

Friday Notes

OCTOBER 30, 2026 071

A Prayer for Our Nation

As the November 3 midterm elections approach, we invite members of the Marist family to join in prayer for our country and all those participating in the election process. In a time when differences can too easily become divisions, our Marist charism reminds us to approach one another with respect and compassion, recognizing the dignity of every person. May we seek understanding across differences and remain committed to the common good.

Marist Prayer During Election Season

Lord, God, we know that the Gospel encourages us to be faithful citizens and we come to you in gratitude for the right and privilege of taking part in the election process. We pray for the next leader[s] of our country - may you enlighten them, guide them and empower them to lead with a heart of truth and justice.

During this time, fill our hearts with kindness, gentleness and patience. Guide us in humility and lead us in praying for all people, not just those that think or look like us. Allow us to see each other, not as enemies, but as brothers and sisters who are created in your image. Help us remember to keep our minds open, to seek understanding and to offer grace and compassion to all.

We ask these things in your name.

Prayer by Ms. Joy Lewis, Dean of Student Success, Marist High School, Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reflection with Bishop John Stowe
via Zoom
November 3
8:00 p.m. ET

Marist Youth Congress
Guadalajara, México
November 4-7

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

Archbishop Molloy Ecology Mission Trip
Belize
November 11-15

Provincial Council Meeting
Bronx, NY
November 16-17

Formation Companion Reflection Nights
via Zoom
November 18 & 19
8:00 p.m. ET



International Meetings in Rome

Br. Brian Poulin is in Rome this week participating in meetings of GIER International at the Marist Brothers General House. Representatives of GIER International and Fraters Maristen Internationaal are gathering to strengthen collaboration and promote responsible stewardship of resources in support of the Marist mission. The meetings will conclude with a gathering of the International Commission for Economic Affairs, focused on decisions that support the mission throughout the Institute.



Marist Youth Encounter

Young people from across the Marist Brothers USA Province gathered at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, October 22–25, for the Marist Youth Encounter. The weekend offered participants an opportunity to step away from their everyday routines and reflect on their faith while building friendships within the Marist family. Through shared experiences and personal reflection, participants deepened their understanding of what it means to live their faith and strengthened their connection to the wider Marist community.



Novices' Ministerial Internships

Throughout October, the four novices from St. Barnabas Community in the Bronx participated in monthlong ministerial internships at Marist schools across the USA Province. Br. Abi Santiago shares his experience at Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, offering a glimpse into this important stage of Marist formation.

Read more about the novices' ministerial internships on page 5!

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Marist Catholic High School

EUGENE, OREGON

Marist Catholic High School in Eugene, Oregon, has a longstanding relationship with the Marist Brothers, who helped establish the school in 1968 at the invitation of the local Catholic community. For 25 years, the Brothers administered Marist Catholic on behalf of the Archdiocese of Portland, helping shape the school's educational mission and Marist identity.

Although the Brothers concluded their ministry at the school in 1993, that connection was renewed in 2017 when Marist Catholic reestablished its relationship with the Marist Brothers USA Province. Since then, the school has placed renewed emphasis on the Marist pillars through student and staff formation, continuing the educational vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

MARIST

WE ARE ONE

BUILDING MARIST COMMUNITY FROM DAY ONE



At Marist Catholic High School in Eugene, Oregon, welcoming freshmen into the Marist family begins on their very first day of school. Through the We Are Marist orientation retreat, students are introduced to the spirit and charism of Marist while getting to know their classmates. The retreat is part of a shared formation experience offered at Marist high schools across the country, connecting students to the wider Marist family.

That sense of community continues through the Freshman Lock-In, an evening led by upperclassmen that brings the freshman class together for Mass and activities designed to strengthen friendships. Together, these experiences help new students feel at home at Marist Catholic and begin discovering what it means to be Marist.



MEET LECHI LECHUGA!

This red-eared slider was rescued by Saint Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX) Athletic Director Tino Villarreal, given time to recover and rehabilitate, and safely released into a suitable habitat by Biology Teacher Mr. Peña and the Bio Green Team Executive Board. We're happy to see Lechi back where he belongs and grateful to everyone who helped give him a second chance!



