



The Marist Brothers

SPRING 2015

TODAY'S *Marist Brother*



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

Juan Diego Project

The good thing about being a Marist Brother, explained, Br. John Klein, FMS, is wherever a Marist goes around the world, with some 4,000 brothers active in 82 countries, there will be a community to welcome and accept him.

Community. It's what the Marists are all about. And right now in New York City's East Harlem three Marist Brothers—Br. Klein, from the United States; Br. Santos Garcia, from Spain via Ecuador, where he has served for 40 years; and Br. Hector Dessavre, from Mexico—are building a new community where none had previously existed among recent immigrants from Mexico and Central and South America who have settled in that neighborhood. Many of them are undocumented and living in the shadows.

112th Street. "The second way it's unique is that we are an international community of Marist Brothers. So it's very different even among the Brothers. When we came together we didn't know each other. So it's learning to live Marist life in a very intentional way, a strong prayer life, strong faith and strong spirituality, learning and really appreciating a variety of cultures and learning to work in a common cause."

The Juan Diego community was initially established by the Archdiocese of New York in 2013. The Marist Brothers took over leadership of the program in September 2014. The main organizing principle is teaching English as a second language (ESL), but the community is much more than that.

"The needs are really very, very significant and the big hope is this is not just about providing services. It's about forming a community of friendship, support and faith," Br. Klein said. "It's learning English, but it's also developing community and very strong friendships between and among the people. And I think that's really happened. The people are wonderful. They appreciate every single thing you do and there is a great spirit."

There are about 80 families involved in the programs the Juan Diego community offers. Aside from English classes, there are craft classes, a discussion group and tutoring programs for students. A growing youth group meets on Friday evenings. Feast days from home are celebrated. Aside from the three Marist Brothers, there are 13 volunteers,



Brothers Hector, John and Santos review the weekly schedule at ComUnidad Juan Diego.

"It's completely unique in the sense that, one, it's responding to the critical needs of people in need, people on the margins," Br. Klein explained of Comunidad Juan Diego, based at Our Lady Queen of Angels School on East

INSIDE:

From the Desk of the Provincial

New Marcellin Guild Members

Shaping the Future of the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus

Letter from The Office of Development and In Memoriam

Noteworthy News

FROM THE DESK OF

The Provincial

SPRING 2015

Dear Fellow Marists,

As we celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, let me share with you some insights from Father Ronald Rolheiser's recent book, *Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity*. I used this book as part of my annual retreat in the Sonoran desert. The desert has ways of teaching me so much. It calls me to simplify my life—both the material aspects of it as well as my spirituality.



In his book, *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau calls us to "Simplify. Simplify. Simplify." In the six years of being Provincial, I have come to realize more deeply what Thoreau asks and what Rolheiser calls "the three phrases" that should be in our personal spiritual vocabulary: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Rolheiser offers several ways to simplify our spiritual lives. One recommendation struck me the most. Let me quote: "Live in gratitude, and thank your Creator by enjoying your life." Rolheiser goes on to say that "The real task of life... is to recognize that everything is a gift and that we need to keep saying thanks over and over again for all the things in life that we so much take for granted, recognizing always that it is nobody's job to take care of us... Our level of maturity and generativity is synonymous with our level of gratitude—and mature people enjoy their lives" and see all that they have been given as a gift. When we are grateful, we tend to be more willing to bless others, especially the children and the young people who are entrusted to our care.

In many ways, gratitude and simplicity filled St. Marcellin Champagnat's life, and as Marists, we are called to that same stance. St. Marcellin always hoped that the quality which would define "The Marists" would be simplicity. For St. Marcellin, simplicity was straightforwardness in relationships with others, an unwavering gratitude for the blessings he received, enthusiasm for the work at hand, and an uncomplicated confidence in Mary and in his God. His affection for all God's children allowed him to do great things and live a life that was simple, joy-filled, and focused on the Gospel of Jesus.

May the days ahead be for us a time to begin again the journey of simplifying our lives so that we can be filled with the love that God has for each of us. Be assured of my good wishes and prayers, and THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for all your support and prayers over these six years. Beginning this June, Br. Patrick McNamara will succeed me as the Provincial of the Province. Please join me in congratulating Patrick and offering him our prayerful support as he begins this new journey in promoting our Marist mission.

