



Friday Notes

JANUARY 30, 2026

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Last Friday, three students from Christopher Columbus High School offered an inspiring presentation to the USA Provincial Council during their meeting in Miami. Seniors and Green Team members John Allen, Andres Vidal, and Adrian Weinstein were joined by their faculty mentor, Ms. Christine Taylor, and School President, Mr. Tom Kruczek as they shared how the Columbus community has embraced the Laudato Si' movement through various ecological initiatives that are deeply aligned with our Marist Pillars and the vision articulated by Pope Francis.

Br. Dan and Br. Patrick visit Br. Bernie Nolan and Br. Charlie Filiatrault today in West Palm Beach. Later next week, Br. Dan will also visit our Brothers in Los Fresnos, as well as St. Joseph Academy.



The first webinar for our Marists of Champagnat Cohort 6 Formation Program will take place next Wednesday evening via Zoom.


UPCOMING EVENTS


 **Marist Youth Leadership Conference**
West Palm Beach, FL
January 30 -
February 1, 2026

 **Marist Brothers Investiture**
Mount Saint Michael Academy
February 2, 2026
6pm EST 

 **Marist of Champagnat Cohort 6 - Webinar 1**
February 4, 2026

 **Green Team Meeting**
via Zoom
February 12, 2026
4pm EST 

 **Observance of the Memorare in the Snow**
February 15, 2026

 **Sharing Our Call 2**
MBCE
February 22 -
February 24, 2026



New Brothers Entering the Novitiate

On Monday evening at 6pm, our four Marist postulants will officially become Marist Brothers as they begin their time of novitiate with a prayer service at Mount St. Michael Academy. Congratulations to Bjorn Lie, Abimelec Santiago, Thomas Sulaimanee, and Nikolaos Rousopoulos. [Join in via Zoom here!](#)

Visitors from l'Hermitage Province

Our USA Province warmly welcomes our Brothers from the l'Hermitage Province—Br. Gabriel Villa-Real, Provincial, and Br. Xavier Giné, Vicar Provincial—who are here for a weeklong visit and to witness their two postulants become Brothers on Monday.

Marist Youth Mission Conference

Young people from Marist schools around the USA Province will gather this weekend at Our Lady of Florida Retreat House in West Palm Beach, Florida, for a Marist Youth Mission Conference.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



@MaristGreenTeam

- The Green Team at Marist Chicago has helped implement compostable soup cups and flatware in its cafeteria! While this may sound like a minor change, what it represents is profound: a shift from a throwaway culture of single-use plastics, which can take hundreds of years to break down, to a circular economy in which organic materials can decompose and give birth to new life. Kudos to Ms. Brigid Wolff and all the student leaders for their vision, persistence, and dedication!

- This week, the United States officially left the Paris Climate Agreement, becoming the only country in the world to abandon the historic climate agreement, despite being the largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions per capita. The Paris Climate Agreement is a legally binding treaty adopted by 195 nations in 2015 aiming to lower global warming to well below 2° Celsius, and preferably below 1.5° C, by 2030, to avoid what scientists consider the worst consequences of climate change.

- Once more, our Province is offering grants for student-led ecology projects aligned with the seven principles of Laudato Si'. We encourage school groups to begin discussing proposals due to be submitted by March 8th.



GROW THE GREEN TEAM!

- Do you have friends or colleagues who are interested in environmental work? Feel free to share their emails with Sam King or encourage them to [sign up here!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

2026 Green Team Meetings!

Please note - our next meeting of the year will be held **Thursday, February 12th at 4pm EST.**



- Thursday, **March 12th** at 4pm EST / 3pm CST
- Tuesday, **April 14th** at 4pm EST / 3pm CST
- Thursday, **May 14th** at 4pm EST / 3pm CST

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Catholic Schools Week

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK STARTED IN 1974, INITIATED BY THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NCEA) (AND OFTEN SUPPORTED BY THE USCCB) TO CELEBRATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION'S VALUE AND CONTRIBUTIONS, AT A TIME WHEN SCHOOLS FACED CHALLENGES POST-VATICAN II AND SHIFTED TO MORE LAY INVOLVEMENT.

