Friday Notes

MAY 8, 2026 046



Many blessings and deep gratitude to all mothers across our USA Province as we celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday. We give thanks for the love, strength, faith, and care that mothers and mother figures bring to our Marist family and to the lives of young people each day. *In the spirit of Mary, our Good Mother, may all mothers know how deeply appreciated they are and may they be blessed with peace, joy, and abundant love.*

The Marist Brothers living at Champagnat Hall gathered on May 1 for a special community lunch celebrating **Religious Brothers Day**. Observed annually on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the day honors Religious Brothers around the world whose lives of prayer, community, and service continue to reflect the Gospel through simplicity, presence, and love for young people. Rooted in the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat, Marist Brothers continue making Jesus known and loved through their witness of fraternity, faith, and mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Marist Young Adult Summit
Camp Mariste - Quebec, Canada
June 4 - June 7, 2026

Marists of Champagnat Cohort 6 Commitment Ceremony
June 7, 2026 @ 5pm ET

Marists of Champagnat National Assembly
Long Branch, NJ
July 14 - July 17, 2026
REGISTER NOW!





Support Esopus Runners

Ten runners have already participated in Esopus Runners 2026, raising more than $10,000 in support of the Marist mission in Esopus with two races still to go. There are still opportunities to support or join Esopus Runners at upcoming races on May 9 in Queens and May 17 in Cranford, NJ. For more information or to donate in support of runners, visit Esopus Runners.

School Board Meetings

The Boards of Mount Saint Michael Academy (Bronx, NY) and Camp Marist (Lake Ossipee, NH) will both meet next week. The Province is grateful for the dedicated men and women who serve on the Boards of our ministries and help strengthen the Marist mission through their leadership and service.

Marists in Eugene

Br. Dan gathered with Marists of Champagnat in Eugene on Monday evening for a time of prayer, fellowship, and community, graciously hosted by Rick and Linda Martin. The gathering offered an opportunity to reconnect and reflect together on the shared mission and spirit of the Marist family in the Pacific Northwest.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Central Catholic High School

Lawrence, Massachusetts

FRESHMEN EXPLORE MARIST IDENTITY AT CAMP MARIST RETREAT

Members of the Class of 2029 from Central Catholic High School recently traveled to Camp Marist in New Hampshire for their Freshman Retreat, a day dedicated to exploring what it means to be both a Raider and a Marist.

Through team-building activities, prayer, and small group discussions, students reflected on the Five Pillars of Marist Identity: Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work, and In the Way of Mary. The retreat was planned and led by junior student leaders who participated in last summer's Marist Youth Leadership Camp at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, with additional support from more than 20 junior volunteers and members of the school's Campus Ministry team.

Centered on community, faith, and belonging, the retreat invited freshmen to reflect on their first year at Central Catholic while deepening their understanding of Marist spirituality and the call to care for one another.









RAIDERS REACH DIVISION 1 STATE FINALS

The Boys Basketball team at Central Catholic High School recently completed an outstanding season as Division 1 State Finalists, finishing with a 22–3 record after capturing both the Merrimack Valley Conference Championship and the Commonwealth Motors Christmas Classic title.

Raider Nation filled the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell in support of the team during the MIAA Division 1 Championship Game, celebrating a season marked by talent, determination, and community pride. The school also recognized its senior players for their leadership and dedication, including Javi Lopez '26, who concluded his Raider basketball career as the leading scorer in Central Catholic history with 1,931 points.



MARIST YOUTH IN THE PHILIPPINES EMBRACE ECOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP

Thirty-three young environmental advocates gathered at the Notre Dame of Marbel University – Integrated Basic Education Department on April 27–28 for the Marist Youth for Ecology Camp 2026, organized by the Ecology Ministry of the Marist East Asia Province in partnership with NDMU-IBED.

Rooted in the spirit of Laudato Si', the two-day experience invited students to deepen their understanding of humanity's relationship with creation through reflection, discussion, and hands-on action. Participants explored themes connected to ecological responsibility and the "web of life," while also taking part in a Cosmic Walk experience focused on recognizing our shared connection to the universe and to one another.