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

A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

A warm welcome and sincere thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Brazen, Rev. Edmund P. Charest, Mr. John H. Deasy, Mr. John P. O'Donnell and Mr. Casimir Podlaski**, our newest members of the Marcellin Guild. Guild members have included the Marist Brothers in their will or other estate plans 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

Ms. Mary Anne Bellwoar
Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Bettini
Mr. Roland J. Blanchette
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bluemer
Mr. Gregory F. Boyle
Ms. Margaret A. Brand
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Brazen
Ms. Pat Adams Brilli
Mr. John P. Briody
Mrs. Josephine Rose Buehner
Mrs. Rita Carey
Mr. Robert Carey
Mr. Robert J. Casale
Mrs. Margaret Casey
Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Castine, Jr.
Rev. Edmund P. Charest
Mr. Clinton A. Cobb
Mr. George M. Conboy
Mr. Thomas G. Connors
Mr. Jeffrey Cull
Ms. Maureen Currey
Mr. John H. Deasy
Miss Carol A. Dever
Mr. Joseph F. Discepolo
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Donnelly
Rev. Edward P. Doran
Major Arthur G. Eichler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Feddeck
Mr. Pierce J. Fitzgerald

Mrs. Nancy S. Fortino
Dr. Richard D. Foy
Mr. and Mrs. G. Patrick Gallagher
Mr. Charles H. Gallant
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. William I. James
Mr. and Mrs. J. David Kammer
Mr. Edward Kane
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Keilty
Mr. Donal M. Kelleher
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
Mr. William J. Loschert
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Lyden
Ms. Frances R. Lyon
Mrs. Edward J. Lyons
Mr. Robert H. Mace, Jr.
Mr. Harold F. Malone, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David Marsh
Rev. David L. Martin
Mrs. Linda 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. Matthew F. Murphy
Mr. Ken Murrin
Dr. Gary and Lois Neidert
Mrs. Alberta P. Neidt
Mr. John P. O'Donnell
Mr. Hugh D. O'Rourke
Msgr. Eugene S. Ostrowski
Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Paris
John and Peg Perring-Mulligan
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Pisano
Mr. Casimir Podlaski
Mr. Robert S. Reeder
Ms. Doris A. Reischach
Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Pamela Rinn
Mrs. Claire Roy
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Ryan
Ms. Ritajean Schmidt
Dr. Stephen T. Slack
Ms. Madeleine Soudee
Mr. Joseph W. Strang
Mr. Frank Sutton
Mr. William B. Van Riper III
Mr. John H. Vanier, Jr.
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.



THE MARIST BROTHERS ARE NOW OFFERING CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

We 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.

What are the benefits?

A charitable gift annuity is an irrevocable gift commitment, but one with excellent tax and financial benefits.

- **Investing in the Future**—you are supporting the mission of the Marist Brothers
- **Income for Life**—at attractive payout rates for the lives of one or two persons
- **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**

many of them retired educators, tutoring, teaching ESL and leading other support groups. Br. Klein said parishioners at nearby St. Ignatius Loyola parish on Park Avenue have been greatly involved as tutors. The tutors work with the children of the community to bring their studies up to grade level or better.

But it is the social interaction, the spirituality, which sets the Juan Diego community apart from other ESL programs. During discussion sessions, called "sharing groups," members of the community are encouraged to talk about issues that are important to them: family and the challenges of adjusting to life in a different, at times hostile, culture. It is a kind of peer support group and is very popular.



Br. John and Br. Santos interact with ESL students.

"It's more than news or what you did today," Br. Garcia explained. "It goes much deeper. It's life. It's faith." Many members of the community come virtually every day to take part in one program

or another. They all agree learning English is very important, of course.

"When I go to the hospital I want to understand what the doctor says," explained Lorenza Sanchez, a mother of four from Mexico. "I have to [be able to] talk to my children's teachers to know how they are doing in school. In the house they speak English and I want to know what they are talking about. I enjoy Br. John's English classes because they don't sound like an English class, they sound like a homily."

Participants also mention the social aspect. Coming to the school on East 112th Street is a way to escape the isolation and loneliness recent immigrants can feel, especially women who may be trapped at home without adult companionship.

Ms. Sanchez and Anna Rodriguez, a mother of two from Peru, have become fast friends. Ms. Rodriguez commutes from Queens.

"I spend time with Lorenza, shopping or going to her home, just enjoying life," Ms. Rodriguez said with a smile. She said the program had literally given her "freedom."



Maintaining traditions is an important priority.

Ignacia Gonzalez, a mother of three from Mexico, added, "First is learning English.

Second is making friends in the community."

The project, with an operating budget this year of \$204,000, is funded by Fidelis Health Care, The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation, The Marist Third World Fund, the Marist Brothers and through archdiocesan fund-raising efforts. But that funding runs out in August.

