



# Friday Notes

APRIL 17, 2026

043



On April 18, 1999, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, **Pope John Paul II canonized Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers**, recognizing him as a saint of the universal Church. Each year, this anniversary invites the Marist family around the world to pause in gratitude for the life and mission of Saint Marcellin. His vision of making Jesus known and loved through the education and accompaniment of young people continues to shape our ministries today.

**In his homily at the canonization Mass, Pope John Paul II described Marcellin as a man with a "burning heart" for the Gospel.** Sensitive to the needs of young people, especially those who experienced neglect or lacked access to education and faith formation, Champagnat responded with courage and simplicity. For the Marist family today, his canonization remains a reminder of our shared call: to walk with young people, accompany them with care, and make Jesus known and loved in the spirit of Saint Marcellin.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

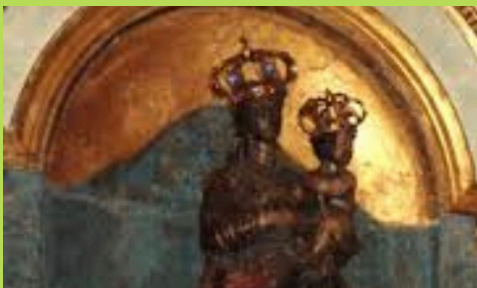
**Marist Youth Encounter**  
Esopus, NY  
April 16 -  
April 19, 2026

**Anniversary of the Canonization of Saint Marcellin Champagnat**  
April 18, 2026

**Earth Day Weekend**  
Esopus, NY  
April 24-  
April 26, 2026

**Deepening Our Call**  
Esopus, NY  
May 1 -  
May 3, 2026

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



### Black Madonna Workshop

A number of Province members will gather at the MBCE from Sunday through Tuesday for a workshop exploring the impact of the Black Madonna on the Marist charism. The experience will invite reflection on how Marists today are called to respond to the Calls of the XXIII General Chapter and live more deeply as the Marian face of the Church.



### Earth Day Online Event

Join the Marist family for a global Earth Day online gathering on April 22 at 10am Eastern. The event will feature reflection and dialogue on care for our common home, with simultaneous translation in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



### Marist Youth Encounter

Juniors and seniors from around the USA Province arrived yesterday at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus for the Marist Youth Encounter Christ Retreat. The weekend invites students into prayer, reflection, and community as they deepen their relationship with God and their Marist faith.

# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

## Mount Saint Michael Academy

Bronx, New York

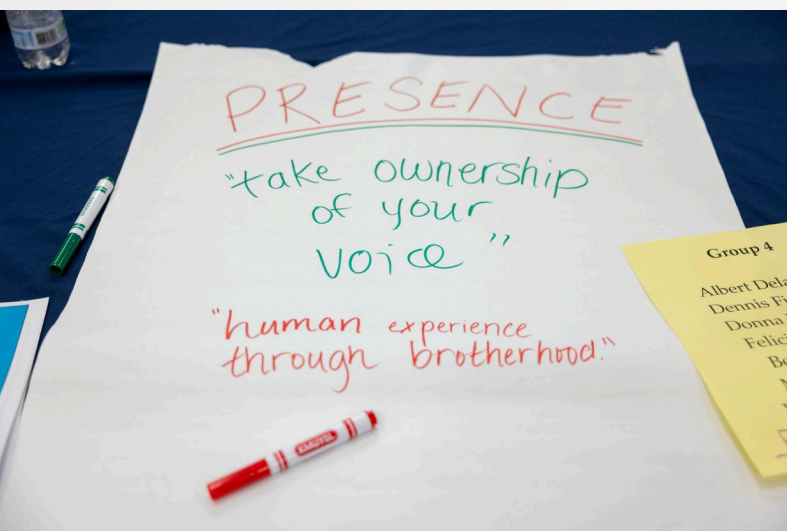
### FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Mount St. Michael Academy recently hosted its vibrant Festival of Cultures, a celebration of the traditions and experiences that enrich the school community. Organized by Ms. Ashley Johnson, the evening brought students, families, and guests together for an engaging night of cultural exhibits, musical performances, dance, and international cuisine.

