



Today's MARISTS

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Lent 2012

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Br. Greg McDonald, FMS

Easter: A Sign of Hope For Youth

By Br. Greg McDonald, FMS

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad! (Ps. 118)

In 2003, an American hip-hop group named The Black Eyed Peas released a song entitled “*Where is the love?*” It quickly went viral among millions of youth in the United States and around the world. The song seemed to strike a chord in the hearts of young people, who found within its lyrics a voice that gave clarity to their own questions and uncertainties about the place of love in an increasingly fearful world, overshadowed by terrorism and war.

In 2012, an equally important question that is front and centre in the hearts and minds of many of our Millennial Generation is: “*Where is the hope?*” Recent studies into the mental health and wellbeing of American teenagers reveal an increasing sense of hopelessness. For many, it appears there is little in society that offers hope in their future.

Despite the recent history of abuse, I believe that the Church remains one of the few vital institutions that can be a sign of hope to young people of this present generation. Young Catholic Christians continue to look to the church as a herald of hope that points to something greater than their own material, day-to-day concerns. For Christians, the Resurrection is the defining moment of hope where God stands with humanity by raising Jesus to new life. Unlike the Black Eyed Peas, the church has a real Number One Good News hit: “*Christ is risen, Alleluia!*”

It is timely to remind ourselves as the Church that we are in a privileged position to be a sign of hope for young people. In the midst of the uncertainties that accompany youth in their time of transition from adoles-

cence to adulthood, perhaps the one thing they can learn from us is this song that speaks of the promise of eternal hope in a future together with God.

This is where Marists have a unique opportunity to bring our charism and way of “being church” to the lives of the young. Central to the founding vision of Fr. Colin and the early Marists was a desire for a new Society that would breathe Mary’s spirit into a troubled world, a spirit marked by gentleness and mercy, of being unassuming but nevertheless dynamically immersed in the daily lives of the local folk.

In an age where young Christians place more value in their spiritual growth through seeking and questioning rather than by blindly accepting absolute religious truths, the Marist charism offers an alternative and complementary approach by way of a gospel of dialogue; one that begins not by making moral judgements or pronouncements, but which desires to be truly present in the social contexts which young people live and by entering into authentic dialogue with them. As Francois Marc, S.M., so beautifully expressed in his wonderful reflection; “a Marian Church does not know all the answers ... makes no claim to know everything. She accepts that she must search... she never preaches [and] above all she listens”.

In being present to young people, we must begin by firstly *listening* to them. That’s the gift that Mary offers us; an ability to sit, listen attentively without the answers and simply be with them. Only when young people see that we respect and acknowledge the truth of their story will they be open to

Reflections continued on page 3 . . .

PROVINCIAL'S LETTER FEBRUARY 2012
NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES DEEPEN BONDS



Father Ted Keating, S.M.,
Provincial

Dear Friends,

There has been a long history of connections between the Marist Provinces on the North American continent. You may recall that the Marists came to the United States from France to Convent, Louisiana in 1863 during the Civil War as the Battle of Vicksburg was raging to the North. The earliest formal presence of the Marists in Mexico was in 1897. The Marist Fathers of the former Boston Province, with their fluency in French, began doing parish missions and retreats in Canada in the earliest days of their ministry to the French migrating into the northeastern area of the United States. The present Province of Canada, established in 1965, began as a vice-Province of Boston. Given that much of the ministry was among the French in Mexico, Mexico also began as vice-Province of Boston. Mexico became a separate Province in 1961.

There had been many informal contacts over the years, especially with respect to post-novitiate seminary formation, creating a number of personal relationships across the borders. Indeed, borders did not stand in the way of the deepening relationships between the Provinces of Boston and Canada in the East and the former Washington Province and Mexico in the Southwest. The Mexican immigration into the United States occurred in the territory of both the former Washington and San Francisco Provinces. As the Washington Province began to see the necessity of ministry to the Hispanics of the U.S., a number of Marist professed seminarians went to Mexico in the 1980's for language study and even for one and two-year supervised pastoral periods.

