



The Marist Brothers

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# TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

## Year of Marist Vocations

**"How are the Brothers doing with vocations these days?"**

From time to time, the question is raised, "How are the Brothers doing with vocations these days?" Truly, a serious question and one that we, as a Province and an institute, take seriously. While the numbers we saw in the middle of the last century will never be duplicated in this century, we do have men inquiring about joining our community. Generally, they are older and have completed college and even post-college studies. We continue to look for men interested in advancing our charism, making Jesus known and loved through the Christian education of young people. Our very fine network of Marist high schools in this country offers a solid venue for the mission to be realized, requiring a love of young people and an energy to educate and accompany them during their teenage years.

Since our Province seriously studies the vocation topic on a regular basis, we have added a second Vocation Director to the vocation efforts. Together, Br. Mike Sheerin and Br. Dan O'Riordan divide the responsibilities and together have recently crafted a strategy that is advancing the USA Marist vocation culture, as well as drawing new young men into considering our life.



Br. Mike Sheerin, FMS



Br. Dan O'Riordan, FMS

The vocation focus in our high schools has been sharpened as other Brothers' communities are discovering that schools are the primary place where a young man will come to know a Brother and get a feel for our way of life. We are also beginning a new venture this June called Foundation Stones. This is a weeklong experience for interested high school seniors that includes daily prayer, conferences and service projects on the Esopus property with the Brothers. We believe a week of concentrated emphasis on our vocation for this age group will



(continued on page 4)

## FROM THE DESK OF



# *the provincial*

Spring 2013

Dear Members of the Marist Family,

This past January, I had the opportunity to spend a few days of retreat at the Redemptorist Renewal Center, which is located in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains and the beautiful Sonoran Desert in Arizona. The desert is a dry, dusty, desolate place, but it can offer a place for inner reflection and contemplation to encounter our relationship with God. The desert can be a setting for deepened, renewed inner life, but it can as easily be life-threatening. The desert demands decisions, choices, and we have to make the right ones or our lives are in danger. In the desert we are stripped down to essentials. It is a place where we cannot hide from our own selves. According to our Church Fathers and Mothers, the desert is also the place of the greatest closeness to God. The desert in this biblical and spiritual sense is never a place to stay. It is a situation to go through... you journey *on and out*. It is a place to discern God's call.

Often our own life journey demands that we take time to reflect on our lives and to recognize our dependence on God, to thank God for all that we have, and to more readily recognize God in all things, so that we can be Good News to others. This is part of our journey as Christians.

Our Marist Constitutions state that *"God chooses individual men and women and calls each of them by name. He leads them into the desert and there speaks to their hearts. Those who heed Him, He sets apart. By His Spirit, He transforms them constantly, leading them more deeply into His love in order to send them out on mission."* (C. 2:11) All are called by God, and each has been given a vocation – either to married life, single life, priesthood, or religious life – in making Jesus Christ known and loved.

In this edition of *Today's Marist Brother*, Brothers Michael Sheerin and Robert Clark talk about the Marist Brothers' vocation efforts in the United States and how our formation program provides the time and the structure to assist young men who are discerning God's call. As Marists, we recognize that God is still calling and "speaking to each of our hearts"; it is up to us to listen and to respond to God with a joy-filled heart, whether as a Brother or as a Lay Marist.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Br. Ben Consigli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Br. Ben Consigli, FMS  
Provincial