Highlights included musical performances by the Academy of Mount St. Ursula Music Band, Jonathan Rojas-Sanchez '27, and Jayson Camacho '29, along with an energetic Nigerian dance performance by Adamma Oghennaya and Anuri Ireaja. Generous support from the Mount Parent Association, local partners, and the school community helped make the evening a joyful celebration of unity and belonging.

### SOLIDARITY PROJECT IN HAITI

During Spirit Week, Mount St. Michael Academy highlighted its connection to the 2026 Marist Brothers Solidarity Project in Haiti. The school's ongoing Solidarity Campaign reflects a commitment to standing with the Marist mission in Haiti and supporting communities facing ongoing challenges.



### FACULTY FORMATION

Mount St. Michael Academy recently held a Faculty Professional Day centered on a Marist Pillars Workshop. Faculty and staff gathered in community to reflect on how the Marist pillars shape daily life at the school, exploring both the explicit and implicit ways these values are lived in classrooms and across campus.

The workshop offered an opportunity for shared reflection and collaboration as the Mount community continues its commitment to forming young people and strengthening its mission of Marist education in the Bronx.



*Congratulations!*

Special congratulations to all of our Province Ecology Grant recipients. We are excited to see the wide range of projects taking shape—from planting community gardens at St. Joseph Academy and Roselle Catholic to expanding reusable water bottle initiatives; from introducing compostable products at St. Joseph Regional and Molloy to adding recycling bins to support the circular economy program at Columbus; and from creating a living plant wall at Marist Chicago to hosting a thrifting fashion show at Pace. Your passion and creativity are an inspiration to us all!

## EARTH DAY 2026:

### INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL GATHERING

Join Marists around the world on **Earth Day, April 22**, as we come together to care for our common home and promote a sustainable future for every child and community. Two programs will be offered: one in English at 3am EDT, and another in Spanish at 10am EDT with English translation available. For those in North America, the 10 a.m. program corresponds to 10am EDT | 9am CDT | 7am PDT.

» REGISTER NOW!

### EARTH DAY WEEKEND

The 2026 Marist Earth Day Weekend will take place **April 24–26** at the MBCE, featuring a wide range of outdoor programs and immersive workshops on native planting, bird watching, renewable energy, river health, and more.

» REGISTER NOW!

### STOP FOOD WASTE DAY: APRIL 29

The 10th annual Stop Food Waste Day will take place on April 29. Schools and communities are encouraged to raise awareness about the importance of reducing food waste and caring for our common home. If you are interested in promoting this initiative at your school, please reach out for resources and support.

## 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:

**DONATE OR REPAIR ITEMS INSTEAD OF THROWING THEM OUT!**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
Next Green Team meeting: **May 14 at 4pm EDT / 3pm CDT**



# MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT



## HEARTS IN ACTION CLOSES THE LENTEN SEASON



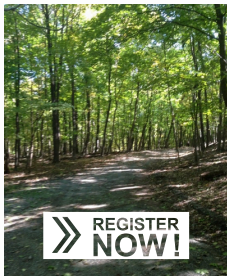
A beautiful prayer service was held on April 12 to conclude this year's Hearts in Action initiative. Erin Kelly and the Lay Council Mission Committee led the program, which highlighted the many acts of service carried out across the Province during Lent. [Click here to watch the video celebrating the service shared throughout our Marist community.](#)

## LAY COUNCIL RETREAT AND MEETING

Members of the Marists of Champagnat Lay Council will gather at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus from April 19–22 for their in-person retreat and meeting. The gathering provides time for prayer, reflection, and collaboration as the Council continues to support the mission and life of the Marists of Champagnat.

## VIRTUAL RETREAT – APRIL 23, 8PM EDT

All are invited to participate in a virtual retreat offered for Marists of Champagnat across the Province. This Zoom gathering provides an opportunity for prayer and reflection, especially for those who were unable to attend the regional retreats. Wednesday, April 23 8pm EDT.



