



Friday Notes

MAY 15, 2026

047



Br. Rob Clark and five young men from The University of Texas at Austin are in New York this week for the annual vocation pilgrimage, now in its 12th year. The experience invites participants to visit religious communities across the Northeast while deepening their understanding of vocation, prayer, service, and community life.

The group began their journey with prayer and dinner at the Provincial House in Forest Hills before spending time tutoring students at Mount Saint Michael Academy. They will also spend the weekend at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus participating in manual work, shared prayer, and reflection. During their visit, the young men will gather with members of the Marist community, including the novices, as they continue a pilgrimage that includes visits to eight religious communities in total.

UPCOMING EVENTS

 **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

 **Foundation Stones**
Esopus, NY
June 14 -
June 20, 2026

 **Marists of Champagnat
National Assembly**
Long Branch, NJ
July 14 -
July 17, 2026

 **REGISTER
NOW!**



Support Esopus Runners

With one race remaining, Esopus Runners 2026 has already raised more than \$12,000 in support of the Marist mission in Esopus. You can still support or join Esopus Runners at the Cranford Pizza Run in New Jersey this Sunday. For more information or to donate in support of friends who are running, visit [Esopus Runners](#).



School Board Meetings

The School Boards of Archbishop Molloy (Briarwood, NY) and Roselle Catholic (Roselle, NJ) will 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.



Reconnecting in Rome

Br. Brian was in Rome this week for the annual Bedford Fund meeting at the General House, where he had the unexpected joy of reconnecting with Br. Tererai "Terry" Gijima following his completion of a training program focused on children's rights. Many throughout the Province fondly remember Br. Terry from his years studying at Marist College and accompanying Marist Youth gatherings.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Saint Joseph Academy Brownsville, Texas

As the school year came to a close, the community of Saint Joseph Academy celebrated the spirit, leadership, and joy that define campus life through several meaningful traditions and events.

During the school's closing liturgy for the 2025–2026 academic year, members of the senior class placed meaningful items from each student organization on the altar table, symbolizing the memories, leadership, and lasting impact of the Class of 2026 as they prepare for the next chapter of their journeys.

The school community also gathered for the 70th Annual Style Show, "As If! The 90's Show," which filled the stage with creativity, music, themed outfits, and plenty of school spirit. The long-standing tradition once again brought together students, faculty, staff, parents, and volunteers for a memorable evening of celebration and community.

Earlier this month, students celebrated Día del Niño with a lively festival during lunch featuring games, activities, and giveaways organized by student leaders representing 18 different clubs. The event reflected the strong sense of joy, collaboration, and family spirit that continues to shape student life at Saint Joseph Academy.





- The **Province Green Team** held its last meeting of the school year yesterday to debrief Earth Day Weekend in Esopus, celebrate new student leaders on the Green Team, and envision ongoing actions for the year to come.



- The Spanish International Working Group on Ecology met via Zoom on Wednesday to discuss ongoing efforts to Care for Our Common Home.

- During Laudato Si' Week from May 17-24, the Marist Institute will share daily video reflections and calls to action rooted in integral ecology and Marist spirituality. Sam King will offer a reflection on the **Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor**. The entire video series will be available **here** and will be updated throughout the week.



"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." (Laudato Si 139).

ECOLOGY

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

Fourteen Marists of Champagnat gathered at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus earlier this month for the Deepening Our Call Retreat, a weekend focused on prayer, reflection, and Marist spirituality. Through presentations, shared conversation, and meaningful prayer experiences, participants reflected on how to live the Marist charism in the way of Mary while continuing to be a Marial presence within their local communities and the wider Church.

'AT THE SAME TABLE'



A monthly newsletter to share reflections, community news, and opportunities for Brothers and Lay Marists to grow together in the spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat. ← Click the book to read!

SUPPORTING THE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

DONATE



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](#).