As part of the weekend, students planted 100 bamboo saplings along the Nga Bange Amte Creek, helping address ongoing environmental concerns in the region. The camp concluded with participants developing ecological initiatives to bring back to their schools and local communities, continuing the Marist commitment to caring for our common home.



ECOLOGY WEEKEND RECAP!

More than 60 Marist students and educators recently gathered at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus for the 4th Annual Marist Earth Day Weekend, a time of prayer, learning, reflection, and action centered on caring for our common home.

Despite rainy weather throughout much of the weekend, participants embraced the experience with positivity and family spirit, taking part in workshops, prayer experiences, ecological discussions, and outdoor activities along the Hudson River. Educators, volunteers, and ministry leaders from across the Province helped guide students through the weekend while also collaborating on Laudato Si'-inspired action plans to bring back to their schools and communities.

As the school year comes to a close, Green Teams across the Province continue working to build on the momentum of the weekend by encouraging ongoing ecological leadership and care for creation in the Marist spirit.

Access more pictures from the weekend here!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Next Green Team meeting:
12:30pm EDT / 11:30am CDT

JOIN

Interested in making a difference in your community? See our USA Marist Integral Ecology Resources document *here*.

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

EPISODE 8 OF MY MARIST LIFE IS HERE!

In this episode of My Marist Life, host Eric Gonzales speaks with Juan Bribiesca Ruiz, a Marist from Mexico whose life is rooted in service to young people, especially those with special needs. Through his years at Camp Marist and his deep faith inspired by Marcellin Champagnat, Juan shares a powerful witness of community, resilience, and living the Marist mission in everyday life.

LISTEN NOW



DEEPENING OUR CALL RETREAT HELD AT ESOPUS

The Deepening Our Call Retreat was held May 1–3 at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, where a community of 14 Marists of Champagnat gathered to listen, share, and pray together. Jim O'Neill from Lawrence and Brigid Wolff from Chicago offered impactful and thought-provoking presentations on Marist spirituality and living the charism in the way of Mary. Through meaningful conversation and reflection, participants shared concrete ways of being a Marial presence within the Church and their local communities.

Prayer experiences throughout the retreat included a Marist Rosary and Stations of the Cross from Mary's perspective, both of which offered powerful moments of reflection and connection. While the weather was cool, the beautiful surroundings of Esopus added to the spirit of the weekend.



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



NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY MARISTS SERVE LOCAL FAMILIES

Marists of Champagnat from New York and New Jersey recently donated items for "blessing bags" that will be distributed for Mother's Day to the mothers of children participating in the after-school program at the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. The Brothers at Champagnat Hall also assisted in packing the bags of gifts for the families who will receive them.

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

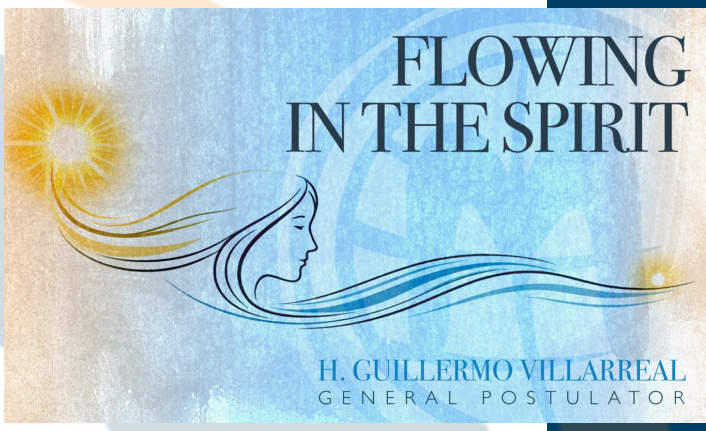
NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 9 - GIVING ONE'S LIFE: THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF BEING CONFORMED TO CHRIST

This week's Flowing in the Spirit reflection explores the different paths the Church recognizes in the journey toward sainthood: martyrdom, heroic virtue, and the offering of one's life. Rooted in the witness of the Marist Family, the reflection invites us to consider how holiness takes shape through faithful lives conformed to Christ in love, service, and sacrifice.

--Read the complete article here.



