



NEWSLETTER

Friday Notes

MARCH 13, 2026

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Recent News

Members of our Marist school communities recently gathered at Our Lady of Florida in West Palm Beach for the Sharing Our Mission program. Presidents, principals, campus ministers, religion department chairs, and board chairs from Marist schools across the United States came together for a meaningful time of formation, reflection, and dialogue, strengthening their shared commitment to the Marist mission of making Jesus known and loved in their school communities.



Br. Dan and Br. Owen spent time last week in West Palm Beach, Florida visiting with Br. Charlie Filiatrault and Br. Bernie Nolan, enjoying time for conversation, community, and shared prayer together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

 **Arco Norte Regional Assembly**
Guatemala

March 15 -
March 21, 2026

 **Provincial Council Meeting**
Guatemala

March 20, 2026

 **Marist Youth Mission Conference**
Esopus, NY

March 20 -
March 22, 2026

 **Hearts in Action Closing Prayer Service**
via Zoom

April 12, 2026



 **Marists of Champagnat National Assembly**
Long Branch, NJ

July 14 -
July 17, 2026



SMALL STEPS, BIG HOPE!

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!



Arco Norte Regional Assembly

Members of our Provincial Council and several members of the Province Team will travel to Guatemala next week for the Arco Norte Regional Assembly. Maureen Hagan (Marist Laity) and Erin Gilbert (Communications) are already in Guatemala attending committee meetings ahead of the Assembly, which begins on Monday.



Support Our Temporary Brothers

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.



PROVINCE ECOLOGY GRANTS ARE DUE TODAY!

Applications for student-led projects aligned with the seven principles of Laudato Si' are due today at 6pm EST.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT!](#)

SMALL STEPS, BIG HOPE!

As Earth Day 2026 approaches, we are featuring weekly calls to action to express our commitment to Care for our Common Home. Use the hashtag #MaristEarthDay on social media to follow along!

THIS WEEK'S ACTION:

SORT AND RECYCLE PROPERLY BY CHECKING YOUR LOCAL GUIDELINES!



A Gathering for Secondary Educators to Network, Learn, and Experience Renewal
JUNE 22-24, 2026
STONY POINT, NY

IGNATIAN ECO-EDUCATOR SUMMIT

Registration is now open for the [Ignatian Solidarity Network's Eco Educator Summit](#) from June 22-24 in New York's Hudson Valley. We'd love for you or anyone from your school to attend to share ideas and best practices, and to help us think about how we can continue to move our schools forward individually and collectively to live Laudato Si'. Please reach out to Sam King with questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- The next **Green Team meeting** will be held on **Thursday, April 16th at 4pm EST.**
- **Earth Day Weekend** will be held in Esopus from **April 24-26.** Registration details are available [here](#).



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 3: MARCH 13



CHALLENGE:

SORT & RECYCLE CORRECTLY

Recycling only works when we do it right. Take five minutes to check your local guidelines (yes, they're all different!) and sort with intention.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Guadalupe Regional Middle School Brownsville, Texas

MARIST BROTHERS USA AFFILIATION:

Guadalupe Regional Middle School (GRMS) in Brownsville, Texas, is an all-scholarship Catholic middle school serving students in grades six through eight whose families desire but cannot afford a Catholic education. Founded in 2002, the school forms young people academically and spiritually with the goal of preparing them for “College and Heaven.”

GRMS is sponsored by three Catholic religious congregations: the Congregation of Christian Brothers, the Marist Brothers, and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The Marist connection is especially rooted in the leadership of Br. Leo Shea, FMS, who served as the school’s founding administrator, president, and principal fundraiser. Through his vision and dedication, Br. Leo helped establish GRMS as a place of opportunity, faith, and hope for the young people of the Brownsville community. Br. Leo died in 2020 at the age of 85, having lived 68 years as a Marist Brother.

