Friday Notes

OCTOBER 9, 2026 068



Creating Communities of Belonging

How do we help every young person feel at home in a Marist school? Educators from ministries across the USA Province explored this question in Esopus this week during the annual ***Sharing Our Mission: Creating Communities of Belonging.***

This year's gathering took the form of a Marist Belonging Summit, bringing together administrators, teachers, campus ministers, guidance and counseling professionals, and others. Returning participants and those attending for the first time deepened their shared understanding of belonging and contributed to the continuing development of the Marist Belonging Framework.

Their work will help prepare the framework to be shared with schools in support of their own efforts to promote the dignity and inclusion of all students, given the risk of isolation that some face due to race, orientation, ability, or any other factor. Rooted in the General Chapter's call to become "Homes for All and Rivers of Life," the summit focused on how our Marist communities can help each young person feel welcomed, valued, and at home, in the fullness of who God created them to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ecology Weekend
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 9-12, 2026

Celebration of Life for Br. Rene Roy
CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Lawrence, MA
October 14 • 6:30–7:30 p.m. ET
RSVP or share photos and memories.

Marist Youth Encounter
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 22 - 25, 2026

How to Turn Charism into Impact
Online Webinar
October 23, 2026
10:00 a.m. ET

Sharing Our Call 1
MBCE - Esopus, NY
October 25 - 27, 2026

Marist Youth Mission Conference
MBCE - Esopus, NY
November 6-8, 2026



Celebrating the Life of Br. René Roy

The Central Catholic community in Lawrence, MA will be holding a Celebration of Life in remembrance of Br. René Roy on Wednesday, October 14. The evening will include short testimonies about the impact he made during his life, as well as readings from the book he wrote in the years prior to his death.

It is still possible to RSVP or submit photos or fond memories online.



How to Turn Charism into Impact

The General Bursar's Office in Rome will launch a new webinar series on Friday, October 23, at 10:00 a.m. ET. Mr. Andrea Rossi, Director of FMSI, and Br. Ben Consigli of the USA Province will explore how strategic project management and ethical fundraising support our Marist mission and strengthen its impact. Brothers and others working in finance or development are encouraged to attend. The session will be offered in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Learn more about the program.



Champagnat Global Week 2026

How is artificial intelligence shaping the lives of young people and the future of education? Champagnat Global Week, October 26–30, invites the Marist Family to explore this question through online sessions under the theme "Shaping the Future: Artificial Intelligence, Education, and Humanity." English interpretation will be available. See News from the General House for details.

View the program and register.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

A Century of Faith at the Mount

MOUNT SAINT MICHAEL ACADEMY - BRONX, NEW YORK



Mount St. Michael Academy celebrated the opening Mass of its centennial year on September 29, the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York, presided as the Mount community gathered in the Richard Tricario Sports Center in thanksgiving for 100 years of Catholic, Marist education. His visit followed his celebration of the school's 90th Anniversary Mass in 2016.

Brothers, alumni and benefactors celebrated alongside students, faculty, families and representatives from other USA Marist schools. The Mass honored the generations who have made the Mount a place of faith and belonging since its doors opened on September 13, 1926, with 14 Marist Brothers and 62 boarding and day students.

"Our Centennial is an opportunity to honor our history, celebrate the brotherhood that defines Mount St. Michael, and look with confidence toward the next century," said Head of School Clare Brewster.

That spirit will guide celebrations throughout the academic year, including the Centennial Gala on April 10, 2027, at Marina del Rey in the Bronx. As the Mount begins its next century, its Marist mission remains at the heart of school life: making Jesus Christ known and loved.

View the Centennial Mass Photo Retrospective, featuring moments from the celebration and remarks from Cardinal Dolan.

View photos from the Mass.





FROM THE SEASON OF CREATION TO ECOLOGY WEEKEND

The Season of Creation has drawn to a close, but its invitation to care for our Common Home continues. This year's theme, "Immersion in Living Water," invited us to reflect on Ezekiel's vision of a river that brings life wherever it flows and how our choices can contribute to creation's healing.



That reflection continues October 9–12 as Green Team students and educators from USA Marist schools gather at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus. With the theme "Immersion in Living Waters," the annual Province-sponsored Ecology Weekend will connect prayer and ecological learning with the Hudson River.

Prayer along the river and a Sunday boat ride will help participants deepen their relationship with the watershed. Hands-on studies and workshops will offer opportunities to explore its ecology, while a Mass for Creation will bring the community together in thanksgiving.

School groups will also review their Laudato Si' Action Plans, incorporating students' ideas into their next steps. The weekend will conclude Monday with school planning and a commitment ceremony, carrying the Season of Creation's invitation into the year ahead.

Please keep all participants and those guiding the weekend in prayer as they deepen their commitment to caring for our Common Home.

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

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

RETREAT ON FIRE ISLAND





On October 3, the NYC/NJ Area of the Marists of Champagnat held a retreat on Long Island's beautiful Fire Island. The day-long experience began with a ferry ride across the Great South Bay to Fire Island Pines on a beautiful fall morning.

