



The Marist Brothers

ADVENT 2011



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TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

125th Year of Marist Presence in the United States

The Marist Brothers marked their 125th anniversary in the United States on October 8, 2011 with a Mass and Celebration at Saint Jean Baptiste Catholic Church in Manhattan. The church is especially significant to the U.S. Province of The Marist Brothers; Saint Jean Baptiste Grade School was the first parish school in the U.S. established by the Brothers in 1892.



St. Jean Baptiste Altar



Bishop Dennis Sullivan at the podium

The Mass was presided over by The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, Auxiliary Bishop of the New York Archdiocese and graduate of Mount Saint Michael Academy, a Marist high school in the Bronx. Also in attendance were religious representing the Marist Fathers in the U.S., a contingent of international Brothers representing provinces in Canada, Catalonia and Rwanda, members of the Marist College community and many Lay Marists, friends and relatives who are integral to the Marist mission.

The Marist Brothers are an international order of more than 3,700 brothers founded in 1817 by St. Marcellin Champagnat in France. Spanning 79 countries and six continents, there are more than 170 Brothers and 14 Marist schools

in the United States. Dedicated to educating young people, especially those most in need, Marist Brothers transform the lives and situations of thousands, by challenging them to live their fullest potential in Christ.

(continued on page 7)



Br. Sean Sammon, F.M.S.



Marist Brothers Robert Clark, Stephen Schlitte, Brian Poulin and Leo Shea



FROM THE DESK OF

the provincial

Advent 2011

Dear Members of our Marist Family,

Remembering is an innately human activity. How often have we been told a story, heard a grandparent reminisce, or cried over a loved one who has died. Don't we all remember those major milestones in life: falling in love for the first time; a high school victory on the football field; a 21st birthday celebration; marriage; birth of a first child; the day I received my first communion or was confirmed or professed vows as a Religious. All memories are important because they evoke certain feelings and constitute who we are.

This year marked the 125th anniversary of the Marist Brothers' presence in the United States, and the theme chosen for this very special occasion—"We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe"—continues to resonate with us Marists as we look to the future.



For if we are true to who we are, we **remember** and honor our past—the faithfulness of those Marist Brothers and partners who came before us. It is on their shoulders that we stand so as to see a future to which God is calling us. We also **celebrate** the growth of the Marist vision which includes our Brothers, our families, other religious and Lay Marists in seven states, ministering in grammar schools,

high schools, universities, and summer camps—making Jesus Christ known and loved to well over 16,000 young people. And sometimes, it is not enough just “to remember” or “to celebrate;” we must also believe. As Marists, we **believe** that Mary, the First Disciple of Jesus and Our Good Mother, has not or will not abandon us – or our work – because, as Saint Marcellin reminded us, it is “her work” that we do. Today, together, now and in the future... “We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe...”

This edition of **Today's Marist Brother** also features articles on the work of the Brothers here in the States and in the Philippines. While the geography mentioned in these articles are tens of thousands of miles apart, the spirit and vision of Saint Marcellin “to make Jesus Christ known and loved” to the young remains the same.

As we enter the season of Advent, may we continue to remember our mission to the young, celebrate our call as followers of Jesus Christ in the way of Mary, and believe in the abundant goodness of the Lord. May God bless you and your loved ones!

With personal best wishes,

Br. Ben Consigli, F.M.S.
Provincial



Br. Leo Shea counsels Senior Giovanni Yapor in a Focus Education Session



Sophomore Khalid Nesbit works on a Research Project in Focus Education



Teacher Darnell Gatling helps Sophomore Ishmael Wallace in Focus Education

successfully complete the college preparatory curriculum offered at the Mount, with the goal of having students enrolled in the program succeed in college upon graduating. To that end, the program has four main components: academic support, study skills, organizational skills and self-advocacy.

Students in Focus Education meet for one period each day with one of two learning disability specialists provided to the Mount by the New York City Board of Education. During their Focus period, a student is required to come to class ready to work on a project, prepare for a test, ask for additional explanation of a concept or finish a test or quiz. During Focus period, study skills are also taught, as well as organizational skills, which are frequently a challenge for students with learning disabilities. One of the most important components of the program is training the students to advocate for themselves. Since the expectation is that all of these students will go to college, it is most important that they understand the nature of their disability, as well as the accommodations and modifications to which they are legally entitled. They can then explain these to their professors in college, and receive the services necessary for them to succeed in a college setting.

Focus Education At Mount St. Michael Academy

One of the hallmarks of any Marist school is the particular care for students who, for one or more reasons, may find school difficult. Rooted in St. Marcellin Champagnat's belief that Marist schools should care for the "most neglected," in a special way, Marist schools have designed programs to enable struggling students to succeed. Mount St. Michael Academy, located in the Bronx, New York, is no exception.