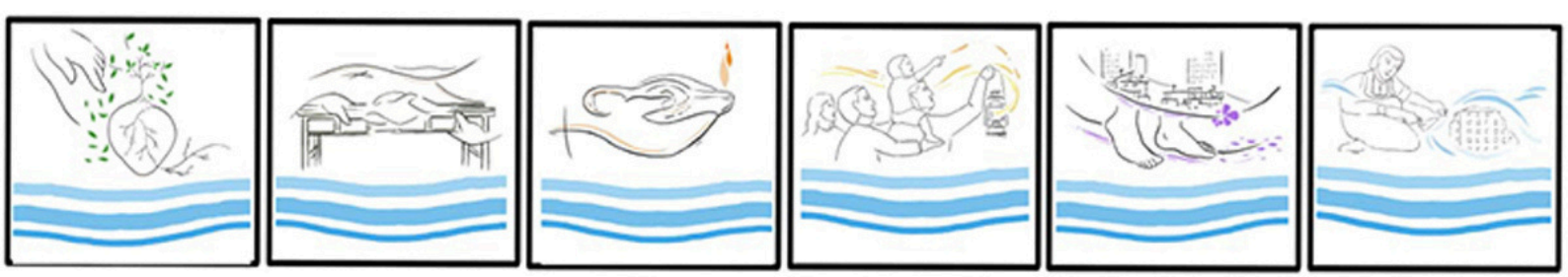
A VISIT FROM BROTHER PHILIP DEGAGNE!

Guadalupe Regional Middle School recently welcomed a very special guest, Marist Brother Philip Degagne, age 96, who shared his remarkable craftsmanship and faith with the school community. Brother Philip hand-crafted more than 64 wooden images of the Mary, Our Good Mother for students and Our Lady of Guadalupe icons for faculty. Each piece was carefully cut, sanded, assembled, and blessed before being personally delivered.

During his visit, Brother Philip guided students in assembling the stands for their icons and shared stories from his many years as a Marist Brother and educator.



He was accompanied by Br. Albert Phillip and Mr. Arturo Farias, one of his former students who is now learning the craft alongside him. The visit offered students a meaningful encounter with Marist tradition through prayer, creativity, and the witness of a life dedicated to faith and education.



MEET THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BR. JUAN CARLOS FUERTES MARÍ — REGIONAL COUNCILOR TO AFRICA

Br. Juan Carlos was born in Albalat (Valencia), Spain, on March 9, 1975. He was a student at the Marist school in Algemesí. He belongs to the Province of Mediterránea.

Br. Juan Carlos began his Marist vocational journey at the juniorate in Murcia in 1989. In 1993, he entered the novitiate in Torrent. He made his first profession in 1995 and his perpetual profession on December 8, 2001.



In the Province, he worked in different schools. He was a member of the provincial pastoral team, responsible for vocational promotion. From 2013 to 2015, he was both Vice Provincial and coordinator of the provincial team of Brothers Today.

In 2015, he was appointed Provincial of the Province of Mediterránea, a position he assumed in January 2016. His term ended in January 2022.

Since 2022, he has been living in Lebanon, in Rmeileh, in the Fratelli Project community, made up of two Marist Brothers and two De La Salle Brothers. At the time of his election, he was the director of the Fratelli Project in Lebanon.

Br. Juan Carlos was appointed by the General Council to serve as secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter. Not a member of the Chapter, he was elected General Councilor on October 3, 2025.

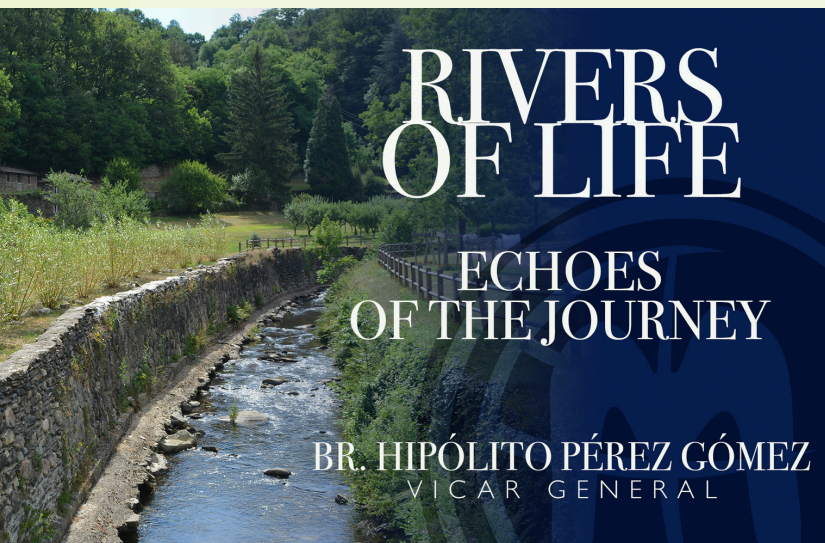
FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

