



Friday Notes

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

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For the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on September 27, Pope Leo XIV draws our attention to children who have been forced to leave their homes. His message, "Even just one of these children," asks us to look beyond the numbers and recognize each child's story, dignity and need for care. He recalls Jesus' words: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (Mt 18:5).

This call speaks directly to our Marist mission of being close to children and young people who face the greatest challenges. Through the USA Province's solidarity efforts, we have supported education for Burmese migrant children in Thailand and refugee children in South Africa. These projects help children find a place to learn and a community where they belong.

Pope Leo reminds us that care for migrant and refugee children is a responsibility we share. We can begin by listening to their stories and making our own communities places of welcome where every child is seen and valued. **[Read Pope Leo XIV's message.](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

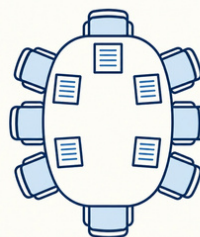
-  **MSM Centennial Celebration Mass**
Bronx, NY
September 29, 2026
-  **Living Laudato Si' Through A Marist Lens Book Launch Event**
October 1, 2026
-  **Sharing Our Mission: Creating Communities of Belonging**
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 3 - 6, 2026
-  **Province Team Meeting**
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 6 - 7, 2026
-  **Lay Council Meeting**
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 8, 2026
-  **Ecology Weekend**
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 9-12, 2026



SJA Students Give 2,000+ Hours of Service

Students and staff at Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville spent their Marist Day of Service helping organizations across their community. They served at Moody Clinic, prepared goodie bags for Friendship of Women and took on other projects at service sites and on campus. Together, they completed more than 2,000 hours of service in a single day, putting their Marist spirit into action for their neighbors.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS



Next Week:

The School Boards of Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx will hold their first meetings of the 2026-2027 academic year next week.

The Province is grateful to the dedicated men and women who serve on the boards of our USA ministries and for the time and care they give to our Marist school communities.



Registration Open for Ecology Weekend

Marist student leaders and others across the Province are invited to Ecology Weekend, October 9-12, at the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus. Along the Hudson River, the weekend will offer outdoor workshops and time for prayer and reflection on care for our Common Home. **[Register by September 30.](#)**

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Marist High School's Whole Athlete Initiative

MARIST HIGH SCHOOL - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Marist High School in Chicago is preparing to launch the Whole Athlete Initiative, a program that will help student-athletes navigate the pressures they face in competition, in the classroom and in their personal lives. Led by the school's Student Services Office, the five-month pilot will serve approximately 200 students in the basketball and wrestling programs from November 2026 through March 2027.

Developed with LearnYou, the program will combine team sessions with virtual learning. Students will have space to talk about confidence, emotional wellness, injury recovery and their lives beyond sports.

"Our student-athletes face high expectations in the classroom, in competition and in their personal lives," said principal Meg Dunneback. "This program will provide them with practical tools to navigate those demands while building skills that will serve them long after their playing days are over."

Whole Athlete Initiative leaders visited Marist in August to begin planning with school staff and coaches. As the pilot progresses, Marist and LearnYou will gather student feedback to guide future plans. The initiative reflects a belief at the heart of Marist education: young people deserve to be known and supported for who they are, beyond any score or accomplishment.



SEASON OF CREATION



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

WEEK FIVE: JOINING CREATION'S HEALING

The Season of Creation concludes on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Throughout this season, the theme "Immersion in Living Water" has invited us to reflect on water as God's life-giving gift and recognize our responsibility to protect the people and ecosystems that depend upon it.

The river in Ezekiel's vision begins as a small stream flowing from the Temple. As it travels, it grows deeper and brings new life wherever it flows. The official Season of Creation guide invites us to see ourselves as part of this river, carrying God's healing presence into our communities and our common home.

As this season concludes, we are invited to consider what we will carry forward. Care for creation does not end on October 4. The reflections and actions of these past weeks can become lasting practices that continue to shape how we live.

Choose one commitment from this Season of Creation that you can continue in the months ahead. It may be caring for a local waterway, reducing water waste, supporting access to clean water or becoming more involved in ecological efforts within your community. Each action allows the living water to continue flowing.

VIEW THE 2026 SEASON OF CREATION CELEBRATION GUIDE.

ECOLOGY WEEKEND 2026

The annual Ecology Weekend will take place October 9–12 along the Hudson River. This gathering offers student leaders and Marists from across the Province an opportunity to deepen their commitment to the Care of Our Common Home.

Throughout the weekend, participants will take part in outdoor workshops, shared reflection and contemplative practices designed to nurture ecological spirituality and strengthen the Province's growing network of young environmental leaders.

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30.

A packing list and parental permission forms are also available. Completed permission forms should be sent to Matt Fallon at matt@maristyouth.com or Sam King at s.king@yale.edu.

