Friday Notes

OCTOBER 16, 2026 069



ECOLOGY WEEKEND 2026

More than 50 students from eight Marist schools gathered at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus October 9–12 for Ecology Weekend, continuing the Season of Creation's invitation to care for Our Common Home.

Inspired by this year's theme, “Immersion in Living Water,” students and their Green Team leaders explored the Hudson River through hands-on environmental studies, outdoor workshops and shared prayer. Their experiences invited them to consider how care for creation can become part of everyday life in their school communities.

Throughout the weekend, participants revisited their schools' Laudato Si’ Action Plans, bringing new ideas and perspectives to the work already underway. They returned home with proposals to share with their Green Teams and school leaders, with updated plans expected by the end of November. *Read more on page 3!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp Marist Information Session
via Zoom
October 21
9:00 p.m. ET

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

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

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

Champagnat Global Week
Online Webinars
October 26 - 30
LEARN MORE

Montagne Day
October 28

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



Third Age in Manziana

Participants in the Third Age Renewal Program in Manziana, Italy, including USA Brothers Brice Byczynski and Steve Synan, recently met with Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General. The program, led by Br. Patrick McNamara of the USA and Br. Mick Sexton of Australia, offers Brothers from around the world an opportunity to reflect on their lives and vocations while renewing their commitment to Marist brotherhood.



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

Central Catholic High School

LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Faculty and staff at Central Catholic High School are taking time today to reflect on what it means to carry the Marist charism into their daily work. The Keepers of the Charism formation program is being led by Dr. Rick Martin, Director of Adult Formation for the USA Province, with support from Province Team members Mrs. Stacey Baker, Director of Marist Ministries; Mr. Matt Fallon, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry; and Br. Brian Poulin, Assistant Provincial. This particular session builds on the theme of being pilgrims of hope.

KEEPERS OF THE CHARISM

FOOD DRIVE SUPPORTING LAZARUS HOUSE

Students at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, held a food drive for Lazarus House Ministries. Each class collected a different item: freshmen brought canned fish, sophomores corn, juniors peanut butter and seniors beans.



SERVING AT THE GIVING GARDEN

Ten students from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts, spent an August evening at the South Church Giving Garden in North Andover as part of the school's Marist Service Experience. Accompanied by Mr. Tim Hart '85 and Mrs. Maureen Shanahan, they weeded, planted, harvested, and packed vegetables for Neighbors in Need, which serves families facing food insecurity in the Merrimack Valley.

The Giving Garden brings volunteers together to grow fresh produce for local food pantries and shelters. For Central Catholic's students, the work was a chance to live their school's Marist mission through service to their neighbors.

VIEW MORE PHOTOS FROM THE GIVING GARDEN







LEARNING ALONG THE HUDSON





Ecology Weekend brought students and educators together for four days of learning, reflection and Marist community along the Hudson River.

Participants tested water samples, explored the impact of pollution and took part in workshops on renewable energy, birdwatching and possible environmental futures. A Sunday boat ride offered a different perspective on the Hudson, while an evening Town Hall challenged students to consider the voices and responsibilities involved in environmental decisions.

Prayer remained at the heart of the gathering, from quiet mornings beside the river to a Saturday evening Mass for the Care of Creation celebrated by Fr. Mirek Pawlaczyk. Br. Dan O'Riordan, Provincial, and Br. Brian Poulin, Assistant Provincial, also spent the weekend preparing meals for participants.

On Monday, students worked with their Green Team leaders to develop proposals for their schools' Laudato Si' Action Plans before a closing commitment ceremony.

Thank you to Sam King, Matt Fallon, the Esopus staff and everyone who helped make the weekend possible. May the care nurtured at Esopus continue to grow in our Marist school communities.







ECOLOGY

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

SUMMER 2027 • OSSIPEE LAKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Discover Camp Marist



Since 1949, Camp Marist has welcomed young people to Ossipee Lake, New Hampshire, for summers filled with friendship, adventure and new experiences. With more than 30 activities, special trips and a supportive Marist community, there's something for every camper to discover.

EARLY REGISTRATION RATE

$2,800

Per two-week session through October 31

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

October 21

9:00 p.m. ET

Live Q&A for prospective families

Learn more, meet the Camp Marist community and explore the possibilities for Summer 2027.

www.campmarist.org

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

RETREAT ON FIRE ISLAND

On October 3, the NYC/NJ Area of the Marists of Champagnat gathered on Fire Island for a retreat focused on “Detachment: Releasing Those Things That Distract Me from God’s Love.” Led by Dan O’Reilly and MaryAnn Safrey, the day included reflection, an Emmaus walk along the shoreline and Mass celebrated by Fr. Patrick Flanagan, CM. Special thanks to Rich Costa, Richard Karsten and Br. Björn Lie for their contributions to the day.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Register to receive the Zoom link by email →

LISTEN TO MY MARIST LIFE



Season 2 of My Marist Life continues with monthly conversations exploring Marist faith, spirituality and mission. In the first episode, host Eric Gonzales speaks with Chris Sullivan about Mary, the Holy Rosary and the experiences that have shaped his Marist journey.

