



Friday Notes

MARCH 6, 2026

038



Recent News

Members of our Province Team are gathered at Our Lady of Florida in West Palm Beach for planning, collaboration, and reflection ahead of the upcoming Sharing Our Mission gathering. Presidents, principals, campus ministers, religion department chairs, and board chairs from Marist schools across the United States will arrive tomorrow to participate in this important time of formation and dialogue in support of our shared Marist mission.

Bros. Rob Dittus, David Freiler, Miguel Garcia, and Ryan Richter have all requested to renew their temporary vows. You may send letters of support to the individual Brothers and Br. Owen Ormsby (boofms@gmail.com) to be considered by the Council.

Br. Owen and Br. Brian will attend the CMSM (Conference of Major Superiors of Men) Regional Meeting at Graymoor next week. CMSM is the national organization representing leaders of Catholic religious institutes for men, monasteries, and societies of apostolic life in the United States.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Green Team Meeting**
via Zoom
March 12, 2026
4pm EST
- Arco Norte Regional Assembly**
Guatemala
March 15 -
March 21, 2026
- Provincial Council Meeting**
Guatemala
March 20, 2026
- Marist Youth Mission Conference**
West Palm Beach, FL
March 20 -
March 22, 2026
- Marists of Champagnat National Assembly**
Long Branch, NJ
July 14 -
July 17, 2026



Leading up to Earth Day!

As part of our Small Steps, Big Hope journey toward Earth Day, we invite our Marist family to take a simple weekly step toward caring for our common home and living Laudato Si' with the heart of Mary. Read more on Page 2!



Marist Youth Encounter

Last weekend, students from several Marist schools gathered at the MBCE for a Marist Youth Encounter Christ Retreat. Rooted in the Marist mission of "Making Jesus Known and Loved," the Encounter offers young people an opportunity to deepen their faith, build community, and grow in their relationship with God.



Keepers of the Charism

Rick Martin, Director of Marist Adult Formation, helped facilitate the third edition of the Keepers of the Charism program at St. Joseph Academy on Monday, continuing to support the spiritual and charismatic formation of faculty in our Marist schools.



**FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM!**



@MaristGreenTeam

EARTH DAY 2026 WILL BE CELEBRATED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 THIS YEAR!

As part of our *Small Steps, Big Impact* journey toward Earth Day, we invite our Marist family to take a simple weekly step toward caring for our common home and living Laudato Si' with the heart of Mary.

**THIS WEEK'S ACTION:
TRY ONE PLANT-BASED MEAL THIS WEEK!**

**SMALL
STEPS,
BIG HOPE!**

**SMALL CHOICES MADE TOGETHER
CREATE REAL CHANGE.**

Each week leading up to **Earth Day 2026**, we will take one small action that reduces waste, protects creation, and strengthens our commitment to live Laudato Si' with the heart of Mary.

SMALL STEPS BIG HOPE

WEEK 2: MARCH 6

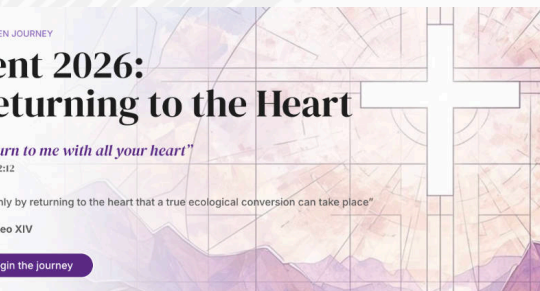


CHALLENGE: MEATLESS MONDAY

Care for creation can start on our plates. Try one plant-based meal this week—in solidarity with our Province's call to live simply and sustainably.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Please note - the next Green Team meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 12th at 4pm EST.**



RETURNING TO THE HEART

This year's Lenten theme from the Laudato Si' Movement is Returning to the Heart. View the resources [here](#).