***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 – 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.

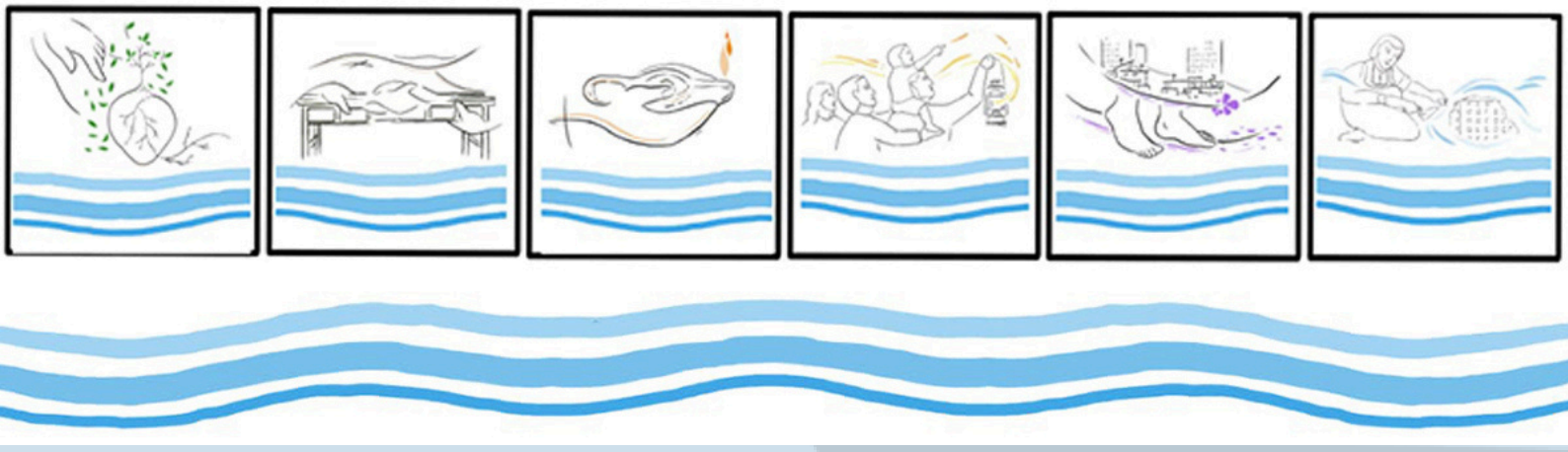


MARIST SYMPOSIUM — CALL FOR PAPERS

Marists from all over the world are invited to the next Marist Symposium to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, May 2-7, 2027. This academic conference organized by the Institute's International Spiritual Patrimony Commission is an opportunity for Marist leaders, scholars, writers, formators, theologians and practitioners to share their research and practice, learn and discern together, and develop their connections both personally and professionally. Information for those interested in submitting a paper or delivering a presentation is available here.

--Read the complete article here.





STATEMENTS FROM THE 23RD GENERAL CHAPTER

In recent General Chapters, delegates have felt called to issue collective statements, approved by an official vote of Chapter members, that express common values, address pressing concerns, or provide particular direction for our newly elected General Government over the next several years. Although these statements exist independently from the five Calls of the Chapter, they certainly share some points of connection.

The brief document including each of these five statements can be accessed in its entirety **here**.

Each issue mentioned in these statements holds significance for us at this moment in our history. Some - such as care for our common home, equitable systems, and the protection of children - are global imperatives. Others - such as renewing formation, refining mission priorities and expanding our sense of belonging - are particular to our Marist family.

In summary the statements are as follows:

Statement on the Philippines: The delegates expressed their gratitude for the hospitality and kindness of the Filipino people. Through witnessing the impact of natural disasters and also the hopes of the population for greater democracy and social justice, the Chapter felt moved to express its solidarity with them and urge us all to work in favor of systems that are more just and inclusive.

Statement on Child Safety and Rights: The delegates remembered the statement of the previous General Chapter that both recognized and apologized for the great pain suffered by victims of child sexual abuse within our Marist institutions. While the Institute has taken significant measures to implement child protection standards that ensure the safety of those in our care, we must remain vigilant and also advocate for the well-being of children in the wider society.