CARDINAL CZERNY HONORED FOR COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR CREATION



Cardinal Michael Czerny, former Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, received the inaugural Pope Leo XIV Sustainability Medal from Villanova University during an international sustainability conference held in Rome earlier this month.

In his remarks, Cardinal Czerny reflected on the importance of ecological conversion, encouraging changes in personal habits and community practices that contribute to protecting our common home. He drew on the biblical story of Noah to remind participants that caring for creation requires both hope and a willingness to act.

Read the full article from Vatican News.

ECOLOGY READING & PRAYER RESOURCES

November Homily Helps: Caring for Creation
Catholic Climate Covenant has released its November resources connecting Sunday Scripture readings with the teachings of Laudato Si'. The materials offer reflections and prayer suggestions for incorporating care for creation into the liturgical season. **Explore the resources.**

Our Common Home: Study & Discussion Guides
New study and discussion resources from North Carolina Catholics Caring for Our Common Home accompany Our Common Home: A Guide to Caring for Our Living Planet, developed through a collaboration between the Holy See and the Stockholm Environment Institute. The guides offer opportunities for group reflection on environmental responsibility and Catholic teaching. **Learn more.**

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

SUMMER 2027 • OSSIPEE LAKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Help Make a Camp Marist Summer Possible!

Every child deserves the opportunity to experience Camp Marist! Through its Scholarship and Fundraising Campaign, Camp Marist hopes to provide financial assistance to 150 children each year, making unforgettable summer experiences possible for families who need additional support.

From waterfront adventures to lifelong friendships, Camp Marist offers young people ages 6–16 a chance to grow in a welcoming, screen-free environment on Ossipee Lake in New Hampshire.

Members of the Marist family can help make this experience possible by contributing to the Camp Marist Scholarship Fund or supporting the Marist 400 Scholarship Drive.

Help send a child to camp!

LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN

Ministerial Internship Experience:

CHICAGO, TEXAS, MIAMI AND NEW YORK

During the month of October, the four novices from St. Barnabas Community in the Bronx, New York, had the opportunity to experience the teaching ministry firsthand through internships at four Marist schools. Each novice spent time learning more about the daily life of a Marist school and the impact educators have on the lives of young people.

Br. Björn Lie worked alongside the Campus Ministry team at Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens. He also participated in the October retreat of the New York/New Jersey Marists of Champagnat on Long Island, where he helped with the music. Björn accompanied students to Marist Ecology Weekend, October 9–12, and attended the Marist Youth Encounter, October 22–25, joining Keanu and other young adults in music ministry.

Br. Thomas "Tommy" Sulaimanee assisted with Campus Ministry at Marist High School in Chicago, alongside Br. Ryan Richter and Br. Robert Dittus. He also helped with freshman religion classes and the preparation of retreats and after-school campus ministry activities. Tommy shared that he particularly enjoyed "engaging, interacting and connecting with students."

Br. Nik spent his internship at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, working with the weightlifting team. His responsibilities included assisting student-athletes and teaching two fitness classes. He also helped injured athletes, an experience he said he most enjoyed.

Br. Abi Santiago served at Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, where he assisted with seventh- and eighth-grade religion classes and observed art classes. He also helped with after-school activities alongside Br. Sam Amos and joined school staff and alumni for two Friday football games.

Throughout their internships, the novices were accompanied and mentored by teachers and community leaders, sharing in the responsibilities of their respective ministries. Reflecting on their experiences, they shared that they had "experienced an active life in teaching while spending community life with Brothers of all ages" and in communities of different sizes.

The month offered each novice an opportunity to experience Marist ministry in a new setting while sharing daily life with the Brothers and the wider school community.



Submitted by Br. Abi Santiago, Marist Novice

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

In Prayer for Our Province

As our Brothers cast their nominating ballots for the upcoming Provincial election, we invite the Marist family to join in prayer for the discernment process and for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A Prayer for Our Province

DISCERNING OUR NEXT PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP

Holy Spirit,
as our Province of the USA discerns new provincial leadership,
quiet our fears, open our hearts,
and help us recognize your call.

Give our brothers clarity as they choose,
and strengthen those who may be called to lead.

