



Friday Notes

DECEMBER 12, 2025

027



UPCOMING EVENTS

 **Marist Young Professionals Advent Get Together**
via Zoom

December 14
5pm ET

 **REGISTER NOW!**

 **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

 **LEARN MORE**

 **Provincial Council Meeting**

Miami
January 21 -
January 23, 2026

 **Marist Youth Leadership Conference**

West Palm Beach, FL
January 30 -
February 1, 2026

The Message of the 23rd General Chapter has been released! Entitled *Builders of a New Hermitage*, this publication presents the final text outlining the five Calls of the General Chapter. You can read the full message [here](#) and [click here to watch a video](#) in which Br. Peter Carroll introduces the Calls. This document will also be shared in the coming weeks of Friday Notes, one portion at a time.

An assortment of Province leaders from the Provincial Council, the Lay Council, and several of our ministries recently gathered in Esopus for a retreat experience centered on the archetype of the Black Madonna. Reflections from this shared experience promise to revitalize our understanding of the three violets—humility, simplicity, and modesty—which form an integral, though sometimes overlooked, dimension of our Marist spirituality. Many thanks to presenters Br. Don Bisson, FMS, Sr. Boretta Singleton, RSM, and Br. Thomas Steffensen, SSF.



Celebrating Jubilarians in Chicago New Interim Principal at SJA

Last weekend, the Chicago Marist communities gathered to celebrate the jubilees of Br. Richard Grenier (60 years), Br. Hank Hammer (50 years), and Br. Pat McNamara (50 years), giving thanks for their years of faithful Marist service.

St. Joseph Academy has announced that Francis Curley will serve as interim principal during the search for a permanent hire to begin next school year. A current teacher and department chair at SJA, Francis is a Marist of Champagnat and Molloy graduate with strong ties to our Marist mission, particularly through his many years volunteering at Esopus.

2026 Pilgrimage to L'Hermitage

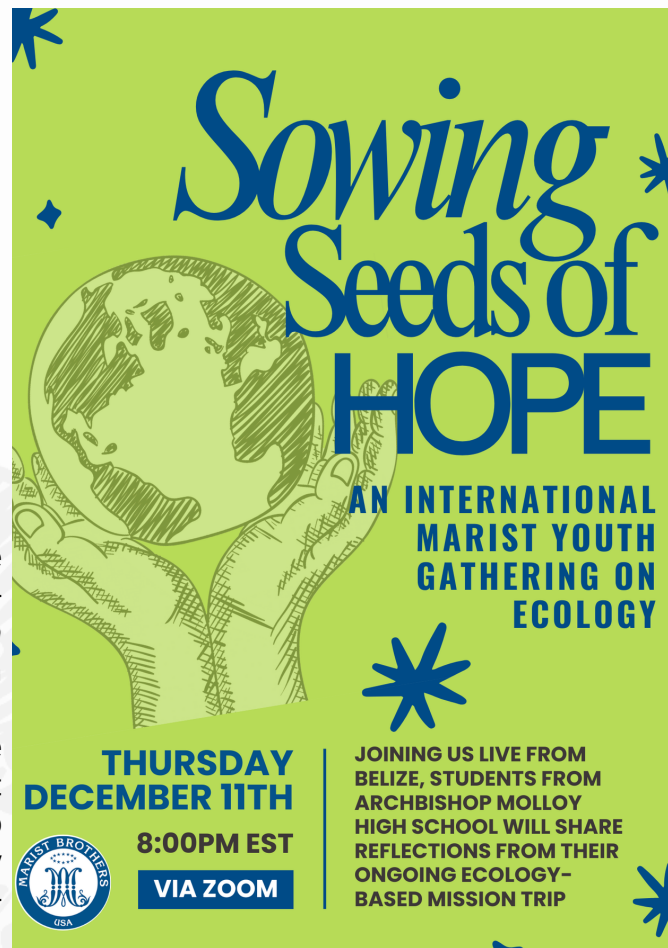
We're delighted to announce that our USA Province Pilgrimage to l'Hermitage in France will return next summer!

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

[Learn More Here!](#)



Last night, Marist student leaders from the U.S. and the Philippines came together for the special program--***Sowing Seeds of Hope: An International Marist Youth Gathering on Ecology***--to share Ecology projects from their different home communities. This special experience of cross-cultural solidarity helped celebrate the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si' and our shared Marist commitment to caring for creation. Also **joining the group live from Belize** were students from **Archbishop Molloy High School**, who shared reflections from the ecology-based mission trip they are currently on.



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 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.

WEEK THREE: *Love Made Visible in Care for Creation*



Love Your Local Bioregion Actively.

- Visit a Local Natural Area.
- Give a "Bioregional Gift."
- Show Love Through Food.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Central Catholic High School

LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS



The Central Catholic High School community in Lawrence, MA, was blessed to welcome President Emeritus Br. Rene Roy '59, along with Br. Jerry Dowsky, Br. Ken Hogan, Br. James Vagan, and local Marists of Champagnat, for the celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Blaney of Saint Michael Parish.