## DEEPENING OUR CALL - "MARIST SPIRITUALITY: LIVING THE CHARISM IN THE WAY OF MARY"

Marists of Champagnat seeking an in-person retreat experience are invited to deepen their understanding of Marist spirituality through this reflective gathering. Participants will have the opportunity for prayer, conversation, and shared reflection in the Marist spirit.

**Cost:** Pay according to your means (suggested donation: \$250)

**More Information:** [Contact Maureen Hagan.](#)

## EPISODE 7 OF MY MARIST LIFE IS HERE!

In this episode of My Marist Life, host Eric Gonzales speaks with Julie Ferrari, Marist of Champagnat, about her journey in ministry, vocation, and everyday Marist living. Rooted in the Marist Pillars, Julie reflects on listening, spiritual growth, and finding joy in life's simple moments.

**LISTEN NOW**

## SUPPORTING THE MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT

The work of the Marists of Champagnat continues to be largely subsidized by the Province. Members are invited to consider making a contribution to help support formation resources, Lay Council gatherings, and Assembly expenses. Any amount is appreciated, and monthly contributions are especially helpful. Questions may be directed to [Chuck Lampier](#) or [Maureen Hagan](#).

**DONATE**



## MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – JULY 14–17, 2026

Registration is now open for the Marists of Champagnat National Assembly, which will take place July 14–17 in Long Branch, New Jersey. Planning committees are preparing a rich program of prayer, workshops, speakers, and community gatherings.

Finance should never be a barrier to participation. If you have questions about attending, please contact Maureen Hagan (mhagan8486@gmail.com).

**REGISTER NOW**



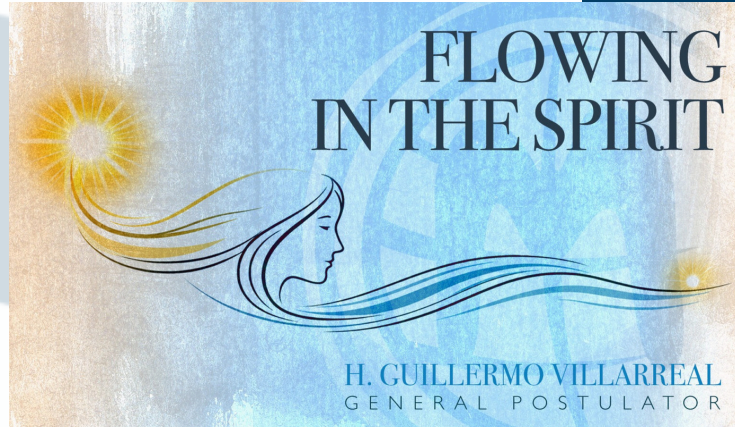
# NEWS FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

## FLOWING IN THE SPIRIT

### WEEK 6 - MARTYRS OF OUR TIME: WITNESSES WHO SUSTAIN HOPE

They are a present call to live a Gospel that is simple, courageous, and fraternal—capable of forgiving, serving, and sustaining the most vulnerable. In remembering them, the Church does not glorify death; she safeguards a light: the certainty that love can be stronger than fear, even in our own time

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



H. GUILLERMO VILLARREAL  
GENERAL POSTULATOR

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

## STRATEGY FOR SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY WEBINAR



The General Bursar's Office in Rome invites you to attend a free webinar on the topic of Strategy for School Sustainability on April 24 at 10am EDT.

Click here for the [Zoom link](#) and here to [read more](#) about this initiative.

