Friday Notes

JUNE 19, 2026 052



Marist communities in the Philippines are facing a long road to recovery after a powerful earthquake struck the region on June 8, causing widespread destruction across General Santos City and Sarangani Province. Several Marist schools, communities, and family homes sustained significant damage as the earthquake claimed dozens of lives and displaced many families. While no Marists were among those who lost their lives, many members of the Marist family have been directly affected and are now working to rebuild their homes, schools, and communities.

The Marist mission in the Philippines holds a special place in the history of the USA Province. In 1948, four American Marist Brothers, including Br. Joe Teston, helped establish the Marist presence in the country. Over the decades, many Brothers from the United States served as missionaries there, helping to build and strengthen the vibrant Marist communities that continue to serve young people today.

USA Provincial Br. Dan O'Riordan invites the Marist family to keep all those affected by the earthquake in their prayers and to consider supporting relief efforts. Donations designated for "Philippines Emergency Relief" may be sent to the Marist Brothers Development Office, using the “prayer intention” field on the donation form to indicate this purpose.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kids 1 Camp
MID-HUDSON VALLEY CAMPS
MBCE - Esopus, NY
June 28 - July 4, 2026

Camp Session 1
CAMP MARIST
Lake Ossippee, NH
June 28 - July 4, 2026

Pilgrimage to L’Hermitage
L’Hermitage, France
July 1-6, 2026

Molloy Freshman Camp
MID-HUDSON VALLEY CAMPS
MBCE - Esopus, NY
July 5 - 11, 2026

Provincial Council Meeting
Long Branch, NJ
July 10 - 11, 2026

Marist Leadership Institute
Long Branch, NJ
July 12 - 15, 2026



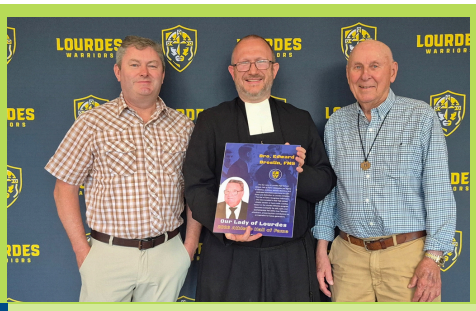
Advocating for Children Worldwide

Br. Peter Carroll and FMSI joined 52 international organizations in urging Pope Leo XIV to issue an Apostolic Exhortation dedicated to children. The initiative highlights the Church's commitment to protecting children's rights, dignity, and well-being around the world. The letter was presented during a papal audience in May, accompanied by drawings created by children as a symbol of their hopes, experiences, and desire for a more just and peaceful future.



Matt Turner, SJR '12, Team USA Soccer Goalie

For the second time, Matt Turner (St. Joseph Regional HS ‘12) has been selected as goalkeeper for the US Men’s National Team in the FIFA World Cup. The US Team won their first match with a dominant 4-1 victory over Paraguay. Best of luck to Matt and to all Marist graduates representing their respective countries in the tournament!



Honoring Br. Edward Breslin

Yesterday, Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie posthumously honored Br. Ed Breslin by inducting him into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame! While at Lourdes (1961 to 1965), Br. Ed became the first coach in school history to lead any team to a county championship, and is the first religious brother to be recognized by the Hall of Fame. Bros. Brian Poulin and Steve Kappes were on hand to celebrate along with Marist of Champagnat Tomas O’Riordan..

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Roselle Catholic High School

Roselle, New Jersey

KEEPING TRADITION: ROSELLE CATHOLIC SUMMER SERVICE DAYS



Roselle Catholic Campus Ministry continued a cherished tradition with Summer Service Days held June 8-10. More than 45 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and coaches participated in three days of service, completing 12 projects across campus and in the local community. Many volunteers participated on multiple days, helping to make the experience both productive and memorable.

