



Friday Notes

DECEMBER 5, 2025

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Recent News

On Tuesday evening, more than 100 students, faculty, parents, Brothers, and Marists gathered at Mount Saint Michael Academy for a special Advent Prayer and Solidarity Thank-You Dinner, prepared by guest chef Newton Coote from the Don Bosco Orphanage in Jamaica. Thanks to the generosity of our USA Province community, last year's Solidarity efforts directly supported Don Bosco, making this shared meal a meaningful celebration of connection, gratitude, and mission.



Br. Dan is visiting Chicago this week and will attend the 3rd annual Night of Honor, Glory, and Fame tomorrow evening. He will travel to Lawrence, MA at the end of next week to spend time with our Marist community there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Virtual Advent Retreat**
via Zoom
December 6
10am - 12pm ET
- Virtual Marist Youth Gathering on Ecology**
via Zoom
December 11
8pm ET
- Marist Young Professionals Advent Get Together**
via Zoom
December 14
5pm ET
- Marist Young Adult Summit**
MBCE - Esopus, NY
January 2 -
January 4, 2026
- Embracing Our Call**
MBCE - Esopus, NY
January 11 -
January 13, 2026
- MYP Mission Trip**
Jamaica
January 16 -
January 21, 2026



Br. Frank Kelly's 50th Jubilee

On November 23, a modest **50th Jubilee celebration was held for Br. Frank Kelly** in Poughkeepsie. Together with those Marist Brothers in attendance, he renewed his vows during the weekly Mass at Marist University's *Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom Chapel*. Afterward, Br. Dan and several local Marists of Champagnat took him out for a celebratory meal.



Advent Pilgrims: A Journey of Hope 2026 Pilgrimage to L'Hermitage

Once again, the USA Province has created a daily Advent Reflection Book featuring offerings from your fellow Marists of Champagnat! Hard copies have been mailed out, and a **digital version is also available for download [here](#)**. You can also **order a copy from [Amazon here](#)**.



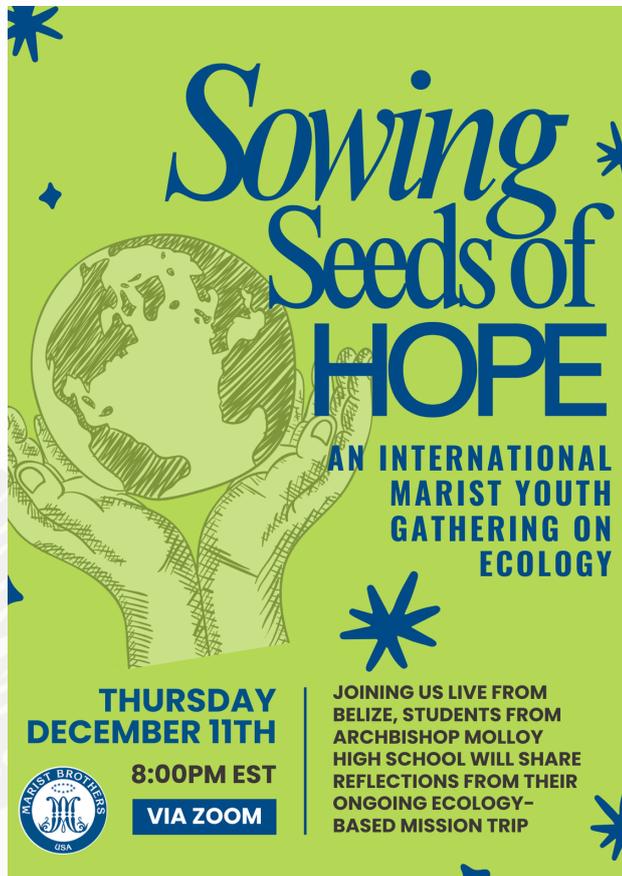
We're delighted to announce that our USA Province Pilgrimage to l'Hermitage in France will return next summer!

- Arrival in Lyon: July 1, 2026
- Departure: July 6, 2026

[Learn More Here!](#)



Next **Thursday, December 11th at 8pm EST**, we will bring together Marist student leaders from the U.S. and the Philippines for a special program--**Sowing Seeds of Hope: An International Marist Youth Gathering on Ecology**--to share Ecology projects from our different home communities. This will be a special experience of cross-cultural solidarity marking the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si' and our shared Marist commitment to care for creation. **Joining us live from Belize, students from Archbishop Molloy High School** will share reflections from their ongoing annual ecology-based mission trip.