## New Marcellin Guild Members

A warm welcome and sincere thanks to **Mr. Robert Carey, Ms. Maureen Currey, Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Feddeck, Mrs. Ruth M. Foster, Mr. Donal M. Kelleher, Mr. William J. Loschert, Dr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Pisano, Ms. Doris A. Reischach, and Mr. Joseph W. Strang** – 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	Mrs. Ruth M. Foster	Mr. and Mrs. James F. McGee
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Arab	Dr. Richard D. Foy	Ms. Judith A. McLaughlin
Fr. Raymond V. Attanasio	Mr. and Mrs. G. Patrick Gallagher	Mr. and Mrs. Alfred and Cecile Mercier
Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Bettini	Mr. John W. Gehrig	Mr. Matthew J. Merritt, Jr.
Mr. Roland J. Blanchette	David and Maria-Isabel Gerling	Mr. Edward C. Mesco
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bluemer	Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Haggerty	Mr. Bernard Miskiv
Mr. Gregory F. Boyle	Ms. Connie V. Hernandez	Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Mulcare
Ms. Margaret A. Brand	Mr. Mark R. Hopkinson	Mr. Matthew Murphy
Ms. Pat Adams Brill	Mr. Joseph Hores	Mr. Ken Murrin
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carey	Mr. William I. James	Dr. Gary and Lois Neidert
Mr. Robert Carey	Mr. and Mrs. J. David Kammer	Mrs. Alberta P. Neidt
Mr. Robert J. Casale	Mr. Edward Kane	Mr. Hugh D. O'Rourke
Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Castine, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Keilty	Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Paris
Mr. Clinton A. Cobb	Mr. Donal M. Kelleher	John and Peg Perring-Mulligan
Mr. George M. Conboy	Rev. Dr. Eric R. King	Dr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Pisano
Mr. Thomas G. Connors	Dick and Bernie LaChance	Mr. Robert S. Reeder
Mrs. Charlotte Conrad	Mr. Joseph P. Lambert	Ms. Doris A. Reischach
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Cull	Mr. and Mrs. Jephtha H. Lanning	Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Pamela Rinn
Ms. Maureen Currey	Ms. Margaret A. Lazzaro	Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Ryan
Rev. James F. Degnan	Nicholas and Amelia Limongelli	Ms. Ritajean Schmidt
Miss Carol A. Dever	Mr. William J. Loschert	Dr. Stephen T. Slack
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Donahue	Dr. and Mrs. Martin Lyden	Mr. Robert S. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Donnelly	Ms. Frances R. Lyon	Mr. Joseph W. Strang
Rev. Edward P. Doran	Mrs. Edward J. Lyons	Mr. Frank Sutton
Major Arthur G. Eichler	Mr. Robert H. Mace, Jr.	Mr. John H. Vanier, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Feddeck	Mrs. Simone Malick	Mrs. Pauline Rose Veltry
Mr. Pierce J. Fitzgerald	Mr. Harold F. Malone, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. John R. Wilcox
Mrs. Nancy S. Fortino	Mr. and Mrs. David Marsh	Mr. and Mrs. Matthew C. Zebrowski
	Rev. David L. Martin	

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.

help clarify their minds and hearts while giving them a significant experience of community with other like-minded men their age. Foundation Stones 2013 kicks off a Year of Marist Vocations, a time of vocation activities celebrating the calling of us all as Marist.

What encourages us in this work is the zeal that the young have toward our Marist charism. Through the Brothers and many of our lay collaborators, St. Marcellin has become credible and attractive, and many readily acknowledge a desire to follow his vision. Needless to say, once these young men enter the wide world of college and beyond, maintaining a claim on their idealism becomes a challenge. Our approach, however, is to keep increasing our connection to them through college. With two Vocation Directors doing so, the yield of a richer harvest for our Province will become more of a reality over time.

We also work closely with our Marist Youth and Marist Young Adult Program, directed by Br. Dominick Pujia and Br. Steve Milan, respectively. Keeping connected in all these venues supports and strengthens our Marist charism in these young people and keeps the door of possibility open for future vowed members to pass through.

It is important to realize that the average age of a man entering communities today is 28, and the average age of a

man taking final vows in religious orders today is 37. We are grateful that those entering today are mature and already successful in the world. They bring a good amount of experience to us.

