



The Marist  
Brothers

SPRING 2023



A Lumen Award-  
winning publication  
of the Province of  
the United States  
of America

# TODAY'S Marist Brother

## Marist Brothers USA Welcomes Two New Novices!

*Br. David Freiler and Br. Miguel Garcia entered our Marist Brothers USA Novitiate with a ceremony held at the chapel at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, NY.*

**T**he Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the investiture of Br. David Freiler and Br. Miguel Garcia to the Marist Brothers Novitiate on March 25, 2023 during a prayer service held at the chapel on the campus of Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, NY.



When reflecting on the investiture, Master of Novice's Br. Don Bisson stated "today's ceremony

here at Mount St. Michael's chapel has significant symbolic meaning. It says very powerfully the American experience of Marists of Champagnat is open for new life. This moment also reminds us that the Holy Spirit continues to call men to a life in the charism of Champagnat. The ever-powerful voice of God continues to pursue us into a response to divine initiative."

### About the Novices:

Br. Miguel is from San Antonio, TX. He is a new convert to the Catholic faith, which has helped him find his true vocation as a Marist Brother.



He has worked in a business career for 20 years, worked with Catholic Charities as a case manager, and studied business management. He currently volunteers at Catholic Charities working with immigrants to

obtain their work licenses to work in New York. Br. Miguel is studying immigration law at Villanova University to prepare him to work in the migrant community and help them with legal matters essential to attain legal status in the United States.

Br. David was born in Brewster, NY and earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy at UNC Chapel Hill. He earned a master's in business administration degree from The University at Albany. Before discerning his call to be a Marist Brother, Br. David worked in finance for many years.



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FROM THE DESK OF

# the Provincial

SPRING 2023

Dear Marist Family,

Easter Blessings to each of you. May we each continue to rejoice in the hope of the resurrection and live that hope in our daily lives and actions.



Over the past few months, I have witnessed a real-life example of the Easter story within our Marist world. On February 6th, a devastating earthquake struck our world in the region of Turkey and Syria. More than 30,000 people were killed in that tragedy and thousands of others were left to face appalling conditions. For many years, we have had a Marist community working in Aleppo, Syria, to provide humanitarian support to the many victims of the ongoing war there, as well as provide education and support to the children of that city. When the earthquake hit Aleppo, our "Blue Marist" community immediately responded and within 15 minutes opened our center to welcome victims of this terrible disaster. Our Marist community provided thousands of meals each day, housed more than 100 families for many weeks, and re-opened our school so that the affected children could have some return to normality. This was truly a Good Friday event for the people of Aleppo, but our Marist community responded as an Easter people and offered needed assistance and hope to so many of those most effected. During this crisis, our USA Province reached out to our schools and benefactors to ask for emergency support to assist with this catastrophe. The response was overwhelming, with more than \$100,000 quickly raised and sent to support the many needs of those deeply affected by the earthquake. This was a true assurance to so many of us that even in the darkest of days, hope and resurrection are possible.

As I share these few words, I do so with a grateful heart as we are blessed to have so many loyal and generous benefactors like you, who partner with us in our mission to Make Jesus Christ Known and Loved, especially among young people and those most neglected.

Our Marist life and mission is rich and blessed to have dedicated Marist Brothers and Lay Marists who pray, work, and faithfully bring our mission to life each day in countless ways. I see it on a daily basis in the various ways we minister to make a difference by our significant presence in our Marist schools, spiritual retreats, camps, our work with refugees on our southern border, and in other creative ways to make Jesus known and loved. We are similarly graced to have the prayerful witness of our many retired and infirm Marist Brothers who dedicate much of their day to praying for the many works of our Province and all our benefactors that make those works possible. I am especially indebted to our Province medical staff who take such excellent care of our retired Brothers, whose shoulders we now stand on as we continue their legacy of growing our Marist mission.

I wish to personally thank you again for your loyal assistance and care for our Marist mission in the USA Province and in the world. We could not continue to make the dream of St. Marcellin an ongoing lived reality without your support, encouragement, and prayers.

Easter blessings and prayers....in the hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Champagnat,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Br. Dan O'Riordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "O".

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



# ESOPUS CORNER

**By: Summer Bourlier, Director of Communications at the MBCE**

**A**t long last we are finally enjoying the spring season which brings about change, growth, warmth, and new beginnings. Springtime allows us all to reflect on the first part of the year and how we would like the remainder of the year to progress. Here at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, we are embracing all of these things as we prepare for the warmer months of programming, new projects and improvements, and fundraisers.



We are still hosting retreats every weekend in the Main Retreat House, along with other groups in the Holy Rosary and L'Hermitage. We welcomed many groups including a couple of counselor retreats, the Archdiocese of New York, Molloy underclassmen, Fordham Prep, Roselle Catholic, Daltai Na Gaeilga, and a mix of other Marist schools for La Valla weekend and Marist Youth Encounters.

