



Friday Notes

MAY 1, 2026

045








Each year on May 1, the Church celebrates Religious Brothers Day, coinciding with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, patron of the Marist Institute. **The day offers an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for the vocation of religious brothers** who dedicate their lives to Gospel service within the Church and the world.

For the Marist family, this celebration highlights the witness of brothers who live their vocation through community, faith, and mission among young people. As Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, has reflected, Marist brothers walk together as brothers of Jesus, following Mary and serving others with simplicity and dedication.

Religious Brothers Day began in the United States following the Jubilee of Consecrated Life in 2015 and the publication of the Vatican document **Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church**, which describes the vocation of the brother as a life of fraternity, communion, and mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

-  **Deepening Our Call**
Esopus, NY
May 1 -
May 3, 2026
-  **Provincial Council Meeting**
Chicago, IL
May 7 -
May 9, 2026
-  **Saint Marcellin Champagnat's Birthday**
May 20, 1789
-  **Marist Youth Gathering**
Marist College - Poughkeepsie, NY
May 28 -
May 31, 2026
-  **Marists of Champagnat National Assembly**
Long Branch, NJ
July 14 -
July 17, 2026

 REGISTER NOW!



Support Esopus Runners

There are three opportunities coming up to support or join Esopus Runners in raising money for the Marist mission in Esopus: May 3 in the Hudson Valley, May 9 in Queens, and May 17 in Cranford, NJ. Go to <https://esopusrunners.weebly.com/> for more information or to donate in support of your friends who are running!

School Board Meetings

The School Boards of St. Joseph Academy, Christopher Columbus High School, and Marist High School (Chicago) will gather for meetings next week. The Province is grateful for the dedicated men and women who serve on the Boards of our USA ministries and help foster and strengthen the Marist mission.

Provincial Council in Chicago

The Provincial Council will gather in Chicago at the end of next week for their regular meeting. During their time in Chicago, the Council will also carry out their role as Trustees of Marist High School by joining the Marist High School Board of Directors for its scheduled meeting on Thursday.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Christopher Columbus High School

Miami, Florida

CONGRATULATIONS, FERNANDO!

Christopher Columbus High School recently welcomed back alumnus and 2025 Heisman Trophy winner Fernando Mendoza for a surprise visit. During a special assembly, Mendoza reflected on his Marist formation, encouraged students to stay grounded in faith and service, and also helped present senior Andres Vergara with a \$25,000 Taco Bell Foundation Live Más Scholarship. Shortly after his visit, Mendoza was selected as the first overall pick in the 2026 NFL Draft by the Las Vegas Raiders, marking an exciting new chapter in his football career!



LINK CLUB HOSTS FRIENDSHIP DAY

Christopher Columbus High School's LINK Club recently hosted students from Miami Learning Experience for Friendship Day, a joyful gathering focused on connection and inclusion. Through shared activities and conversation, students built meaningful friendships while living the Marist values of presence, empathy, and service to others.



GLOBAL EARTH DAY GATHERING

Students recently participated in an interactive global Zoom connecting Rome with Marist communities around the world in celebration of Earth Day. Centered on the theme "Our Power, Our Planet," the event brought together speakers from across the globe and invited students to listen, learn, and reflect on how each person can care for our common home. Rooted in the Marist mission, the experience encouraged students to consider how living with humility, serving others, and working together can inspire meaningful action for the good of our planet.



PROVINCE VOICES AT INTERNATIONAL MARIST EARTH DAY GATHERING

The Earth Day webinar hosted by FMSI on April 22 featured presentations from Sam King, Province Ecology Minister, and Olubukola Onimole '26 of Marist High School Chicago. The online gathering brought together Marists from around the world to reflect on care for our common home.

Their contributions highlighted the meaningful ecological initiatives taking place across our Province's ministries and the growing leadership of young people committed to caring for creation.

4TH ANNUAL MARIST EARTH DAY WEEKEND HELD AT THE MBCE!

This past weekend, Marist Earth Day held its fourth annual gathering in Esopus, bringing together more than 45 student leaders from nine schools.

On Friday evening, students were introduced to Province efforts to live out the Laudato Si' Action Platform and watched an excerpt from The Keeper, a newly released film following the story of longtime riverkeeper John Lipscomb.