Mary, our Good Mother,
teach us to listen as you listened,
and to say yes with generous hearts.

Help us to be open to the good work
God is doing in and through each of us.

Give us the boldness of Fr. Champagnat
to do all that we can,
and the faith to trust the rest to your care.

Keep us united as one Marist family,
faithful to our mission
and open to new possibilities.

Amen.



Download printable version here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reflection on Magnifica Humanitas with Bishop John Stowe

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

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., Bishop of Lexington, Kentucky, will lead an online reflection on Magnifica Humanitas ("Magnificent Humanity"), Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, exploring human dignity in an increasingly technological world. The evening will include opportunities for small-group discussion and prayer, with a focus on how the Church's social teachings can guide our daily lives. French and Spanish interpretation will be available.

Join via Zoom



Gathering in Brownsville

Marists of Champagnat in Brownsville, TX, gathered for prayer, dinner, and fellowship at the Brothers' residence in Los Fresnos. It was also a chance to send off Brother Abi, who had spent a month in the community.

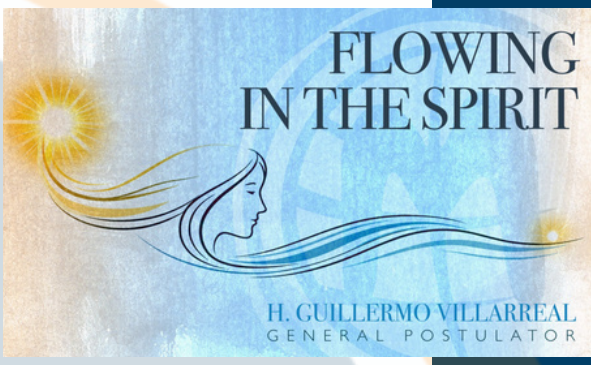
NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

WEEK 34: REMEMBERING THE PAST, ILLUMINATING THE PRESENT

In this week's Flowing in the Spirit, Br. Guillermo José Villarreal Cavazos, Postulator General, reflects on the Church's efforts to remember Christians who have given their lives for their faith since 2000. He reminds us that the witness of these modern-day martyrs continues to inspire the Marist family and calls us to live the Gospel with renewed commitment.

Read the complete article →

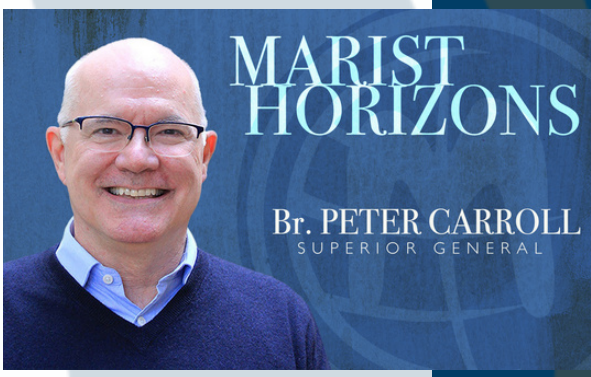


Flowing in the Spirit *is a year-long series of weekly reflections offered by Br. Guillermo Villarreal, our Postulator General responsible for advancing the causes of our Marist saints.*

MARIST HORIZONS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, EDUCATION AND HUMANITY

In his October Marist Horizons reflection, Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, considers the challenges and opportunities artificial intelligence presents for Marist education. Writing during Champagnat Global Week, he reflects on Pope Leo XIV's encyclical Magnifica Humanitas and its call to safeguard human dignity in an increasingly digital world.

Br. Peter reminds the Marist family that education must remain centered on the human person, helping young people develop wisdom and recognize their God-given dignity. He encourages Marists to engage thoughtfully with new technologies while remaining faithful to the mission of St. Marcellin Champagnat.



Read Br. Peter's full reflection→

MARISTS TRANSFORMING LIVES: ASOMAR – COMPOSTELA PROVINCE, SPAIN

In Vigo, Spain, ASOMAR, a social ministry of the Compostela Province, provides educational support and personal accompaniment to children and adolescents facing social and economic challenges. Founded in 2010, the program serves approximately 60 young people ages 6–17 each week, many from migrant families.