As all of this happens, we are beginning to prepare for our 2023 Mid-Hudson Valley Camp season. This includes beginning projects like renovating the camper shower rooms, getting new bed frames, and more. Thankfully, we had the Esopus Runners group take part in the NYC Runs Queens 5k and 10k in April, helping to raise funds for these projects.

Our mission and vision at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus-Mid-Hudson Valley Camps is to make Jesus known



and loved; the camp is human-centered and embraces the diverse backgrounds, values, and lived experiences of our young people, adults, volunteers, staff, and all who call Esopus home. Being able to continue this programming and mission is crucial as we are committed to ensuring that each

person who enters Esopus is welcomed “home” and has an impactful experience here.

Perpetuating this work and our mission cannot be not done alone—we could not do this without the generosity of our supporters. Because of past support, we have been able to make significant improvements to our facilities including the installation of needed chair lifts in the staircases of the Berchman House and in the Province Archives office, the repair of the damaged roof and the installation of dual AC/heat units in the back dorms, and numerous improvements to both the Holy Rosary and the Hermitage buildings. More recently, we have replaced the dining room floor in the Berchman House and added a new heating system to the Holy Rosary. Our work is never done, but with your support it will always continue, grow, and foster new life and experiences.

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 to a bountiful spring and summer.



# Dear Friends,

SPRING 2023



First and foremost, we join with the entire Province in thanking you for your loyal friendship and support of our Brothers and our work with young people. Your financial gifts, prayers, and encouragement and participation in our work spur us on to meet the needs of today's youth ever more effectively.

As we look enthusiastically to the future, we realistically see the need for new Brothers to continue St. Marcellin Champagnat's educational legacy to the youth in America.

We additionally see the need to maintain a positive financial future. 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.

You may 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 Catholic education. St. Marcellin Champagnat would be proud of the legacy that lives today through our entire Marist Family.

This legacy lives on through our schools and ministries...through our retreat programs and programs to enhance the understanding of the Marist charism in our lay colleagues...and through our younger Brothers working tirelessly and our elderly and disabled Brothers praying quietly. Currently, we are in the midst of our yearly Retirement Appeal to provide support for the needs of our elderly and disabled Brothers. We rely on the generosity of our friends to help us meet these rising costs each year.

Another direct way of extending your support into the future is to place the Marist Brothers in your will or estate plan. By making a bequest to the Brothers, you will be leaving a lasting tribute to the values we all share. Please speak to your financial advisor about how you can best accomplish your legacy.

As spring refreshes the earth with new life, we ask for your continued prayers and support. And may Our Lord and his Blessed Mother watch over you and your loved ones during the upcoming summer months!

My sincere best wishes,

*Paulette M. Karas*

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE  
Director of Development

## ST. AGNES HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973

### 50th Reunion Celebration

(ALL CLASSES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!)

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# Marist Commitments to Care for our Common Home

By: Sam King, Director of Ecology, USA Province



The United States Marists have made exciting progress in sustainability across the Province. These efforts are a collective response to the Laudato Si' Action Platform inspired by Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on the environment.

This year's LaValla Weekend in Esopus, NY, centered on the theme of Caring for our Common Home. Students participated in a simulation on flood relief bringing attention to the recent devastation experienced in Kentucky, Florida, and Pakistan. Joshua Van Cleef, Director of the Office of Peace and Justice at the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, offered first-hand reflections on the deadly flooding in Kentucky and ongoing relief efforts. The weekend culminated in a variety of outdoor service projects that included clearing felled trees and planting a native pollinator garden to support biodiversity in the Hudson Valley.

In November, we formed a USA Marist Ecology Green Team more than 50 student leaders and 20 faculty representatives from our 10 schools. The Green Team meets monthly over Zoom to share ideas and resources that live out the Laudato Si' Action Platform. On a recent call, students from Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL, shared their experiences performing beach clean ups and participating in an oyster restoration project. Students from St. Joseph's Regional High School in Montvale, NJ, also highlighted their school's native plant garden and water feature serving as a habitat for birds and turtles.

Several schools have hosted film screenings and discussions of *The Letter: Laudato Si' Film*, released by the Vatican in October. The film highlights the stories of 10 environmental leaders from across the world who are united in their efforts to combat climate change, species loss, and pollution.

Marist Brothers USA Provincial Br. Dan O'Riordan recently launched a USA Marist Ecology Grant awarding schools up to \$2,000 for student-led initiatives aligned with the seven principles of the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Prospective projects include installing raised bed gardens at Mount St. Michael Academy, Bronx, NY; planting a native pollinator garden at Archbishop Molloy High School, Queens, NY; and implementing compostable utensils at St. Joseph's Regional, Montvale, NJ.