PROJECTS INCLUDED:

- **Gazebo Rebuild** – Led by Ed Kennedy and Mr. McAuliffe, volunteers dismantled the existing gazebo and began construction on a new structure, including preparation of the foundation and base.
- **New Roselle Catholic Signage** – President and Principal Mr. Berrios led efforts to install new Roselle Catholic signs throughout the Labyrinth Courtyard, enhancing the campus environment.
- **Mercy House, Newark** – Students spent a day volunteering at Mercy House, sorting and organizing donated coats for babies, children, women, and men. One incoming Roselle Catholic freshman even assisted by translating for a mother seeking clothing for her baby, helping staff better understand her needs.
- **Community Garden** – Led by Mr. Sullivan '74, students and incoming members of the Class of 2030 planted a variety of flowers and vegetables in the Labyrinth Courtyard, creating a new community garden space.

















- **Outdoor Cleanup and Painting** – Students worked alongside Mr. Skrec '84, Mr. Araneo, Ms. Vargas, and Coach Rock to clean outdoor areas, repaint benches and the pergola, move materials, and assist with summer maintenance projects around campus.

- **Alumni Library Center** – Board President Matt Fallon '03 and Development Director Mr. O'Connor guided students in the early stages of transforming the library into an Alumni Library Center while uncovering and organizing pieces of Roselle Catholic history.

- **Campus Ministry Suite Expansion** – Matt Fallon '03 and Campus Ministry Director Ms. Berrios '18 led students and recent alumni in preparing an expanded Campus Ministry Suite by clearing and organizing the upstairs space ahead of renovations planned for the fall.



JOIN THE MARIST MISSION!

Mount Saint Michael Academy (Bronx, NY) is currently seeking a **Director of Campus Ministry**, and Saint Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX) is seeking a **Campus Minister**. These positions offer an opportunity to accompany young people in faith, service, and spiritual growth while supporting the Marist mission in our schools. Please share these openings with anyone who may be interested in serving in Marist education.

Throughout the 2025-2026 school year, Marists across the Province continued to deepen their commitment to care for creation through education, service, advocacy, and community action. Guided by the Province's Laudato Si' Action Plan, students, educators, Brothers, and Lay Marists participated in initiatives that connected faith, sustainability, and the Marist mission.

Highlights of the year included the Fourth Annual Marist Earth Day Weekend at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, ecology-focused formation opportunities for novice Brothers, participation in Laudato Si' Week, local Green Team projects, and a global Earth Day webinar hosted by the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI). Together, these efforts reflected a growing commitment to ecological conversion across Marist schools, ministries, and communities.

As the school year comes to a close, we give thanks for the many individuals who continue to care for our common home through both large and small acts of stewardship.

Read our full year-in-review feature highlighting ecology and sustainability efforts across the Province!





TURN OVER A NEW LEAF: SUMMER ECOLOGY READING

- **Pope Leo XIV Says Care for Creation Is a Requirement of Faith**
- **Pope Leo XIV: Environmental Crisis Reflects Wider Socio-Economic Challenges**
- **Climate delays risk greater suffering, Catholics warn**

ECOLOGY

Be sure to follow the Marist Green Team on Instagram at @MaristGreenTeam for updates, resources, and stories from across the Province.

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

EPISODE 9 OF MY MARIST LIFE IS HERE!

In this episode of My Marist Life, host Eric Gonzales speaks with Daniela Solis, a Marist of Champagnat, about her return to SJA to serve as Associate Campus Minister and Service Coordinator. Listen in to hear how she is living out the Marist Mission in this new role.

Listen now on Spotify!

New episodes will drop the first of every month.

We hope this podcast becomes a space for reflection, storytelling, and connection as we continue to live the Marist Mission together. Spread the word and share with anyone who might be inspired by these conversations!

LISTEN NOW



MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT FORMATION EXPANDS IN CANADA

There was great interest from Canada in the formation offered by the USA Province's Marists of Champagnat this year. A large number participated in Pathway 1, the first year of formation focused on introducing people to the Marist charism and deepening their knowledge of Marcellin Champagnat prior to potentially beginning the discernment phase as part of a cohort. This year's Pathway 1 participants from Canada came from the Buena Madre fraternity, a Lay Marist group based out of Misión Santa Teresa in Montreal, with some members living and meeting in Drummondville. Most members of Buena Madre are Hispanic immigrants from throughout the Americas, with a small number of local Québecois. Some members of the group had previous Marist experience in their country of origins, including Dcn. Fernando Castro, a former Brother who founded the group. Br. Brian and Ellen Van Cleef traveled to Montreal to celebrate with the entire group and participate in this year's Marist of Champagnat commitment ceremony with them, giving certificates of participation to those in their number who had completed Pathway 1.