ZOOM LINK

INTRODUCING: MARIST ECO-ADVENT!

In this sacred season, we invite you to participate in our first-ever Marist Eco-Advent! This is an opportunity for contemplation and action on behalf of God's creation--our common home--a chance to resist a culture of unchecked consumerism by embracing simplicity, gratitude, and reverence as we await the birth of Christ.

WEEK ONE: *Hope For Creation*

Choose one sustainable gift practice, recognizing that our choices can help shape a flourishing future.

- Commit to sustainable Christmas shopping (local, ethical, second-hand, eco-friendly).
- Gift some experiences, not things.
- Try a "No New Stuff" week.

WEEK TWO: *Peace With Creation*

Reduce your ecological footprint by slowing consumption.

- Thrift or choose second-hand first.
- Lower water use: shorter showers, turn off the sink, use cold laundry cycles.
- Digital peace: unsubscribe from marketing emails, avoid online shopping, limit consumption-driven scrolling.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Christopher Columbus High School

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Sophomores stepped away from the classroom for a day of reflection, connection, and growth at the **Sophomore Clarity Retreat**. Through guided conversations, prayer, and moments of quiet reflection, students focused on understanding themselves, strengthening their faith, and building deeper bonds with one another. These retreats are an important part of the Explorer journey – creating space to slow down, gain perspective, and grow into the men they are called to be



Congratulations to Br. Peter Guadalupe, who was inducted into the Christopher Columbus Hall of Fame last night.

Christopher Columbus High School **Marist Youth student-leaders** were honored by Principal David Pugh at the November 19th **Achievement Breakfast**.



L to R: Principal David Pugh, Chris Beceiro, Gabriel Grau, John Allen, Lucas Easley, Andrew King, Lucas Malabet, Santiago Rodriguez, Louie Perez, Lucas Perez-Soto, Patrick Sacher, Sebastian Rivero, Evan Jorge, Mauricio Gonzalez, and Br. Tom Long.

Students from the **Enabling Access service project** made their first visit to the **Christine E. Lynn Rehabilitation Center**, assisting patients from The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Enabling Access is a student-run initiative where students explore real-world needs, discover innovative solutions, and become agents of change by designing and 3D printing assistive technology devices for patients.





ICONS ILLUSTRATE THE CALLS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

During the recent General Chapter in the Philippines, Br. Danilo Silva, FMS, of Brazil, served as Artist in Residence. Among his many contributions were a series of beautiful images representing the Calls of the Chapter. Each artwork incorporates its own unique symbolism and includes a depiction of the “River of Life,” a reminder of the grace that carries us into the future.

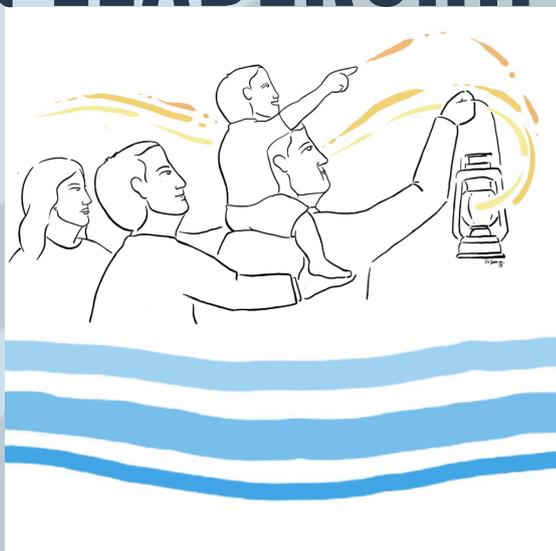
The themes of the Calls—which will be shared in the coming months—are:

- Vocation
- Community
- Spirituality
- Governance and Leadership
- Mission

In addition, one image represents the unifying attitude that underlies all five Calls.

We are delighted to share that Br. Danilo will visit our Province this summer, offering us the opportunity to experience his artistic vision and Marist spirit in person.

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP



This week's featured image, the Icon of Governance and Leadership, depicts a figure guiding companions on the journey.