Beginning in the early 1980's, the provincial superiors of the three countries began meeting to build communion and share experiences of Marist life within and across the national boundaries. After the General Chapter of 2001, the provincial superiors and some of their councilors began work on deepening these relationships by more concerted collaboration in

the areas of Marist laity and vocations, and by fostering the riches of Marist spirituality across the North American Provinces. They formed the North American Conference of Marist Provincials to create more formality and structure for their collaboration.

Not long after, the Marist Schools of Mexico, Canada, and the United States began meeting to intensify Marist identity in these educational institutions and to collaborate in the formation of the administrations and faculties of the Schools. The core schools of the effort were San Pedro Chanel of Guadalajara, Mexico; Marist School of Atlanta, Georgia; Notre Dame Academy of Pontiac, Michigan; Séminaire des Père Maristes, Sillery, Quebec, Canada. These annual meetings have gathered lay faculty and staffs of the schools for formation and education in Marist history, charism, and educational philosophy. More recently they gathered students from the schools for leadership training.

On December 2-3, 2011, the three Provincials of the North American Province (Jean Vienne, Provincial of Mexico; Jacques Arguin, Provincial of Canada; Michael Bouffard, Councilor of Canada) met in Washington, DC, to further communion and collaboration, taking note of the growing global collaboration between the Marist provinces of the world and of the need to intensify the regional presence of Marist life in the various areas of the globe. They looked at efforts to deepen bonds between the membership of the provinces with one another; to use the occasion of a meeting of Marist Laity in Quebec this summer to gather Marist laity from the three countries; to work toward a simple tri-lingual website to emphasize our common Marist identity; and to consider the possibility of doing some formation at the early levels among the provinces. The group meets twice annually and looks forward to enhancing this important continental dimension of Marist life and mission.

Fr. Ted Keating, S.M.

Reflections . . . from page 1

accepting the invitation we offer them of a bigger vision of life that is the family of the Church and the Good News of Jesus Christ. As Marists we can affirm this by striving to establish better relationships with young people in our places of ministry, accompanying them in whatever way we can at this stage of their life.

The gospels reveal to us that Mary was never front and centre in the life and mission of Jesus, but was present to her Son and the nascent church at Pentecost as Mother and First Disciple, always seeking out the movement of God's Spirit in the events of her life, together with a keen sense of justice for the oppressed of her community. As we continue to live the spirit of Mary among this generation of youth, perhaps the real hope we can offer them is by encouraging them to follow Mary's way, offering them the gift of prayer and contemplation and a desire to deepen their personal awareness of social justice issues in their world.

The Easter story speaks of the great joy and hope to which we are all called, both now and in the life of the world to come. If we truly believe that we have something extraordinary to offer young people in the Good News of the Risen Christ, then we need to act like Mary, and "go in haste" to where young people are. *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!"* It's time for our young people to learn this wonderful song.

Br. Greg McDonald, FMS, is a Marist Brother from the Province of Sydney, Australia. He is currently completing a MA in Pastoral Ministry at Boston College.

A LOOK AT THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MARIST MISSION TO HAWAII: PART TWO



Mary Star of the Sea, Honolulu, Hawaii

In August 1946, Fr. Edward Donze, S.M., Professor of Scripture at Catholic University and Marist College in Washington, D.C., arrived in Honolulu to start a new parish. Mary Star of The Sea would serve the city's large Portuguese population, most of whom were immigrants from the Azores, some via Guam. When he saw the location for the church — an old barn and abandoned Japanese school at the end of the bus line — he knew he had his work cut out for him. With the help of volunteers, the shabby school was transformed into a church. Masses were celebrated with pigeons and chickens in attendance.

