



The Marist
Brothers

SPRING 2022



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TODAY'S Marist Brother

Meet our Novices!

Br. Ryan Richter and Br. Robert Dittus

How did you originally get introduced to the Marist Brothers?

Br. Ryan: My first Marist connection was Br. Rob Clark. He's campus minister at the University of Texas where I went to college.

Br. Rob: I was a student at Archbishop Molloy in Queens. It was a great experience, and I got to learn a lot about the Marist Brothers and their mission, especially at retreat programs held in Esopus.

What made you decide to become a Marist Brother?

Br. Ryan: In 2019, Br. Rob took a group of men from UT on a vocation pilgrimage to New York, where we met a variety of religious orders. In the Marist communities and ministries we visited I felt immediately at home. The sense of community, mission, and passion these Brothers held was inspiring. I fell in love and I had to try it out.

Br. Rob: The work that the Brothers are doing is work that I find myself called to do. The Brothers have a great sense of community, not only amongst themselves, but in the larger communities they are a part of. I knew I wanted to be a part of the Marist world somehow when I was an adult, and the more I thought about it, the more becoming a Brother just made sense for me.



What has surprised you so far about your experiences with the Marist Brothers?

Br. Ryan: If there is one thing I've been surprised by, it is this common invisible thread that unites all Marists. It's a sense of welcome and acceptance I've found in every Marist space. It doesn't matter who it is—if it's a Brother from the USA, a Brother from another Province, or any member in the Marist Laity—that sense of indiscriminate hospitality feels uniquely Marist.

Br. Rob: It's hard to call it a surprise, but the impact the Brothers have made on people throughout all of their different ministries has been something really profound to witness. I'm constantly impressed by the connections the Brothers have formed with people and how long-lasting those connections can be.



FROM THE DESK OF

the Provincial

SPRING 2022

Dear Members of Our Marist Family,

On behalf of our Marist Brothers USA Province, I extend our deepest gratitude for your continued willingness to partner with us in our mission to “make Jesus Christ known and loved,” especially among the most neglected and disadvantaged of young people. Your generosity has allowed us to care for our many retired and infirm Brothers, who have dedicated their lives to that mission and now need extended health care in their final years. Your support has also allowed us to continue our many important evangelization efforts for the young people entrusted to us in our schools and other ministries.

During the month of March, I joined the other 27 Provincials from around our Marist world for a meeting in Rome that was led by Br. Ernesto Sanchez, our Superior General, and his General Council. During this meeting, we evaluated how we as Marist Provinces have responded to the calls of our 2017 General Chapter (a meeting of all Marist Provinces every eight years to set goals and directions as a Marist Global Institute). I am proud to say that we, the USA Province, have responded in many significant ways to answer those calls.

One of those calls encouraged each administrative unit to develop a plan for promoting different forms of Marist life, including appropriate strategies for formation, accompaniment, and belonging. Last year, as a USA Province, we accompanied 42 Lay Marists who were part of the first cohort of our new six-month formation program for USA Lay Marists. On June 6, 2021, the feast day of our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, those 42 Lay Marists formally committed to live their lives as a Marist of Champagnat. We currently have another 72 Lay Marists who are in the second cohort of this program and will make their formal commitments on June 6, 2022. We are blessed to have two young men in our USA Novitiate, continuing their formation to be Marist Brothers. As a Marist Institute, there are currently 96 Marist Novices around the world, which is a great sign of hope for the future of our Marist Mission!

Another call of the 2017 General Chapter challenges us to find creative ways to be a Global Marist Family, as well as to be present in more significant ways among the children and young people on the margins of the world. As a USA Province, we recently joined together for a Lenten Marist solidarity project to help the many teachers and young people in our Marist schools in Venezuela, who are struggling for the most basic necessities in life, such as food, water, and medications. Our efforts helped feed hundreds of our fellow Marists for the next several months. A number of Marist Provinces across Europe have opened up their homes and schools to provide needed shelter for many of the refugees who have fled Ukraine as a result of the war.

I wish you continued Easter blessings, and pray that we all will do our part to respond to the many needs around us so that we might be the living face of Christ in our world today.

