



The Marist Brothers

# TODAY'S *Marist Brother*

ADVENT 2017



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

**INSIDE:**

From the Desk of the Provincial

Walking the Camino

Esopus Corner

LaValla Weekend

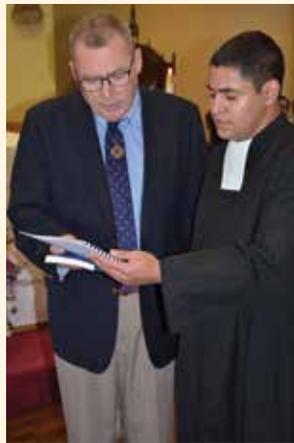
22nd General Chapter Meeting

Letter from the Development Office

In Memoriam

## *Br. Luis Ramos Enters the Novitiate*

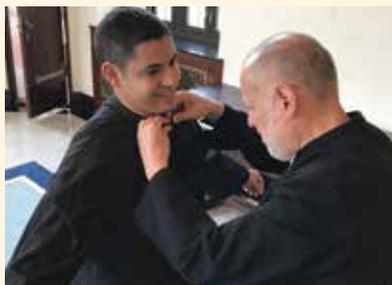
**T**he Marist Brothers of the United States Province celebrated the entry of Br. Luis Ramos to the Marist Brothers Novitiate on August 19 during a prayer service at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, New York.



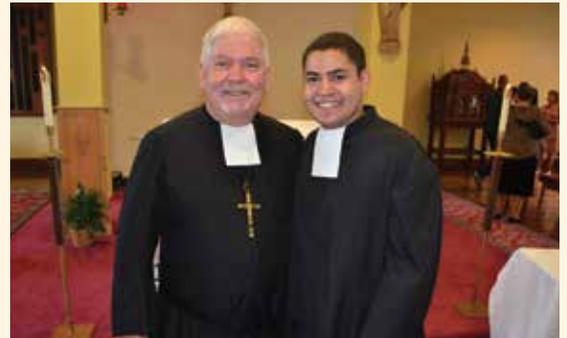
Br. Luis Ramos (right.) reading with his Master of Novices, Br. Sean Sammon (left).

Br. Luis previously attended high school at Marist-founded Mount Saint Michael Academy. He received his first sacraments as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, where he graduated in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in religious studies.

During his college years, he was actively involved in the Marist Young Adult Program. After graduating from college, he spent one year living and working



Br. Peter Guadalupe (right) helping Br. Luis Ramos with his Habit before the prayer service celebrating his entrance to the Marist Brothers' Novitiate.



Br. Patrick McNamara (left), Provincial of the United States Province, with Br. Luis Ramos.

as a volunteer at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, New York. In September 2016, Br. Luis became a postulant and lived in community with other Brothers at the Marist Brothers Postulancy in the Bronx.

The Marist Brothers Novitiate is located at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where Br. Sean Sammon is the Master of Novices. While Br. Sean attended the 22nd General Chapter Meeting of the Marist Brothers Institute in Rionegro, Colombia, Br. Luis spent time at the Novitiate in Medellin, Colombia, with 12 other novices from El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

To read more about Br. Luis and his experiences in the novitiate, visit [www.maristbrothersnovitiateusa.com](http://www.maristbrothersnovitiateusa.com)

FROM THE DESK OF

# the Provincial

ADVENT 2017

Dear Marist Family,

Greetings as we begin a new Church year and call forth on our God to be closer to us this year with blessings on our lives, families, and world. May this Advent and Christmas season be a time of warmth, healing, and blessings for you. May you grow ever deeper into the hearts of Mary, our good mother, and Jesus, Emmanuel!



I have recently returned from our Marist Brothers' 22nd General Chapter Meeting in Rionegro, Colombia. Over 110 Marist Brothers and lay Marists of Champagnat were present for the meeting. The General Chapter delegates represented our international Marist Family, now growing in over 81 countries around the world. USA Brothers Sean Sammon, Dan O'Riordan, Albert Rivera, Ben Consigli, and I were so impressed by the experience of our Marist brotherhood and the mission shared by delegates in the many diverse languages at the heart of our Institute.

Marists of St. Marcellin Champagnat begin a third century as a strong global body and network, with a firm commitment to the emerging needs of our young people, poor children, and displaced persons throughout the world. We will continue to make Jesus known and loved through our efforts in education and evangelization. At the General Chapter, we were very pleased with the election of our new Superior General, Br. Ernesto Sanchez-Barba from Mexico, and the

election of our USA Brother Ben Consigli to be a member of the General Council in Rome.

As this 200th anniversary and celebration of our foundation concludes, thank you, dear family members and friends, for your support and love so that we can join together for "a new beginning" and third century as Marists to serve the Church.

Sincerely,

Br. Patrick McNamara, FMS  
Provincial

## Walking the Camino



The Camino de Santiago, also known as The Way of Saint James, is a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the apostle of Saint James the Great. The shrine is located in northwestern Spain at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where tradition says the remains of the saint are buried. Each year, many pilgrims follow the Camino de Santiago as a retreat for their spiritual growth. Over the summer, Br. Todd Patenaude, joined by two other Marist pilgrims, embarked on the journey of the Camino.