The incremental interest of young men in becoming a Marist Brother is reflected in the stages of the initial formation program: Accompaniment, Postulancy, Novitiate and Profession. When a high school senior expresses an interest in becoming a Brother, he

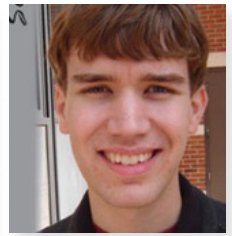


From left: Br. Rob Clark, Fr. Richard La Morte, Br. Brain Paulin and Br. Ben Consigli

joins our Accompaniment Program. Currently 10 young men are in Accompaniment, one of which, Mr. Sam Amos, will move into the second stage as a Postulant this September in Esopus. Postulancy is a gentle immersion into the life of a Marist Brother. After six months of Postulancy, the prescribed formation processes of prayer, community living, study, accompaniment and ministry continue more intensively as a Novice. The novitiate, the third phase



Br. Rob Clark, FMS



Mr. Sam Amos

of initial formation, is an 18-month experience that leads the Novice to come to know and love himself, his Brothers, and Jesus, Mary and Marcellin. The reception of the Marist habit marks the beginning of the novitiate program. The novitiate continues the formation process but on a much deeper and more challenging level.

Towards the end of the novitiate Sam will be invited to discern if he is being called to profess the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as a Marist Brother. If he applies, and is accepted for profession of vows, he is given an extraordinary experience of making a two-week pilgrimage-retreat to the foundation sites of the Marist Brothers in France. His time would mainly be spent at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, the site of the early Novitiate built by St. Marcellin and our early Brothers. On the eve of his commitment to God as a Marist Brother, he has the profound opportunity of being in the very special place to our Marist dream.

*(continued on next page)*



Marist Novitiate, Esopus, New York



### Stanners Help Residents of Breezy Point

Molloy's St. Marcellin Champagnat Society spent time over their scheduled winter break to pay a visit to hurricane-devastated areas of the Rockaways to pitch in with the continued clean-up efforts in the most affected neighborhoods. Faculty, alumni, and students spent five very cold days in Breezy Point, and their message to residents was simple: "We care."

"We linked up with a faith-based group from Virginia Beach called *Operation Blessing*," said Br. Pat Hogan, one of the moderators of the SMCS. "Originally we were headed to Nicaragua for the fall break and Lourdes, France, for our summer service program. Hurricane Sandy changed all that. So we improvised, put on many layers of clothing to keep warm, and began to shovel sand, sand, and more sand." Br. Pat continued, "We pulled down sheet rock and then put up new sheet rock. We crawled into crawl spaces, removed insulation, and replaced it with new insulation. We swept sidewalks, removed seaweed from fences (a tedious task), and, yes,



we removed more sand." The number of volunteers representing Molloy was inspiring, with the majority being made up of current students.

The group ended their time in Breezy Point with Mass at St. Thomas, after which everyone gathered around the statue of Mary for a group photo. This statue, which survived the devastating fire during the hurricane, is now affectionately

called "Our Lady of Breezy Point" by members of the community. As a final act together, faculty, alumni, and students enjoyed dinner at the Irish Circle, where everyone gave thanks for being given the opportunity to help these struggling communities.

All of Molloy's volunteers sacrificed their vacation time because they truly care for their neighbors, exhibiting what it means to be Marist.

The Profession of First Vows is a joyous occasion for the Church. At the Eucharist, joined with the Brothers, family members, and friends, the newly-professed Brother begins his final stage of Initial Formation – Temporary Profession. Over the next 4-6 years he will live and minister with Brothers in two different locations. He will deepen his knowledge of his faith through academic studies and continue the process of discerning his call by God to the Marist Brothers. Temporary

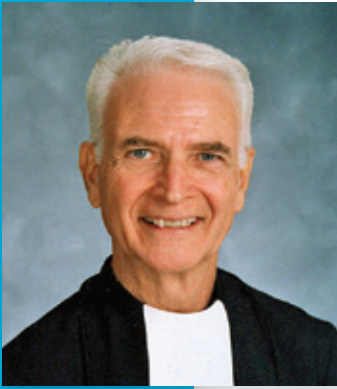
Profession ends with a life commitment and the Profession of Final Vows.