LET US ACT TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON HOME

U.S. CATHOLICS TAKE "MY LAUDATE DEUM ACTION PLEDGE"



PERSONAL AND FAMILY CHANGES

Eat less meat, waste less, use less fossil fuels, pray more.

ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGES

Urge U.S. & global leaders toward better climate policies, debt forgiveness, less fossil fuels.



WORK TO MOVE OUR CHURCH

Talk to our priests, organize church actions.

THE CULTURAL SHIFT THAT IS NEEDED

Starts with us, in our hearts & actions, with spirituality & care for the life and dignity of all.

"PRAISE GOD ... FOR WHEN HUMAN BEINGS CLAIM TO TAKE GOD'S PLACE, THEY BECOME THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES."



Sign the pledge at bit.ly/LDActionPledge



This Lent, as you reflect on how we are called to practice temperance and sacrifice, consider taking the [Laudate Deum Action Pledge](#) to take ecological action. You may wish to share the pledge with your school, parish, or religious community. To help you share in this way, please download [this graphic](#) for use on social media, newsletters, and bulletins. View additional Lenten resources from the Catholic Climate Covenant [here](#).

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Roselle Catholic High School

Roselle, New Jersey

READ ACROSS AMERICA

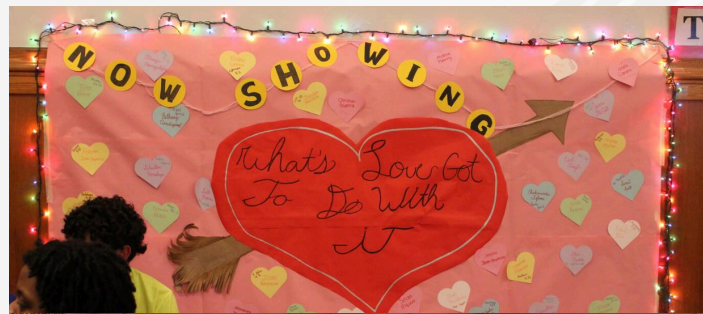
Earlier this week, in honor of Read Across America, senior students from Roselle Catholic visited St. Matthias School in Somerset to read with younger students in their classrooms. The visit offered a joyful opportunity for the seniors to share their love of reading while connecting with the students, encouraging curiosity, imagination, and a lifelong appreciation for books—an experience that also reflected the Marist spirit of service and community.



“WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?”

More than 40 juniors from Roselle Catholic traveled to Esopus for their annual Junior Retreat, centered on the theme “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” Along with senior leaders, underclassmen serving on the kitchen crew, alumni, and faculty, the group spent time in prayer, reflection, and community.

Although the retreat had to end early due to an incoming blizzard, the weekend was filled with strong energy and a true sense of family spirit as the junior class came together for a meaningful experience.



MARIST YOUTH ENCOUNTER

Last weekend, a group of juniors and seniors traveled to Esopus to participate in the Marist Youth Encounter Christ Retreat, joining students from other Marist schools for a weekend of prayer, reflection, and community as they deepened their relationship with God and their faith.



MEET THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BR. DEIVIS FISCHER — REGIONAL COUNCILOR TO EUROPE

Son of Lauri Fischer and Elieda Cerutti Fischer, Br. Deivis was born on September 15, 1983, in Gramado Xavier, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He comes from the Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia.

He began his Marist formation in 2000 in Lajeado. In Bento Gonçalves and Passo Fundo, he completed the stages of Postulancy and Novitiate, respectively. He made his perpetual profession on October 16, 2011.

Brother Deivis has a degree in Pastoral Theology, and Philosophy, with a specialization in Sociology and a Master's degree in Education.

In his apostolate, the following roles stand out:

- Vice President of the Marist Network Supporters from 2013 to 2018;
- Vice Provincial of the Marist Province of Brasil Sul-Amazônia from 2016 to 2018;
- President of the Board of Directors of the Marist Union of Brazil (Umbrasil), from 2016 to 2018;
- Manager of the Coordination of Consecrated Life and Laity, in 2014 and 2015;
- Vice-Provincial of the Marist Province of Rio Grande do Sul, from 2013 to 2015;
- Vice President of the Association of Volunteering and Solidarity, from 2011 to 2020;
- Manager of Pastoral Coordination, in 2011 and 2012; and Provincial Coordinator of Marist Youth Ministry (PJM), from 2008 to 2010.