MARIST HIGH SCHOOL - CHICAGO, IL

During Catholic Schools Week, the Marist Chicago community gathered as one for an all-school Mass, celebrating faith as the foundation of who they are and what they stand for. As Fr. Tom Hurley '85 reflected, "To be a Catholic school is to be universal. We welcome everybody." This meaningful liturgy was a powerful reminder of Marist's Catholic mission in the Marist Brothers' tradition and of the people who make faith and learning thrive each day. RedHawks also proudly represented their grammar schools—an especially fitting tribute, as nearly 60% of Marist students come from Catholic grammar schools. The community expressed deep gratitude for the strong foundations these schools provide and for the faith, students, staff, and families who make Marist Chicago a vibrant place of welcome and growth.

SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY - BROWNSVILLE, TX

During Catholic Schools Week, Saint Joseph Academy celebrated faith, community, and school spirit through a full week of themed dress-down days, prayer, and student-led activities. The week included opportunities for Marian prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Marist mindfulness, Communion service, and Lectio Divina, alongside pep rallies, athletic events, and a CPR service program. Together, the SJA community joyfully lived out the call to be United in Faith and Community—Atados por el Hilo Invisible.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL T-SHIRT DAY



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL - MIAMI, FL

Members of the Christopher Columbus and Monsignor Pace school communities were among those attending a Mass and prayer service held in solidarity with migrants throughout the USA. The event included a prayerful procession to the Miami Immigration Court. We are grateful for the example given by these students and faculty members of being good Christians and good citizens!

Catholic Schools Week 2026



ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL - BRIARWOOD, NY

Archbishop Molloy High School celebrated community, welcome, and hands-on learning this week, hosting a Winter Open House for accepted students and families, offering a joyful introduction to the faith-filled academic and extracurricular life that defines the Stanner experience. The week also highlighted innovation in the classroom, including the installation of a new saltwater aquarium in the Biology Lab—an immersive learning project funded by the Stanner-a-Thon and maintained by students in the Biology Club—reflecting Molloy's commitment to curiosity, stewardship of creation, and excellence in education.

MOUNT SAINT MICHAEL ACADEMY - BRONX, NY

Mount Saint Michael Academy celebrated Catholic Schools Week with joy, creativity, and strong school spirit. Students filled the halls with blue and gold for Blue & Gold Day, proudly showcasing Mount pride, followed by a fun-filled Wacky Tacky Day featuring colorful outfits, mismatched styles, and plenty of smiles—capturing the joy and community that define life at the Mount.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - LAWRENCE, MA

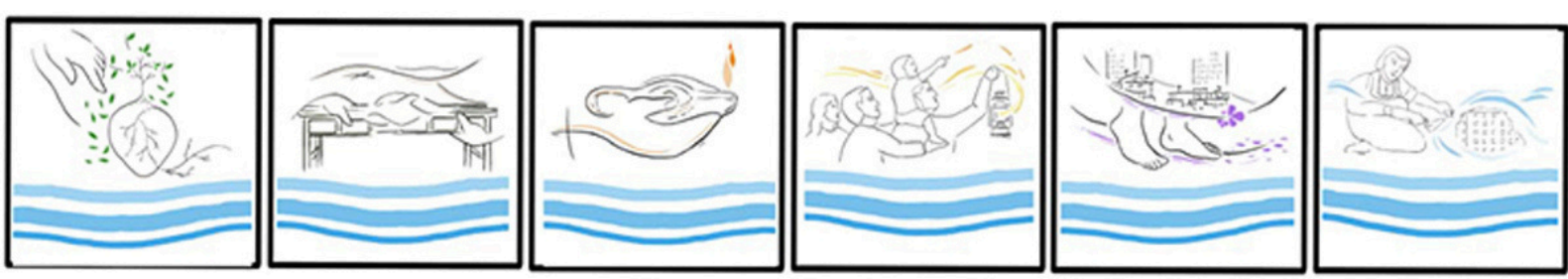
As part of Catholic Schools Week, Central Catholic High School in Lawrence scheduled a special liturgy on Monday (postponed due to weather) commemorating the school's 90th anniversary. This milestone celebration offered an opportunity for the CCHS community to give thanks for nine decades of faith, education, and community.



ROSELLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - ROSELLE, NJ

During Catholic Schools Week, Roselle Catholic celebrated Lion pride through faith, service, and leadership. Highlights included a Champagnat shoutout to four Boys Varsity Basketball seniors who visited Saint Matthias School to share how faith and academics guide them as student-athletes, as well as gratitude for the RC Parents Club, whose January coat drive supported families in need. The week also featured the annual Accepted Lions Retreat, where incoming students gathered for prayer, reflection, games, and community-building—joyfully experiencing what it means to be a Lion, now and always.





BUILDERS OF A NEW HERMITAGE

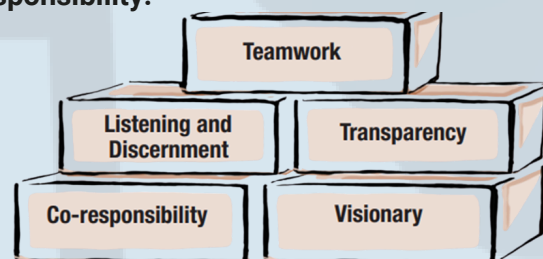
The Message of the 23rd General Chapter, *Builders of a New Hermitage*, was published on December 8. The next several editions of Friday Notes will include the presentation of each of the 5 Calls as they appear in the text which you can access [here](#).



FOURTH CALL: To Be Builders of Servant Leadership



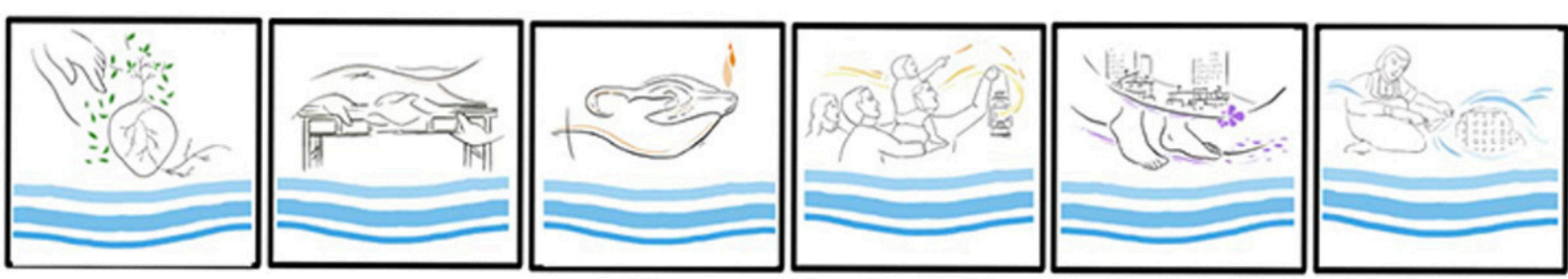
We are committed to fostering servant and prophetic LEADERSHIP, along with governance and management models that open pathways toward a viable and sustainable future, aligned with both the realities of our Institute and the broader world. Inspired by the Church's call to synodality, we promote a leadership approach founded on transparency, active participation, and shared responsibility.



BRICKS / FOUNDATIONAL VALUES

This call invites us to a conversion of heart and mind where we:

- Reject dependency and individualism and choose shared responsibility.
- Overcome complacent attitudes and move boldly and creatively toward new styles of leadership.
- Choose openness over resistance, developing resilience and adaptability through a flexible, proactive approach.
- Adopt a strategic vision and a comprehensive approach that prioritizes long-term sustainability.