Let us keep one another in prayer as we continue the mission of the Church and St. Marcellin Champagnat.

In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,



Br. Dan O'Riordan, FMS
Marist Brothers USA Provincial



ESOPUS CORNER



Spring is just around the corner here at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus after a great fall and a quiet winter. We have welcomed many friends and families “home” while juggling the ever-changing COVID-19 protocols and procedures. Luckily, it seems like we’re on track for a full Mid-Hudson Valley Camp season this summer! More updates are to come as details are finalized; check the MBCE website in the coming weeks.

As an abbreviated recap, we had another great Century Ride in early September with a small reception afterwards. In October, we hosted our

inaugural Hall of Fame here at the MBCE, which was a tremendous success. With a little over 200 attendees, we honored 11 individuals and programs for their outstanding impact on the MBCE-MHVC. In the midst of those two events and throughout the fall and winter, we welcomed many groups including the Archdiocese of NY, Molloy underclassmen, Fordham Prep, Roselle Catholic, Daltai Na Gaeilga, and a mix of other Marist schools for LaValla Weekend and Marist Youth Encounters.



We also had the first-ever Esopus Bowl-A-Thon this spring at Bowl 360 in Queens, NY. The fundraiser’s goal was not only to raise funds for camps this summer at Esopus, but to gather around one another after a long time apart. This spring also saw the exciting return of Esopus Runners with a new location this year. NYC RUNS QUEENS 5K and Half-Marathon took place in Flushing Meadow Corona Park in Queens, NY, on Sunday, April 10. Funds raised by Esopus Runners will go towards the much-needed repairs for the back dorms in preparation for camps this summer.



As we move ahead in the months to come, we are reminded and strengthened by our community here, and our Marist community at large. The Gospel of Matthew tells us: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them,” and surely God is with you, and with all of us as we continue into a bountiful spring and summer. Stay tuned for more updates to come from the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, and please feel free to reach out through our website, www.maristbrotherscenter.org. Stay safe, be well, and may God bless you and keep you always.

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CampMarist.org

Sharing Our Mission: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Sharing Our Mission (SOM) is an adult formation program offered for various constituencies in the USA Province. The more well-known SOM is for campus ministers, religion department chairs, and school liaisons, and has been meeting annually for 20+ years. In the past, we have offered SOM for coaches and athletic directors, as well as for development directors.

In October 2021, responding to a need expressed by many in our schools, we conducted a Sharing Our Mission focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This was an opportunity for deep conversations, which prompted all of those in attendance to reflect on personal and professional behavior regarding race and gender issues. Our Marist mission is to make Jesus known and loved, and we must take a serious look at how we're doing this in regard to race and gender, especially among the young people with whom we work.



A Reflection from Lori Wilson, Director of Campus Ministry and Marist Mission at Archbishop Molloy High School (Briarwood, NY)

The charism of Marists, as I am called to live it, is to make Jesus known and loved in our blessed and wounded world, and to meet and recognize God in that woundedness. In order to live that, I/we, as Marist family, have to understand racism in our country. We need to examine how it is embedded in our history, our culture, our fabric of life, and just how systemic it is. I/we have to understand it in order to change ourselves, our systems, and our policies.

My call is also to love God above all, and my neighbor as myself. The fact is, I don't always love my neighbor as myself—not really. Racism is so deep-seated in who we are, that we don't recognize it, almost like we are blind to it. I know that I have to look within myself daily to examine my behavior and my thoughts. I have to "check myself" in order to retrain and relearn, so I can love more fully. As I grow in my love of my neighbors, I grow in my love of God. I know this isn't just a single-semester project, but is a life-long journey.

I also take seriously my favorite scripture quote, Micah 6:8: "What does the LORD require of me? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with my God." I have to recognize the times I don't act justly in order to do the other two parts of this quote—to love mercy and to walk with God. Anti-racism work is essential to acting justly. There is both individual work and corporate work that has to be done if I/we want to be clearer reflections of God's love in our world. This work leads to real solidarity—or more simply, mutuality. That is what I am called to, that is what I believe we are all called to.

