



Friday Notes

MARCH 20, 2026

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Recent News

Members of our Provincial Council and Province Team have been in Guatemala this week for the **IV Arco Norte Regional Assembly**, joining Marist Brothers and lay leaders from across the region in a spirit of prayer, reflection, and shared mission. The gathering has brought together representatives from across Arco Norte to listen deeply, discern together, and respond to the needs of today's world with renewed hope. The USA delegation to the Assembly includes Br. Dan O'Riordan (Provincial), Br. Owen Ormsby (Vice Provincial), Provincial Council members Br. Brian Poulin, Br. Sam Amos, Br. Dominick Pujia, Br. Don Bisson, and Br. Hank Hammer, and Provincial Team members Matt Fallon, Stacey Baker, Rick Martin, Erin Gilbert, and Maureen Hagan.

The USA Marist Provincials of our four Marist Branches, the Marist Brothers, the Marist Fathers, the Marist Sisters and the Marist Missionary Sisters, will be meeting on Monday via Zoom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

 **Marist Youth Mission Conference**
Esopus, NY
March 20 -
March 22, 2026

 **MYP Holy Week Gathering**
via Zoom
March 29, 2026
5:00pm EST




[JOIN](#)

 **Hearts in Action Closing Prayer Service**
via Zoom
April 12, 2026



[JOIN](#)

 **Sharing Our Call 1**
Esopus, NY
April 12 -
April 14, 2026

 **Marists of Champagnat National Assembly**
Long Branch, NJ
July 14 -
July 17, 2026

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Arco Norte Regional Assembly

A special grace of this year's Assembly is the presence of Br. Peter Carroll, Superior General of the Marist Institute, whose participation has strengthened the connection between the region and the wider Marist Institute. His presence has been a meaningful reminder of our shared global mission and the call to walk together as one international Marist family.

Friday Notes is Now Multilingual!

Friday Notes are now available in Spanish and French, expanding access across the Marist family. This initiative helps more Brothers, lay Marists, and partners stay connected to the life and mission of the Province while strengthening our shared communication across cultures and languages.

Marist International Foundation

The Marist International Foundation will meet on Monday via Zoom. The Foundation supports the work of FMSI Office in Rome and our Marist Mission worldwide. Br. Dan, Br. Patrick McNamara, as well as USA Marists of Champagnat Coleen Waldron, Maryann Safrey, and Chuck Lamphier all serve on this Foundation Board.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Monsignor Edward Pace High School

Opa Locka, Florida

MARIST BROTHERS USA AFFILIATION:

Monsignor Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens, Florida, is a Catholic, coeducational college preparatory school serving young people in grades nine through twelve. Founded in 1961, the school forms students academically, spiritually, and socially in a faith-centered environment rooted in Gospel values.

Founded and originally administered by the Marist Brothers, Pace continues today as a ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami while remaining deeply connected to the Marist charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat. The school's Marist identity is lived out through its emphasis on family spirit, presence, simplicity, and a commitment to making Jesus known and loved among young people. Through campus ministry, retreats, and a strong sense of community, Monsignor Pace High School continues to carry forward the Marist mission of educating young people.



LEADING WITH FAITH:

- At Monsignor Edward Pace High School, faith is at the heart of leadership. Recently, the Campus Ministry team joined with students from Immaculate Conception to prepare for upcoming retreats, collaborating on ways to lead with purpose and inspire others to grow in their faith.
- Recently, the community welcomed the 7th grade class of St. Michael's Catholic School for their Confirmation retreat, walking alongside them during this important step and encouraging them to grow, lead, and live their faith with confidence.





PROVINCE ECOLOGY GRANTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED!

This week, student-led project proposals aligned with the seven principles of Laudato Si' were officially submitted from across the Province.

We are grateful for the creativity, commitment, and care for our common home shown by each group. These projects reflect a deep desire among our young people to live out the call to ecological conversion in meaningful and tangible ways.

Submissions are now under review, and we look forward to sharing more in the weeks ahead!

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!

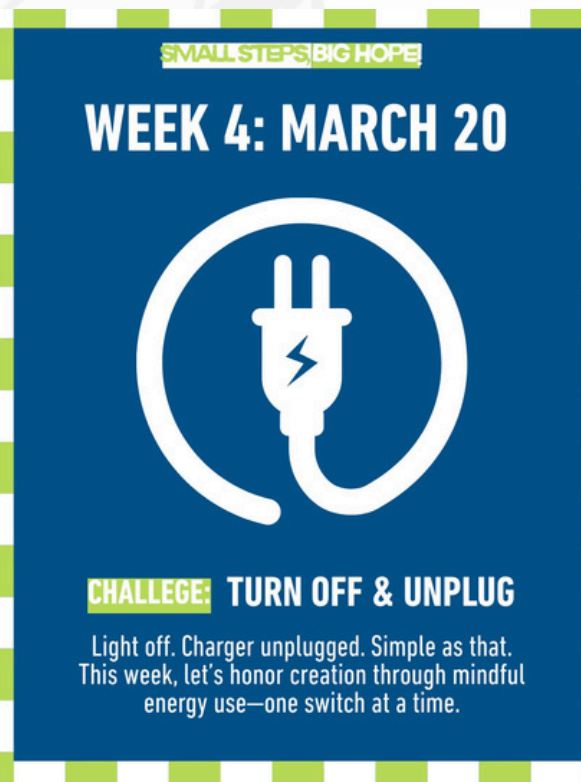


THIS WEEK'S ACTION:

HONOR CREATION THROUGH MINDFUL ENERGY USE!