GO GREEN, GO THRIFTING!

Earlier this month, students involved in Planet Green, Central Catholic's Environmental Club, volunteered at Ruth's House Thrift Store, where they learned about reducing textile waste—and even had the opportunity to go thrifting themselves. Ruth's House, Inc. provides clothing to individuals and families in need throughout Haverhill and the Greater Merrimack Valley with care and compassion.

The following week, Planet Green partnered with the Crafternoon Crew, another CCHS student club, for a mending workshop led by Mrs. Jennifer Chatigny, Fine & Performing Arts faculty member and club advisor. Students were invited to bring an item in need of repair, gaining hands-on experience in extending the life of their clothing while supporting more sustainable practices.





BUILDERS OF A NEW HERMITAGE

The Message of the General Chapter, *Builders of a New Hermitage*, was released on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8. While the **full text** is available to read here, there is also a **video** introducing the Message that includes an introduction from Br. Peter Carroll, our Superior General.



The Message will also be presented by section over the next several editions of Friday Notes.

Today, under the theme *"Home for All, River of Life,"* we too are called to build a New Hermitage.

MISSION / GOOD NEWS



This week's featured image, the last in this series, is the Icon of Mission, which reminds us of our call to be Builders of Good News.

This call is represented by two pairs of feet on the journey, symbolizing brothers and laity who, together with children and young people, live the mission in daily life as bearers of the Good News. These feet walk together, marked by courage and hope, and, being barefoot, recall detachment, simplicity, and the call to be a Church that goes forth, always available to serve and to listen to the cries of the Kingdom. Along the path, violets bloom — a reminder that Marist virtues, cultivated in the heart, are the strength of our charism and must never be forgotten.

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

More Marist News...

Br. Dan is visiting our Brothers, Lay Marists, and **Central Catholic High School** in Lawrence this weekend, and will be visiting our Brothers in Pelham and Champagnat Hall next week.

Br. Brian will be in Eugene next week, where he is meeting up with local Marists of Champagnat and attending **Marist Catholic's** Christmas Prayer Service.

Last Saturday, Br. Dan and Ellen Van Cleef led a virtual Advent retreat, inviting participants into prayerful reflection for the Advent season. [Click here](#) to watch the first presentation and [click here](#) to watch the second presentation.

Congratulations to Fernando Mendoza '22 (QB), a graduate of **Christopher Columbus High School**, who is a leading candidate for this year's prestigious **Heisman Trophy Award**. Last week, Fernando led his Indiana University team to its first-ever Big Ten NCAA Championship. [Click here](#)



to view Fernando's on-field interview following the team's victory. As the College Football Playoffs begin, the Hoosiers are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation. The team also features Pat Coogan '21 (Center), a graduate of **Marist High School** in Chicago.

Last Saturday, **Marist High School** in Chicago hosted its third annual **Night of Honor, Glory, and Fame**, featuring the presentation of two awards recognizing integral members of the Marist family: 50-year faculty member Owen Glennon, recipient of the Heart of Marist Award, and longtime supporter and Marist alumnus Christopher Lawler '81, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

[Read '2 Years'](#) - a Poem written by Postulant Nikolaus Roussopoulos Tsigkras.

MORE TO EXPLORE THIS WEEK:



**MARIST FATHERS
JUSTICE & PEACE
ALERT**



**SHARING THE LAY
MARIST VOCATION**



MATTHEW 14.13-21



**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 Lavallee

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!





My Marist Life

A Monthly Podcast Sharing Marist Stories

Now Streaming Episode 3

Host: Eric Gonzales

Guest: Bobbie Pacheco-Education, Empathy and 2nd Chances

[Listen on Spotify](#)

Stories. Reflections. Connection.
Living the Marist Mission

MARIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

On December 6, Br. Dan O'Riordan and Ellen Van Cleef led a virtual Advent retreat, inviting participants into prayerful reflection for the Advent season. [Click here](#) to watch the first presentation and [click here](#) to watch the second presentation.

myp advent
get together

Sun. December 14
5pm Eastern
4pm Central

led by Isa Douglas
& Keanu Orfano

joy



REGISTER NOW





MYP January
Jamaica Mission
Trip

Sign up by December 15!



LEARN MORE

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- **Abbey Hipkin, a USA Marist of Champagnat and Molloy Faculty member, who just had knee surgery.**
- **Cathy Turner, mother of Stacey Baker, who is undergoing a medical procedure on Monday.**
- **Francis Curley as he assumes the role of interim principal at St. Joseph Academy.**
- **Br. Bernard Yamaguchi, who died earlier this week in Japan.**

OBITUARY

MEMORIAL BOOKLET

- 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.
- 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. Frank Garza as he continues to recover from a fall-related injury.
- Bros. Phil Degagne and 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 Pellicciari, who is recovering from surgery and intense rehabilitation therapy.
- Mrs. Sue O'Keeffe, 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).

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