Fr. Donze eyed a piece of property about a half-mile away. It was an old piggery, set amid piles of lava rocks, within sight of the famed Diamond Head crater. After weekly attempts to press the owners to sell the property, Fr. Donze borrowed \$540,000 and purchased 14 acres where he oversaw the building of Mary Star of the Sea Church with a grammar and high school on the property. Today, Star of the Sea parish and its schools continue to thrive in the same location, in what is now a very busy neighborhood.

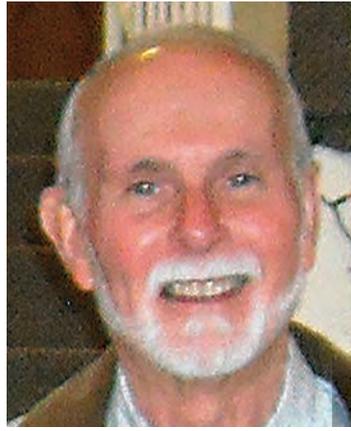
In 1949, Marist Father James Marchant became pastor at Holy Cross Church in Kalaheo, Kauai. The church had been under the care of the Sacred Heart Congregation.

Over the next 55 years, the Marists in Hawaii helped build and lead centers of faith that blended Americans from vastly different backgrounds and cultures, to help them know and serve God in the way of Mary. On August 1, 2004, nearly 60 years after the first Marist missionaries arrived on Kauai, Marist Fathers Bruce Lery, Vincent Curtain and Patrick Coyle left the island. Their legacy is a healthy faith community that, like most Marist missions, began with an urgent call.

— Paul Carr, Director of Development



Fr. Bob Graham



Fr. Walter Gaudreau (superior)



Br. Leonard Haley (staff)



Fr. Robert Champagne



Fr. Phil d'Auby



Br. John Hunt
+ February 3, 2012



Fr. Ed Blee



Br. Joe Grima

MARISTS IN RETIREMENT FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AND

By Revs. Paul Frechette and Tom Ellerman, S.M.

Marist priests and brothers share many common traits, including the fact that none of us ever retires fully. All Marists in retirement carry with them one special quality that brought them into Marist life in the first place: their shared desires to serve God in the quiet way of Mary. It is not uncommon to see a Marist stay in active ministry until well beyond the traditional retirement years — until it becomes a physical impossibility to do so.

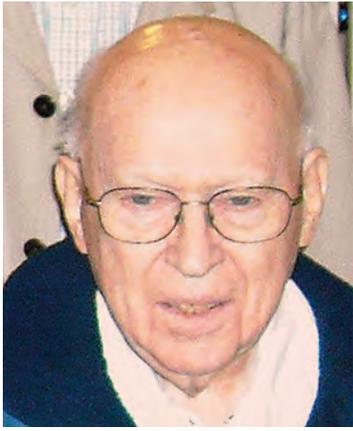
When one moves beyond active ministry and graduates to the status of *senior religious in retirement*, an entirely new and familiar job awaits him: the active apostolate of prayer. While many aspects of our retirements mirror those of the general population, we often carry through qualities of our earlier ministries (jobs) and, of course, our circumstances change as we age.

From the East . . .

Journey with us across the U.S., from East to West, and meet some of our senior Marist fathers and brothers.

When Fr. Gerry Demers, S.M., retired from active ministry as pastor and superior at Our Lady of Victories Shrine (OLV) in Boston, he found a new way of living that suited him well. While still in residence at OLV, he enjoys his daily walks, quiet times of meditation, and he loves living in Boston. “There are just enough ‘interruptions’ here to make it so there is always something to do,” says Fr. Gerry. While he continues to celebrate Mass and hear confessions, Fr. Gerry says he never feels burdened. He has begun helping out by celebrating weekend Mass at a local diocesan church. In the past year, he has had open-heart surgery and has seen new levels in his appreciation for the gift of life.

