



The Marist Brothers

ADVENT 2021



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TODAY'S Marist Brother

Welcome to Our Two New Novices!

The Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the entry of Br. Ryan Richter and Br. Robert Dittus to the Marist Brothers Novitiate on September 12 during a prayer service held at the Marist Brothers Novitiate community.



New Brothers Robert Dittus and Ryan Richter with Br. Don Bisson, Provincial Br. Dan O'Riordan, and Master of Novices Br. Sean Sammon.

Br. Robert graduated from Marist-owned Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood,



Br. Robert Dittus with family members.

NY in 2015 and earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT, in 2019. Following graduation, Br. Rob spent one year as a Marist

volunteer at the Marist Brothers Retreat Center in Esopus, NY.



Br. Ryan Richter with Miriam Eisenmenger (Mount Saint Michael Academy) and Rosie Mulligan (Marist Volunteer).

Br. Ryan earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing

from The University of Texas at Austin's Red McCombs School of Business in 2019. Before becoming a Marist postulant, Br. Ryan spent time living at the Marist Community of Welcome in Austin, TX, which is a community of lay people and Marist Brothers started in 2018.

The Marist Brothers Novitiate is located on the campus of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Br. Sean Sammon is the Master of Novices.



FROM THE DESK OF

the Provincial

ADVENT 2021

Dear Members of the Marist Family,

On behalf of our USA Marist Brothers Province, I want to sincerely thank you for the incredible impact you have made on our Province and our ability to sustain and grow our Marist Mission. Through your generosity and support, we continue to care for all the needs of our senior Brothers



who have dedicated their lives to making Jesus Christ known and loved, especially among young people and the most neglected. Your willingness to partner with us allows us to continue the legacy of our senior Brothers by ensuring that our Marist Ministries in the USA are impacting the lives of countless young people each day. We are blessed to have many Lay Marists who live our Marist Charism daily, and who walk with us in fostering our Marist Mission. The number of students attending our USA schools has grown over the past year and would not be possible without the support of many benefactors who provide needed financial assistance to many of those families who otherwise would not be able to choose a Catholic and Marist education.

More than 30 years ago, Br. Hugh Turley was assigned the daunting task of starting our USA Development Office. Within weeks of that new adventure, he hired Mrs. Paulette Karas. She quickly became his co-pilot in leading and growing this office into an extremely successful fundraising team. Their years of hard work and selfless dedication to supporting the needs of our Brothers and Mission can never be adequately acknowledged. We sadly lost Br. Hugh earlier this year, but his legacy continues to be lived out under Mrs. Karas's leadership and passionate commitment to carrying on the work they began together those many years ago.

I want to extend Advent blessings to each of you as we prepare to again allow Jesus to come into our world through the miracle that is Christmas. I pray your upcoming weeks will be filled with the love of family and friends. May we each be reminded of the wisdom of the great spiritual writer Meister Eckhart, who captured the true meaning of Christmas almost 700 years ago when he wrote, *"What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1,400 years ago, and I do not give birth to the Son of God in my own person and time and culture? . . . We are all meant to be mothers of God."* Hopefully, in the upcoming Christmas season, we will each allow Jesus to again come into our world through our words, witness, and actions.

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Br. Dan O'Riordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

ESOPUS CORNER

As the leaves change to beautiful shades of gold and red, it is evident that a season of change is on the horizon for the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, NY (MBCE). Leading the administration of the property is the newly appointed Executive Director, Tomas O’Riordan, who is supported by Timothy Hagan, the Director of Operations. In the past, Vice Provincial Br. Owen Ormsby reminded us that “the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus will always be in a state of transition, but it is a place where people’s hearts help smooth over the bumps in the road.” After a summer full of camps and groups returning for retreat programs and weekends, the MBCE property has been bustling and busy, with volunteers and staff excited to welcome visitors “home” after so long apart.

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers and donors who helped to make the summer camp season possible (and safe!). The MBCE continues to be a sacred space, where God’s grace can touch the lives of young people through retreat programs and personal reflection time. We hope this Advent season offers an opportunity for all of us to remind ourselves what being Marist is all about: to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

From our staff here at the MBCE, we wish you an Advent season filled with hope, peace, joy, and love, as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus in our lives once again. From our family to yours, have a blessed Christmas season, and we look forward to welcoming you home soon! May God bless you, and keep you always.