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 Lamphier or Maureen Hagan.

DONATE

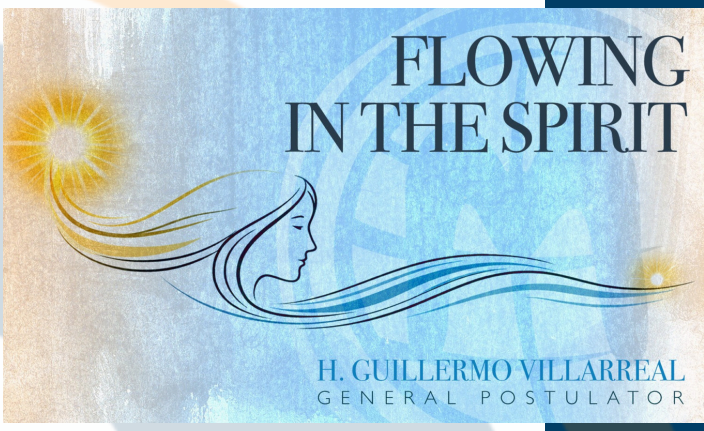
NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 15 - WHEN HOLINESS BECOMES A PROCESS: THE OPENING OF THE CAUSE OF BROTHER BASILIO

This week's Flowing in the Spirit reflection examines the role of the Positio, the central document used by the Church in the canonization process to evaluate a person's holiness with historical and theological rigor. Br. Guillermo Villarreal explains how the Positio serves as a bridge between the memory of a life faithfully lived and the Church's formal discernment of heroic virtue, offering insight into the careful process by which causes for sainthood are studied and advanced.

--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.*

SHARING THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

A new issue of Sharing, the Lay Marist Newsletter from the Secretariat of Laity, is now available. This edition features stories, reflections, and initiatives from lay Marists around the world, highlighting the many ways the Marist mission is lived in diverse cultures and communities. It also includes formation resources connected to The Breath of Ruah: Lay Marists of Champagnat, Vocation and Organisation, continuing the work of the International Forum on Lay Marists of Champagnat.

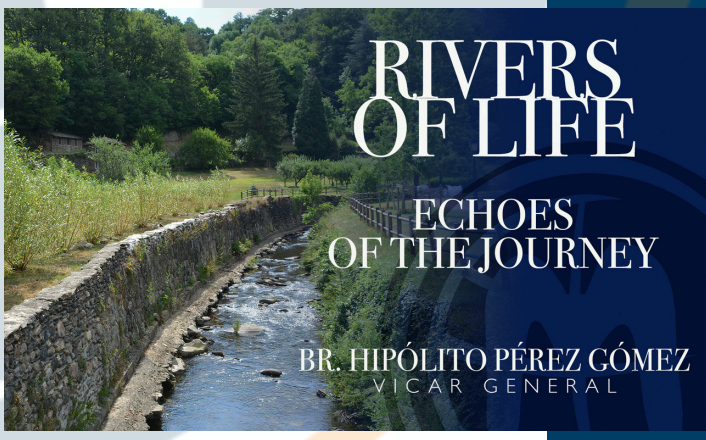
--Read the complete article here.



RIVERS OF LIFE - JUNE 2026

In his June reflection, Brother Hipólito Pérez invites Marists to look beyond extraordinary acts of heroism and consider the daily gift of self-giving. Reflecting on the life of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, he describes the founder's example as "the art of going above and beyond for others" through faithful service, compassion, and dedication to mission. As the Marist Family continues to celebrate Champagnat's legacy, Brother Hipólito challenges us to renew our own vocation with passion, creativity, and hope, especially in service to children and young people most in need.