Dan O'Reilly and MaryAnn Safrey led the two main sessions around the theme of *"Detachment: Releasing Those Things That Distract Me from God's Love."* Other activities included an Emmaus-style walk along the shoreline, moments of beach contemplation, and the celebration of Mass, with Fr. Patrick Flanagan, CM as celebrant.

Thank you to our presenters, Dan and MaryAnn; Rich Costa for organizing the retreat; Richard Karsten for preparing the meal; and Br. Björn Lie for leading us in song.

MY MARIST LIFE: SEASON 2 BEGINS!

The first episode of Season 2 of My Marist Life is here! In "Mary, Mission and the Marist Journey," host Eric Gonzales speaks with Marist of Champagnat Chris Sullivan about the experiences that have shaped his faith and his deep connection to the Marist Brothers.

Their candid conversation explores how Mary and the Holy Rosary serve as daily anchors for living the Marist vocation. New episodes will be released on the first of each month.

LISTEN NOW



NEW ISSUE OF ‘AT THE SAME TABLE’

The Fall 2026 issue of the Marists of Champagnat newsletter is now available. Maureen Hagan reflects on July’s National Assembly and shares an update on the formation program, including what to expect in 2027 and when the new program will begin.

READ THE FALL 2026 ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2026

OCT 14 WED / OCT 15 THU

FORMATION COMPANION INFORMATION SESSIONS

OCTOBER 14 AND 15 | 8:00 P.M. ET

Learn about serving as a Companion for Marists of Champagnat initial formation. Returning Companions are also welcome to hear program updates.

NOV 03 TUE

REFLECTION WITH BISHOP JOHN STOWE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 8:00 P.M. ET

Bishop John Stowe will lead a reflection on Magnifica Humanitas and human dignity. French and Spanish translation will be available.

NOV 18 WED / NOV 19 THU

FORMATION COMPANION REFLECTION NIGHTS

NOVEMBER 18 AND 19 | 8:00 P.M. ET

Madeline Picou will lead a session on discernment for returning Companions and those considering the role.

DEC 17 THU

JOYful ADVENT FAMILY SPIRIT NIGHT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 8:00 P.M. ET

An evening of virtual community and Advent prayer, including time to write Christmas cards and letters to the Brothers at Champagnat Hall.

Details and Zoom links for formation offerings will be shared as each event approaches.

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.

DONATE

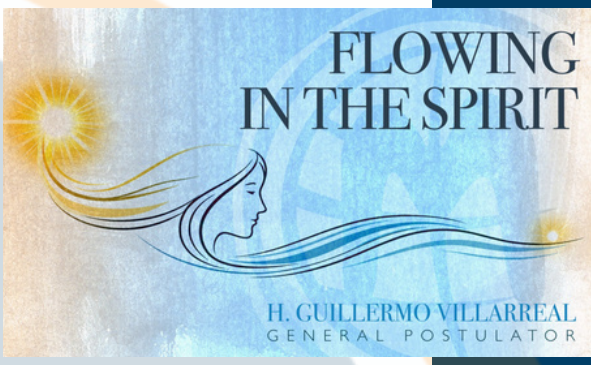
NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 31: WITNESSES FOR TODAY

In this week's installment, Br. Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, Postulator General, explores why beatifications have increased in the contemporary Church. He reflects on how changes in Church procedures and a renewed emphasis on the universal call to holiness have helped bring more witnesses to light. Their recognition reminds us that holiness continues to flourish in everyday life, offering examples of faith that speak to our own time.

Read the complete article →

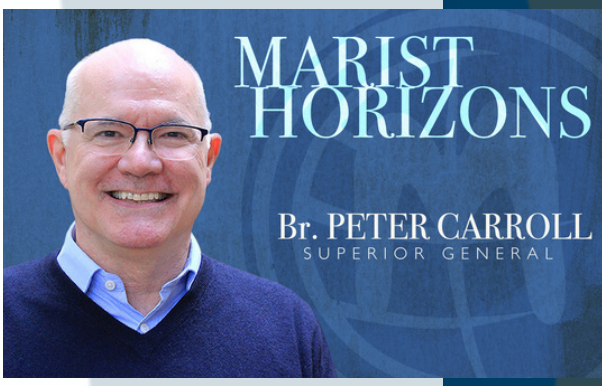


Flowing in the Spirit *is a year-long series of weekly reflections offered by Br. Guillermo Villarreal, our Postulator General responsible for advancing the causes of our Marist saints.*

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: SANTA ISABEL MARIST SOCIAL CENTER

In Porto Alegre, Brazil, the Santa Isabel Marist Social Center supports approximately 500 families each year through educational programs and community services. This social ministry of the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province has been part of the Marist Network since 1997, providing a welcoming space for children and young people experiencing social vulnerability. Its work includes programs that strengthen community relationships, baking courses and support for families, carrying forward St. Marcellin Champagnat's dream of a more just and fraternal world.

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

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.



VIEW THE COMPLETE PROGRAM AND REGISTER→

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.