STRATEGIES:

As Marists of Champagnat, Brothers, and lay women and men together we stand as builders of a New Hermitage, called to raise walls of hope, open doors of welcome, and lay foundations of faith for the generations to come. Each call of this Chapter offers us a set of tools - carefully crafted and entrusted to us- not for ourselves alone, but for the flourishing of the global Marist family.

The strategies that follow are not simply plans or tasks; they are instruments for shaping a common dwelling where the Spirit breathes life.

As artisans of this shared dream, we are invited to take up these strategies with courage and creativity. May they be for us not only blueprints but also signs of communion, so that together we may build a hermitage where all feel at home, and where Christ is joyfully at the center.

1. Review and adapt governance and leadership structures, with active lay participation, to ensure sustainability, vitality, and effectiveness. This may require a profound transformation of Marist life and mission.
2. Develop economic, financial, and administrative management strategies that guarantee sustainability, supported by professional expertise and strengthened through strategic partnerships.
3. Provide support and accompaniment for governance, management, and leadership in Administrative Units facing fragile contexts, through international bodies such as Fraters and Gier.
4. Promote prophetic and servant leadership through formation, accompaniment, and succession planning, fostering discernment in a synodal spirit.
5. Strengthen investment funds in a collaborative, transparent, professional, and ethical way, while ensuring that real estate assets generate returns that sustain the life and mission of the Institute and its Administrative Units.
6. Commission a comprehensive study of the governance and leadership model of the General Administration and the location of the General House, considering decentralization, regionalization, costs, and investments.

Through *Leadership and Governance*, we design structures and pathways that ensure the house we build is sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant.

NEW MONTHLY REFLECTION SERIES OFFERED BY OUR SUPERIOR GENERAL

Brother Peter Carroll, Superior General, is now offering a monthly reflection addressing significant aspects of the mission and Marist lifestyle. The series will be called “Marist Horizons” and will be distributed through the Institute’s communication channels.



Published on the fourth Wednesday of each month, these reflections will invite us to broaden our horizons, deepen our commitment, respond creatively to the emerging calls of the Church and the world and encourage us in our daily efforts to make Jesus known and loved in the manner of Mary.

Through these reflections, Brother Peter seeks to offer insights, inspiration, and guidance as we continue to walk together as a global Marist family, attentive to the calls of the 23rd General Chapter.

We invite all Brothers, lay Marists, and communities to accompany this journey of discernment and deepening of our shared charism.

[READ MORE](#) 



2026 PROVINCE-WIDE SOLIDARITY PROJECTS

This year’s Province-wide Solidarity Campaign will support seven Marist projects in India, Rwanda, Chad, Haiti, Aleppo, Thailand, and Venezuela.

With the help of students from our USA Marist schools, we will highlight each of these projects through a series of short weekly videos. These reflections are intended to help us better understand both the needs being addressed and the spirit of solidarity that unites us as Marists.

Thanks to our students at Christopher Columbus for the first video in this series on the new Marist school to be built in India with our support.

[WATCH NOW](#) 

More Marist News...

- Members of the Christopher Columbus and Monsignor Pace school communities in Florida have been among those protesting the aggressive ICE activity recently seen in Minneapolis and across the country.



- On Sunday, February 1, the **GLJ Foundation** will be holding its 3rd Annual Scholarship Dinner. The foundation was established in honor of Mr. George Janvier, deceased music minister at Mount Saint Michael Academy and Youth Minister at St. Frances of Rome Parish. George was also the father of Thomas Sulaimanee, who is beginning his time of novitiate this week. Foundation scholarships support students at Mount Saint Michael and other Catholic schools. **Donations to the foundation can be made [here](#).**



MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

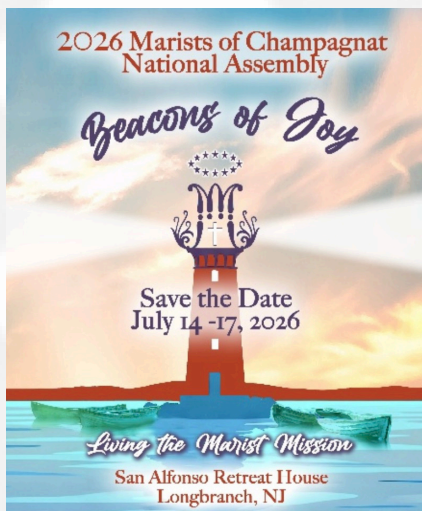


National Assembly 2026: Beacons of Joy

SAVE THE DATE for the National Assembly, July 14-17, at San Alfonso Retreat Center in Long Branch, NJ.