--Read the complete article here.



OUR MARIST FAMILY: Across Arco Norte

ARCO NORTE
MARISTES·MARISTS·MARISTAS

TRANSITION COUNCIL CONTINUES PLANNING FOR THE NEW MARIST MEXICO PROVINCE



The new **Marist Mexico Province** will officially be established during the Provincial Chapter in July 2027, bringing together the current Provinces of Central Mexico and Western Mexico. Since the General Council approved the reconfiguration in February 2025, Marists from both Provinces have been working together to envision the future of this new administrative unit.
On June 8–9, members of the Transition Council gathered in Tepoztlán, Morelos, to continue planning for the new Province. The meeting was accompanied by Mr. Rony Ahlfeldt, Advisor to the General Administration.

Discussions focused on several important priorities, including preparations for the Interprovincial Assembly in July 2026, planning for the 2027 Provincial Chapter, the financial and administrative realities of the new Province, and ongoing support for Brothers, communities, and initial formation programs.

The gathering also reflected on the shared mission and vision that will guide the new Province into the future.

The name **Marist Mexico Province** was formally approved by the Superior General and his Council on December 1, 2025, following a request from Provincials Br. Luis Felipe González Ruiz and Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana. The first Provincial Chapter of the new Province is scheduled for July 19–23, 2027.

MARIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

THATS MY WHY! MYPS TAKE ON MYG 2026

Marist Young Professionals showed up strong at the Marist Youth Gathering in May 2026. No matter what their role--dorm prefect, workshop leader, band member, chaperone, and more!--MYP served with love to help make the weekend special for the high school students gathered from around the USA and Canada.

Taking on the theme of "MY Why", the event encouraged young people to discover and live their why with boldness and courage, both as individuals and as members of the Marist family.

SEE MORE

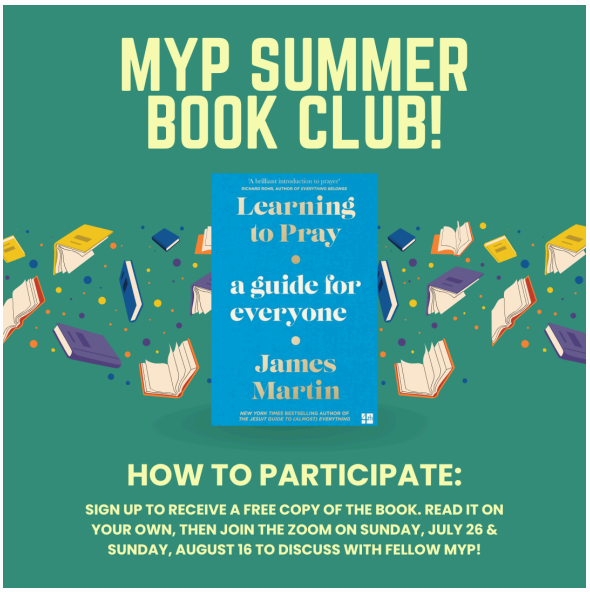


HELP NEEDED!

Marist Young Professionals are invited to serve as dorm prefects during this summer's Marist Youth Leadership Camp, July 20-25. Volunteers will support high school participants while reconnecting with fellow Marists and contributing to a transformative leadership experience. Travel expenses will be covered. Interested MYPs are encouraged to sign up and help make this year's camp a success!

- Join the inaugural MYP Summer Book Club! Participants will read and reflect on *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* by Fr. James Martin and gather for virtual discussions on July 26 and August 16. Free copies of the book are available for those who register. Whether you're confident in your prayer life or looking for new ways to grow, all are welcome.