Week 1 - Holiness: A Universal Vocation in Specific Times

"The saints and the blessed, among them a number of Marists, are not unattainable models but witnesses. Their lives show that the Gospel can be lived authentically in concrete realities and that a simple, faithful, and self-giving existence quietly transforms history." [Read the complete article here.](#)



Flowing in the Spirit is a year-long series of weekly reflections offered by Br. Guillermo Villareal, our Postulator General responsible for advancing the causes of our Marist saints.



RIVERS OF LIFE - ECHOES OF THE JOURNEY

Br. Hipólito has released the March 2026 entry in his Rivers of Life series. This month, read about our Marist call to seek new life where others have given up hope, much as dowsers find water in land that appears to be dry and barren.

[READ MORE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Br. Peter Carroll has released a video with some general updates as a result of the General Administration's recent plenary session. More detailed information is provided in an article featuring some key outcomes of the meeting.

[READ MORE](#)

[WATCH NOW](#)



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.

SPOTIFY

THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful to the Brothers Provincial Council for their continued support of Marists of Champagnat USA, and to those Marists of Champagnat who have already made monthly contributions. If you have not yet done so, please consider spending some time in prayerful reflection about supporting the ongoing expenses of Marists of Champagnat gatherings, resources, and activities. Those wishing to contribute may contact Chuck Lamphier ([via PayPal](#)) or Maureen Hagan by sending a check made out to **The Marist Brothers** to: *Maureen Hagan, 213 W. 4th Avenue, Roselle, NJ 07203.*

HEARTS IN ACTION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

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.**

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:** Local Group Leaders: [Alice Miesnik](#) and [Maureen Hagan](#)
- **Miami Area:** Local Group Leader: [Daniella Rodriguez](#)
- **Brownsville:** Local Group Leader: [Mary Beth Martin](#)
- **Eugene:** (Regional meeting: TBD) Local Group Leader: [Alice Meyer](#)
- **Chicago:** Local Group Leader: [Erin Kelly](#)
- **Virtual:** (Regional Meeting: TBD) Local Group Leader: [Madelin Picou](#)

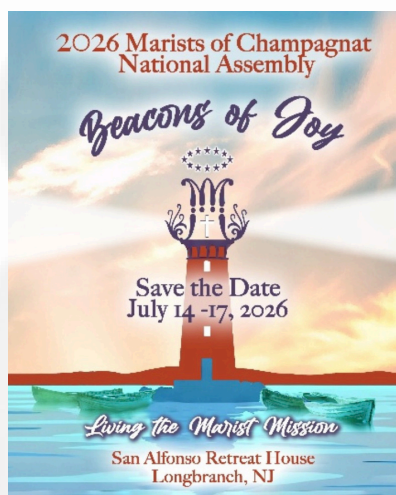
National Assembly 2026: Beacons of Joy

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.

REGISTER HERE



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 18:12-20



CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL



MARIST NEWS



CANADA NEWS

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- **John Long (brother of Brother Tom Long) who has begun palliative care in the final stages of metastatic prostate cancer.**
- **Patricia Dillon, aunt of John Klein, who is in the ICU.**
- **Bill Cornforth, former Marist Brother ('69), who is experiencing serious medical concerns.**
- **The repose of the soul of Bishop Timothy McDonnell, Brother of Br. John McDonnell, whose funeral was earlier today.**
- **The repose of the soul of Shaun Sullivan (Roselle Catholic '80), brother of retired RC faculty member Dan Sullivan.**
- **The repose of the soul of Catherine O'Regan, cousin of Br. John McDonnell.**

- 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 Lavallee, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Bill Taylor, brother-in-law of Br. Ken Curtin, who is recovering after a heart attack.

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