We are honored to welcome Sister Bernadette Mota, FMA as our keynote speaker, who will help guide and inspire our reflection as we gather as *beacons of joy*.

Cost is \$400/ person plus travel. Many options for financial assistance will be available. Stay tuned for more details.



LOOKING AHEAD:

May 1-3: Deepening Our Call, an in person retreat held at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus.

Dates TBA: Local group spring retreat. Held in each local area and on Zoom for those not near the school hubs. Join in to explore the calls of the General Chapter.

Lent, 2026 - Our annual Hearts in Action province-wide service initiative. Watch for more details.

July 1-5: USA Province Pilgrimage to L'Hermitage in France. Join other Marists to walk in the footsteps of Champagnat. More details here.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Br. Patrick McNamara

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Br. Donald Bisson

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Br. John Herrmann

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Br. James Halliday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Br. James Maher

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Br. Albert Phillipp

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Br. Kevin Handibode

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Br. Michael Sheerin

NEW READING THIS WEEK



SOCIETY OF MARY



AT THE SAME TABLE



MATTHEW 16:13-19



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



MARIST NEWS



CANADA NEWS

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- **Br. Rick Shea, who was in the hospital this week.**
- **Fr. Richard Adams, cousin of Br. Jim Adams, who died this week. His wake will be on Tuesday, February 3, from 8:30am - 10am at the Cardinal O'Connor Priest Residence - 5655 Arlington Ave, Bronx, NY. Mass to follow at 10am.**
- **Margaret Wright Clint, who died on Sunday. Margaret was the mother of Marcia Martinez, Comptroller at St. Joseph Academy and member of the Class of '88.**
- **Kathleen Costa, mother of Richard Costa (Campus Minister at Archbishop Molloy), who died this week.**

- For Cathy Puszcz, a teacher who spent her entire career at Marist in Bayonne, who is in critical care.
- Lourdes Melendez, godmother of Br. Al Rivera, who has been undergoing chemo treatments for ovarian cancer.
- Laura Blando, sister of Br. James Norton, as she continues a new round of chemotherapy.
- Fr. Kevin Duggan, SM, who has had a recurrence of cancer.
- Br. Rick Shea and Br. Jim Adams, who both are rehabbing at De LaSalle Hall in Lincroft, NJ.
- Steve Mason, brother-in-law of Rick Martin, who is recovering from surgery.
- Mrs. Terry Paul, who is in the hospital.
- 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, Larry Lavalley, Bernie Nolan, and Rene Roy who are all receiving care outside of Marist community.
- Bros. Phil Degagne and James Maher, who are recovering after recent hospital stays.
- Mrs. Peg Kelly, mother of Br. Frank Kelly, who is recovering from a broken hip.
- Teresa Kelly, wife of Mike Kelly (Tyngsboro, 1965).
- Saoirse McGarry, 23 years old, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma.
- 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 Pellicari, who is recovering from surgery and intense rehabilitation therapy.
- Mrs. Sue O'Keeffe, as she struggles with pancreatic cancer.
- Jason Wolf, a 22-year old cousin of John Venturella, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.
- 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 who is in hospice with stage 4 cancer.
- Frederick Marinelli, father of Michael Marinelli and husband of Carmen Marinelli in Miami.
- Patricia Hayes Franzem, who is recovering from surgery.
- Mrs. Olga Dunning, sister-in-law of Br. John Dunning, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

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