or treasure to the Brothers and their ministries. Your help is needed and very encouraging.

Even during these turbulent economic times, we continue to steadily grow the work begun by our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, in 1817. We are most thankful for your gifts which enable us to look forward and outward — to promote vocations to the Marist Brotherhood and to engage in special ministries which enhance the civic and spiritual development of our students. Your partnership, through your gifts to our annual spring Retirement Appeal, enables us to continue to provide quality care for our elderly and disabled Brothers.

If you have never contributed to the Brothers, please consider making your first gift by using the reply envelope in this newsletter. You will then be among so many of our loyal friends who believe, as you do, in the future of the Marist Brothers and our mission of sound Christian education.

Thank you once again for all you do for our Brothers. You have our very best wishes.

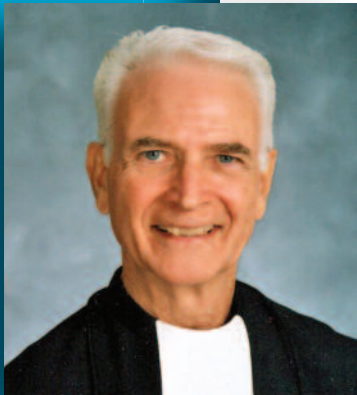
Sincerely,



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



Paulette M. Karas, CFRE  
Co-Director of Development



## In Memoriam



### Br. Declan Murray, FMS

Br. Declan died on February 14, 2011 after over 60 years as a Marist Brother and teacher for 55. He taught in New York, Massachusetts and Florida.

Br. Declan founded and helped run student retreats at the Marist Brothers retreat center in Esopus in upstate New York.

Most recently he taught religion and was the retreat coordinator at Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, New York from 1975 until his retirement in 2009. He served as a friendly face and moral compass to Molloy students for decades — a constant favorite among the school's 1,500 students.



### Br. Kenneth Marino, FMS

Br. Kenneth, a native of Methuen, Massachusetts died on November 10, 2010 at Lawrence General Hospital. In 2007 he celebrated 60 years as a Marist Brother.

Br. Kenneth served in education, and taught music and art for 45 years. He taught in our Marist schools in New York, Massachusetts, Illinois and Florida. During summers he worked at Camp Marist in Lake Ossipee, New Hampshire where he served as art instructor.

Br. Kenneth enjoyed playing the banjo and piano, and was considered by his family to be the consummate uncle and spiritual leader.

## New Marcellin Guild Members...

A warm welcome and sincere thanks to **Mr. George M. Conboy, Mr. Edward Kane, Mr. Bernard Miskiv and Dr. Gary and Lois Neidert**, 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

Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Arab

Fr. Raymond V. Attanasio

Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Bettini

Ms. Irene B. Bialkowski

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bluemer

Mr. Gregory F. Boyle

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Ms. Pat Adams Brilli

Mr. Paul E. Bruneau

Mrs. Josephine Rose Buehner

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Mr. Robert J. Casale

Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Castine, Jr.

Mr. Clinton A. Cobb

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Mrs. Charlotte Conrad

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Cull

Rev. James F. Degnan

Miss Carol A. Dever

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Donahue

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Donnelly

Rev. Edward P. Doran

Major Arthur G. Eichler

Mr. Pierce J. Fitzgerald

Mrs. Nancy S. Fortino

Dr. Richard D. Foy

Mr. and Mrs. G. Patrick Gallagher

Lt. Gen. Walter T. Galligan

Mr. John W. Gehrig

David and Maria-Isabel Gerling

Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Haggerty

Ms. Connie V. Hernandez

Mr. Mark R. Hopkinson

Mr. Joseph Hores

Mr. and Mrs. J. David Kammer

Mr. Edward Kane

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Keilty

Patricia A. Kelly

Rev. Dr. Eric R. King

Dick and Bernie LaChance

Mr. Joseph P. Lambert

Mr. and Mrs. Jephtha H. Lanning

Ms. Margaret A. Lazzaro

Nicholas and Amelia Limongelli

Dr. and Mrs. Martin Lyden

Ms. Frances R. Lyon

Mrs. Edward J. Lyons

Mr. Robert H. Mace, Jr.

Mrs. Simone Malick

Mr. Harold F. Malone, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. David Marsh

Rev. David L. Martin

Mr. and Mrs. James F. McGee

Ms. Judith A. McLaughlin

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred and Cecile Mercier

Mr. Matthew J. Merritt, Jr.

Mr. Edward C. Mesco

Mr. Bernard Miskiv

Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Mulcare

Mr. Ken Murrin

Dr. Gary and Lois Neidert

Mrs. Alberta P. Neidt

Mrs. Theresa M. Nolan

Ms. Mary O'Keeffe

Mr. Hugh D. O'Rourke

Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Paris

John and Peg Perring-Mulligan

Miss Colette Rasche

Mr. Robert S. Reeder

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Pamela Rinn

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Ryan

Dr. Stephen T. Slack

Mr. Robert S. Stewart

Mr. Frank Sutton

Mrs. Pauline Rose Veltry

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Wilcox

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 proudly remind others of their potential to follow your example.*



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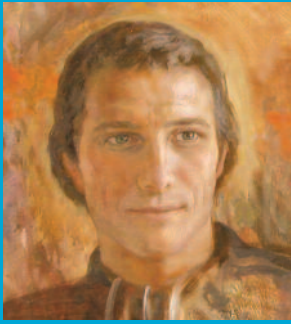
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For more information please contact:  
 Br. Michael Sheerin, FMS  
 1241 Kennedy Boulevard  
 Bayonne, New Jersey 07002  
 Phone: (201) 823-1115  
 Email: vocations@maristbr.com

### 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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 Editorial Staff: Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, CFRE, Mrs. Paulette Karas, CFRE, Br. Steve Milan, FMS, Erbach Communications Group

## The Marist Brothers

# Remembrance in Prayer Program



The Marist Brothers are excited to announce the addition of two newly designed All Occasion cards! These new designs are unique and created especially for the Marist Brothers by the well known company Barton Cotton, of Baltimore, Maryland.

The new All Occasion cards may be sent in honor of a birthday, anniversary, wedding or to send get well greetings. We still offer our Traditional prayer cards that are used for expressions of sympathy or memorials. Both card designs offer a special promise of remembrance in prayer from the Marist Brothers.

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