## RIVERS OF LIFE

### ECHOES OF THE JOURNEY

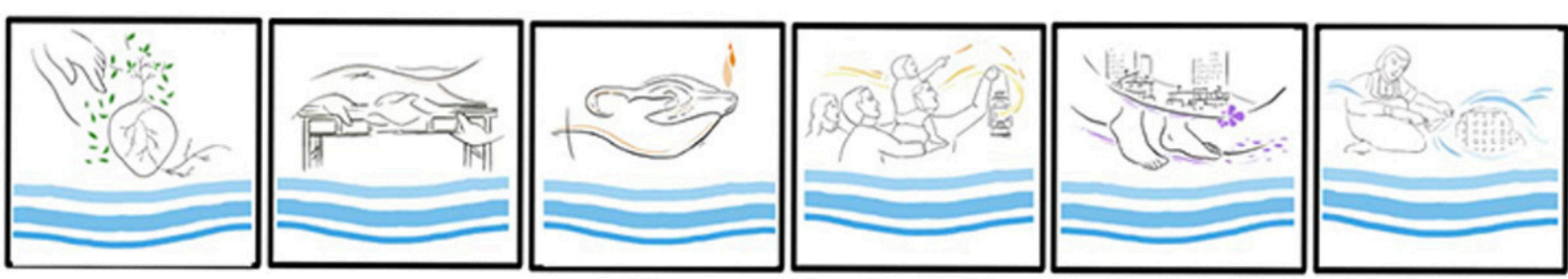
BR. HIPÓLITO PÉREZ GÓMEZ  
VICAR GENERAL

## GIVING LIFE — THE MIRACLE OF SMALL THINGS

Br. Hipólito has released the April 2026 entry in his Rivers of Life series.

This month, he reflects on the significance of small actions.

[READ MORE](#)



Issue 55 of Message Marists of Champagnat (formerly FMS Message) has been published, featuring personal testimonials from the 23rd General Chapter. Printed versions will be available soon, but you can also [access a digital version here](#).



Below is the text of the magazine's introduction:

*This issue of the Institute Magazine aims to convey the experience lived in the Philippines, from September 8 to October 8, 2025, by the participants of the XXIII General Chapter. It is intended to be a living memory of this important moment in the life of Marist Brothers and Lay Marists.*

*Guided by the motto "Home for All. River of Life," 119 people from the Marist world gathered in Tagaytay: 81 capitulants, 16 guests, and 22 support staff. All were united, in tune with the inspirations of the Spirit, setting directions for the future, open to embracing a synodal path in seeking God's will for the vitality and continuity of the Congregation for today's world.*

*The final invitation of the capitulants to be "Builders of a New Hermitage" will continue to be "Builders of a New Hermitage" will continue to resonate in the Institute during the term of the New General Government. The entire Marist world, inspired by the charism of the founder and the first brothers in building the Mother House of the Institute 200 years ago, is invited to renew the spirit of humility, simplicity, and modesty, pillars that underpin a life of faith, fraternity, and service.*

*In this magazine, you will find the voices of some of the Chapter participants. These are brief impressions that aim to convey, through a traditional medium, the experience shared in the Philippines. It is not easy to convey the richness of everything that was experienced there. Despite this limitation, we want the enthusiasm of the Marist vocation, whose meeting is celebrated every eight years, to be recorded in the archives of the Institute.*



# OUR MARIST FAMILY:

# Across Arco Norte



## Province of Mexico Central

### Students Visit Children's and Women's Hospital

Students recently took part in a volunteer visit to the Children's and Women's Hospital as part of a pastoral outreach initiative. Accompanied by teachers and school leaders, the group spent time with patients and delivered donated supplies to support families receiving care. Organized through the school's pastoral ministry program, the visit offered students an opportunity to live the Marist spirit of compassion and solidarity by serving those most in need.

### Youth Formation Through Ciudad Nueva Camps

More than 340 students recently participated in formation experiences through the Ciudad Nueva and Amigos en Marcha camps. Centered on reflection, community, and the ethic of Buen Vivir (living for the good), the camps invited young people to deepen their sense of purpose and strengthen their commitment to service and leadership. Through prayer, workshops, and shared experiences, participants were encouraged to grow as compassionate leaders committed to building a more just and caring society. [LEARN MORE.](#)

### Transition Council Meets in Mexico City

On March 6–7, the Marist Transition Council gathered in Mexico City to continue preparing for the creation of the new Marist Province of Mexico, projected for July 2027. Participants focused on developing a shared mission/vision to guide the future of Marist life and ministry. The meeting also included the presence of Br. Jorge Gaio, Econome General, who accompanied the group as they continue discerning structures to support the Marist mission in Mexico and Haiti.



