

## Marist Province of United States of America

06 April 2020

We Americans make up a large percentage of the nearly one million people in our global family who have tested positive for the virus. Our home, here in New York City, sadly has now become the epicenter of the disease in the United States with thousands of people who are sick; here in New York State over 4,000 people have died from the disease. On many levels, our local, state, and government leaders have responded with massive medical assistance and construction of needed hospital spaces. But, truly, we feel that we are still in the early stages of detection and care for the sick.

The USA Province is united in a Novena from April 1-9 asking for Mary's intercession and protection for all our Marist family here and throughout the world.

To address the virus, we join most of our national efforts “to shelter at home”, choose voluntary quarantine and social distancing. We especially are concerned to protect and isolate our senior members. Our Province nursing staff and aides as well as our Community Leaders have been heroic in their care for all of our brothers at risk.

Our Churches and schools are closed for personal gatherings so we are often gathering for prayer or meetings on televisión, telephone conference calls, on-line chats and virtual messages.

Our educational mission as Marists of Champagnat continues with intense efforts by distance learning platforms at each of our schools. Our school leaders and faculty are providing required classes online and intend to conclude the academic year at the normal time in June.

Sadly, there are many Lay Marists, colleagues, family and friends who have been infected; some are presently in critical condition and fighting for their lives. As of today, only one brother of the Province has contracted the virus, but thankfully, he is recovering well at this time. We continue our network of prayers for who are suffering and all who care for us.

### **What teaching does this moment bring to us as Marists?**

We Marists are reminded to place our confidence in Mary's care and protection in this crisis as we do in other challenges and anxieties that confront us. Our simple brotherhood endures in spite of our physical isolation; we are still together to support and encourage each other in new ways. And after this crisis, we will be together in better days and ways.

**Br. Patrick McNamara**