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 14th at 4pm EST.**
- **Earth Day Weekend** will be held in Esopus from **April 24-26.** Registration details are available [here](#).





NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

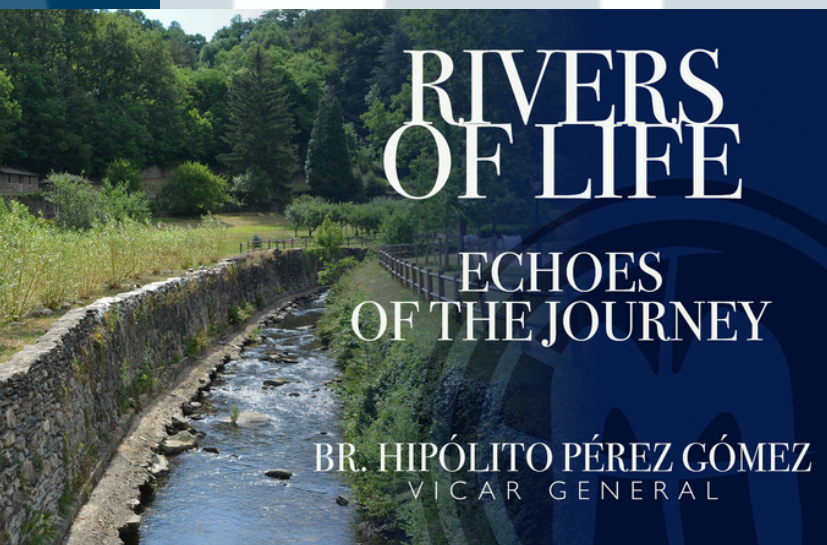
Week 2 - Universal Vocation: Why Holiness Concerns Us All

Holiness, therefore, does not begin with human effort, but with the grace of God received in Baptism, which incorporates us into Christ and calls us to live according to His Spirit. The personal response—with its decisions, fidelity, and commitment—is real and indispensable, yet it is always a response to a prior gift.

→ [Read the complete article here.](#)



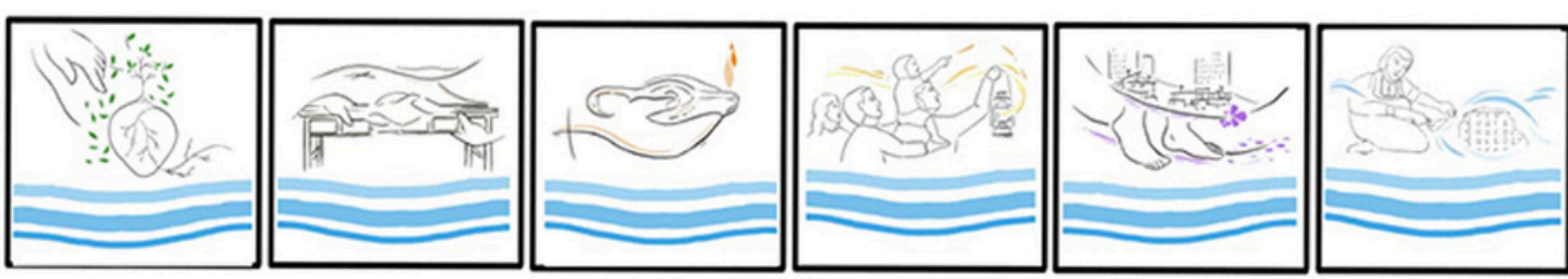
Flowing in the Spirit is a year-long series of weekly reflections offered by Br. Guillermo Villareal, our Postulator General responsible for advancing the causes of our Marist saints.



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](#) 



MEET THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BR. MARK OMEDE OKOLO — REGIONAL COUNCILOR TO ARCO NORTE

Brother Mark was born in Agala Ateh, Kogi State, Nigeria, on May 16, 1973. He belongs to the Marist Province of Nigeria.

He made his first profession as a Marist brother in 1998 at the novitiate in Kumasi, Ghana, and his perpetual profession on August 21, 2004, in Uturu.

Brother Mark holds a bachelor's degree in Education, Religious Studies, and Geography from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa; a master's degree in

Missiology from the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome; and a master's and doctorate in Educational Administration and Planning.

Over the years, he has been a secondary school teacher, director of religious education and catechesis, dean of student affairs, school principal, and the first administrative manager of Marist Polytechnic in Enugu, Nigeria.