Statement on the Third Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA III): The Chapter recalled and affirmed the work done in April 2024 at the mission assembly in Spain, emphasizing the importance of the seven named priorities in guiding our Marist mission into the future.

Statement on Marists of Champagnat in Communion: After reviewing and discussing the document The Breath of Ruah, a publication arising from the work done by the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation since 2022, the Chapter approved the recommendation of working toward the canonical establishment of an International Association of Lay Marists. The Breath of Ruah itself will be introduced in slightly more details in future Friday Notes.

Statement on the new Formation Guide (ad experimentum): Prior to the Chapter, Br. Ernesto and his Council had already approved the final version of the new Formation Guide “ad experimentum” for five years. After discussing this document, Chapter delegates affirmed the decision to begin implementation in the short term so that the guide can be meaningfully reviewed when the ad experimentum period has concluded. The Formation Guide itself will be introduced in slightly more details in future Friday Notes.



OUR MARIST FAMILY: Across Arco Norte

ARCO NORTE
MARISTES·MARISTS·MARISTAS

District of Canada

CANADIAN MARIST YOUTH CONTINUE PREPARING FOR PILGRIMAGE JOURNEY



Young Marists participating in this summer's pilgrimage to the Hermitage recently gathered at the Champagnat House in Iberville for their third preparation meeting, a day centered on reflection, community, and deepening their shared journey of faith.

Throughout the day, participants were invited into moments of prayer, personal reflection, and conversation focused on recognizing the "small miracles" present in daily life and in one another. Through music, guided reflection, and symbolic activities, the group explored what it means to journey together as a Marist community rooted in listening, presence, and love.

The gathering also included team-building activities, small group sharing, and personal reflection on the meaning of pilgrimage and spiritual growth. Inspired by the words and spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the young people reflected on how community helps each person grow, move forward together, and discover what is happening within their own hearts.

As preparations continue, organizers shared that the group is becoming more than simply participants in a pilgrimage — they are becoming a true community walking together in the Marist spirit.

MISSION M INVITES CANADIAN STUDENTS TO BECOME A LIGHT FOR OTHERS

Students at École Secondaire Marcellin Champagnat recently took part in Mission M, a two-day immersive experience designed for first-year secondary students and centered on Marist values, community, and personal growth.

Through cooperative challenges, games, and a school-wide nighttime quest, students explored the Marist pillars of simplicity, presence, family spirit, love of work, and the way of Mary in a hands-on and meaningful way. Guided by student leaders from the Horizon group and Claudine Cholette, participants were invited not only to work together, but also to reflect on the unique light each person carries within themselves.



The experience concluded with students symbolically "relighting" the Marist heart together, recognizing that each person has a role to play in bringing hope, compassion, and light into everyday life. More than just an activity, Mission M encouraged students to discover their ability to love, serve, and make a difference within their communities.

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

Tuesday, May 12
Br. Owen Ormsby

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 21:1-11
- CANADA NEWS
- MEXICO OCCIDENTAL
- CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL
- NORANDINA

This week, please remember in your prayers...

- Br. Owen Ormsby, as he prepares for surgery next Wednesday. May he be granted healing, peace, and strength in the days ahead.
- Gail Cassidy and Rita Greco, retired teachers from Roselle Catholic High School, both of whom are battling cancer.
- The repose of the soul of Paulette Karas, longtime Director of Development for our USA Province, who died on Wednesday evening. May she rest in peace.
- The repose of the soul of Mr. Richard F. Friel, brother-in-law of Coleen Waldron and uncle of Matt Waldron, who died last week after a long illness.
- The repose of the soul of Mr. John Patrick Long, brother of Br. Tom Long, who recently died. A Memorial Service for him will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 11:00 am at The 110 Grill, 1179 Main Street, Haverhill, MA 01830, with a meal to follow the memorial service.
- The repose of the soul of Margot Andrew, cousin of Br. Michael Laratonda, who passed away this week.

- 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 Puszcz, 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 Lavallee, 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.
- Tom Rubbone, a long-time Camp Marist volunteer and benefactor.
- Mrs. MaryAnn Safrey, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Elaine Pelliciari, 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!