LAVALLA WEEKEND

Over Columbus Day weekend, students and volunteers from our Marist schools in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, and Texas gathered at the MBCE for the ninth LaValla Service Retreat. The theme for the weekend was “Caring for our Common Home.” The Marist Youth learned about climate change and how to be more environmentally friendly. They went through a

simulation experience to understand the impacts of climate change, and spent time working on various service projects around the Esopus property. At the end of the weekend, all of the schools received money to plant a tree back on their respective school campuses, with the hope of continuing their sustainability efforts for the environment.



Marists of Champagnat Commitment Ceremony

Sunday, June 6, 2021, was an historic day in the Province of the United States!

Around 30 people gathered at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus NY, for the culmination of a six-month formation process, ending with a prayer and commitment ceremony on the Feast Day of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Others gathered throughout the Province, and joined the ceremony via Zoom in Lawrence, MA, Miami, FL, Chicago, IL, Queens, NY, Brownsville, TX, Kentucky, and Louisiana.



The prayer was led by members of the Lay Council: Maureen Hagan, Matt Fallon, Br. Owen Ormsby (Vice Provincial), Br. Ken Hogan, Lindsay Irwin, Earline Tweedie,

Ellen Salmi VanCleaf, Richard Karsten, and Provincial, Br. Dan O’Riordan.

Everyone found the day quite moving and meaningful. Praying together, the group hoped to “awaken us to a brighter vision so that we, as Marists of Champagnat, may be a people of healing, peace, compassion, and hope for all those we encounter in our daily lives. Grant us courage and generosity so that we may be signs of your mercy and tenderness among the poor young people of today. May we be faithful to our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved. God, and the people gathered, recognized the mystery at work among them.”

At the commitment ceremony, Br. Dan asked the group: “Is it your intent to sincerely prioritize your relationship with God through prayer, reflection, and service? Is it your



intent to enter into the future together with your Marist Brothers, reading the signs of the times and responding to the needs of our world as the face of a Marial Church? Is it your intent to live a life worthy of your calling from God to walk in the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat?”

He also declared, “Together, as Marists of Champagnat, let us confide unto Mary our hopes and fears, dreams, and uncertainties, knowing that this journey we embark upon is her work. May she ask her son to bless this new chapter in the Province of the United States.”

The new Marists of Champagnat are excited to move forward and to see what’s next as they explore ways, old and new, to better live out our mission of making Jesus known and loved.



The Mission of the Marist Leadership Camp



The Marist Youth Leadership Camp is the first in a series of new Marist Youth programs for students from the schools in our Marist Brothers Province of the USA. Marist students, faculty, and Marist Young Adults who represent 10 of our schools around the country came together at Connect Christian Camp in Crown Point, IN, for a week-long camp and retreat experience.



freshmen. Through these freshman retreats being run by fellow Marist Youth members, our hope is that new students in our Marist schools feel welcomed to become a part of the Marist community, and understand what it truly means to be Marist.

The main goal of this week-long camp was for students to have numerous opportunities to work on practical leadership skills. They participated in various sessions focused on how to lead prayer, building small group skills, leading activities, and writing a cohesive speech. Students have been tasked with taking these skills back to their respective schools to plan and run a retreat for incoming



DEAR MEMBERS OF OUR

Marist Family,

ADVENT 2021



Advent and Christmas are times of both celebration and reflection. We celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and reflect on the events in our lives over the past year.

This past year has continued to be challenging. Although some Covid restrictions have eased, we are still very much in the grips of the virus. We pray you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

The theme of this year's Annual Fund is "Dream, Hope, Believe, Do." The fact that the Marist Brothers have been able to effectively serve for over two centuries, bringing Christian education to youth, especially the most neglected, is a testament to the faith and commitment of many generations of "Marists," both Brothers and our lay partners, dreaming, hoping, believing, and doing. Together we work as a Marist Family.

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

Each year, our fundraising efforts become more and more critical to our ongoing efforts. If you haven't yet become a financial supporter of the Marist Brothers, please consider sending a gift today. Your contribution, no matter the amount, will be gratefully appreciated. Or simply go online to our secure website, www.maristbr.com, and click on "Donate Now" to charge a gift to your credit card. We are proud of your role in our continuing success and hope you will seriously consider donating to one of our recent appeals.

We join all the Brothers in wishing you a blessed Advent and a wonderful Christmas season surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Merry Christmas!

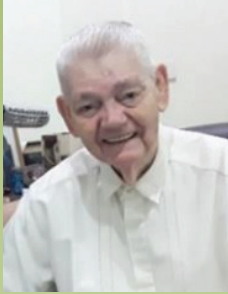
Paulette M. Karas

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Director of Development

IN MEMORIAM

Br. Robert McGovern

Died May 19, 2021



Br. Robert McGovern, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 72 years, died May 19 in the Philippines. He was 91 years old.