So, while the numbers are different today than they were 50 years ago or so, young men are still finding their way to our community, drawn by a love of Jesus Christ lived out in a community dedicated to youth in Mary's name. We highly encourage any of you reading this newsletter, that if you know of a young man between the ages of 21 and 40 who might be interested in Marist life, please contact one of the Vocation Directors at [vocations@maristbr.com](mailto:vocations@maristbr.com).

For more information on this and other Marist Province activities on vocations, please visit us at [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com) and click on Vocations, then Vocation Programs and/or Vocation Resources.

Current national vocation data can be found in "New Sisters and Brothers Professing Perpetual Vows in Religious Life," a report on a survey conducted by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It can be found at [www.usccb.org/consecratedlife](http://www.usccb.org/consecratedlife).

## Dear Friends,



First and foremost, we join with the entire Province in thanking you for your loyal friendship and support of our Brothers and our work with young people. Your financial gifts, your prayers, as well as your inspirational encouragement and participation in our work, spurs us on to meet the needs of today's youth ever more effectively.

As we look enthusiastically to the future, we realistically see the need for additional Brothers to continue St. Marcellin Champagnat's educational legacy to the youth in America. This "Year of Marist Vocations" is focusing on our current plan for increasing vocations to the Marist Brotherhood.

We additionally see the need to maintain a positive financial future. The care of our elderly and disabled Brothers, along with the professional and religious training of our new and current Brothers, will make even greater demands on our future financial resources.

You may join in that future by making a gift to the Brothers using the reply envelope in this newsletter. You will then be among so many of our other loyal friends who believe, as you do, in the future of the Marist Brothers and our mission of sound Christian and Catholic education.

Another direct way of extending your support into the future is to place the Marist Brothers in your Will or your Estate Plan. By leaving a bequest to the Brothers, you will be leaving a lasting tribute to the values we all share.

As spring begins to refresh the earth with new life, we ask for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement. And may Our Lord and his Blessed Mother watch over you and your loved ones during the upcoming summer months!



*Br. Hugh P. Turley FMS*

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

*Paulette M. Karas*

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE  
Co-Director of Development

### Learning to Speak Estate Planning

Here's a list of common terms, along with a short description of each, that may be helpful as you make or update your estate plan:

**WILL** – A legal document directing how assets are to be distributed at death. Each state has its own laws regarding the formalities necessary to execute a valid will.

**LIVING TRUST** – An arrangement in which assets are transferred to a trustee during life. At death, these assets pass to named beneficiaries outside the probate system.

**TESTATOR** – The person executing (signing) the will.

**PROBATE** – The court-supervised process of distributing assets. A judge will appoint an executor (usually the person named in the will or a close relative if no valid will exists) to oversee the payment of debts, collection of amounts due, filing of tax returns, and, finally, transfer of assets according to the will or under the state's intestacy laws.

**INTESTACY** – Where no valid will is found, the distribution of an estate will be done according to the state's laws, with varying amounts passing to spouses, children, parents, siblings, and other more remote relatives.

## In Memoriam

### Br. Kenneth Curtin, FMS



Brother Kenneth, born on March 11, 1945, made first vows as a Marist Brother in 1964. Br. Kenneth began his ministry at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida, from 1967 to 1971, continuing his teaching career at St. Mary's High School in Manhasset, New York, from 1971 to 1972, and then to Union Catholic High School and Marist High School, both in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Br. Kenneth also served as director of the Marist Brothers' Retreat House in Esopus, New York, and as Pastoral Associate at St. Malachy's Actors Chapel in New York City. In 1993 Br. Kenneth returned to Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida, where he served as campus minister, then admissions director until his illness in 2012.

At the age of 68, a Marist Brother without guile and a true friend, Br. Kenneth died on February 3, 2013, at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, New York.

### Br. Alphonse J. Matuga, FMS



Born on June 14, 1923, Robert Andrew Matuga took first vows as a Marist Brother on July 26, 1941.