Wrote Br. Todd, "Walking the Camino was a fantastic experience for all who participated. We made Jesus known and loved every day. I can't even begin to explain what an awakening the experience has been for me and for my companions on the journey.

So many people I've met are curious as to what a Brother is, and I had so many conversations about faith, religion, and spirituality with different people along the way. It is clear to me why God wanted me there. Alice, a pilgrim from Pennsylvania, asked me 'Did you know you were going to be teaching so many people on the Camino when you decided to walk it? Because you really are teaching us a lot! I love talking to and walking with you.'



I am truly blessed to have been able to experience this journey, blisters and all!"

The Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, New York, is our Marist center for evangelization in the Province of the United States. Often, people are unclear about the nature of our mission. Evangelization means to announce the good news of God's incarnate love. We speak to spread the Gospel, not simply by our words, but more importantly by our deeds. All of our programs and efforts are focused on this mission.

The Advent season calls each of us to "prepare the way of the Lord." How can we best respond to this call? Here in Esopus we provide young people with a place where they feel safe, loved, and accepted for who they are. We provide opportunities for them to discover their God-given talents. We also challenge them to use those talents to make the world a better place: in effect, to build the Kingdom of God.



Our Marist mission doesn't end in Esopus. Every group that leaves the center is commissioned to go forth into the world to evangelize, to announce to others the power of God's love, and to give witness to that which they have seen and heard. The Gospels tell us that God is love. Love abounds in Esopus.



Advent gives all of us a reason to contemplate the words of theologian Meister Eckhart: "What good is it if Mary gave birth to Jesus 2,000 years ago, if I do not do it in my own time? We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born."

This Advent, as we anticipate the incarnation of our God's love into our own lives, let us give thanks for the gift of our Marist mission.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

# LaValla Weekend Retreat:



This year marked the sixth-annual LaValla Weekend Retreat at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus, New York. Students from Archbishop Molloy High School, Queens, New York; Christopher Columbus High School, Miami, Florida; Marist High School, Bayonne, New Jersey; Marist

High School, Chicago, Illinois; Mount St. Michael Academy, Bronx, New York; St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville, Texas; St. Joseph Regional High School, Montvale, New Jersey; and Roselle Catholic High School, Roselle, New Jersey, participated.

Similar to previous LaValla Retreats, students spent time doing service work on various projects around the Esopus grounds. Instead of starting a new project to begin and finish throughout the weekend, groups spread out around the retreat center cleaning up and fixing projects from past years' retreats.

They also took part in a day-long natural disaster and relief simulation. The goal of



the exercise was to give students insights on the real-life struggles many people have had to go through after the recent tragedies of hurricanes in the Caribbean and earthquakes in Mexico. Students were split into groups, or "families," for the weekend, and assumed various roles throughout the simulation experience.



At the end of the weekend, each student group was given \$100 to use as seed money for fundraising efforts for the Province's campaign to help the Marist centers in Puerto Rico and Mexico. Br. Owen Ormsby, Executive Director of the MBCE, encouraged the students to start and lead fundraising efforts in their individual communities. With the help of these students and the Marist schools around the United States, the Province's campaign raised over \$10,000!



# 22nd General Chapter Meeting

September 8th - October 20th  
Rionegro, Colombia



Ninety-four participants from around the Marist World joined together in September for the 22nd General Chapter Meeting in Rionegro, Colombia.

The participants from the United States Province were Brothers Sean Sammon, Patrick McNamara, Daniel O'Riordan, Ben Consigli, and Al Rivera. Br. Luis Ramos, who joined the Marist USA Novitiate in August, also was in Colombia spending time at the Novitiate in Medellin.



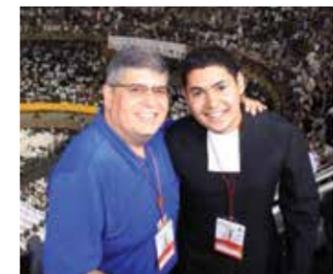
The intention of the General Chapter Meeting process was to invite Marists, both Brothers and lay people, to see where there could be potential in the world today to spread the Marist charism. The Chapter Assembly was



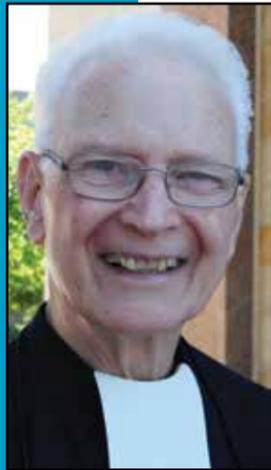
charged with the task of indicating the way for "a new LaValla." Br. Emili Turu, current Superior

General of the Marist Institute, emphasized this by saying the goal of the meeting was "to make La Valla relevant today, at the beginning of the 21st century, as a new world is emerging."