A Gift for Christopher Columbus High School

Marcus Lemonis, the entrepreneur, philanthropist, advocate, and TV personality who leads Camping World as CEO and Chairman of the Board, and hosts CNBC's "The Profit" and "Streets of Dreams" and HGTV's "The Renovator," blessed his alma mater, Christopher Columbus High School, with a gift of \$10,000,000.



Marcus graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL, in 1991. "We are so grateful to Marcus Lemonis for this transformative and historic gift,"

said Thomas Kruczek, Columbus President. "As a result of this gift, Columbus will be able to offer several important and innovative programs that will additionally prepare our young men for college readiness and career success. Marcus Lemonis is a shining example of living a life of value and service."

As part of his The Great American Tip Off campaign, a nationwide call to show some extra love to the hard-working Americans who serve us every day, Lemonis surprised the faculty and staff of Christopher Columbus High School with a \$3.1M tip for their incredible service over the years. At the announcement, Marcus said,



"When we think about the people that make this school run, the people that make it tick, the people that take care of the grounds and those in the classrooms that teach us, those for me are the most important service providers on the planet. Today, I'll be providing a \$3.1M tip to everyone that works

at the school. Every single employee will receive a check for \$18,000."

In addition to the \$3.1M, Marcus donated another \$7M to the high school so that it can fund important educational improvements. The two immediate additions will be a center for college and career guidance named after two longtime Columbus teachers, the late Irene Culmo and Pat Call, who still works part-time at the school today, and a success center named after the Desmond family who inspired Marcus to attend the high school.

Marcus launched The Great American Tip Off in November and pledged \$1 million from his Lemon Aid Foundation to tip servers and workers across the country. Marcus is also enlisting some of his friends to join the movement to thank those in the service industry—he's

made visits across the US to businesses with Amy Schumer, Jason Biggs, Kristen Bell, and Rob Dydre, among others.



Dear Friends,

SPRING 2022



Spring greetings from the Development Office! We are blessed each day by the loyal support from our friends and benefactors. Your concern for our Brothers and their work with young people inspires us daily. Your financial support, prayers, inspirational encouragement, and participation in our work spurs us on to meet the needs of today's youth ever more effectively. For this, we are very grateful.

As we look enthusiastically to the future, we realistically see the need for a solid financial base. The care of our elderly and disabled Brothers, along with the professional and religious training of our new and current Brothers, will make even greater demands on our future financial resources.

If you have never given a gift to the Brothers, or if it has been a while since your last donation, please join in that future by making a gift to the Brothers using the reply envelope in this newsletter. You will then be among so many of our other loyal friends who believe, as you do, in the future of the Marist Brothers and our mission of sound Christian and Catholic education.

As we continue in the footsteps of St. Marcellin Champagnat, we ask for your support, prayers, and encouragement. May Our Lord and his Blessed Mother watch over you and your loved ones during the upcoming summer months!

Best wishes,

Paulette M. Karas

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Director of Development

FOR OUR BENEFACTORS...

who donate through Donor Advised Funds (DAF), family foundations, IRA distributions, etc., ***please have your agent include your demographic information on the check or accompanying paperwork sent to The Marist Brothers.*** We often receive no information on the donor, and we miss the opportunity to thank them for their generosity.

IN MEMORIAM

Br. Thomas Petite



Br. Tom Petite, FMS, passed away on December 17, 2021, in Lawrence, MA, after battling several medical complications. He was 77 years old and in his 50th year of Marist religious life.

Br. Tom was born in Camden, NJ. He became a postulant with the Marist Brothers in 1963 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate at Tyngsboro, MA, in 1964. He professed first vows in 1965. After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, he began his ministry serving as a teacher at Marist High School in Eugene, OR. He also taught at Central Catholic in Wheeling, WV (1969–72); Fr. Matignon HS in Cambridge, MA (1991–93); and Malden Catholic HS

in Malden, MA (1993–12). He served as a Dean at Central Catholic in Lawrence, MA (1972–81), and was the Founder and Director of Lazarus House Ministries (1983–93). He was a Pastoral Associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Peabody, MA (2005–12), and volunteered for several summers with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India.

Br. Philip Robert Ouellette



Br. Philip Robert, FMS, passed away January 17, 2022 at the Champagnat Hall Residence in the Bronx, NY. He was 91 years old and in his 74th year of Marist religious life.