Saturday began with a morning prayer at the river led by Native Mi'kmaq teacher Evan Pritchard, followed by afternoon workshops on renewable energy, bird watching, contemplative forest bathing, and native planting. Students also installed new signposts reflecting an ethic of care for creation and acknowledging the indigenous land of the ancestral Lenape peoples of the Esopus Munsee Confederacy. The day continued with an interactive case study on landfill leachate in the Hudson River, during which students tested water quality and monitored leaf litter, before gathering for an evening town hall in which they represented key stakeholders addressing the ongoing challenges of landfill leachate.

The weekend concluded with students evaluating the progress of their schools' Laudato Si' Action Plans and setting new goals for the year ahead.

“On this International Earth Day 2026, we join with people across the globe to honor the beauty, the fragility and wonder of the world entrusted to us by the Creator of all. Earth day is not merely a commemoration. It is a reminder of our shared responsibility, a call to renew our commitment to the well-being of future generations, and a challenge to act creatively and collectively.”

-Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Next Green Team meeting:
12:30pm EDT / 11:30am CDT

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



PROVINCIAL VISIT TO MARIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Br. Dan O’Riordan will travel to Marist Catholic High School in Eugene, Oregon, this weekend. During his visit, he will be attending the school’s annual gala and will also spend time with members of the Marists of Champagnat community in Eugene.

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT LAY COUNCIL MEETS IN ESOPUS

Members of the Marists of Champagnat Lay Council gathered at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus from April 19–22 to participate in the Black Madonna conference and to hold their business meeting. The time together provided space for prayer, reflection, and collaboration as the Council continues to support the mission and life of the Marists of Champagnat.



“AT THE SAME TABLE”

At the Same Table is the newsletter of the Marists of Champagnat USA, sharing stories, reflections, and updates from lay Marists and Brothers who live the Marist mission in their daily lives. Through personal witness and community news, the publication highlights how members continue the vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat by forming community, deepening Marist spirituality, and serving young people together. Inspired by the image of gathering “around the same table,” it reflects the shared vocation of Brothers and lay Marists walking the mission side by side. [Read the latest issue here.](#)

EPISODE 7 OF MY MARIST LIFE IS HERE!

In this episode of My Marist Life, host Eric Gonzales speaks with Julie Ferrari, Marist of Champagnat, about her journey in ministry, vocation, and everyday Marist living. Rooted in the Marist Pillars, Julie reflects on listening, spiritual growth, and finding joy in life’s simple moments.

LISTEN NOW

SUPPORTING THE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

The work of the Marists of Champagnat continues to be largely subsidized by the Province. Members are invited to consider making a contribution to help support formation resources, Lay Council gatherings, and Assembly expenses. Any amount is appreciated, and monthly contributions are especially helpful. Questions may be directed to [Chuck Lampier](#) or [Maureen Hagan](#).

DONATE



MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – JULY 14–17, 2026

Registration is now open for the Marists of Champagnat National Assembly, which will take place July 14–17 in Long Branch, New Jersey. Planning committees are preparing a rich program of prayer, workshops, speakers, and community gatherings.

Finance should never be a barrier to participation. If you have questions about attending, please contact Maureen Hagan (mhagan8486@gmail.com).

REGISTER NOW



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 8 - MIRACLES AND DISCERNMENT: HOW THE CHURCH RECOGNIZES A SIGN FROM GOD

The latest *Flowing in the Spirit* reflection explores the Church's understanding of miracles in the canonization process, revealing them not as rewards or spectacles, but as signs through which God confirms a life of holiness.

[--Read the complete article here.](#)

MARIST HORIZONS – APRIL 2026

Br. Peter Carroll's latest Marist Horizons reflection draws inspiration from the Artemis II mission, inviting readers to consider what exploration, courage, and discovery can teach us about faith and hope.

[--Read the complete article here.](#)

WEBINAR EXPLORES STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

A recent webinar organized by the International Council for Economic Affairs and the Office of the General Bursar explored how Marist schools can respond to changing educational realities while remaining faithful to their mission. Presenter Rony Ahlfeldt outlined key elements of strategic planning, including strategic diagnosis, value proposition, and positioning for sustainable educational ministries.