SEASON OF CREATION 2026
WEEK FIVE: SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 4

CALL TO CONTEMPLATION: JOINING CREATION'S HEALING

The river in Ezekiel's vision grows deeper as it flows, bringing life wherever it goes.

What from this Season of Creation will you carry forward?



SEASON OF CREATION 2026
WEEK FIVE: SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 4

CALL TO ACTION: LET THE LIVING WATER KEEP FLOWING

Choose one commitment to continue beyond October 4. Care for a local waterway, use less water, or support efforts to bring clean water to others.

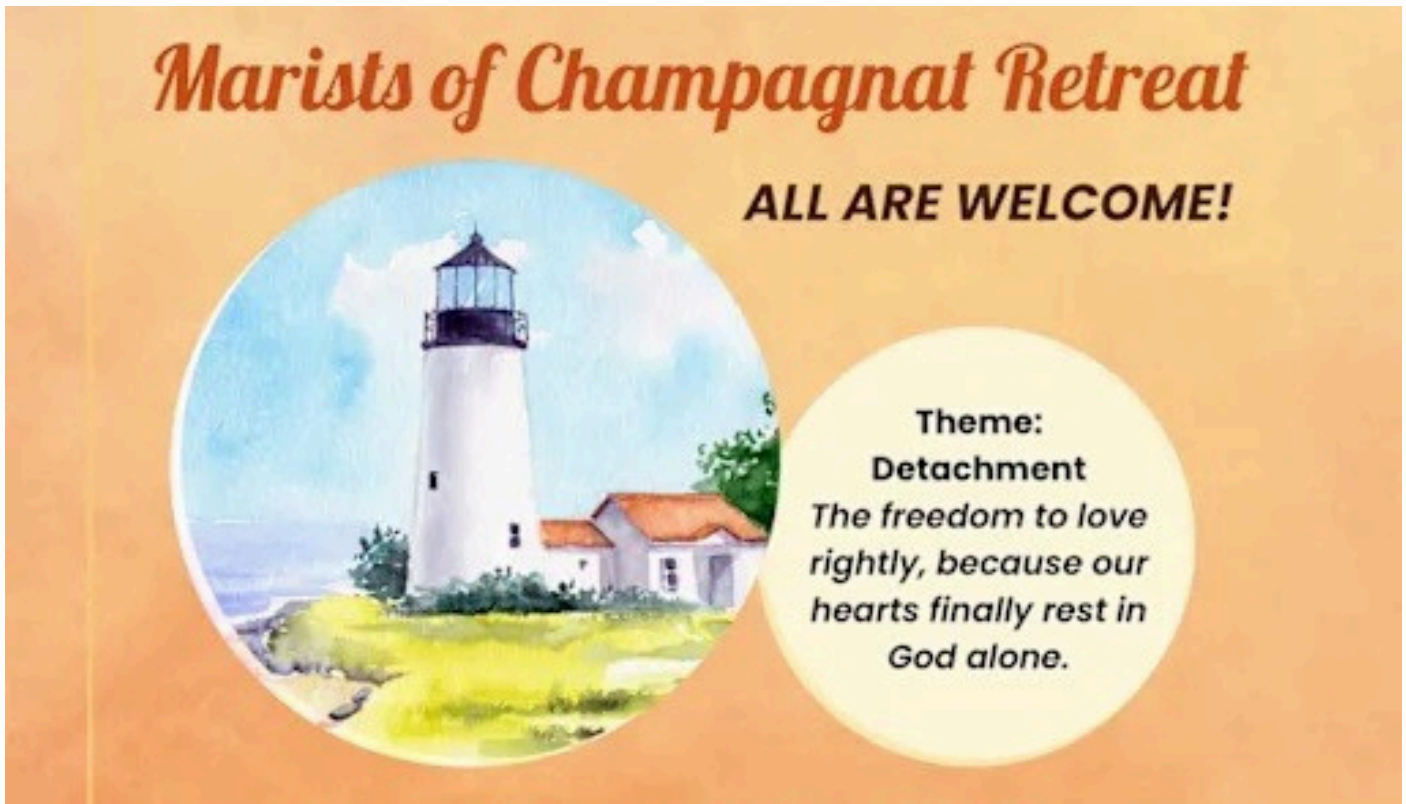


Let one action become a lasting practice.

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT RETREAT ON FIRE ISLAND



All are welcome to the Marists of Champagnat Retreat on Saturday, October 3, from 12:00–6:00 p.m. at Whyte Hall Community Center on Fire Island, New York.

Centered on the theme “Detachment: The freedom to love rightly, because our hearts finally rest in God alone,” the retreat will offer time for prayer, reflection, and Marist community.