Fr. Robert Champagne, S.M. retired from active ministry several years ago, but remained busy and available to celebrate Masses at a variety of locations in and near Framingham, MA, where he lived at Marist House until last summer when the house was closed. In this past year, Fr. Bob saw many changes in his life in addition to the move from Marist House to a new Marist residence in Waltham, including the loss of his driver’s license because



Fr. Ray Fournier



Br. Roland Bernier



Fr. Gerry Demers



Fr. Adrien Pelletier



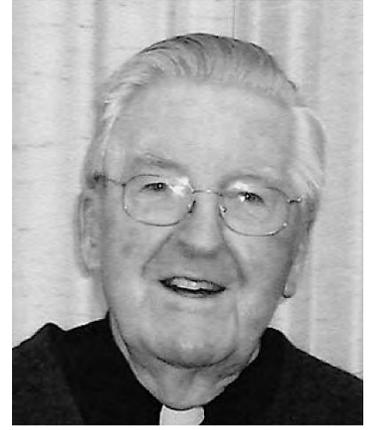
Fr. Bob Fahey



Br. Pat Souza



Fr. Paddy Coyle



Fr. Francis Springer

SERVE IN NEW WAYS

of his failing eyesight. While he can no longer celebrate public Masses, he is happy to be able to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to several groups.

Twenty years of missionary life and a ministry as a building contractor in the Pacific islands helped Br. Roland Bernier, S.M. fashion his ability to live anywhere with anyone. The five Marists with whom he now lives in Waltham, MA appreciate this quality of adaptability in Br. Roland. His spiritual and prayer life is full and the natural setting surrounding his new home engenders peaceful days.



Fr. Roger Bourgea

While technically a senior priest at age 79, Fr. Roger Bourgea, S.M. continues to work part-time as a chaplain for Boston Medical Center. His 20-hours per week, covering three days, brings him into situations where he is able to help out by using his French- and Spanish-language skills. "It is a very Marist ministry,"

says Fr. Roger, who is often called upon to give sacraments to people who are very needy, vulnerable and sick. If a patient tells him she wants communion, he gives it to her without inquiring about her Catholic background. "I don't ask all kinds of questions," he says, "and I train the Eucharistic ministers to do the same. We offer communion and offer the patient another option: or do you want me to come back?"

If you would care to conjure an image of a quintessential senior Marist priest in retirement, consider Fr. Robert Graham, S.M., who, at the age of 90, ministers quietly to his fellow residents of the Catholic nursing home in Framingham, MA. Some residents come to him for confession, and he has even been asked to conduct a few anointings of the sick. Fr. Bob is glad to have the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel, where he prays daily.

... to the West - continued on page 6

On the edge of Chinatown, in the heart of San Francisco, located close to each other, are three Marist institutions—the Church of Notre Dame des Victoires, Notre Dame des Victoires Elementary School, and the Marist Center of the West, located in the former convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The Marist Center is the spiritual powerhouse of the California Region of the USA Province. The source of its spiritual power is the membership of the community—Fathers Edward Blee, Patrick Coyle, Philip d'Auby, Robert Fahey, Francis Springer, and Brother John Hunt. These Marists, with many years of service to the People of God in California, Arizona, Idaho, Hawaii, Oceania, Florida, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, are well prepared for their present ministry of prayerful presence, wisdom, sharing, gracious hospitality, and silent sacrifice.

Marists from all over the world, a variety of other priests and religious, and members of the laity are warmly received at the Center and made to feel at home. The above-mentioned Marists are insightful and generous with their hard-won wisdom not only by their active participation in Marist Regional meetings, but in their numerous personal and pastoral encounters with many persons near and far. Especially in their prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament and in their prayers to Mary do these Marists intercede for the world, the Church, and the Society of Mary. They pray with special fervor for an increase of new members in the Society. God alone knows the number of silent sacrifices they continue to make everyday for all of us who rely on their spiritual support.

Brothers Patrick Souza and Joseph Grima, along with five Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Guadalupe, generously spend their time and energy in supporting the spiritual ministry of these senior Marists. To these Brothers and Sisters, the USA Province owes more than it can ever repay.