Inspired by the vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat, ASOMAR offers academic assistance and enriching activities in a welcoming environment. Working alongside Colegio Marista El Pilar, the ministry helps young people build confidence and strengthen their sense of belonging.



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

Read more →

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMEMORATES ENCOUNTER WITH YOUNG MONTAGNE



On October 28, the General Government gathered with Brothers and lay members of the General Administration in Rome to commemorate St. Marcellin Champagnat's encounter with the young Jean-Baptiste Montagne.

The gathering offered an opportunity to reflect on the General Council's first year in office and the development of the Strategic Pastoral Plan, which will guide the Institute's life and mission through 2030. Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, invited participants to consider how the encounter with young Montagne continues to inspire Marists to respond to the needs of children and young people today.

The gathering concluded with a moment of prayer inspired by the calls of the XXIII General Chapter.

View photos from the gathering

MARIST WORLD PREPARES 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 celebration will bring together all Marist Administrative Units, including the USA Province, in a shared commitment to recognizing children and young people as active participants in building peace.

Coordinated by the Secretariat of Solidarity-CMI and FMSI, the initiative highlights the responsibility of Marist communities to protect children's rights while ensuring that young people have opportunities to make their voices heard.

A central part of the celebration is the Marist CRC, a collaborative illustrated interpretation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children from Marist schools and social works around the world are illustrating assigned articles of the Convention, creating a document that reflects their own experiences and understanding of children's rights.

The program will also feature testimonies from young people who have represented their communities at the United Nations, followed by international conversations led by young moderators in English and Spanish. Participants will reflect on how children and young people are building peace within their communities.

Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General, will open the event, and Br. Hipólito Pérez, Vicar General, will offer the closing remarks.

Brothers, schools and Marist ministries are encouraged to participate.

Register for the November 20 celebration.

OUR MARIST FAMILY: Across Arco Norte

ARCO NORTE
MARISTES·MARISTS·MARISTAS

Province of Mexico Occidental

CELEBRATING SOLIDARITY WEEK



Schools and communities celebrated Semana de la Solidaridad (Solidarity Week), October 26–30, commemorating St. Marcellin Champagnat's encounter with the young Jean-Baptiste Montagne on October 28, 1816, a defining moment in the Marist mission.

Under the theme Ver, Conmoverse y Actuar (See, Be Moved and Act), students and educators were encouraged to recognize the needs of others and respond through prayer and service. The Province hopes to establish Solidarity Week as an annual observance, making solidarity an ongoing commitment throughout its Marist communities. Learn more.

MARIST PROVINCES STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION EFFORTS

The Marist Provinces of México Occidental and México Central reaffirmed their commitment to creating safe environments for children and young people during the October 8 relaunch of Red Cuéntalo: Tejiendo Espacios Seguros (Weaving Safe Spaces) at the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla.

Br. Luis Enrique Rodríguez Santana, Provincial of México Occidental, and Br. Luis Felipe González Ruiz, Provincial of México Central, participated in the signing of an agreement strengthening collaboration among 12 educational, religious and social organizations working to prevent violence against children.

The gathering also included an intergenerational dialogue on building safe communities, facilitated by representatives of both Marist Provinces. Through this initiative, the Provinces continue working with partner organizations to strengthen child protection and promote environments where young people can thrive. Read more.

MARIST YOUNG ADULTS RECONNECT WITH THEIR ROOTS IN FRANCE

Eight university students and alumni from the Marist Provinces of México Occidental and México Central traveled to France from August 28 to September 5 for a formation experience exploring the origins of the Marist charism.



Organized by Juventudes Maristas in collaboration with Global Youth, the experience brought together four young adults from each Province. Participants visited L'Hermitage, La Valla and other places connected to the life of St. Marcellin Champagnat and the first Marist Brothers.

Through shared prayer and reflection, the young adults explored how Champagnat's vision continues to shape their own lives and how they can share the Marist spirit with others. The experience was developed as a pilot initiative, with hopes of offering similar opportunities to more young people in the future. Read more.

Learn more about the Arco Norte Region on Facebook!

