



Friday Notes

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

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Recent News

On Monday evening, in the chapel at Mount St. Michael Academy, Br. Björn Lie, Br. Abimelec Santiago, Br. Thomas Sulaimanee, and Br. Nikolaos Rousopoulos formally entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate. During this sacred and hope-filled prayer service, these four young men officially began their Novitiate Year—a dedicated time of prayer, study, and discernment as they prepare for vowed religious life. With this step, they now take on a new name: Brother. Click the link to view a recording of the celebration!

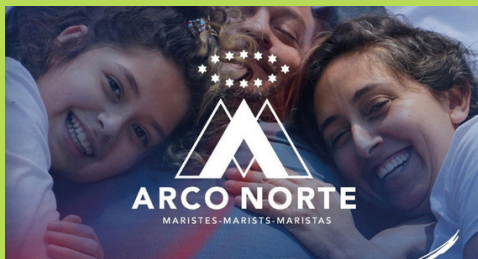
[WATCH NOW](#)

Br. Dan will be visiting our Marist communities in Los Fresnos and Austin over the next few days and will then attend the CMSM Board meeting in Washington, DC on Tuesday and Wednesday.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- Marist Youth Encounter**
MBCE
February 26 -
March 1, 2026
- Keepers of the Charism**
SJA - Brownsville, TX
March 2, 2026
- Sharing Our Mission**
West Palm Beach, FL
March 7 -
March 10, 2026



My Marist Life
A Monthly Podcast Sharing Marist Stories
Now Streaming Episode 5
Host: Eric Gonzales
Guests: Patrick Ryan Mental Health and the Marist Way

[Listen on Spotify](#)

Stories. Reflections. Connection.
Living the Marist Mission



New Arco Norte Newsletter!

The first edition of a new annual newsletter will be released in the coming weeks, intended to strengthen connection and collaboration across the Arco Norte region by sharing stories of Marist life, mission, and ministry, and highlighting the ways Brothers and Lay Marists continue to walk together in response to the needs of today.

Episode 5 of My Marist Life is here!

Host Eric Gonzales speaks with Patrick Ryan, Director of Student Services and proud Marist High School graduate, who reflects on returning to the community that shaped him and on supporting the mental health and well-being of young people through the Marist Mission.

Marist Youth Mission Conference

Young people from Marist schools around the USA Province gathered last weekend at Our Lady of Florida Retreat House in West Palm Beach, Florida, for a Marist Youth Mission Conference. Read more in this week's Ministry Spotlight!



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



@MaristGreenTeam

We are thrilled about the completion of a new rooftop solar project at Marist High School—a tangible sign of our Marist commitment to live out the ethics of integral ecology rooted in Laudato Si. At a time of climate crisis, this solar array is a symbol of hope for a more just, clean energy future through harnessing the renewable energy of Brother Sun. We are immensely grateful to our colleagues at Mission Energy, and to all the school leaders at Marist High School for their vision and dedication to making this happen. Read a new article about the project [here!](#)



Our USA Province is pleased to again offer all our Marist schools the opportunity to obtain Ecology Grants to support student-led projects aligned with the principles of the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#). Each USA Marist school may submit one grant proposal for up to \$2,000. Grants are due by 5:00pm on Friday, March 13, 2026. Schools must apply through the following [GoogleForm link](#).

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



The Marist General House in Rome also completed a recent solar project that will reduce carbon emissions and produce energy cost savings for the community. Watch a video overview [here!](#)

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Marist Youth USA

MARIST YOUTH MISSION CONFERENCE

This conference is offered two to three times each year for sophomores from Marist schools and affiliated ministries. The program seeks to highlight the many ways Marists live out our mission to “Make Jesus Known and Loved,” both around the world and within local school communities. Students are then invited to reflect on how they, too, are being called to mission and what that call might mean in their own lives.



MEET THE MARIST YOUTH INTERNS!



ISABELLA DOUGLAS
SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY '21
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN '25

Current school/job: Applying to medical school and working at Orangetheory Fitness in Brownsville, TX!

Which Marist pillar resonates most with you right now? Love of work. I feel blessed to be busy and to be able to serve others.

What excites you most about serving in Marist ministry this year? I love gathering with the Marist community, reuniting with friends from across the country, and seeing the same when kids from different schools are able to connect! I truly feel like I witness the Holy Spirit at work at every Marist event :)

FINNEGAN KENNY
CENTRAL CATHOLIC '23
BRYANT UNIVERSITY '27

Current school/job: Junior at Bryant University studying marketing.

Which Marist pillar resonates most with you right now? Presence and caring relationships. I have a lot of my roommates and friends at my school and back home that still keep up with me even though they go to school in Alabama. Having those people that text me everyday and see what I'm up to makes it easier to go out and enjoy my day.





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](#).