Focus Education at Mount St. Michael is a program designed to enable students classified as learning disabled by a local child study team to

with them on a regular basis, monitors their grades, ensures that they are receiving the accommodations and modifications in their regular classrooms and serves as a liaison between the regular classroom teachers and the Focus Education teachers.

The Mount's Focus Education program is modeled after the highly successful program at Marist High School in Bayonne, New Jersey. Like Marist High School and all Marist schools, it is the intention at Mount St. Michael to create the conditions for success for every student who attends the Mount. Judging from report cards, college acceptances and disciplinary records, Focus Education at Mount St. Michael is more than succeeding!



Teacher Adam Mayeroff works with Sophomore Terrell Halliman in Focus Education



Doing Good Quietly

The Story of Br. Robert McGovern, F.M.S.



Br. Robert McGovern has accomplished much in his life. How did he start out and become a Marist Brother?

Growing up in the Bronx during and just after World War II, Br. Bob attended PS 97 because his parents

couldn't afford to send him and his brother and sisters to a Catholic school, his father being a New York City policeman in the days before municipal unions were as powerful as they are today.

With his parents' blessing he finished high school at the Marist Brothers' newly opened Marist Prep in Esopus New York and went on to complete his training in the Brothers' novitiate and Marist College across the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie.

Immediately after college, Br. Bob taught at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx, New York, Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, New York and then in Opa Locka, Florida.

In the early 1960s he studied theology in Fribourg, Switzerland and after completing this program he volunteered to go to the Philippines to teach at Notre Dame of Cotabato, a high school for boys in Mindanao.

Subsequently he went to Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal City for two years as Director of 25 student Brothers and 4 aspirants, responsible for teaching theology, education courses, graduate-level classes, handling guidance and running the school's research center.

Two years later he went to visit the Brothers' school on the remote island of Jolo, at a time just before sectarian strife broke out in the area. The strife in the area made a lasting impression on Br. Bob.

After this, although he was led to believe that he would become Director of the novitiate in Tamontaka near Cotabato City, he was sent, instead, to work at Notre Dame of Kidapawan College.

In 1972 Br. Bob returned to Mindanao and became Executive Secretary of the Notre Dame Education Association (NDEA), spearheading the development of new programs for improving education throughout the area. In this position he helped not just Marist schools, but also diocesan schools. At that time the NDEA included schools run by the Marist Brothers, the Oblate Fathers and three Congregations of Women Religious with 75,000 students enrolled in 112 schools, among which were 56 Notre Dame high schools and 20 elementary schools.

Br. Bob was a driving force behind a program organized for teachers from 60 high schools who were sent for a Masters Degree program at Notre Dame University in Cotabato City and Notre Dame of Marbel University—4 summers for 6 weeks at a time—to become certified as Principals throughout Mindanao.

To help improve education in Muslim areas, under his direction the 2 Notre Dame Universities teamed with UNICEF to identify promising Muslim teachers and provide them with an accelerated para-teacher program to become head teachers with apprentices in their local communities. This program greatly improved the quality of education and trained



Exchange Students Arrive at Marist High School

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, the Marist High School community in Chicago, Illinois welcomed 14 Argentinean exchange students and their chaperones. The nine boys and six girls were accompanied by Br. Carlos Huidoero and English teacher, Mr. Leandro Carreno. The students were from Colegio Champagnat, a Marist school in Buenos Aires.

The exchange program allowed the Argentinean students to experience life in the United States at an American Marist school and compare that experience to their lives at home.

Marist High School president, Br. Patrick McNamara, F.M.S. was approached with the idea of an exchange program with the Argentine Marist school and gladly extended the invitation. The 14 students lived with families of Marist students. They spent five days shadowing the host students at Marist High School as well as sightseeing around the Chicago area.

Marist senior, Daniel Weise, hosted one of the students and said, "It was great experiencing Spanish outside of the classroom and having a student live with me for two weeks." Foreign language department chair, Mrs. Erica Nathan-Gamauf said, "By having these students come here we will learn about their lives, attitudes and beliefs. It reminds our students that not everyone speaks English."

administrators to serve in Muslim areas. 58 science teachers were also trained for schools throughout Mindanao, some going on to earn Ph.D.s.

Over the last several decades Br. Bob has helped launch university programs for social development, healthcare and nursing services, and a Business Resource Center Foundation that provides business training, consulting services, research on business needs, community organizing and financial assistance and loans for entrepreneurs. Thousands of personnel have been trained in addition to "out of school" youth enrolled in the Marist Technical Training Programs to get skills needed for employment.



Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal

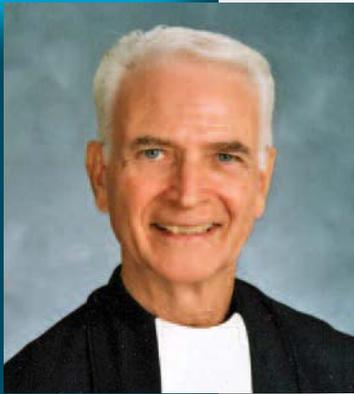
In 1993 Pope John Paul II awarded Br. Bob the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal, the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Papacy.

Br. Bob is especially proud of helping to create thousands of new jobs by promoting the development of a new fish seaport in General Santos City, and of collaborating with USAID to build an airport to fly the freshly caught fish directly to Manila, strengthening existing businesses and enabling the fishing industry in the Provinces of South Cotabato and Sarangani to thrive and expand.

With loving faith and youthful openness to the Lord's guidance in his life, Br. Bob has been a blessing and inspiration to countless people around the world, now more than ever.

Dear Members of our Marist Family,

Advent and Christmas are times of both celebration and reflection. We celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and reflect back on the events in our lives over the past year. In October, The Marist Brothers celebrated 125 years of ministry in the United States with a celebration at St. Jean Baptiste parish in New York City. The Development Office is also celebrating this milestone in the theme of this year's Annual Fund and with our new Marist Tree of Knowledge. The fact that the Marist Brothers have been able to effectively bring Christian education to youth, especially those most neglected is a testament to the faith and commitment of many generations of "Marists," both Brothers and lay, working together.



Today, we rely on the kindness and generosity of you, our friends, family and alumni to work together with us to assist in furthering this mission to new generations of young men and women. Your support has, and will continue to keep the important presence of our Brothers in our educational institutions and ministries as well as enable us to provide for our elderly and disabled Brothers. Your financial support also allows us to expand our vocation awareness program to reach more young men contemplating religious life.

Each year our fundraising efforts become more and more critical to our ongoing efforts. If you haven't yet become a financial supporter of The Marist Brothers, please consider sending a gift today. Your gift, no matter the amount, will be gratefully appreciated. Or simply go online to our secure website, www.maristbr.com, and click on the "Donate Now" tab to charge a gift to your major credit card.



We are proud of your role in our continuing success and hope you will seriously consider a gift to one of our recent appeals. Together, we can carry out St. Marcellin's mission and continue to make a difference in the lives of young people for another 125 years in the United States!

We join all the Brothers in wishing you a blessed Advent and a wonderful Christmas season surrounded by family and friends. May the new year bring you abundant good health, great joy and happiness

Br. Hugh P. Turley F.M.S.

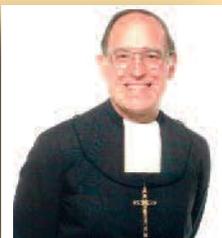
Br. Hugh P. Turley, F.M.S., CFRE
Co-Director of Development

Merry Christmas!

Paulette M. Karas

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE
Co-Director of Development

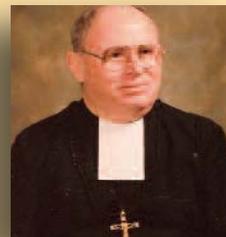
In Memoriam



Br. George Fontana, F.M.S.

Since word of Br. George Fontana's death was received, the Province has been receiving many emails and letters of condolences from throughout the Institute. Br. George's work in Fribourg, Switzerland, Manziana, Italy, Rome, Italy,

Kobe, Japan, and his presence in the U.S. was always marked with the genuine warmth, care and concern that mirrored the man Br. George was. As a Province and as an Institute, the Marist Brothers have been blessed with Br. George's presence among us. I am sure he is interceding for us and for the needs of the Brothers. Let us continue to pray for each other and take comfort in knowing that Br. George is at peace in the Risen Lord.



Br. John Francis Colbert, F.M.S.

Br. John Colbert, a Marist Brothers for 67 years, died on August 9, 2011, after living with the disabilities of a stroke since 2001. He was 85 years old.

Br. John, born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, was professed as a Marist Brother in 1941. After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, he served at Marist Hall in Cold Spring, taught at Bishop Dubois High School, Cardinal Hayes High School, St. Agnes Boys High School, all in New York City, Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, West Virginia and as a teacher in the Brothers' Novitiate in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. He ended his school ministry in 1993 at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx.

Br. John taught his students the importance of literature and expressing oneself through essays. His love of music and singing was inspiring! May he rest in peace.



Br. Ben Consigli, Provincial

The very first foundation in the United States was in Saints Peter & Paul school, Lewiston, Maine in 1886. By 1900 there were 60 Brothers teaching in six U.S. schools. The anticlerical laws of France in 1901-05 led to a

mass exodus, and many French Brothers joined their confreres in the Americas. By 1904 the Brothers had four schools in New England and four schools in New York City.