More Province News:

- **BR. DAN VISITS MARIST COMMUNITIES IN JAPAN AND TEXAS**

  Br. Dan O'Riordan attended the 75th anniversary celebration of Marist Brothers International School in Kobe, Japan, last weekend. Next week, he will visit the Marist communities in Austin and Los Fresnos.



- **BROS. ATTEND CHICAGO MEETING WITH CARDINAL CUPICH**

  Brothers Hank Hammer and Dominick Pujia attended a gathering of representatives from religious congregations in the Archdiocese of Chicago on October 24. Cardinal Blase Cupich addressed issues facing the Archdiocese and shared information about the Vatican's work on artificial intelligence. The gathering also included discussions on synodality and opportunities for greater collaboration among religious congregations in promoting vocations.

- **FRANK PELLEGRINO TO ATTEND RCRI NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

  Frank Pellegrino, Chief Financial Officer of the Marist Brothers USA Province, will attend the national conference of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) during the week of November 2. The conference brings together financial and administrative leaders serving religious institutes to explore issues affecting their communities and ministries.

- **UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

  The School Boards of Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA, and Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL, will meet next week. We are grateful for all the generous men and women who serve on our USA Province Boards and help foster our Marist mission.

- **SHARING OUR CALL 1 | OCTOBER 25–27**

  Sharing Our Call 1 took place October 25–27, offering participants an opportunity to explore Marist spirituality and the life and mission of St. Marcellin Champagnat. The gathering was part of the Province's ongoing adult formation program, inviting participants to reflect on their own experiences and deepen their connection to the Marist charism.

- **KEEPERS OF THE CHARISM AT THE MOUNT**

  Faculty and staff at Mt. St. Michael Academy in the Bronx, NY, are gathering today to reflect on carrying the Marist charism into their daily work. The Keepers of the Charism formation program is led by Dr. Rick Martin, Director of Adult Formation (USA Province), with support from Mrs. Stacey Baker, Director of Marist Ministries, and Br. Luis Ramos, with this session built on the theme of being pilgrims of hope.

NOVEMBER Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2
BR. JOHN EMIL ALADA
(EAST ASIA PROVINCE)

NOVEMBER 4
BR. GASTON ROBERT (CANADA)

NOVEMBER 5
BR. MARCOS LONGORIA
BR. MAURICE FARLEY (CANADA)

NOVEMBER 6
BR. LÉONARD OUELLET (CANADA)

NOVEMBER 16
BR. HERBERT BAKER

NOVEMBER 19
BR. JAMES NORTON

NOVEMBER 20
BR. JOHN MCDONAGH

NOVEMBER 21
BR. JOHN MCDONNELL

NOVEMBER 23
BR. GERARD BROWN
BR. HENRY HAMMER

NOVEMBER 25
BR. ROBERT WARREN
BR. BEN CONSIGLI

NOVEMBER 27
BR. RICHARD SHEA
BR. MICHAEL WILLIAMS

READING THIS WEEK

MARIST NEWS

MATTHEW 27:11-26

CANADA NEWS

CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL

This week, please remember in your prayers...

…all Brothers of the USA Province participating in the nomination process for the next Provincial.

…the faculty and staff of Mount St. Michael Academy participating in Keepers of the Charism today.

…the members of the Central Catholic High School Board in Lawrence, MA, and the Christopher Columbus High School Board in Miami, FL, meeting on November 2 and 4, respectively.

…those participating in the online reflection with Bishop John Stowe on November 3.

…Frank Pellegrino, Province Chief Financial Officer, attending the RCRI National Conference during the week of November 2.

…the repose of the soul of Br. Stephen Bosco Wang, who died on October 27. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Mount St. Michael Academy today, with burial in Esopus tomorrow.

Funeral Mass livestream | **Obituary** | **Memorial Booklet**

…the repose of the soul of Br. Bartholomew Boscia, who died last evening. Funeral arrangements will be finalized soon.

…for the repose of the soul of Mr. Frank “Gags” Gagliano, a Mount St. Michael Academy graduate and former Roselle Catholic Track and Field Coach. Gags had a legendary coaching career that included many Olympians. **Click Here** to read his obituary.

… 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, and Larry Lavallee, 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.

… 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.

… 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.

… Angel Herrera, a junior at Mount Saint Michael Academy.

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