FIFTH CALL: To Be Builders of Good News

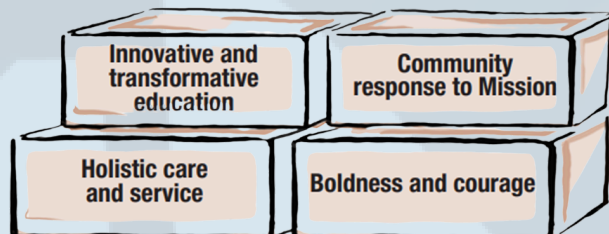


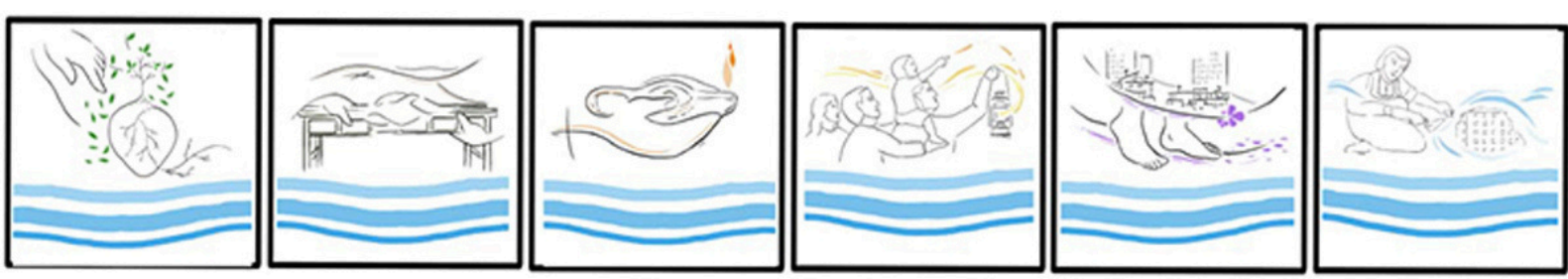
God calls us today to be Good News for the children and young people of our world, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Living this MISSION with boldness and hope commits us to be welcoming hearts, caring hands, and minds that create and develop a comprehensive and transformative education.

BRICKS / FOUNDATIONAL VALUES

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

- Leave behind old ways and embrace new horizons in education and service to youth.
- Reject pessimism and welcome the creativity that builds a better world.
- Choose education that is holistic, multicultural and innovative.
- Embrace collaboration and relationships of fruitful interdependence.





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. **Strongly commit to being present among poor and vulnerable children and young people, directly or in collaboration with other congregations or ecclesial institutions.**
2. **Strengthen the Institute's existing mission networks that support local, regional, and global initiatives in education, solidarity, and human rights.**
3. **Give bold and innovative educational and evangelizing responses to the needs of today's children and youth.**
4. **Implement the 7 priorities of III Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA III)**

Through Mission, we extend our hands outward, building bridges of solidarity and presence, especially with those on the margins.

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 Marist High School in Chicago for the second video in this series on the new Marist work in Thailand.

[WATCH NOW](#) 

More Marist News...

Last Saturday the 22nd iteration of Esopus Music was held in Manhattan! This annual event brings together musicians, supporters and multiple generations of volunteers to celebrate and raise funds for the Mid-Hudson Valley Camps in Esopus where each year our Marist mission to the least favored finds such remarkable expression. Esopus Music 22 has already raised more than \$8,300 this year, but it's not too late to push that total above \$10K! [Click on this link to donate via PayPal!](#) Many thanks to everybody who made this such a special event, including the organizing team of Mike McGovern, Alex Sanchez, and MC Abbey Hipkin!

While in the USA to celebrate their two new novices, Bros Gabriel and Xavi from the Hermitage Province stopped by the Cloisters Museum to visit artifacts originally from the 12th century monastery of Les Avellanes in Catalonia which has housed a Marist Brothers community since 1910 (pictured right).



MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



Episode 5 of My Marist Life is here!

In this episode of My Marist Life, host Eric Gonzales sits down with Patrick Ryan, Director of Student Services and proud Marist High School graduate. Patrick shares his journey back to the community that

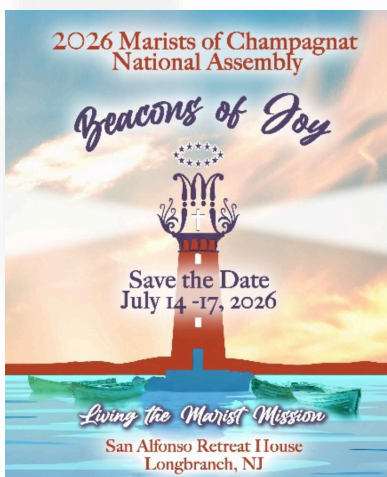
shaped him and reflects on the mental needs of young people today. Together, they explore how student support, relationships and accompaniment are lived out through the Marist Mission in the spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat. [Listen now on Spotify!](#) New episodes will drop the first of every month.

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 Phillip

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Br. Kevin Handibode

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Br. Michael Sheerin

NEW READING THIS WEEK



SOCIETY OF MARY



AT THE SAME TABLE



MATTHEW 16:20-28



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



MARIST NEWS



CANADA NEWS

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- For Br. John Healy, who was recently diagnosed with cancer and will begin treatments on February 18th.
 - **Rest** of the soul of Maureen P. Delepine, sister of deceased Br. Martin Ruane, fms.
 - **Rest** of the soul of Theresa Devine, mother of Doreen Keller, a Marist of Champagnat and retired principal of Central Catholic High School.
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- 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!