Whether one imagines the lead figure to be Champagnat, a brother, or a lay person, he is a sign of the co-responsibility and communion that characterize the Marist mission. This leadership is not authoritarian, but one of service, inspired by the Good Shepherd who carries the child on his shoulders, making the child the center and purpose of all governance and animation.

[Click here for more detailed explanations of all six of these images.](#)

More Marist News...

Next week, the Provincial Council and several key leaders from across the Province will share a retreat experience in Esopus. Inspired by the Marist Pledge before Our Lady of Fourvière, participants will reflect on what the devotion to the Black Madonna can teach us today and how it continues to shape our Marist mission and spirituality.



Before Thanksgiving, the Marist Solidarity Secretariat out of Rome offered a live webinar to celebrate and promote the awareness of children's rights. The recording of this event is now available, featuring introductory remarks by Br. Peter Carroll, testimony from various Marist Youth throughout the world, and content in both English and Spanish.

[Click here](#) to read more about the event or [click here](#) to watch the full recording.

The Marist General Administration in Rome has announced that the Message of the 23rd General Chapter, including the final text of the Chapter Calls, will be released on Monday, December 8 - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. To celebrate, a launch video will be released via YouTube that day. The Secretariat of Brothers Today has also prepared a prayer that communities may use to celebrate this occasion.

DOWNLOAD >>

Early this year, student groups at various schools in the USA participated in listening sessions in order to submit their concerns as part of the UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process that each country undergoes to examine its own situation with human rights. Recently, the USA became only the second nation in history to withdraw from this process, thereby stripping our students of their voice. For the time being, the UN's Human Rights Council has postponed the USA's hearing until 2026, allowing for the possibility that the US government may reverse course and renew its participation. Anybody willing to do so is encouraged to write to their representatives in Congress to encourage this participation. The document at this link provides additional context and some helpful tips for taking part.

>> LEARN MORE

MORE TO EXPLORE THIS WEEK:



[MARIST FATHERS
JUSTICE & PEACE
ALERT](#)



[SHARING THE LAY
MARIST VOCATION](#)



[MATTHEW 14.1-12](#)



[CHAMPAGNAT
GLOBAL](#)



[MARIST NEWS](#)



[CANADA NEWS](#)



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Mr. Frank Pellegrino,
Province CFO

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Br. Roy George

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Br. Bernard Nolan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Br. Jerry Dowsky

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

Br. Michael Flanigan

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Br. Francis Garza
Br. Bartholomew Boscia

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Br. Stephen Bosco Wang

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Br. Lawrence Lavalée

JOB OPENING:

The Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, NY, is searching for a **Marketing and Communications officer**. Please pass information along to anyone who might be interested!

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



COHORT 6: Registration is underway for Cohort 6. For more information, contact mhagan8486@gmail.com or lindsayrirwin@gmail.com.

For members of Cohorts 1-5 - please consider offering your service as a mentor or companion for this next formation group. Yes, much is required of you and your life is busy - but you may find, as many others have before you, that it is an opportunity to enrich your own spiritual growth and connection to the charism. Contact Maureen, Lindsay, or Ellen for further information and guidelines.

EPISODE 3 OF THE 'MY MARIST LIFE' PODCAST HAS BEEN RELEASED! In this powerful new episode, host Eric Gonzales sits down with Bobbie Pacheco, whose journey has taken her from the classroom to the heart of prison ministry. Bobbie shares how her Marist values continue to guide her commitment to service and to make a meaningful difference. Tune in for an inspiring conversation about mission, empowerment and the impact of second chances. **Listen now on Spotify!** New episodes will drop the first of every month!

MARIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOMORROW!

Br. Dan and Ellen Van Cleef will offer an Advent Zoom Retreat from 10am-12pm EST, exploring the theme Old and New Testament Pilgrims of Hope.

[JOIN NOW](#)



Keep up with the 2025 MYP Advent Scripture Challenge!

WHO: Marist Young Professionals and anyone who wants to grow in knowing and loving Jesus this Advent

WHEN: Sunday, November 30 through Thursday, December 25 (Christmas)

HOW: Commit to reading the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew (aka Chapters 1 & 2 from each Gospel) + John 1:1-18 during Advent. Click below for details!