Br. Deivis also served as: Coordinator of the Marist Youth House (Caju) in 2008; Philosophy Teacher at Colégio Marista Ivone Vettorello in Porto Alegre in the same year; Coordinator of the School Pastoral Service, Teacher and Local Advisor of Marist Youth Ministry at Colégio Marista São Luís, in Santa Cruz do Sul, from 2005 to 2007; and Teacher of Religious Education and Pastoral Agent at Colégio Marista Graças, in Viamão, in 2004. In addition, he completed his Apostolic Internship at the Novitiate and his Pedagogical Internship at the Marist School and Social Center Santa Marta, in Santa Maria, in the first semester of 2003.

He was elected for his first term as Provincial of Brasil Sul-Amazônia in 2021. In November 2024, he began his second term.

He was appointed General Councilor on October 3, 2025.





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

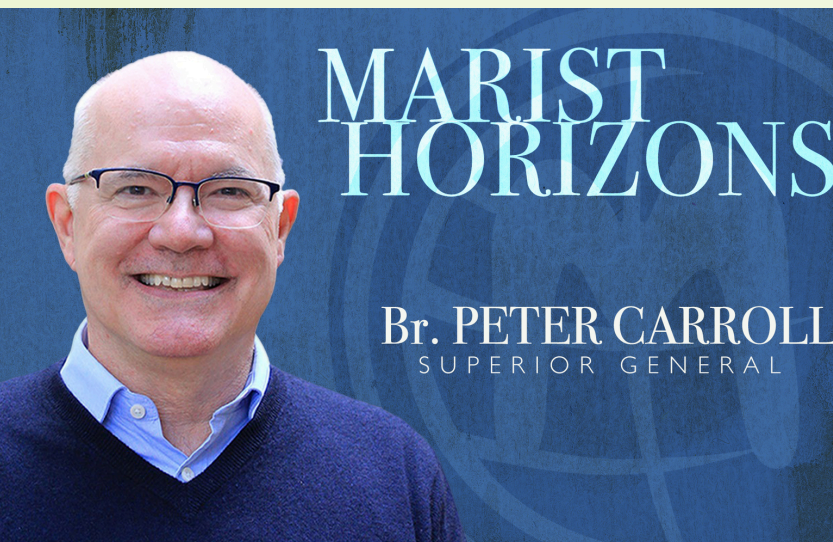
these projects through a series of short weekly videos. These reflections are intended to help us better understand both the needs being addressed and the spirit of solidarity that unites us as Marists.

Thanks to our students at Central Catholic High School for the fifth video in this series on supporting our Marist Brothers in Rwanda.

[WATCH NOW](#) 

FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

Br. Guillermo Villareal, our Postulator General, has launched a new series of reflections entitled *Flowing in the Spirit*. Over the course of the year, he will explore themes related to Marist holiness as we seek together to be Builders of a New Hermitage informed by a healthy culture of vocations. Read the full introduction to this project [here](#).



MARIST HORIZONS

Br. Peter has released the February 2026 entry in his *Marist Horizons* series! This month, read about his experience of the new General Government's first plenary meeting and more specifically about the work being done to develop a canonically recognized International Association of Lay Marists, as mandated by the 23rd General Chapter.

[READ MORE](#) 

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



Episode 5 of the 'My Marist Life' podcast has been released!

In this episode of My Marist Life, Jim O'Neill shares how his Marist vocation has continued to grow long after retiring from the classroom. From decades of shaping young hearts at Central Catholic High School to serving at the Marist House of Hospitality and Camp Marist, Jim reflects on living the Marist pillars in every season of his life. His story is a powerful reminder that the call to "make Jesus known and loved" never retires.