He served in his province as chairman of the Marist Schools Board of Directors, provincial councilor, and member of the Commission for Marist Institutions of Higher Education. He was also president of the Association of Religious Men and Women of the Diocese of Idah, Kogi State, Nigeria.

In 2017, he was appointed Assistant Director of the Institute's Secretariat of Education and Evangelization in Rome, a position he held until the end of 2022.

Upon his return to Nigeria, he assisted in the coordination of the schools of the Province.

In 2023, he was appointed provincial, a position he assumed in January 2024.

He was elected General Councilor on October 3, 2025.



OUR MARIST FAMILY:

Across Arco Norte



Province of América Central

Disconnect to Connect Better

At Liceo San Luis in Santa Ana, El Salvador, a simple practice is reshaping school life: students place their phones in lockers at the start of the day. The initiative, "Disconnect to Connect Better," encourages healthier technology use while fostering attention, fraternity, and meaningful human connection in the classroom and beyond.

[READ MORE.](#)

25 Years of FUNDAMAR

Founded in 2001 after the El Salvador earthquakes, the Marist Foundation (FUNDAMAR) grew from the Province's Office of Solidarity. Today it serves as a bridge for Marist solidarity, coordinating projects and promoting justice while accompanying children, adolescents, and young people in vulnerable communities.

[READ MORE.](#)

Institutional Educational Project

At Instituto Marista La Inmaculada in Honduras, 27 teachers and four administrators gathered for formation focused on accreditation and the Humanistic Sociocognitive Paradigm. Accompanied by Idalia Ramos, the session emphasized strengthening the school's educational project while integrating Marist values in order to renew the shared mission of forming students with both mind and heart.

[READ MORE.](#)



DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE 2026

On February 2, the Church celebrated the Day of Consecrated Life, a moment to give thanks for the men and women who dedicate their lives to God and to the service of others. At the heart of this celebration is a simple but powerful idea: the gift of presence that remains — close, attentive, and hopeful.

On the eve of the day, Br. Juan Carlos Bolaños Viscarra (Provincial of América Central) shared prayer materials with the Province, including a reflection from the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In his message he reminded us: "United with so many women and men religious around the world, we reaffirm the gift of our vocation, lived with joy and dedication.

In a world marked by conflict, migration, and many wounds, consecrated life continues to be a quiet sign of hope. For Marists, this presence takes shape in simple fraternity, patient accompaniment, and our mission of education among children and young people.

May we give thanks for this vocation and continue to pray for those discerning God's call.

PROVINCE OVERVIEW

The Marist Province of Central America serves across seven countries (Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico) with 14 schools, 7 social and pastoral works, and 19 Marist fraternities, accompanying children, young people, and families through education, community life, and ministries that promote dignity, faith, and hope.



Learn more about the Arco Norte Region [on Facebook!](#)



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.

In this powerful reflection, students from Mount Saint Michael Academy and Ms. Ashley Johnson speak from a place of personal connection, as each is of Haitian descent, offering a heartfelt witness to the importance of this mission. Their voices remind us that our solidarity is not abstract, but deeply human and deeply shared.

[WATCH NOW](#)

[DONATE](#)

MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



HEARTS IN ACTION:

Now in its third year, Hearts in Action continues to be a meaningful way for Marists to live Lent through service, community, and prayer. Across the Province, individuals and groups are finding simple but powerful ways to make a difference—locally and virtually.

As we journey through this Lenten season, we are reminded that even small acts of love can have a lasting impact.

We invite you to take part in the spirit of Hearts in Action by joining a local effort, supporting those who serve, or simply holding this initiative in prayer. [All are welcome to join the closing prayer as we gather in gratitude for this shared experience on Saturday, April 12.](#)

Holy Week Gathering

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
5PM EASTERN/ 4PM CENTRAL/ 2PM PACIFIC

Join fellow Marist Young Professionals for reflection, sharing, and prayer as we move into the special time of Holy Week.

[JOIN](#)

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 18:21-35](#)



[CHAMPAGNAT GLOBAL](#)



[MARIST NEWS](#)



[CANADA NEWS](#)

This week, please remember in your prayers...



- **A speedy recovery for Manuel Febles, friend of Br Abi.**
- **James Tragos, friend of Erin Gilbert, who will begin cancer treatments next week.**
- **Sr. Susan Frazier, RSM, a Mercy Sister and a dear friend to many in the Marist family. Sr. Susan serves at St. John Bosco Orphanage in Jamaica and is currently hospitalized with pneumonia.**
- **The repose of the soul of Miguel Villafane, friend of Br. Abi.**
- **The repose of the soul of Patricia Dillon, aunt of Br. John Klein who died at the age of 101.**
- **The repose of the soul of Dennis (Dee) Hartnett, former Marist Brother from the Group of 1963.**

- John Long (brother of Brother Tom Long) who has begun palliative care in the final stages of metastatic prostate cancer.
- Bill Cornforth, former Marist Brother ('69), who is experiencing serious medical concerns.
- 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 Puszc, 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 Pellicari, 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!