The new Province of the United States, canonically recognized in 1911, continued to grow in personnel and establishments. Other schools flourished in Savannah, Georgia, Haverstraw, New York, Manchester, New Hampshire, Lawrence, Lowell and Haverhill in Massachusetts. Training houses for candidates were established in Poughkeepsie, New York and Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. With the growth of vocations after World War II new schools opened in Florida, Illinois, Texas and Oregon. Foreign missions in the Philippines, Japan, Oceania, Zimbabwe and Liberia were confided to the U.S. Marist Brothers as well.

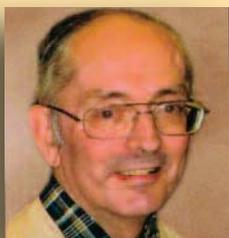
Although teaching has remained the essential commitment, over the years some Brothers engaged

in other forms of ministry to the most abandoned and the least favored, such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation, juvenile delinquency, human rights, spiritual renewal for adults, and CCD programs in Washington, DC, Pine Ridge, South Dakota and Oakland, California.

“We celebrate the growth of the Marist vision which includes our Brothers, our families, other religious and Lay Marists in seven states, ministering in grammar schools, high schools, universities, summer camps and parish centers — making Jesus Christ known and loved to well over 16,000 young people,” said Br. Ben Consigli, F.M.S., Provincial of the U.S. Province in his opening remarks. “Today, together, now and in the future... we remember, we celebrate, we believe.”



The Marist Brothers marked its 125th year of presence in the United States with a Mass and Celebration held on October 8, 2011 at the Saint Jean Baptiste Catholic Church in Manhattan. Back row (standing left to right): Brothers Patrick Hogan, Peter Guadalupe, Rene Roy, Robert Clark, Michael Flanigan and Frank Kelly. Front row (kneeling left to right): Brothers Roy George and Al Rivera.

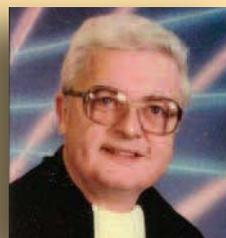


Br. Richard LaRose, F.M.S.

Br. Richard LaRose, a native of Lawrence, Massachusetts and a '58 graduate of Central Catholic High School entered the Marist Brothers' Novitiate the September after his graduation. He went on to earn a Doctorate in Chemistry and taught in

various Marist schools in the U.S. and in Japan. A serious heart attack while in Japan and subsequent mini-strokes forced him to retire. It was a final heart attack that allowed him to return to the Father.

Br. Richard's wit and daring added much to our Marist life and the schools where he taught. Over the 53 years he was a Brother, he influenced countless lives, and, evidently, God saw that it was his time to “come home.”

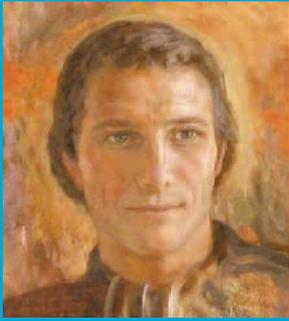


Br. Robert James, F.M.S.

Sometimes in our lives we are given the gift of meeting people who indeed give “all to Jesus” and who through their words and deeds seem to understand what is important in life. Br. Robert James was indeed such a man. He was

an intellect earning degrees in Spanish and Theology. He would eventually move on to being an important part in the formation of so many young Brothers, and later becoming Principal and Assistant Principal in Marist schools in Bayonne, Roselle, and Newark, New Jersey. What Br. Robert did on this earth was never to bring glory and honor to himself, but it was always directed toward the good of the other.

Of all the roles that Br. Robert assumed, the one that characterized him best was that of being “teacher.” It was in this role as teacher that he indeed gave all to Jesus through Mary. Br. Robert held nothing back.



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The Marist Brothers Mission

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

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For more updates on what’s happening in our Marist circles go to www.maristbr.com and click on “What’s New.”

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The Marist Brothers

Remembrance in Prayer Program



The Marist Brothers are excited to announce the addition of two newly designed All Occasion cards! These new designs are unique and created especially for the Marist Brothers by the well known company Barton Cotton, of Baltimore, Maryland.

The new All Occasion cards may be sent in honor of a birthday, anniversary, wedding or to send get well greetings. We still offer our Traditional prayer cards that are used for expressions of sympathy or memorials. Both card designs offer a special promise of remembrance in prayer from the Marist Brothers.

We would be delighted to send you a complimentary packet of our new All Occasion cards or a fresh supply of our Traditional cards. Please request either through email (maristbr@aol.com) or send your request to the address on this newsletter.