"Currently Br. Santos and I are working on a grant proposal," Br. Klein said. "For the project to continue, we're hoping there will be donors, foundations, and people that will help us. But if we can't raise the money the program can't continue. If we're not here, there's nothing."

Without Comunidad Juan Diego, East Harlem might not look that different, at least not on the surface, not to an outsider. But then there is that youth group Br. Dessavre and Br. Klein started working with on Friday evenings.

"We started with 22. We're about 35 now," Br. Klein said. "It's a pretty big youth group. So we have these teenagers and we have discussions. We have prayer. We've had them here for an open gym night. They're in tough situations. And one night we had a conversation about what are the challenges of living in East Harlem and they just talked. It was quite revealing. The violence, gangs, drugs, trying to do their homework, family life, all the predictable things. But it was interesting; when we ended the night, the youth leader said, 'Let's finish with the Rosary.' So here we are. It's 8:00 on Friday night in the basement of St. Cecilia's Church with the kids, kneeling, at least 25 teenagers, saying the Rosary.

"I thought, 'If we weren't here this wouldn't have happened.'"

To donate to the Juan Diego project, please send your donation to the address on this newsletter or donate online at www.maristbr.com, "Donate Now"

Volunteers and Benefactors

Work Together To Shape the Future of the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus (MBCE)

St. Marcellin Champagnat urged the early brothers in their formation of young people to make them “good Christians and virtuous citizens.” Underlying this fundamental tenet of Marist pedagogy is the belief that young people can make a difference and are critical to building a better future—for both the Church and society. Indeed, St. Marcellin himself began a community of Brothers that today spans 72 countries around the world; he began with two recruits no older than 18 years of age.



Here at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, New York (MBCE), we too believe in the generosity and potential of young people. We know that they will play a vital role in shaping the future of our world. Last year, during the camp season,

and this year, during the spring break service week, our young volunteers participated in a new initiative called Good Works, an app developed by a former Marist student (Kevin Brady, RCHS '73).

Good Works seeks to engage and educate young people in the power they have to effect good in the world through service to others. This app, downloaded onto smartphones, engages them in the world in which they live and uses technology to track, record and reward service hours in real time. Young people gain “credits” or “coins” and make decisions on where they will spend them to accomplish the most good. Working as a group, and gaining a consensus in decision-making, earns bonus credits, thereby extending the power of their influence to effect change.



Most importantly of all, the Good Works app does this without destroying the culture of giving. Young people are not “paid” for their service. They do this of their own accord. Instead, Good Works helps to educate the young that service done on behalf of others

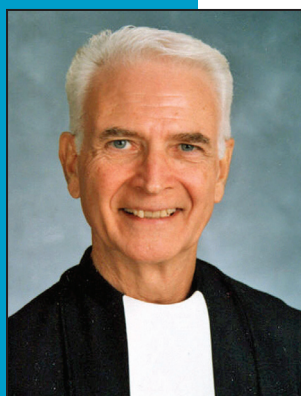
can be a catalyst for good in the world and, hopefully, bring about change.

In addition, our young people are engaged in a dialogue with our sponsoring benefactors who are also interested in shaping Esopus. Sponsors who wish to encourage this educational enterprise agree to a specified gift or donation. Young people are asked to use their service hours to “liberate” this gift. Sponsors benefit in a two fold manner. Not only will they be doing good for the MBCE, they will also encourage value formation and decision-making skills in young people.

Our volunteers did indeed effect change here at the Center. During this past year, students have volunteered their service hours and procured funding for new mattresses, outdoor adventure equipment, maintenance supplies and a new swing set for our pool area. We are always looking for opportunities to engage our young people, and for sponsors to take part in this new initiative. Want more information? Contact us at MaristBCE@gmail.com.



Dear Friends,



Warmer weather, flowers blooming, birds chirping early in the morning...sure signs that we are well into the spring season! Can summer be far behind? Hopefully you are also enjoying a wonderful springtime in your hometown. After most parts of our country suffered through a record-breaking winter of cold and snow, the beauty and warmth of this time of year is very much welcomed.

This year's Annual Fund is quickly coming to a close. Our friends, relatives, alumni and benefactors—our Marist Family share in almost a 200-year legacy of the Marist Brothers bringing Christian education to young people, especially those most neglected. St. Marcellin Champagnat would be proud of the legacy that lives today through our entire Marist Family.