Br. Bob grew up in the Bronx, NY, and graduated from the Marist Brothers' newly opened Marist Prep in Esopus, NY. He completed his training in the Marist Brothers Novitiate and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. After college, Br. Bob taught at Mount

Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx and Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, NY, then in Opa Locka, FL. In the early 1960s, he studied theology in Fribourg, Switzerland, then taught at Notre Dame of Cotabat, in Mindanao, Philippines; taught and administered programs at Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal City, Philippines; and joined the staff of Notre Dame of Kidapawan College, Kidapawan, Philippines. In 1972, Br. Bob returned to Mindanao and became Executive Secretary of the Notre Dame Education Association, spearheading the development of new programs for improving education throughout the area. He was a driving force behind a master's degree program that certified teachers from 60 high schools in the

Philippines to become principals and other attendees to become science teachers.

Over the last several decades of his life, Br. Bob helped launch university programs for social development, healthcare, and nursing services, and helped create a Business Resource Center Foundation that has provided business training, research, and financial assistance to thousands of personnel and "out of school" youth enrolled in the Marist Technical Training Programs.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II awarded Br. Bob the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal, the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Papacy.

Br. Sumner Herrick

Died July 10, 2021



Br. Sumner Herrick, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 59 years, died July 10 in Miami, FL. He was 78 years old.

Br. Sumner was born in Lawrence, MA, where he attended Central Catholic High School. Upon graduation, he entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in

Tyngsboro, MA. He professed first vows in 1963 and his final vows in 1968.

He earned a BA degree in French from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, and an MA degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He also earned a Certificat D'Etudes from the Catholic University in France.

Br. Sumner began his teaching career in NY, teaching French and Spanish at Mount Saint Michael Academy, Bishop Dubois High School, and Saint Agnes Boys High School from 1966-75. After attending a renewal program in Fribourg, Switzerland, he was Assistant Principal at Mount Saint Michael Academy from 1974-78. He returned to the classroom

in 1978, when he joined the faculty of Marist High School in Chicago before serving as Dean of Discipline from 1987-90. Br. Sumner continued his administrative career from 1990-92 at Marist High School in Eugene, ORE, and continued as a guidance counselor until 1994.

From 1998-2003, he was the Director of the Marist Volunteer Program. Br. Sumner also served as a language teacher and counselor at Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, TX, for many years beginning in 2003. He retired to the Marist Brothers retirement community in Miami, FL, in 2019.

Br. Hugh Turley

Died July 24, 2021



Br. Hugh Patrick Turley, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 67 years, died July 24 in the Bronx, NY. He was 84 years old.

Br. Hugh was born in Queens, NY, and entered the Marist Brothers Juniorate in

Esopus, NY, in 1953. He professed his first vows in 1955, his final vows in 1960, and the vow of stability in 1987.

He earned a BS degree in biology from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, in 1958; an MA in biology from Fordham University, NY City, in 1963; and a PhD in cellular biology from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 1968.

Br. Hugh began his teaching ministry in 1961 at Bishop Dubois High School in NY City, then taught at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx. After completing his doctoral studies, he was a professor

at Marist College for a number of years. Next, he taught at the Oglala Sioux Community College in Pine Ridge, SD, and St. Joseph High School in Canton, MS, then served as an administrator at Catholic Charities in Canton.

After participating in a Marist Brothers renewal program in Nemi, Italy, Br. Hugh moved in 1988 to Chicago, where he and Paulette Karas created, developed, and administered the Marist Brothers Development Program. The two colleagues and friends administered the program together for more than 30 years.

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



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

www.maristbr.com/vocations

Or contact:

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The Marist Brothers Mission

To bring Christian education to young people, especially those who are most neglected.
(Article 2, Constitutions)

The Marist Brothers

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For more updates on what's happening in our Marist circles, visit www.maristbr.com.



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The Marist Brothers Remembrance in Prayer Program



The Marist Brothers offer two different series of Remembrance in Prayer cards: Traditional and All-Occasion cards. Our signature Traditional cards feature the image of Christ and a Marial design. Both of these Traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two All-Occasion cards may be sent to honor birthdays, weddings, or anniversaries or to extend get-well greetings.

All cards carry a special promise of Remembrance in Prayer from the Marist Brothers.

We would be delighted to send you a complimentary packet of our Traditional or All-Occasion cards. Please send your request through email (maristbr@maristbr.org) or to the mailing address at left.