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY MARISTS SERVE LOCAL FAMILIES

Marists of Champagnat from New York and New Jersey recently came together in support of mothers served through the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless by donating items for Mother's Day "blessing bags." The Brothers at Champagnat Hall also joined in preparing and packing the gifts, helping bring a spirit of care, gratitude, and family to 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 10 - WHEN THE CHURCH RECOGNIZES THE HEROICITY OF A LIFE

This week's Flowing in the Spirit reflection explores the meaning of the title "Venerable" and the Church's recognition of heroic virtue on the path toward sainthood. Reflecting on the lives of the Venerable Brothers François and Alfano, the article invites us to consider how holiness is often revealed through quiet fidelity, daily perseverance, and a life deeply rooted in prayer, service, and the Gospel.

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

RIVERS OF LIFE - MAY 2026 LITTLE SISTER AND PILGRIM IN FAITH

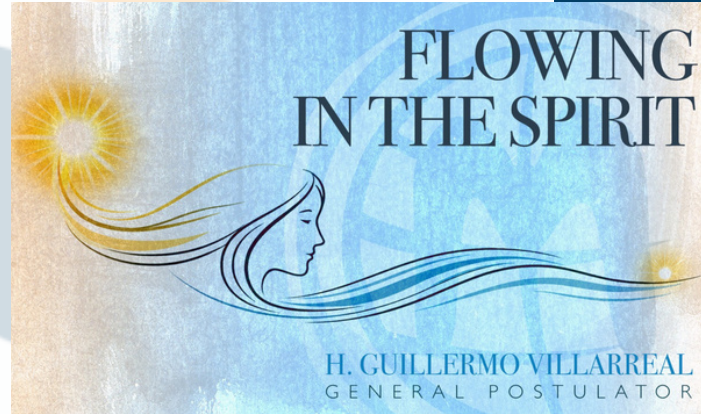
From the General House: In this month's Rivers of Life reflection, Br. Hipólito Pérez reflects on what it means to be "a Marian face today," drawing on the quiet presence of Mary within the Marist mission in Lebanon and the enduring call of St. Marcellin Champagnat to "Love Mary and make her loved." Rooted in simplicity, closeness, and faith, the reflection invites Marists to renew their Marian identity and continue accompanying young people in the gentle and humble way of Mary.

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

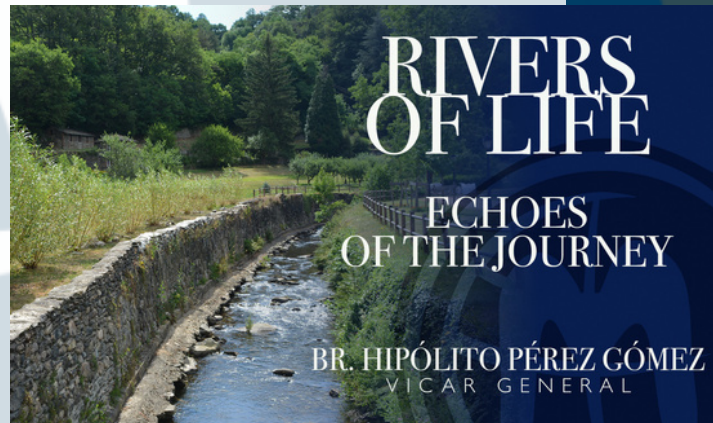
MARIST SYMPOSIUM — CALL FOR PAPERS

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.](#)



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.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHAPTER

The New Formation Guide: **Called to Be with Him and To Be Sent**

Following the recommendation of the 22nd General Chapter in Colombia, the previous General Government under Br. Ernesto Sánchez created an International Commission for the Revision of the Formation Guide. This was seen as a necessary update given all that had changed in our Institute and in the wider society since the previous edition was issued in 1994.

The commission worked for nearly five years before a first draft was presented in 2024. The General Council then appointed a separate redaction team to further refine the document until it was formally approved *ad experimentum* in July 2025. The *ad experimentum* phase will allow an opportunity for the Formation Guide to be studied and used by the entire Institute before being approved in a more definitive manner after the conclusion of this probationary period, thereby allowing for the possibility of further revision.