All our Senior Marists, wherever they may be, remain an inspiration and a challenge to us all. May we, as they, faithfully entrust ourselves to God's loving Providence and reflect Mary, our model and inspiration, given over entirely to a quiet life of service, at all stages of our lives.

“SERVICE... IN MARY’S MANNER”: AN APPRECIATION FOR VERY REV. TED KEATING, S.M.

By Joe Hindelang, S.M., Vicar Provincial

When the USA Province of the Society of Mary was formed three years ago, Fr. Ted Keating was easily elected the first Provincial Superior. Nearing the end of his term, he was recently elected to a second term by an even larger margin. Congratulations and thank you for your availability for service, Fr. Ted!



Very Rev. Ted Keating, S.M.

The Marist Constitutions, our rule of life, says: *“The primary duties of the provincial superior are to promote the religious and spiritual life of all members of the province according to the Marist spirit, and strengthen the bonds of unity within the province and between the province and the whole Society. He is responsible for the works and administration of the province (#206).”* With the needs of our new far-flung province, all of Fr. Keating’s time could be taken up with “administration of the province.” Before that on the above list are more important duties.

He is a man of prayer and promotes the spiritual life of the men of the province through his example, his writings and his homilies (during which he can quote every author he has ever read). He knows and lives the Marist spirit and promotes that spirit among Marists and lay people who are associated with us through ministry. He has worked tirelessly, really tirelessly, in support of individual Marists throughout the country and strengthening the bonds of unity of our new province. Through countless meetings, travel, emails and news from around the world, he keeps us connected to the worldwide Society of Mary. He is concerned that our ministry be with and for the people we serve, bringing all of us closer to Jesus and his good news. The last duty listed above is “administration of the province,” a duty which Fr. Keating also does well.

On behalf of the men of the Province, I would like to thank Fr. Ted for his ministry to and among us. You are a compassionate man, committed to the service of God and his people in Mary’s manner, and consistent in reminding us of the direction we have set for ourselves as a province. As you face a second term, along with the rest of the province I ask God to continue to bless you with faith, patience, courage, hope, humor, and health! May Mary continue to guide your life and ministry in service of her Son and His people!

A GENEROUS HEART

By Jack Ridout,
Director of Vocations

Men and women are capable of great generosity and courage. God respects our freedom so much that His grace corresponds to that generosity. Our Blessed Mother is not only the mother of the source of grace; she is the model of what every Christian heart should look like.



We look to Mary to teach us how to look into ourselves, how to live, and how to proceed on our faith journey. Mary freely chose God's mission. This was *her fiat*, her "yes". The result of her generosity is that she became the Mother of God, "God Bearer". During Lent we need to consider our own generosity, our own fiat, our own "yes" to God.

We see too often in our daily lives the opposite of generosity. We continue to live through a "me" generation and we are in the midst of the individualization of our once community-oriented society. Reaching out and touching a person in need is different than flipping a quarter into a Salvation Army kettle during the Christmas season. The former is an act of being generous; the latter, though worthy, is not the same. We see the effects of generosity in our lives and those around us, but we also see suffering when we are reminded, "if today you hear his voice harden not your heart."

How generous is your heart? Our Baptism makes us living sacraments of love and we become a "God Bearer" ourselves. Lent is a time for each of us to see how best we can be generous, how best to live our life as a Christian single person, as a married man or woman, or as a consecrated religious sister, brother, or priest. Thinking about how one can best serve God is being Mary like and generous. Giving religious life due consideration is a truly generous act on our part. Lent calls us to prepare ourselves to live and pray with Christ's passion and resurrection. Our Lenten fasting, prayer, and penance can open our hearts to generosity like Mary's fiat. May our hearts be like the heart of Mary, overflowing with generosity during Lent, to see where God is calling us in this life.

WHY I SUPPORT THE MARISTS

By Kay Brand,
Northport, NY

I include the Marists in my annual giving because I grew up hearing about the contributions they made to the development of the American Catholic Church, in places like New England, West Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia and elsewhere.