[» LEARN MORE](#)

myp advent
get together

Sun. December 14

5pm Eastern
4pm Central

led by Isa Douglas
& Keanu Ortano



[REGISTER NOW](#)



MYP January
Jamaica Mission
Trip

Sign up by December 15!

[» LEARN MORE](#)

2025 USA PROVINCE
ADVENT RETREAT
JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**SATURDAY
06
DECEMBER
10-12
EASTERN
ON ZOOM**

COME REFLECT AND PRAY WITH THE STORIES OF PILGRIMS OF HOPE FROM SCRIPTURE

WITH INPUT FROM BR. DAN AND ELLEN VAN CLEEF, SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, AND PRAYER

MYP January
Jamaica Mission
Trip

Sign up by December 15!

[» LEARN MORE](#)

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- **Br. John McDonagh, who moved from Wheeling, WV to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx on Wednesday.**
- **Br. Bernard Yamaguchi, who is in the hospital in Kobe, Japan.**
- **Ms. Irma Segura, who has had to resign from her role as principal of St. Joseph Academy for personal reasons. We thank her for her service with us and offer our prayers for her and her family.**
- **Larry Hughes, former Br. Lawrence Jerome, who died this past week.**

- Pope Leo XIV: We ask God's blessings on his journey ahead in 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 in the 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 those dealing with significant health concerns: John Herrmann, and Pat Hogan.
- Bros. Charlie Filiatrault, Jim Halliday, Bernie Nolan, Rene Roy, and Larry Lavallee, who are all receiving care outside of Marist community.
- Br. Bernard Yamaguchi, who is in the hospital in Kobe, Japan.
- Br. Frank Garza as he continues to recover from a fall-related injury.
- Br. Steve Schlitte, who is on sabbatical.
- Bros. Phil Degagne and Br. James Maher, who are recovering after recent hospital stays.
- Bill Taylor, brother-in-law of Br. Ken Curtin, who is recovering after a heart attack.
- Dan Waters (former Marist Brother) who is recovering from a stroke.
- Mrs. Paulette Karas, Province Director of Development, who is undergoing cancer treatments.
- Tom Rubbone, a long-time Camp Marist volunteer and benefactor.
- Mrs. MaryAnn Safrey, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Elaine Pelliciani, who is recovering from surgery and intense rehabilitation therapy.
- Mrs. Sue O'Keefe, as she struggles with pancreatic cancer.
- Saoirse McGarry, 23 years old, who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma.
- Jason Wolf, a 22-year old cousin of John Venturella, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.
- Anne O'Riordan, mother of Tomas O'Riordan.
- Laura Gural as she regains the use of her left side while recovering from a stroke.
- The husband of Eyda Alegret in Miami, who is recovering after a stroke.
- Patrick Hughes, nephew of Sean O'Leary (Mount St. Michael '90).
- Vince Andiorio in Chicago.
- The young son of Br. Jim McKnight's niece, Jacqueline, who is being treated for leukemia.
- Rosemary Shields and Margo Andrew, cousins of Br. Michael Laratonda.
- Mike Encke, husband of Jean Dalton (niece of Br. Jim Devine) who has cancer.
- Angel Herrera, a sophomore at Mount Saint Michael Academy.
- Bishop Timothy McDonnell as he battles stage 4 cancer.
- Mr. Alex Karsten, father of Richard Karsten, who is in hospice care.
- Frederick Marinelli, father of Michael Marinelli and husband of Carmen Marinelli in Miami.
- Patricia Hayes Franzem, who is recovering from surgery.
- Luis and Irma Segura, as Luis continues to deal with a serious illness.
- Mrs. Olga Dunning, sister-in-law of Br. John Dunning, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Lourdes Melendez, godmother of Br. Al Rivera, who is undergoing chemo treatments for ovarian cancer.
- Laura Blando, sister of Br. James Norton, as she is beginning a new round of chemotherapy.
- Fr. Kevin Duggan, SM who has had a recurrence of cancer.
- Mrs. Peg Kelly, mother of Br. Frank Kelly, who is recovering from a broken hip.
- Teresa Kelly, wife of Mike Kelly (Tyngsboro, 1965).
- David Irwin, who continues to need treatment for a brain tumor.
- Ronald Kappes, brother of Br. Steve Kappes, who is experiencing the beginning of Alzheimer's disease.

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