Some highlights from this year's General Chapter Meeting included attending mass led by Pope Francis, visiting young people



in cultural centers around Colombia, and concluding the celebration of the bicentennial of the Institute. Delegates also elected Br. Ernesto Sanchez-Barba as the new Superior general and Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez Blanco as the new Vicar General. Br. Ben Consigli, from the USA Province, was also elected as one of the new members of the General Council.



# Dear Marist Family,

**A**dvent 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. 2017 marked the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Marist Brothers by St. Marcellin Champagnat. We are now looking toward our third century with renewed hope for the exciting future ahead. The fact that the Marist Brothers have been able to effectively serve for two centuries, bringing Christian education to youth, especially the 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 in furthering this mission to new generations of young men and women. Your support has kept 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 as traditional sources of funding continue to shrink, 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](http://www.maristbr.com), and click on "Donate" to charge a gift to your credit card. We are proud of your role in our continuing success. Together, we can carry out St. Marcellin's mission and continue to make a difference in the lives of young people for another 200 years!

We join all the Brothers in wishing you a blessed Advent and a wonderful Christmas season surrounded by family and friends. May 2018 bring you good health, great joy, and happiness.

**Merry Christmas!**

*Br. Hugo P. Turley, FMS*

Co-Director of Development

*Paulette M. Haras*

Co-Director of Development

## IN MEMORIAM



*Brother Fabian Mayor*

**July 7, 2017**

Br. Fabian Mayor, FMS passed away on July 7, a month after he celebrated his 60th Jubilee as a Marist Brother. He was 79 years old.

He entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1957 and professed his first vows on July 26, 1958. After completing a BA in history at Marist College, Poughkeepsie,

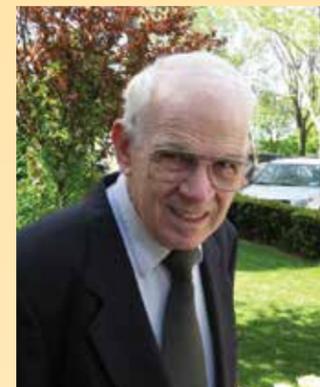
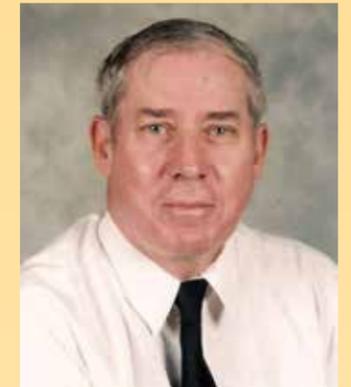
New York, he began his teaching career at Saint Joseph High School in Lowell, Massachusetts. He professed his final vows on July 11, 1963, and earned a Master of Arts degree in history from Saint John's University, New York, New York, in 1969.

Br. Fabian earned further graduate degrees in computer science from Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida, and in global studies from Florida International University, Miami, both in 2000.

He had a distinguished career as a teacher at the following schools: Central Catholic High School, Wheeling, West Virginia; Marist Catholic High School, Eugene, Oregon; Bishop Dubois High School, New York, New York; Marist High School, Chicago, Illinois; Marist International High School, Kobe, Japan; Fr. Duenas High School, Mangilao, Guam; Christopher Columbus High School, Miami, Florida; and Mount Saint

Michael Academy, Bronx, New York.

He also served as deputy principal of Christopher Columbus High School in Miami and as a social animator of Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Prior to his death, Br. Fabian was retired and living at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx.



*Brother Robert LeClerc*

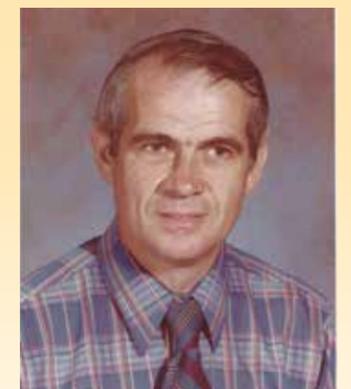
**August 26, 2017**

Br. Robert LeClerc, FMS, a member of the Marist Brothers for 67 years, died on August 26, at De LaSalle Hall in Lincroft, New Jersey. He was 84 years old.

Br. Robert became a postulant with the Marist Brothers in 1949 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate at Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, in 1950 before professing first vows in 1951. After completing his religious and academic studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, he began his ministry serving as a teacher at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He also served as a teacher at Mount Saint Michael Academy, Bronx, New York; Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx; Marist Catholic High School, Eugene, Oregon; and Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie, New York.

He professed his final vows in 1956 and earned a master's degree in mathematics, physics, and chemistry

from Saint John's University in New York, New York, in 1960. Br. Robert retired to the Marist Brothers community at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx in 2007 and lived his last two years at De LaSalle Hall.



To read additional obituaries on Brothers Fabian and Robert, as well as other recently deceased Brothers, visit [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com), and under "Marist Archives," click on "Deceased Brothers."

**Real Brothers.  
Real Stories.  
A Real Difference.**



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

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

Or contact:

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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 happening in our Marist circles, visit [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com).**



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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 in honor of a birthday, wedding, or anniversary 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 cards or All-Occasion cards. Please send your request through email ([maristbr@maristbr.org](mailto:maristbr@maristbr.org)) or to the address at left.