LISTEN NOW

New episodes are released on the first of each month.

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

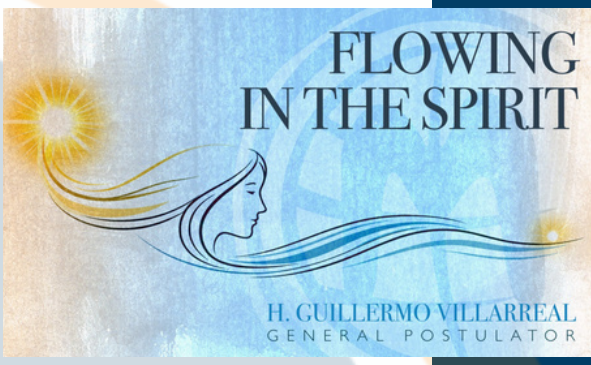
NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 32: WHEN FAITHFULNESS COSTS ONE'S LIFE

In this week's Flowing in the Spirit reflection, Br. Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, Postulator General, considers the witness of Christians who lost their lives for their faith during the twentieth century. Among them were Marist Brothers who remained alongside young people and vulnerable communities despite the dangers they faced.

Read the complete article →

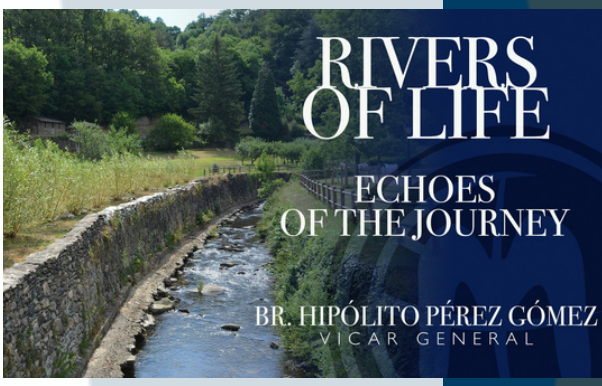


Flowing in the Spirit *is a year-long series of weekly reflections offered by Br. Guillermo Villarreal, our Postulator General responsible for advancing the causes of our Marist saints.*

BR. HIPÓLITO PÉREZ: BROTHERHOOD WITH A SMALL "B"

In his October Rivers of Life reflection, Br. Hipólito Pérez, Vicar General, considers the beauty of being a Brother through recent encounters with Brothers of different ages, cultures and congregations. He reflects on being a "brother with a small 'b'," living one's vocation through simplicity and care for others.

Read the complete article →



MARISTS TRANSFORMING LIVES: FUNDACIÓN MARCELINO CHAMPAGNAT, SPAIN

In Alcantarilla, Spain, the Fundación Marcelino Champagnat of the Mediterránea Province accompanies children, young people and families experiencing social vulnerability. Each month, the Foundation directly serves approximately 100 people through educational support, family programs and employment training. Established in 2009, its work continues the Marist Brothers' presence in the El Campico neighborhood.

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. *See the complete session schedule on page 8.*



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.

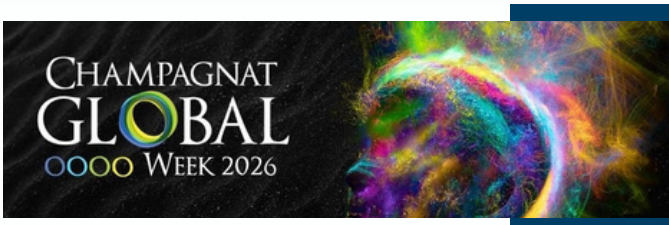
The program will also include testimony from young people who have brought their voices to the United Nations and a live international conversation about their work as builders of peace. Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, will open the event, and Vicar General Br. Hipólito Pérez will offer the closing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



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

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL WEEK 2026:

SHAPING THE FUTURE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, EDUCATION AND HUMANITY



Champagnat Global Week 2026 will bring together Marist educators from around the world to explore the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence in education. Through five online sessions, participants will consider how emerging technologies can support learning while keeping the dignity of each person at the heart of the Marist educational mission.

Each session will be offered twice, at 4:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time (9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Rome time). Sessions will last approximately 60–75 minutes.

OCT 26 MON

Pedagogical Principles of Magnifica Humanitas

An exploration of the educational principles of Magnifica Humanitas and how they can guide schools in responding to artificial intelligence while supporting the development of the whole person.

OCT 27 TUE

Current Trends in AI in Education

A look at current developments in artificial intelligence and their impact on education, with attention to how Marist schools can respond.
In collaboration with the Marist International Network of Higher Education (RIMES).