[--Read the complete article here.](#)



FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

H. GUILLERMO VILLARREAL
GENERAL POSTULATOR

Flowing in the Spirit is a year-long series of weekly reflections offered by Br. Guillermo Villareal, our Postulator General responsible for advancing the causes of our Marist saints.



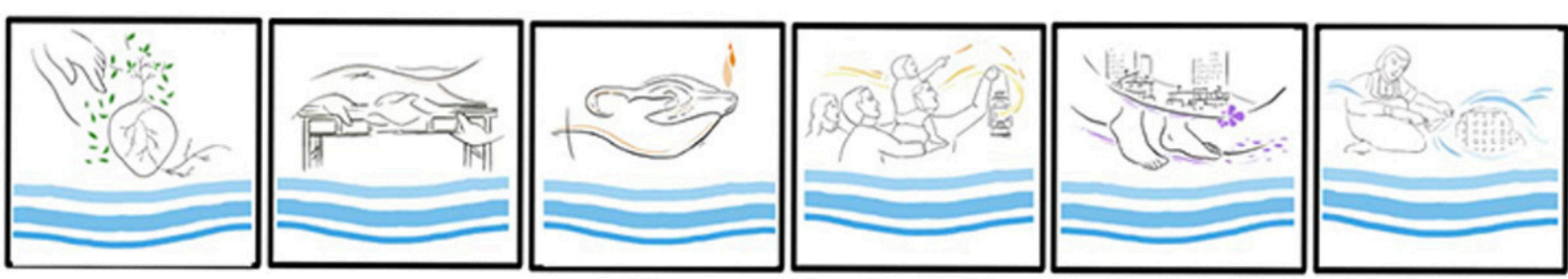
MARIST HORIZONS

Br. PETER CARROLL
SUPERIOR GENERAL



Sustainable Schools

A Strategic
Rethinking



STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 23RD GENERAL CHAPTER TO THE BROTHERS

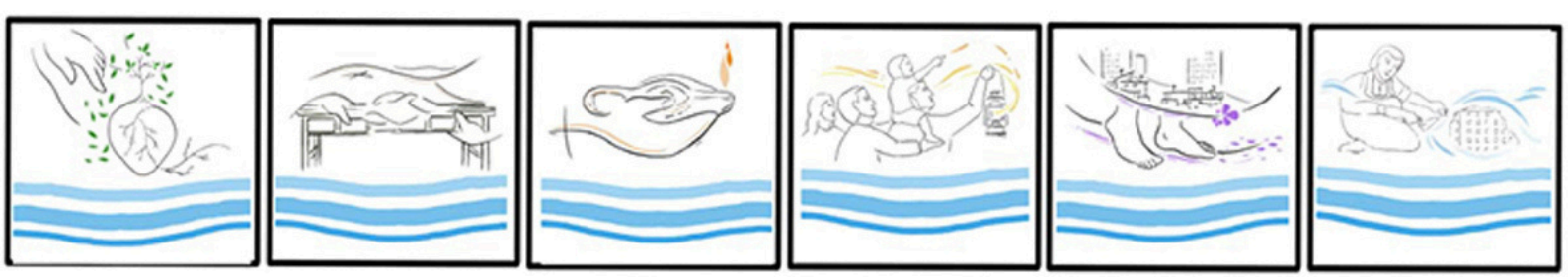
Toward the end of the General Chapter, the delegates present approved the following message to all the Brothers of the Institute:

Today, more than ever, it is worth being a brother.

In today's world, so changing and unpredictable, the role of the brother within our Marist community and mission requires a clear definition that brings us back to the source of our vocation. We echo the words of the young brothers at the General Chapter: "we invite you to return to the source, to that moment when each one of us heard Jesus say: Come, follow me." Considering this, we, the brothers of the 23rd General Chapter, wish to emphasize that the presence of a "brother" is more vital today than ever: a living sign of hope in the heart of our Church and our world.

In communion with all Christians who live out their baptismal commitment, we are called to be authentic and visible witnesses of God who is love and who shares in the suffering of the poor and the most vulnerable. Our fidelity to being a brother and to sharing our fraternity in all its richness has the power to inspire others in their own life journey. Our way of being in the world is marked by mutual accompaniment; we encounter others as equals and walk together, finding meaning in one another. This shared support becomes especially fruitful with all the Lay Marist who embrace our way of living the Gospel. This reciprocity strengthens our vocation and enriches our life.