I have known about the Marists for several decades. I have learned that many of the Marists who worked for decades are now retired and that the Order is looking for financial help to meet the basic needs of their senior men. This speaks to me because of the difficulties I see encountered by many of my elderly friends and family members who try to make ends meet and struggle to keep an adequate supply of necessary medicine on hand.

I know that virtually every Catholic order is concerned with the matter of aging priests. When I consider the kind of work done by the Marist priests and brothers, I am struck by a desire to help because these men spent their "earning years" putting other people first: their students, parishioners, and those whom they served in missions, hospitals, and prisons. Their sacrifices deserve to be remembered and honored. What better way to honor these men than to help care for them in their retirement?

On the flip side, there is another consideration: the future of the Marist Order. This relies on the recruitment and training of priests and brothers who will serve in the way that is uniquely Marist. Who but the Marists can do this? For this reason, from a Marian perspective, a donation to the Marists for their vocation and formation ministries is an investment in the future of the Church in America.

I have always been impressed by the Marists' desire to avoid accolades for their work. It seems that they do prefer to live in the quiet, unassuming manner of Mary, who deflected attention from herself, always pointing to her Son. This is, perhaps, why they are in need for help. They never put themselves into high-profile situations where wealthy people would see and support them.

I hope other people will recognize the rare value that is represented in the Marists, not only from a historical perspective, but from a practical viewpoint as well. Our Church and our world should thank the Marists for their past and present service and recognize that we need priests and brothers in the future from this Order.

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Today's MARISTS

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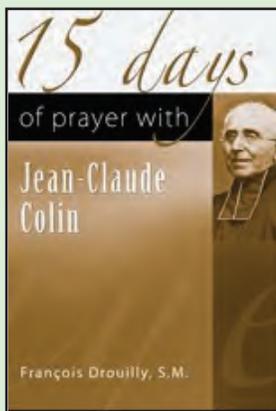
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ICON AND NEW PUBLICATION CONTRIBUTE TO EFFORTS FOR CANONIZATION PROCESS OF MARIST FOUNDER

By Jack Ridout, Director of Vocations



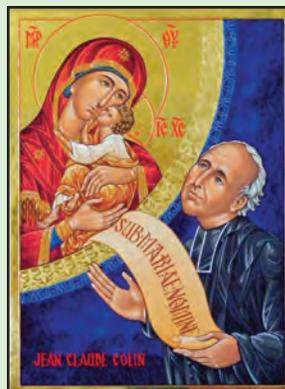
One of the major goals of the current General Administration of the Marist Fathers and Brothers is the canonization of the Founder of the Society of Mary, Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, S.M.

Fr. Colin's cause requires many steps and to that end, a postulator general (one who will formally present and promote the cause) has been named, Italian Marist Fr. Carlo Schianchi, S.M. One of the initial steps in

this process is a formal request to the Archbishop of Lyon, France, asking him to espouse the cause of Fr. Colin who had connections with his diocese. When agreement is reached, the Archbishop will set up a commission to study the life and writings of Fr. Colin to see that a devotion to Fr. Colin exists in the Lyon area and that graces have been received through his influence.

In documenting the life, works and writings of Fr. Colin, a complete biography is needed. Fr. Justin Taylor, S.M., a

Marist priest from the New Zealand Province, has been asked by Superior General Fr. John Hannon, S.M. to work on this project. The biography of Fr. Colin will be an important element in the process of the founder's beatification cause.



Coinciding with these endeavors, an icon of Fr. Colin has been produced and has been distributed to all Marist communities throughout the world. In addition to the icon of Fr. Colin, a book has been written by French Marist François Drouilly, S.M. and published by New City Press. It has been translated into English by our own Fr. Philip Gage, S.M., entitled *15 Days of Prayer with Jean-Claude Colin*. One in a series of spiritual guides from the lives of saints and Doctors of the Church, this book introduces Fr. Colin's most deepest and personal thoughts to an international audience.