The cost is \$40 per person and includes the retreat, lunch, and round-trip ferry transportation between Sayville and the Fire Island Pines. Transportation will also be available between the Sayville Long Island Rail Road station and the ferry terminal.

REGISTER FOR THE RETREAT



For more information, please contact Rich Costa at rcosta@molloyhs.org.

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. On the donation page, select “Marists of Champagnat” in the drop-down menu. Questions may be directed to Chuck Lamphier or Maureen Hagan.





NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 29: WITNESSES FOR TODAY

In this week's installment, Br. Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, Postulator General, explains why the number of beatifications has increased significantly over the past century. Changes to the canonization process, the Church's renewed emphasis on the universal call to holiness and the recognition of contemporary martyrs have brought forward witnesses from many different vocations and walks of life. Rather than "producing more saints," the Church is recognizing more fully the work of the Holy Spirit and offering credible examples of living the Gospel today.

[Read the complete article →](#)



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

MARIST HORIZONS: A VISIT TO BRAZIL

After attending the Forum of the América Sur Region, Superior General Br. Peter Carroll spent a week in each of Brazil's three Marist Provinces. In his September Marist Horizons reflection, he shares what he encountered in Brothers' communities, schools and other ministries, including the growing national school network, Maristas Brasil. He was especially moved by the Lay Marists who carry the mission forward and by the young men discerning a call to Brother life.

[Read the complete article →](#)



MARISTS TRANSFORMING LIVES: ESCUELITA "EL REFUGIO"

In Chajarí, Argentina, Escuelita "El Refugio" offers children a welcoming place to learn and grow. This Marist social work of the Cruz del Sur Province provides academic support, faith formation and a listening ear to about 55 children and adolescents, while accompanying their families through difficult times. Since 2003, El Refugio has been a steady presence in the neighborhood, helping young people continue their education and reminding families that they do not have to face challenges alone.

[Read more →](#)



Marists Transforming Lives highlights the many ways Marists and their ministries are making a difference in the lives of young people and their communities.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

MARIST WORLD TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN AS BUILDERS OF PEACE

On November 20, the international Marist family will gather online for Children Builders of Peace: Our Voices Matter, Our Rights Count, Let Us Participate! Held in recognition of World Children's Day, the event will celebrate children and young people not simply as recipients of protection, but as active participants in building peace within their communities.

A central part of the initiative is the "Marist CRC," a collaborative visual interpretation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children from Marist schools and social works around the world are illustrating its articles, creating a document shaped through their own experiences and perspectives.

The program will also include testimony from young people who have brought their voices to the United Nations and a live international conversation about their work as builders of peace. Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, will open the event, and Vicar General Br. Hipólito Pérez will offer the closing remarks.

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL WEEK 2026: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

From October 26 through 30, Marist educators from around the world will gather virtually for Champagnat Global Week 2026. This year's theme, "Shaping the Future: Artificial Intelligence, Education and Humanity," will explore how schools can respond to the growth of artificial intelligence without losing sight of what makes education profoundly human.

Throughout the week, participants will consider the opportunities and challenges AI presents for education, hear directly from young people and explore how technology can support the Marist commitment to holistic education. Each session will be presented in collaboration with one of the international Marist mission networks.

Participation is free, with sessions available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.



BROTHERS, SCHOOLS AND MARIST SOCIAL WORKS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN→



VIEW THE COMPLETE PROGRAM AND REGISTER→

OUR MARIST FAMILY:

Across Arco Norte



BR. MARK OMEDE VISITS THE MARIST MISSION IN SANTA FE, BOGOTÁ

During a recent visit to the Province of Norandina, Br. Mark Omede, General Councillor and liaison between the General Government and the Arco Norte Region, participated in the meeting of Provincial Bursars and visited several Marist communities and ministries in Colombia. His travels included the International Novitiate in Medellín and, on September 8, Corazón sin Fronteras, a Marist social project serving children and families in Santa Fe, Bogotá.

Br. Mark shared the following reflection on his visit to Corazón sin Fronteras and its mission of education, accompaniment and hope:

I had the opportunity to visit Corazón sin Fronteras, Santa Fe, a Marist social project in the heart of Bogotá that accompanies children and families experiencing poverty, migration, displacement and social exclusion.

My visit was a moving encounter with a very concrete expression of the Marist mission: being close to children and young people who are most vulnerable and helping them discover their dignity, talents and hope for the future.

The name Corazón sin Fronteras "Heart Without Borders" captures the spirit of this mission. The project seeks to overcome the barriers created by poverty, migration, violence and exclusion by offering children a safe place where they can learn, play, create and feel welcomed and valued.



The initiative began in Bogotá in 2017, initially serving children from Venezuelan migrant families in the Palermo neighborhood. Following the challenges of the pandemic, the Marists studied the needs of migrant and vulnerable communities and, in 2023, relaunched the project in Santa Fe.