We are excited to continue sowing the seeds of sustainability across the Marist world. Please reach out to Sam King ([s.king@yale.edu](mailto:s.king@yale.edu)) if you are interested in supporting our efforts.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Br. Julio Vitores



Br. Julio Vitores, FMS, Marist Brother and former educator and coach at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL, died December 2, 2022, at the Christopher

Columbus High School Community at the age of 89. Br. Julio was a Marist Brother for 71 years.

Like many Marist Brothers, his ministry

took him to many parts of the world, giving him the chance to impact the lives of thousands of young people. Br. Julio was born in Palencia, Spain, and received his first Novitiate in 1952 in Turin, Italy, and a second Novitiate in 1964 in Lyons, France. In 1954, he received a BA in education from Gerona Maristas in Spain. He went on to teach in Marist schools in Cuba, Spain, Guatemala, El Salvador, Japan, and Switzerland, and at Marist High School (Bayonne, NJ), Saint Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX), and Christopher Columbus High School. He received an MA in education from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and a degree in theology from the University of Paris.

Fluent in four languages, Br. Julio mainly taught Spanish and French, but he had experience in teaching nearly all subjects. He knew he wanted to be a teacher from an early age, and several of his family members are also Marist Brothers, including his brother and cousins.

Br. Julio was quite the sports enthusiast and started the first soccer team at Columbus as well as in other Marist schools. He was a track coach and an excellent skier and tennis player. Br. Julio began the Mother & Son and Father & Son Mass and Breakfast events at Christopher Columbus, managed the bookstore for many years, and served in administrative capacities in the school library and office.

## Br. Joseph Maura



Br. Joseph Maura, FMS, Marist Brother and former educator, died December 13, 2022, in Miami, FL, at the age of 87. He had been a Marist Brother for 69 years.

Like many Marist Brothers, he served in several Marist ministries, where he had the chance to impact the lives of thousands of young people. Br. Joe was born in NYC and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1953 in Tyngsboro, MA. In 1958, he received a BA from Marist College. He went on to teach and coach at St. Helena High School in the Bronx, NY; Roselle Catholic in Roselle, NJ; J.A. Coleman High School in Kingston, NY; Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg, PA; St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville, TX;

Msgr. Pace High School in Miami, FL; and St. Brendan High School. He also taught at two secondary schools in Malawi, Africa, and worked with the homeless at Camillus House in Miami and as a hospice volunteer. He received an MA in math from St. John's University in 1964.

## Br. Joseph Scanlon



Br. Joseph P. Scanlon, FMS, died December 14, 2022, at the Morningside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Bronx, NY). He was two weeks shy of his 78th birthday and in his

58th year of Marist religious life.

Br. Joseph was born December 27, 1944, in New York City. In 1963, he entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in Esopus, NY. He received the Marist habit in 1964 and professed first vows in 1965. After his Novitiate, he went to the Marist Brothers Scholasticate at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, where he graduated with a BA in social studies in 1968. He received an MAT degree in religion and history from St. Mary's University (Winona, MN) in 1974.

From 1968 until 1976 he taught history and religion at St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville, TX. During this time, he made

his final profession of vows in 1973. From 1976 to 1994 he was a social studies and religion teacher at John A. Coleman High School in Hurley, NY. He made his second novitiate renewal in Manzianna, Italy, in 1995. Upon his return to the USA, he went back to St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville, where he continued to teach religion and history until 2005. For medical reasons, he was assigned to the Marist Brothers Community on 91st Street in Manhattan and the following year to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, where he lived for the rest of his life.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Br. Joseph Teston



Br. Joseph Teston, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for more than 82 years, passed away December 22, 2022. He was 101 years old, and was the first Marist Brother in the

United States to live over 100 years since the Brothers established their first school in Lewiston, ME, in 1886.

Br. Joseph was born in Savannah, GA. He first encountered the Marist Brothers when he entered the Marist School there when he was 5 years old. He said, "I've been a Marist ever since." He entered the Novitiate in 1938 and took his first vows as a Religious Brother in 1940. His perpetual profession of vows followed in 1945.

Br. Joseph's educational background includes a BA in education from Fordham University, Bronx, NY (1946); an MA in math from Columbia University, New York City, NY (1948); an honorary doctorate in education from De La Salle University, Manila (1972); and an honorary degree in education from Notre Dame University in Marbel, Philippines (2008), where he served as President from 1966-72. In 1977, he received an MA and MRE in theology from Immaculate Conception Seminary (Douglaston, NY).