We recognize that the mission entrusted to us as brothers has become increasingly diverse, encompassing education, accompaniment, pastoral work, social initiatives, and many other forms of service that respond to the needs of today's world. We are called to give ourselves wholeheartedly to the mission, ready to step out of our comfort zone and walk alongside children and young people, embracing their dreams and struggles. We carry a special place in our hearts for those who are beyond the walls of the Church, for we believe we are a home for all. This requires from us boldness, courage, and agility to move beyond complacency, with openness to new and innovative expressions of our mission. (Continued -->)



Our community life is our first apostolate; a prophetic and joyful testimony of inclusion, compassion, and care for all, which overflows and challenges the world around us. Our mission goes beyond age, for those brothers who are no longer in ministries of direct presence can still remain in solidarity and prayer with the young in their life situations, bearing witness by the way they live fraternity. We are grateful for their constant service and turn to them for guidance and wisdom.

Let us encourage one another and continue deepening our relationship with Jesus through a life of prayer, source of energy and life for our mission. When we face personal struggles, we look to Jesus and to the guidance of Mary, Our Good Mother, together with the support of the brothers who know how to listen with the heart. May we constantly embrace experiences and opportunities that help us grow, learn, and become more fully ourselves.

Brothers, by living with authenticity, hope, and joy, Christ-centered, we stand in contrast to the world around us and can be a source of inspiration and hope for other Marists and for young people.

Recommendation: We propose that the General Council appoint a specific and short-term working group, made up of brothers, to continue the dialogue on the identity and mission of the Brother today, and to design initiatives and materials that actively engage brothers around the world in this process.



OUR MARIST FAMILY:

Across Arco Norte

Province of America Central



REMEMBERING BR. MOISÉS CISNEROS



On April 29, the Marist family remembered Br. Moisés Cisneros, who was murdered in 1991 while serving as director of the Marist School in Zona 6 of Guatemala City. His life and ministry remain a powerful witness to the Marist commitment to accompany children and young people, especially those living in vulnerable communities.

Born in León, Spain, in 1945, Br. Moisés began his Marist ministry in El Salvador before continuing his work in Guatemala. Throughout his 25 years of ministry in Central America, he dedicated himself to education and pastoral outreach among young people, particularly in marginalized areas such as Atehuán, Chichicastenango, and Guatemala City.

Those who knew him remember his deep faith, his closeness to the people he served, and his tireless dedication to young people. His life reflected the Gospel words: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Even after his death, the impact of his ministry continues to bear fruit in the Marist communities and works throughout Central America.

In 2017, the Marist Institute formally requested the opening of the process for his beatification with the Archdiocese of Santiago de Guatemala. The Church now continues to discern whether his death may be recognized as martyrdom, a witness to his faithfulness to the Gospel, the Church, and the Marist vocation.

Today, Marists of Champagnat across the region remember Br. Moisés not only for the tragedy of his death, but for the life of service and love he lived among the young people of Central America. [Read more here.](#)

Learn more about the Arco Norte Region [on Facebook!](#)

Mark Your Calendars:



The Marist Region of Africa, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization, will host a regional webinar on Wednesday, May 27, focused on deepening the understanding and practice of the Marist ethos in today's educational contexts.

The session will explore how Marist values; presence, simplicity, compassion, and community, continue to shape educational mission across the African Region and beyond.

Br. Michael Green Star of the Sea Province will serve as keynote speaker. This formation opportunity invites Marist educators and leaders worldwide to reflect on identity, commitment, and shared mission. **Register now!** Or join with **this Zoom link.**

GLOBAL GATHERING OF MARIST SCHOOLS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

To mark the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the Marist Global Network of Schools will gather for its annual international meeting, bringing educators together to honor our founder and renew the mission of Marist education.

Inspired by the XXIII General Chapter theme, Builders of a New Hermitage, the gathering will reflect on the calls shaping the future of Marist education. Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, will offer an opening message, followed by Br. Hipólito Pérez, Vicar of the Institute, who will present the five major calls of the General Chapter. Members of the General Council will then share how these calls can be lived out within the school context.