The dream of St. Marcellin to serve those most in need continues to live on through our schools and ministries. It lives on through our students and all the young people we serve each day. It lives on through our retreat programs and programs to enhance the understanding of our Marist charism. It lives on through our younger Brothers working tirelessly and our elderly and disabled Brothers praying quietly. And it certainly lives on 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 assist us in meeting these rising costs each year.

If you have never contributed to the Brothers, please consider making your first financial gift by using the enclosed reply envelope, or simply go online to www.maristbr.com and click on the "Donate Now" button. 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 and Catholic education.

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

Our thanks and best wishes,

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

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Co-Director of Development



NOTEWORTHY NEWS

The faculty and staff of Marist High School, Chicago, Illinois, participated in a unique retreat offering. Following the theme "We are called...to be more," the Faculty Faith Formation Team designed a retreat that offered participants various ways of nurturing their spiritual lives. With a series of on-campus and off-campus events, faculty and staff chose from Pottery and Prayer; Music as Prayer; Prayer: Labyrinth and Adoration; Prayer: Tai Chi and Yoga; Catholicism: The Communion of Saints; Catholicism: Mary,

the Mother of God; Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Christ's Passion; Pilgrimage to Three of Chicago's Historic Catholic Churches; Faith through Service: Catholic Charities; Faith through Service: St. Margaret of Scotland School; and Faith through Service: The Portiun-





Br. Bernard Curtin, FMS

Br. Bernard Curtin entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1936. After his years of Marist formation and academic studies he began his ministry at St. Ann's Academy in Manhattan,

New York. Br. Bernard continued to teach in the Archdiocese of New York at both Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx and St. Agnes Boys High School in New York City. He also ministered in the Diocese of Savannah at Boys' Catholic in Augusta, Georgia.

In 1956 Br. Bernard began his service as a missionary in the Philippines, where he ministered as teacher, director, principal or president at the Marist Brothers schools at Marbel, Cotabato, Jolo, Lagao, Marikina, Dadiangas, Malaybalay and Kidapawan. In 1994 Br. Bernard returned to the United States and retired to the Brothers' residence in Roselle, New Jersey. In 2012 he moved to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx.

A funeral mass was celebrated at the chapel of Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, followed by burial in the Marist Brothers' cemetery in Esopus, New York.

Br. Bernard, a Marist Brother for 78 years, died on December 23, 2014 at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx at the age of 94.



Br. Raymond Albert, FMS

Born in 1927, Br. Raymond Albert entered the Marist Brothers' Novitiate in 1944 and began his ministry in 1953 at St. Ann's Academy in Manhattan, New York. For the next 40 years Br.

Raymond served at St. Ann's Academy, St. Mary's High School in Manhasset, New York, as teacher and administrator; at Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania; and at Roselle Catholic High School, Roselle, New Jersey, until he retired in 1994.

Br. Raymond was quiet and unassuming. He had a subtle humor and a great love of his fellow Marists and his community. Br. Ray's spiritual life, his love of God, his devotion to our Blessed Mother, as well as his piety—in keeping with his personality—were also quiet and unassuming.

Br. Raymond was a Marist Brother for 68 years, and died on October 26, 2014 at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx at the age of 87.

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

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

cula Center for Prayer experience. It was an exciting and special retreat day.

Last fall, Marist High School in Bayonne, New Jersey, celebrated its 60th anniversary. This momentous milestone honored the Marist Brothers and posthumously inducted Br. Leo Sylvius into the 2014 Hall of Fame. The school also recognized Mr. Frank Anderson for his dedicated years of service with the first-ever Brother Leo Sylvius Award.

Congratulations to Principal Ms. Alice Miesnik, the faculty, staff and students!



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



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAROL STREAM, IL
PERMIT NO. 475



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

For more information about a vocation to the Marist Brothers, visit: maristbr.com

Or contact:

Br. Michael Sheerin, FMS
Br. Daniel O’Riordan, FMS
1241 Kennedy Blvd.
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Phone: (201) 823-1115
Email: vocations@maristbr.com

Today’s Marist Brother • A Lumen Award-winning publication of the Province of the United States of America.
Editorial Staff: Br. Hugh Turley, FMS, CFRE; Mrs. Paulette Karas, CFRE; Br. John Klein, FMS; Br. Owen Ormsby, FMS

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

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 413
Worth, Illinois 60482-0413
Phone: (773) 881-5343
Fax: (773) 881-3367

Email: maristbr@maristbr.org
Website: maristbr.com

For more updates on what’s happening in our Marist circles, visit www.maristbr.com and over “Communications” click on “What’s New.”