Br. Joseph began his teaching career at St. Ann's Academy in Manhattan (now Archbishop Molloy High School, Queens) in 1942. In 1948, he and three other Brothers volunteered to go to the Philippines to assist with the establishment of schools on the island of Mindanao after World War II. As more Brothers volunteered for the mission and the number of Filipino vocations to our Marist way of life increased, grade schools, high schools, colleges, and universities were established in Cotabato, Marbel,

Lago, Jolo, Kidapawan, and Marikina. From 1960-63, Br. Joseph was appointed leader of the Marist District of the Philippines, a designation given to a missionary establishment that would one day become its own juridical province able to make its own decisions with regard to expansion and personnel.

After 24 years of missionary work in the Philippines, Br. Joseph returned to New York in 1972 and took up residence in the Brothers' community at Archbishop Molloy High School. There he continued to assist the mission in the Philippines by raising funds for the work there. In 1975, he moved to Georgia to take up various teaching and diocesan assignments in Augusta and Savannah. In 2001, he moved to Miami, FL, where he assisted with various pastoral and training programs within the Miami Archdiocese. In 2011, he retired from active ministry and moved to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, where he had time to enjoy the rest he so deserved after 81 years of service to the Marist Brothers and the church.

## Br. Gerry Doherty



Br. Gerald Doherty, FMS, passed away at the Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, NJ, on January 23, 2023. He was 79 years old and in his 61st year of Marist religious life.

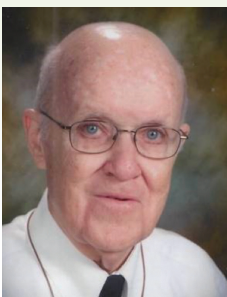
Br. Gerry was born November 10, 1943 in the Bronx, NY. He was a graduate of St. Philip Neri elementary

school and Mount St. Michael Academy, both in the Bronx. Upon graduation from the Mount in 1961, he entered the Marist Brothers at St. Joseph's Novitiate in Tyngsboro, MA. He received the habit in 1962 and pronounced first vows in 1963. He attended the scholasticate at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, and earned a BA in history in 1966. He began his teaching career at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx (1966-72) and then went to Marist High School in Chicago, IL (1978-1984). He also taught at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA (1985-88). He returned to Mount St. Michael as a guidance counselor (1988-96,

2006-19) and also at St. Agnes Boys High School in Manhattan (1996-2005).

Br. Gerry made his profession of final vows in 1972 and in 2000 he professed the vow of stability. He earned an MA in religious education from Loyola University in Chicago in 1983 and an MA in social work from Fordham University in 1996. He was a certified spiritual director and served in formation work for the Marist Brothers as Director of Vocations and Contact (1972-78) and Director of Candidates (1988-93). He retired to the Champagnat Hall Community in the Bronx in 2020.

## Br. Kevin Moran



Br. Kevin Moran, FMS, died on February 25, 2023, at De La Salle Hall in Lincroft, NJ. He was 92 years old and in his 70th year of Marist religious life.

Br. Kevin was born on July 26, 1930, in Martins Ferry, OH. He attended St. Mary's School in Martins Ferry and graduated from Central Catholic High School in

Wheeling, WV, in 1948. He enrolled at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, where he completed a BA degree in 1952. Upon graduation from Gonzaga, he entered the Marist Brothers at St. Joseph's Novitiate in Tyngsboro, MA. He received the habit in 1953 and pronounced first vows in 1954.

Br. Kevin was assigned to Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx as a teacher (1955-61). During this time he pronounced final vows at Marist College in 1959. He taught at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, NY (1961-66), and completed an MA degree from Fordham University in 1963. He returned to Mount St. Michael as Principal (1966-72) and in 1973 participated in the Center

Champagnat renewal program at the Marist Brothers General House in Rome. Upon his return, he became Assistant Principal and then Principal at Marist High School in Chicago (1973-78) and went on to serve as Assistant Principal at Mount St. Michael (1978-82). In 1982, he returned to Marist Chicago where he served in various capacities (teacher, dean of discipline, assistant librarian, bookstore manager) until his retirement in 2011. After retiring from the school, he worked with developmentally challenged young people in the SPRED program at the local parish. In 2013, he joined the Marist Brothers community in Wheeling, WV, and moved to Champagnat Hall in the Bronx in 2018.

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Or contact:

Br. Brian Poulin, FMS

Marist Brothers  
Provincial Office  
70-20 Juno Street  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Phone: (718) 480-1306

Email: [vocations@maristbr.com](mailto:vocations@maristbr.com)

## The Marist Brothers Mission

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

## The Marist Brothers

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 413

Worth, Illinois 60482-0413

Phone: (773) 881-5343

Email: [maristbr@maristbr.org](mailto:maristbr@maristbr.org)

Website: [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com)

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## The Marist Brothers

Provincial Development Office

4200 West 115th Street

Chicago, Illinois 60655-4397

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# The Marist Brothers Remembrance in Prayer Program



**T**he 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](mailto:maristbr@maristbr.org)) or to the mailing address at left.