The webinar will conclude with prayer and remarks from Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, liaison to the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization.

The gathering will take place on June 3 and will be offered at two times to allow for global participation: June 3 at 10:00 AM ET (16:00 Rome) (A second session will also be offered at 03:00 AM ET / 09:00 Rome for other regions.)



MAY Birthdays

Saturday, May 2
Br. Robert Clark

Wednesday, May 6
Br. Peter Guadalupe

Friday, May 15
Br. Lawrence Gordon

Sunday, May 17
Br. Daniel O'Riordan

Sunday, May 17
Br. Richard Grenier

Monday, May 18
Br. Sam Amos

Friday, May 22
Br. Stephen Kappes

Saturday, May 23
Br. Dominick Pujia

Tuesday, May 26
Br. Thomas Sulaimanee

NEW READING THIS WEEK



MARIST NEWS



MATTHEW:29-33



CANADA NEWS



MEXICO OCCIDENTAL



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



NORANDINA

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- The repose of the soul of **Mr. Richard F. Friel**, Brother-in-law of Coleen Waldron and uncle of Matt Waldron, who died this week after a long illness. [Click Here](#) for his obituary.
- The repose of the soul of **Mr. John Patrick Long**, brother of Br. Tom Long. A Memorial Service for John will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 11:00am at The 110 Grill, 1179 Main Street, Haverhill, MA. 01830 (meal to follow the Memorial).

- Patricia Hayes Franzem, who is recovering from surgery.
- Mrs. Olga Dunning, sister-in-law of Br. John Dunning, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Bill Taylor, brother-in-law of Br. Ken Curtin, who is recovering after a heart attack.
- Bill Cornforth, former Marist Brother ('69), who is experiencing serious medical concerns.
- William Ling, father of Province archivist Michelle Ling.
- Cathy Puszc, a teacher who spent her entire career at Marist in Bayonne, who is in critical care.
- Laura Blando, sister of Br. James Norton, as she continues a new round of chemotherapy.
- Fr. Kevin Duggan, SM, who has had a recurrence of cancer.
- Steve Mason, brother-in-law of Rick Martin, who is recovering from surgery.
- David Irwin, who continues to need treatment for a brain tumor.
- Pope Leo XIV: We ask God's blessings on his journey leading our Church.
- Our Blue Marists in Syria and members of the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.
- All victims of the ongoing wars in the Middle East and in the Ukraine.
- All victims of gun violence in the USA and around the world.
- All of our Brothers in residence or rehabbing at Champagnat Hall, particularly those dealing with significant health concerns: John Herrmann, and Pat Hogan.
- Bros. Jim Adams, Charlie Filiatrault, Jim Halliday, Larry Lavalley, and Rene Roy who are all receiving care outside of Marist community.
- Teresa Kelly, wife of Mike Kelly (Tyngsboro, 1965).
- Saoirse McGarry, 23 years old, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma.
- Mrs. Paulette Karas, Province Director of Development, who is undergoing cancer treatments.
- Tom Rubbone, a long-time Camp Marist volunteer and benefactor.
- Mrs. MaryAnn Safrey, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Elaine Pelliciar, who is recovering from surgery and intense rehabilitation therapy.
- Mrs. Sue O'Keeffe, as she struggles with pancreatic cancer.
- Jason Wolf, a 22-year old cousin of John Venturella, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.
- Laura Gural as she regains the use of her left side while recovering from a stroke.
- The husband of Eyda Alegret in Miami, who is recovering after a stroke.
- Patrick Hughes, nephew of Sean O'Leary (Mount St. Michael '90).
- Vince Andiorio in Chicago.
- The young son of Br. Jim McKnight's niece, Jacqueline, who is being treated for leukemia.
- Rosemary Shields and Margo Andrew, cousins of Br. Michael Laratonda.
- Mike Encke, husband of Jean Dalton (niece of Br. Jim Devine) who has cancer.
- Angel Herrera, a sophomore at Mount Saint Michael Academy.
- Frederick Marinelli, father of Michael Marinelli and husband of Carmen Marinelli in Miami.
- Mrs. Peg Kelly, mother of Br. Frank Kelly, who is recovering from a broken hip.

and let us remember... to pray for each other!