Br. Alphonse spent more than 70 years as a Marist Brother, over 60 of them teaching in our high schools.

Br. Alphonse's Brothers, former students, and friends had a hard time adequately describing this dynamo of a Brother, who was friendly, energetic, patient, spiritual, kind, with a tireless competitive energy. "Br. Alphonse truly had a heart of gold, and a generous love for his students," one of them said.

Br. Alphonse died peacefully under nursing care on December 12, 2012, at the age of 89.

### Br. Emil Denworth, FMS



Emil Denworth, born on August 17, 1937, professed first vows as a Marist Brother in 1965. After completing his studies, he began his ministry teaching at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, from 1966 to 1971, then at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, Connecticut, from 1971 to 1973.

Br. Emil taught at Mount St. Michael Academy, Bronx, from 1973 to 1979; St. Agnes Boys High School, New York City, New York, from 1979 to 1983; Xavier High School in New York City as assistant principal from 1983 to 1990. Br. Emil returned to Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, as assistant principal from 1991 to 1999 and again to St. Agnes Boys High School, where from 1999 to 2006 he served as the school's principal.

Br. Emil – loyal, protective, hard-working, reliable, and with a loud "bark" – died on February 18, 2013, at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, New York. He was 74 years old.

### Br. Francis Regis Newbeck, FMS



Raymond Henry Newbeck was born on May 6, 1934, joined the Marist Brothers in 1953 as Br. Francis Regis, then lived and worked as a Marist Brother for 60 years.

Br. Regis, as he was simply known, began his ministry in the Diocese of Brooklyn at Resurrection-Ascension School in Rego Park, New York, from 1958 to 1964. In 1964 Br. Regis moved to Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, New York, where he ministered for 48 years, serving as teacher and guidance counselor.

Brother Regis died on December 20, 2012, at the age of 78 and was buried in the Marist Brothers' Cemetery in Esopus, New York.

**CODICIL** – A document used to make a minor change to an existing will, without the need to execute a new will. The codicil must satisfy the same legal requirements regarding witnesses and signatures as a will.

**SPECIFIC BEQUEST** – A bequest of a particular amount of money or item of property to an heir (e.g., "my diamond earrings to my granddaughter, Sally"). If the item is no longer in the estate at death, the heir may receive nothing.

**RESIDUARY BEQUEST** – After all specific bequests have been satisfied, the amount remaining is the residue of the estate.

The residue can pass to one or more beneficiaries, including charity (e.g., "25% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to each of my four children").

It may be helpful to keep these terms in mind when consulting your attorney about drafting or updating your will. If you'd like more information about adding a bequest to benefit of the Marist Brothers, including our correct legal name, please call or write to Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, Co-Director of Province Development, 4200 West 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60655; Tel: 773-881-5343.

# Real Brothers. Real Stories. A Real Difference.



For more information about a vocation to the Marist Brothers visit

[maristbr.com](http://maristbr.com)

or contact

Br. Michael Sheerin, F.M.S.  
Br. Daniel O'Riordan, F.M.S.  
(201) 823-1115

Email:  
vocations@maristbr.com

1241 Kennedy Blvd.  
Bayonne, NJ 07002  
www.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

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 413  
Worth, Illinois 60482-0413  
Telephone: (773) 881-5343  
Fax: (773) 881-3367  
Email: [maristbr@aol.com](mailto:maristbr@aol.com)  
Website: [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com)

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."



**The Marist Brothers**  
Provincial Development Office  
4200 West 115th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60655-4397

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## The Marist Brothers *Remembrance in Prayer Program*



This is just a gentle reminder of how thoughtful it is to remember others in prayer. Our Remembrance in Prayer Program is a beautiful way for you to let others know that you are thinking of them and that they are being remembered in the prayers of all our Marist Brothers. Our All Occasion cards can be used in honor of a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or to send get well greetings. Our Traditional prayer cards can be used for expressions of sympathy or memorials. Both card designs include a special promise of remembrance in prayer from the Marist Brothers.

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