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

OUR MARIST FAMILY: Across Arco Norte

ARCO NORTE
MARISTES·MARISTS·MARISTAS

District of Canada

QUEBEC YOUNG ADULTS FOLLOW IN MARCELLIN'S FOOTSTEPS



About twenty young adults from Quebec made a pilgrimage to the Hermitage this summer, following in the footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat. In Canada's October Nouvelles en bref, participants share testimonies from their experience at this special place in our Marist story.

CELEBRATING THE ASSUMPTION IN CANADA



Marist fraternities in Canada celebrated the Assumption of Mary with a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Notre-Dame-du-Cap. The gathering offered an opportunity to honor Mary and share their faith as members of the Marist Family.

CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS REFLECT ON LEADERSHIP CAMP AT ESOPUS



Canada's October Nouvelles en bref features testimonies from participants in Leadership Camp, held July 20–25 at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus. Their reflections offer a personal look at the experience and the connections formed with fellow young Marists.

Read their testimonies in the October edition of Nouvelles en bref (available in French).

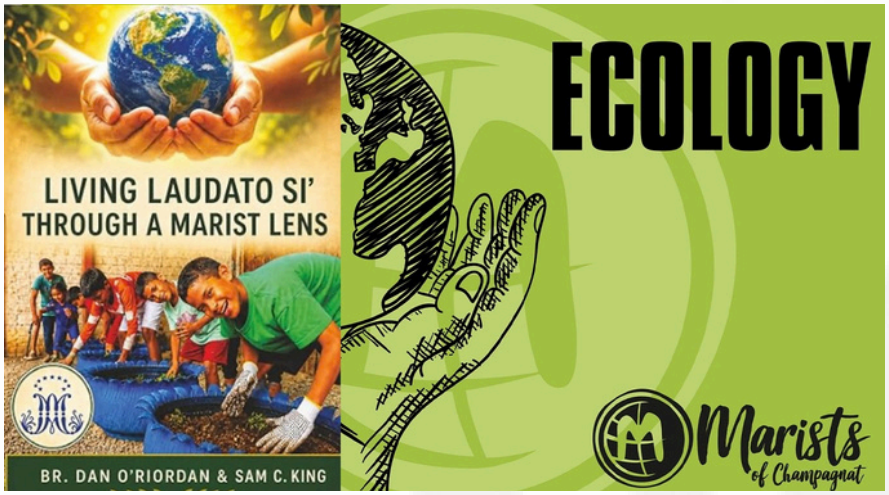
Learn more about the Arco Norte Region on Facebook!

Living Laudato Si' Through a Marist Lens

Three international webinars celebrated the launch of *Living Laudato Si' Through a Marist Lens*, featuring ecological initiatives from across the Global Marist Family. Br. Dan O'Riordan, Sam C. King, and students and educators from USA Marist schools shared reflections on caring for our common home.

That commitment continues October 9–12, as Green Team students gather at Esopus for the annual Province-sponsored Ecology Weekend.

READ THE BOOK HERE



Keepers of the Charism



Central Catholic High School will host Keepers of the Charism on Friday, October 16, offering participants time to reflect on the Marist spirit that shapes our school communities.

Through their daily presence and care for young people, Marist educators carry forward St. Marcellin Champagnat's mission to make Jesus known and loved. Please keep all participants in prayer as they deepen their commitment to this shared call.

Br. Hank Hammer Featured on *'Inside Marist'*

Br. Hank Hammer is the guest on the latest episode of Inside Marist, hosted by Marist High School Chicago Principal Meg Dunneback. They discuss the many roles he has held at the school and within the Marist Brothers. Br. Hank is now back in the classroom, working with juniors in Marist's Peer Leadership program.



LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION

OCTOBER Birthdays

OCTOBER 4
BR. FÉLIX ROLDÁN (CANADA)

OCTOBER 8
BR. JAMES DEVINE
BR. ELADIO GONZÁLEZ

OCTOBER 11
BR. MARIUS FOURNIER (CANADA)

OCTOBER 12
BR. MIGUEL GARCIA

OCTOBER 14
BR. ALBERT RIVERA

OCTOBER 17
BR. RÉAL CLOUTIER (CANADA)

OCTOBER 19
BR. JOHN RAEIHLE

OCTOBER 27
BR. MICHAEL BRADY

OCTOBER 29
BR. GILLES HOGUE (CANADA)

READING THIS WEEK

MARIST NEWS

MATTHEW 26:62-75

CANADA NEWS

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

This week, please remember in your prayers...

…the repose of the soul of Joseph G. DiCaprio, husband of Deb DiCaprio, Vice President of Student Affairs at Marist University.

… the repose of the soul of Br. John Herrmann, who died last week. A recording of his funeral Mass held last Friday at Mount Saint Michael can be viewed **here**.

VIEW BR. JOHN'S MEMORIAL BOOKLET.

… 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 Br. Pat Hogan and all those dealing with significant health concerns.

… Bros. Jim Adams, Charlie Filiatrault, Jim Halliday, Michael Laratonda, Larry Lavallee, 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 Puszcz, a teacher who spent her entire career at Marist in Bayonne, who is in continuing 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.

… 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.

… Madeline Picou as she continues treatment for breast cancer.

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