[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 5
Host: Eric Gonzales
Guest: Jim O'Neill
Living the Marist Vocation in Every Season of Life
[Listen on Spotify](#)
Stories. Reflections. Connection.
Living the Marist Mission

Now in its 3rd year, Hearts in Action has proven to be a beautiful way to connect across the miles as people delve into service projects, either on their own, with family and friends, or with their local (or virtual!) group, all throughout the Lenten season. **Share what you plan on doing here!** Our Lenten 2026 Marists of Champagnat Hearts in Action Initiative began with an opening prayer on Sunday, Feb 15 and will conclude with a closing prayer on **Sunday, April 12, 2026.**

HEARTS IN ACTION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact your local group coordinator (listed below) to see what's happening in your area! Even if you can't get involved this year, please join in on the opening and closing prayers. They are inspiring and moving, and a beautiful chance for us to be proud of the Marist spirit alive in service to others. **MAKING JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED!**

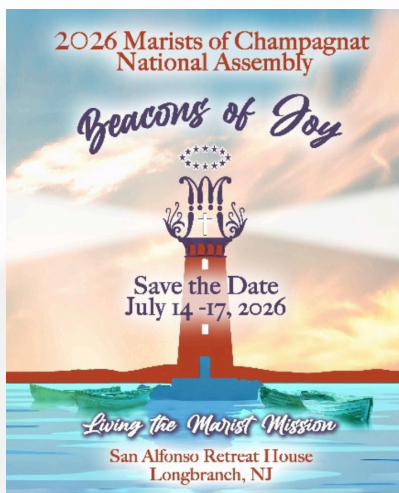
- **New England:** March 25, 2026
 - Local Group Leader: [Chris Sullivan](#)
- **NY/NJ:** Regional meeting: April 18, 2026
 - Local Group Leaders: [Alice Miesnik](#) and [Maureen Hagan](#)
- **Miami Area:** Regional meeting March 7, 2026
 - Local Group Leader: [Daniella Rodriguez](#)
- **Brownsville:**
 - Local Group Leader: [Mary Beth Martin](#)
- **Eugene:** Regional meeting: TBD
 - Local Group Leader: [Alice Meyer](#)
- **Chicago:** Regional meeting March 2, 2026
 - Local Group Leader: [Erin Kelly](#)
- **Virtual:** Regional Meeting: TBD
 - Local Group Leader: [Madelin Picou](#)

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.



MARCH Birthdays

MONDAY, MARCH 2

Br. Rick Carey
Br. Robert Dittus

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Br. Donnell Neary

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Br. Frank Kelly

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Br. Edmund Sheehan

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Br. David Freiler

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Br. John Malich
Br. Robert McCauley

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Br. John Healy

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Br. Kevin Brogan

NEW READING THIS WEEK



[MDA NEWSLETTER](#)



[AT THE SAME TABLE](#)



[MATTHEW 18:1-11](#)



[CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL](#)



[MARIST NEWS](#)



[CANADA NEWS](#)

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- **The repose of the soul of Bishop Timothy McDonnell, brother of Br. John McDonnell, who passed away peacefully last night after a long battle with cancer.**
- **The repose of the soul of Kathy McHugh, wife of Mike McHugh, Marist Chicago Security Officer.**
- **The repose of the soul of Sr. Bette Carvelli, smsm.**
- **The repose of the soul of Sr. Jhorna Gomes, smsm.**

- William Ling, father of Province archivist Michelle Ling.
- Br. Frank Garza, who will be at Champagnat Hall next week for some medical testing.
- Anne O'Riordan, mother of Tomas O'Riordan, who is recovering at home after a serious fall.
- Cathy Puszcz, a teacher who spent her entire career at Marist in Bayonne, who is in critical care.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. Jim Adams, 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 Pellicciari, who is recovering from surgery and intense rehabilitation therapy.
- Mrs. Sue O'Keefe, 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.
- 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!