The process of drafting this Formation Guide included various consultations from Brothers, from those in formation themselves, and also from laity. Although the Formation Guide remains primarily concerned with the formation of Marist Brothers, it is based on an understanding of the deep communion shared by Marists of Champagnat, both Brothers and Lay. Indeed, the intended audience includes all Marists of Champagnat, both in recognition of the important role laypeople can have in the formation of Marist Brothers, and also in hope that this document can help Lay Marists better understand the vocation of Marist Brothers.

After having had an opportunity to review and discuss the Formation Guide *ad experimentum*, the delegates of the 23rd General Chapter voted in October 2026 to favorably receive the document and promote its use for the next four years.

One innovation intended to enhance the relevance of this Formation Guide is the creation of an online depository of resources that will aid in its adoption. The Formation Guide *ad experimentum* can be accessed in its entirety [here](#), while the online resources are available [here](#).

OUR MARIST FAMILY:

Across Arco Norte

Province of Norandina

MARISTS STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

With a deep commitment to defending and promoting the rights of children, the second phase of the international formation program “Builders of a New Hermitage in Defense of the Rights of the Child at the United Nations” continues through the leadership of the Secretariat of Solidarity and FMSI.

This important initiative brings together Marists, Brothers, and lay leaders from around the world who share the dream of building a more just society where the dignity and voices of children are protected, respected, and heard.

Among the participants is Emaluz Méndez, a teacher at the Brother Ildelfonso Gutiérrez Technical School in Maracaibo, Venezuela, who is helping strengthen the Marist mission through this program. As part of the experience, she will continue developing the skills needed to help lead the preparation of Venezuela’s alternative report for the Universal Periodic Review.



EDUCATING FROM THE HEART IN ECUADOR



In an atmosphere of reflection, encounter, and personal growth, two Marist educational communities in Ecuador recently participated in the retreat “A Life in Balance Through Emotional Intelligence.”

Students and educators from the Marist Public-Private School of Catacocha and the Private Education Unit of América gathered for a meaningful experience focused on emotional well-being, self-awareness, and healthy relationships. Through prayer, listening, shared conversation, and accompaniment, participants explored ways to live with greater balance, empathy, and care for themselves and others.

Experiences like these continue to reflect the Marist commitment to forming the whole person and building communities that educate from the heart.

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

Mark Your Calendars:

- The Marist Brothers Center at Esopus is hosting a celebration honoring **Father Richard LaMorte** as he marks his Diamond Anniversary of Ordination and 60 years of faithful priestly ministry! The gathering will celebrate his many years of compassionate presence, faithful service, and dedication to the Marist family and young people. Mass will begin at 11:30am on Sunday, May 24 and will be followed by a reception. **RSVP HERE!** Contact Summer Bourlier with any questions.
- Anyone interested in joining the Champagnat Hall community for their Memorial Day barbecue on Monday, May 25 at 12pm is asked to contact Steve Milan via text (570-561-7929) or email (smilanfms@aol.com) by Thursday, May 21st. **All are welcome!**
- To mark the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, join the Marist Global Network of Schools in 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, including:



- An opening message offered by Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General
- Br. Hipólito Pérez, Vicar General of the Institute, presenting the five major calls of the General Chapter
- General Council sharing how these calls can be lived out within schools
- Closing prayer and remarks from Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas, liaison to the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization.

The gathering will take place on Wednesday, 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 21:12-17



CANADA NEWS



MEXICO OCCIDENTAL



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



NORANDINA

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- Abby Hipkin, faculty member at Archbishop Molloy High School and longtime Esopus volunteer, who is undergoing knee surgery today.
- Br. Owen Ormsby, who is recovering following heart surgery this week.
- Terry Paul, Province Affiliate, who is suffering from Stage 4 Kidney Disease.
- Stacey Baker, who is recovering from recent surgery.
- The repose of the soul of Margot Andrew, cousin of Br. Michael Laratonda, who passed away last week.
- The repose of the soul of Paulette Karas, longtime Development Director for the Marist Brothers USA Province. Her wake and funeral will take place on Sunday and Monday. [Click Here](#) to read her obituary.

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

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