### YOUNG PEOPLE GATHER FOR SERVICE DURING HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week 2026, young Marists gathered for the Jóvenes por el Servicio (Youth for Service) encounter, creating a space for prayer, reflection, and service lived in community.

Participants from different Marist groups came together to experience the sacred days of Holy Week through a spirit of accompaniment and solidarity. Throughout the week, they engaged in service activities in local communities, helping organize liturgical celebrations and leading workshops and activities for children and young people.

These moments of service were paired with opportunities for prayer, reflection, and community dialogue, allowing participants to deepen their understanding of the Gospel call to serve others. By sharing time, faith, and presence with the communities they visited, the young people strengthened bonds of fraternity while living out the Marist spirit of simplicity, family spirit, and love of work.

The encounter concluded with a time of reflection and evaluation, where participants gathered to share their experiences and the fruits of the week. Together, they reflected on how the spirit of Holy Week can continue to inspire their commitment to faith, service, and community long after the gathering has ended.

### PROVINCE OVERVIEW

*The Marist Province of México Central, headquartered in Mexico City, is part of the Marist Brothers' long-standing presence in Mexico, which began in 1899. Established as a province in 1959, it carries forward the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat through schools, youth ministry, and social outreach rooted in a commitment to "popular education." Through its educational works and community initiatives—including projects such as Miravalles—the Province accompanies young people and families in diverse social contexts while collaborating with other Marist provinces in the region to strengthen the shared mission of evangelization, solidarity, and the protection of children and young people.*



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

# Province News:

## PROVINCIAL VISIT TO THE NOVITIATE COMMUNITY

- Earlier this week, Br. Dan O’Riordan, Provincial, visited the novitiate community at St. Barnabas, spending time with the novices in conversation and community as they continue their formation journey.



## VISIT TO DE LA SALLE HALL

- Last Friday, Br. Allan de Castro, Provincial of East Asia, and Br. Paterno Corpus of the Philippines visited Br. Jim Adams at De La Salle Hall in Lincroft, New Jersey, offering a moment of international Marist fraternity and connection.



## MUSIC AND COMMUNITY

- Br. Jim Adams also led a lively karaoke session at De La Salle Hall this week, bringing residents together for an afternoon of music and community.



## BROTHERS FROM MÉXICO CENTRAL VISIT THE USA PROVINCE

- This week, the USA Province welcomes Bros. José Eduardo Maciel (Pepo) and Antonio Peralta Aragón (Toño) from the México Central Province. While here, they are participating in the Marist Youth Encounter Christ retreat in Esopus.

# APRIL Birthdays

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**  
Br. Benedict LoBalbo

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**  
Br. George DiCarluccio  
Br. Björn Lie

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10**  
Br. Kenneth Hogan

**MONDAY, APRIL 13**  
Br. Abi Santiago

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**  
Br. Joseph Yoshida  
(formerly of the USA Province)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**  
Br. Bryce Byczynski

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**  
Br. John Kachinsky

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30**  
Br. Daniel Grogan

## NEW READING THIS WEEK



**MARIST NEWS**



**MATTHEW 20:1-16**



**CANADA NEWS**



**AT THE  
SAME TABLE**



**CHAMPAGNAT  
GLOBAL**



**MDA NEWSLETTER**

# *This week, please remember in your prayers...*



- Continued prayers for Margo Andrew, cousin of Br. Michael Laratonda, who is in the end stages of cancer.
- Province affiliate Terry Paul, who is recuperating at home while living with Stage 4 kidney disease.
- The repose of the soul of Margo Hayes, cousin of Br. Michael Laratonda, who passed away last weekend in Florida.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- David Irwin, who continues to need treatment for a brain tumor.
- Pope Leo XIV: We ask God's blessings on his journey 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.
- 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.
- Mrs. Peg Kelly, mother of Br. Frank Kelly, who is recovering from a broken hip.

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