OCT 28 WED

Responsible Integration of AI in the Classroom

A practical look at how AI tools can support teaching and learning, with a focus on responsible use and a person-centered approach.
In collaboration with the Marist Publishers' Network.

OCT 29 THUR

Listening to Young People's Views on AI

An opportunity to hear directly from young people about their experiences with artificial intelligence and what educators can learn from their perspectives.
In collaboration with the Global Marist Youth Network.

OCT 30 FRI

Transforming AI to Serve the Most Vulnerable

A reflection on how artificial intelligence can strengthen the Marist educational mission by expanding opportunities for children and young people experiencing vulnerability.
In collaboration with the Marist International Solidarity Network (RMSI) and FMSI.

REGISTRATION:

Participants may register for individual sessions based on their interests and availability.

View the full program and register →

OUR MARIST FAMILY: Across Arco Norte

Province of Norandina

ARCO NORTE PROVINCIALS GATHER IN CANADA



Br. Leonardo Yepes Núñez, Provincial of the Norandina Province, joined Br. Dan O'Riordan, Provincial of the USA Province, and fellow Arco Norte Provincials for a meeting in Canada earlier this week. The gathering provided an opportunity for Provincial leadership to discuss ongoing collaboration across the region and their shared commitment to the Marist mission.

LAY MARISTS IN ECUADOR GATHER FOR NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

Lay Marists from across Ecuador gathered in Quito from October 9–11 for Donde te lleve el corazón ("Where Your Heart Leads You"), a national encounter focused on the Marist lay vocation.

Organized by the National Lay Marist Team, the gathering brought together members preparing to make their public commitment to the Marist charism, those renewing their promises, and fraternity leaders. The program offered time for formation and reflection on living the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat in everyday life.

Read more →

FOUR BROTHERS PREPARE FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Brs. Andrés Robles, Juan Pablo Burgos, Michael Anamá and Óscar Bolívar are participating in an interprovincial formation program in Luján, Argentina, through October 31.

The program brings together 14 young Brothers from Arco Norte, América Sur and Europe as they prepare for perpetual profession. Br. Leonardo Yepes Núñez, Provincial, recently visited the group and shared a reflection on the Institute's call to be "Sowers of Good News." Br. Hipólito Pérez, Vicar General, and Br. Carlos Rojas, General Councilor, have also accompanied the Brothers during their formation.

Read more →

MARIST SOCIAL MINISTRIES IN COLOMBIA SHARE EXPERIENCES

Teams from Marist social ministries across Colombia participated in a virtual national gathering in September to exchange experiences and strengthen their work with children and young people.

Representatives from ministries in Bogotá, Medellín and Maicao discussed ways to make educational programs more responsive to the needs of the communities they serve. The gathering also included contributions from the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), with an emphasis on listening to young people and involving them in decisions that affect their lives.

Read more →

Learn more about the Arco Norte Region on Facebook!

More Province News:

- Next week, Br. Dan will travel to Kobe, Japan, to participate in the 75th anniversary celebration of Marist Brothers International School, which was overseen by the Poughkeepsie Province and then the USA Province before becoming part of the East Asia Province.
- Br. Don Bisson, F.M.S., will be honored this Sunday, October 18, at Hope Harvest: Celebrating Mariandale at 50! in Ossining, New York, in recognition of his contributions to the retreat center's mission and his years of spiritual accompaniment.
- The Marist Brothers in Miami gathered to celebrate Br. Eladio's 89th birthday, sharing a joyful occasion in community. We send Br. Eladio our warm wishes and prayers for the year ahead!





Remembering Br. René Roy

The Central Catholic community in Lawrence, MA, gathered Wednesday, October 14, to celebrate the life of Br. René Roy. The evening honored his years of Marist service through personal testimonies and readings from the book he wrote in the years before his death. We remember Br. René with gratitude and keep all who knew and loved him in our prayers.



Creating Communities of Belonging

Representatives from USA Marist schools, including members of guidance departments, gathered at Esopus for Sharing Our Mission, focused on "Creating Communities of Belonging." Together, they explored how to help every young person feel at home in a Marist school, responding to the General Chapter's call to be "Homes for All and Rivers of Life."



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
- THE PASSION: A MARIST PERSPECTIVE
- CANADA NEWS
- CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

This week, please remember in your prayers...

...Sr. Mary Dunning, O.P., sister of Br. John Dunning, who is experiencing recent health concerns.

...the repose of the soul of Bob Sitler, a good friend of many Brothers and a Molloy alumni parent, who died last month.

...the repose of the soul of Rita Martino, mother of Nick Martino, a lifelong friend of the Marist Brothers and former President of Camp Marist who currently serves on its Finance Committee.

... 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.

... 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.

... 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!