Br. Philip (born Guy Ouellette) was born in Fort Kent, ME. Upon graduating from the Marist Brothers Juniorate in Tyngsboro, MA, he entered the Marist Novitiate at St. Ann's Hermitage in Poughkeepsie, NY, in 1947. He received his habit in 1948 and made

first profession of vows in 1949 before graduating from Marist College with a degree in Spanish in 1953.

Br. Phil's first teaching assignment was at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA, from 1953–56, during which time he made his final profession of vows in 1954. In 1956 he was assigned to St. Ann's Academy in NYC and moved with the school to Archbishop Molloy High School in Jamaica, NY. He remained at Molloy until 1966, when he went to Fribourg, Switzerland, for his second Novitiate. Upon his return, he professed the vow of stability and joined the staff of the Novitiate in Esopus, NY.

During this time, he founded the Marist Youth Encounter Program which brought alive the Marist mission of "making Jesus known and loved among young people." In 1968 he became Director of Student Brothers at Esopus and also served on

the faculty of John A. Coleman High School in Hurley, NY.

Br. Phil became Director of Vocations from 1970–77. He was elected Vice-Provincial of the Esopus Province in 1977, and Provincial in 1980. At the General Chapter of 1985, he was elected to the General Council of Br. Charles Howard, Superior General, and served until 1994. In 1996 he was named Director of International Formation and headed the program in Écully, France, until it ended in 1998.

In 2006, Br. Phil participated in the Third Age Renewal Program in Manziana, Italy, and then joined the Brothers' community at the House of Prayer in Esopus, NY. In 2008 he became a member of the Novitiate community in Esopus before retiring to the Brothers' community at Champagnat Hall in 2015.

Br. Ernest Beland



Br. Ernest Beland, FMS, died unexpectedly on February 8, 2022. He was 83 years old and in his 64th year of Marist religious life.

Br. Ernie was born in 1938 in Lowell, MA. He

was the son of Ernest and Alda Beland. He graduated from St. Joseph High School in Lowell, MA, in 1957 and entered St. Joseph

Novitiate in Tyngsboro, MA, that same year. He received the Marist Habit in 1958 and professed first vows in 1959.

After first profession, he went to the Scholasticate at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. He graduated in 1962 with a BA in English literature. His first teaching assignment was at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, CT, from 1962–64. He made his final profession of vows at Marist College in 1964 and then went on to teach at Marist High School in Chicago until 1967.

In 1967, he was assigned as a teacher at St. Joseph High School in Lowell, MA, and in 1968 he completed a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from New

York University. He taught at Marist High School in Eugene, OR, from 1968 to 1969.

In 1969, Br. Ernie began working at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA. While at Central he had an extraordinary career as an English teacher and basketball coach. He was a gifted teacher of composition and taught many generations of students the art of the term paper. In 1994 Br. Ernie attended the Second Novitiate Renewal Program in Manziana, Italy. He returned to Central Catholic where he continued to teach until 2012 when he retired. After retirement, he still did volunteer work at Central Catholic and participated in a number of community outreach programs.

Real Brothers. Real Stories. A Real Difference.



For more information about a
vocation to the Marist Brothers,
visit:

www.maristbr.com/vocations

Or contact:

Br. Brian Poulin, FMS

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The Marist Brothers Mission

To bring Christian education to
young people, especially those
who are most neglected.
(Article 2, Constitutions)

The Marist Brothers

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**For more updates on what's
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visit www.maristbr.com.**



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The Marist Brothers Remembrance in Prayer Program



The Marist Brothers offer two different series of Remembrance in Prayer cards: Traditional and All-Occasion cards. Our signature Traditional cards feature the image of Christ and a Marial design. Both of these Traditional cards may be used as memorials to remember the deceased. Our two All-Occasion cards may be sent to honor birthdays, weddings, or anniversaries or to extend get-well greetings.

All cards carry a special promise of Remembrance in Prayer from the Marist Brothers.

We would be delighted to send you a complimentary packet of our Traditional or All-Occasion cards. Please send your request through email (maristbr@maristbr.org) or to the mailing address at left.