During my visit, I was particularly struck by the project's holistic approach. Education is central, with academic reinforcement and support for children whose schooling has been disrupted by difficult circumstances. But the work goes far beyond homework. Through art, culture, recreation, personal development and spiritual activities, children are encouraged to grow in self-esteem, resilience, responsibility and solidarity.

I was also reminded that Marist education is ultimately about relationships. Children need knowledge, but they also need someone who listens to them, believes in them and helps them recognize their own possibilities.

The project accompanies families as well as children, including migrant families and mothers who are heads of household. This is important because the wellbeing of children is inseparable from the wellbeing of their families and communities.

Corazón sin Fronteras is part of the wider Marist social mission in Colombia and depends on the commitment of Brothers, educators, volunteers, families and partner organizations. It is a good example of how collaboration can turn compassion into concrete action.

As I left Santa Fe, I carried with me a simple but powerful message: no child should be invisible.

The Marist mission invites us to cross geographical, social, and cultural borders, and to be present where children need accompaniment most. In Santa Fe, I saw this mission taking shape through education, care, solidarity and hope.

A heart without borders is a heart willing to be present wherever a child needs to know that their life, their dreams and their future matter.

-Br. Mark Omede, General Councillor

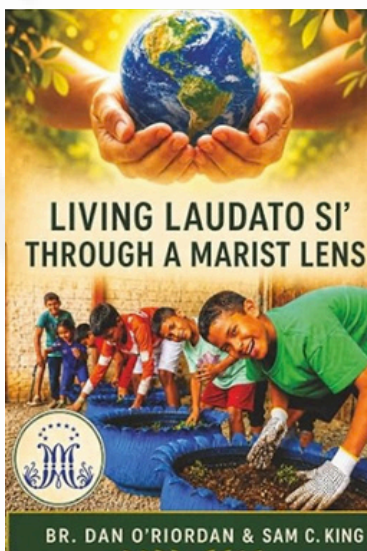


Living Laudato Si' through a Marist Lens Presentations

As the Season of Creation approaches its October 4 conclusion, the International Marist Solidarity Network will present Living Laudato Si' through a Marist Lens, edited by Provincial Br. Dan O'Riordan and Sam C. King, Director of Marist Integral Ecology. Bringing together essays and reflections from across the Marist world, the book explores how our spirituality shapes the way we care for our common home.

Marists can take part in one of three online presentations: a Spanish and Portuguese session on September 30, followed by two English sessions on October 1, including one scheduled for participants in Africa, the Americas and Europe.

[See presentation details.](#)



Roselle Catholic Celebrates Hall of Fame Inductees

Roselle Catholic High School gathered on September 24 to honor the newest members of its Athletic Hall of Fame. The celebration recognized graduates, coaches and teams whose achievements helped shape the athletic traditions of Roselle Catholic and Girls Catholic. Congratulations to this year's inductees! [Meet the honorees.](#)



A Visit with Brothers from Star of the Sea

Br. Dan O'Riordan shared lunch yesterday with Br. Darren Burge, Provincial of the Star of the Sea Province, and Br. Ken McDonald, its Vice Provincial.



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Br. John Dunning

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Br. Thomas Long

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Br. Fabien Landry (Canada)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Br. Gérard Bachand (Canada)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Br. Charles Filiatrault

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Br. Léopold Charland (Canada)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Br. James Adams

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Br. René Mailloux (Canada)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Br. Brian Poulin

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Br. Steve Milan

READING THIS WEEK



MARIST NEWS



MATTHEW 26:31-46



CANADA NEWS



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

This week, please remember in your prayers...



... Madeline Picou as she begins treatment for breast cancer.

... Br. Steven Bosco Wang who is recovering at De La Salle Hall in Lincroft from a recent stroke.

... 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, Michael Laratonda, Larry Lavalley, and Steven Bosco Wang, who are all receiving care outside of Marist community.

... 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.

... Rita Greco, retired teacher from Roselle Catholic High School, who is battling cancer.

... Jason Wolf, a cousin of John Venturella, who is receiving experimental treatment for a 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, 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 junior at Mount Saint Michael Academy.

... Cathy Puszczy, a teacher who spent her entire career at Marist in Bayonne, who is in continuing care.

... Elaine Pellicciari, 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.

... Rosemary Shields, cousin of Br. Michael Laratonda.

... Corrine Richter, mother of Br. Ryan Richter, who is experiencing severe pain related to a chronic illness.

... Bob Sitler, a good friend of many Brothers and the parent of a Molloy alumnus, who is in the hospital in very serious condition.

... Fatima Arias, a close friend of Br. Abi Santiago, who is recovering from health concerns.

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