- **FALL MISSION TRIP!** MYPs are invited to join a fall mission trip to Jackson, Kentucky, September 3-7. The experience will include service projects, prayer, shared life, and opportunities to explore the natural beauty of Eastern Kentucky. The cost is $300 and includes transportation, lodging, meals, programming, and service project expenses. Space is limited, and interested participants are encouraged to ***reserve their spot early.***





Province News:

- **Foundation Stones 2026:** The 2026 Foundation Stones retreat concludes this weekend at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus. Under the leadership of Br. Sam Amos, participants joined Brothers for times of prayer, reflection, service, recreation, and community living while exploring the vocation of a Marist Brother. We give thanks for the men who participated in this year's program and for all those who supported the experience through their presence, leadership, and prayers. Please continue to keep these young men in your prayers as they discern God's call in their lives. View more pictures from the week on smugmug!



- Tomorrow, our four Brothers in temporary vows travel to Liberia for a two-week experience of immersion and solidarity along with Br. Brian Poulin who will accompany them. We pray for Bros. Rob Dittus, David Freiler, Miguel Garcia, and Ryan Richter, that this experience will indeed prove to be a valuable and formative experience of encounter with God's people.

- Many thanks to Luke Anderson who concluded his volunteer year at Esopus this week. Luke showed attentive hospitality to guests from all over the Province throughout his time as an Esopus volunteer.



JUNE Birthdays

FRIDAY, JUNE 5
Br. Gerard Breton

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
Br. William Lavigne

SUNDAY, JUNE 21
Br. Nikolaos Rousopoulos

MONDAY, JUNE 22
Br. Eugene Birmingham
Br. Stephen Schlitte

READING THIS WEEK

- MARIST NEWS
- MATTHEW 22:1-14
- CANADA NEWS
- MEXICO OCCIDENTAL
- CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL
- NORANDINA

This week, please remember in your prayers...

- As recovery efforts continue, we stand in solidarity with our brothers, colleagues, students, and families in the Philippines, united in prayer and support during this difficult time.
- Fr. Kevin Duggan, SM, who, after extensive treatment, is once again cancer-free and able to return to ministry.
- Sue O'Keeffe, who has completed chemotherapy and recently received imaging results showing no evidence of cancer and will continue with follow-up imaging in three months.
- Our Brothers traveling to Liberia and our Brothers and other individuals who will meet and accompany them through their experience.
- The repose of the soul of William "Bill" Matt, Marist High School Chicago '02.

- Pope Leo XIV, as we ask God's blessings throughout 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 Ukraine.
- All victims of gun violence in the USA and around the world.
- Br. Owen Ormsby, who is recovering from recent heart surgery.
- All of our Brothers in residence or rehabbing at Champagnat Hall, particularly Bros. John Herrmann and Pat Hogan, along with all those dealing with significant health concerns.
- Bros. Jim Adams, Charlie Filiatrault, Jim Halliday, Larry Lavallee, and Rene Roy, who are all receiving care outside of Marist community.
- Abby Hipkin, faculty member at Molloy and longtime Esopus volunteer, who is recovering from recent knee surgery.
- Terry Paul, Province Affiliate, who is suffering from Stage 4 Kidney Disease.
- Bill Cornforth, former Marist Brother ('69), who is experiencing serious medical concerns.
- David Irwin, who continues to need treatment for a brain tumor.
- Gail Cassidy and Rita Greco, retired teachers from Roselle Catholic High School, both of whom are battling cancer.
- Jason Wolf, 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.
- 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.
- Saoirse McGarry, 23 years old, who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lymphoma.
- The young son of Br. Jim McKnight's niece, Jacqueline, who is being treated for leukemia.
- Angel Herrera, a sophomore at Mount Saint Michael Academy.
- Cathy Puszcz, a teacher who spent her entire career at Marist in Bayonne, who is in critical care.
- Elaine Pelliciari, who is recovering from surgery and intense rehabilitation therapy.
- 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.
- Patrick Hughes, nephew of Sean O'Leary (Mount St. Michael '90).
- Patricia Hayes Franzem, who is recovering from surgery.
- 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 longtime Camp Marist volunteer and benefactor.
- Vince Andiorio in Chicago.
- William Ling, father of Province archivist Michelle Ling.
- Bill Taylor, brother-in-law of Br. Ken Curtin, who is recovering after a heart attack.
- 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.
- Rosemary Shields cousin of Br. Michael Laratonda.

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