




JULY 2020

# THE CENTER FOCUS

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## A Message from Jim Raimo



Dear MBCE-MHVC Family,

As I reflect on the events of the past few months and how they have affected our Marist Brothers Center at Esopus – Mid Hudson Valley Camp family, I pray you are in good health and are keeping your spirits high. This spring and summer have definitely been very different for us.

Along with other organizations across the country, we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with the health and safety of our staff and those we serve as our highest priority. On March 9th, we cancelled our remaining spring retreat schedule and our Camp Directors met through the spring to determine the best course for our summer camps. While some camps were canceled early, we were hopeful that others might still take place. Ultimately, New York State made the decision not to permit overnight camps. These were difficult decisions and we miss our campers, counselors, directors, and volunteers dearly.

As New York's COVID-19 reopening protocols phase in, we have been able to begin welcoming a few small groups "home" to the Center. Tree planting ceremonies to honor the late Br. Bob Andrews and the late Jim Fallon, father of director of Marist Youth Ministry Matt Fallon, were held at the Center. In early July we held a successful "Work Week" with the Marist Young Adults to continue construction of the new deck outside the Recreation Center. It was wonderful to see the faces of young people hard at work again.

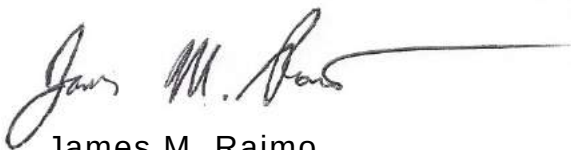
In addition, we continued efforts to connect with our local community by hosting a socially-distant dance recital by Dance Works Too, a dance studio in Hyde Park, NY whose goal is to teach children dance in a loving, positive environment.

For the remainder of the summer, we have planned Work Weeks and Workshops to welcome some of our camp staff back to Esopus to participate in discussions on diversity, future plans for the MBCE - MHVC and, of course, some work on the property!

I hope you have been following our Esopus Essentials series on social media honoring those from our MBCE-MHVC family who are on the front lines serving their communities as essential workers during the pandemic. They are OUR Esopus Essentials, and we are planning a future event to honor them and those who have been tragically lost to COVID-19.

Unfortunately, our always successful Esopus Runners fundraising event had to be postponed, but we are enthusiastically planning for our inaugural “Hall of Fame Induction and Celebration” which will now take place on May 8, 2021. This event will honor a most deserving group of people who have made a tremendous impact on the MBCE-MHVC. As we look to the future and the resumption of our regular programs, we hope we can continue to count on your participation and support.

To everyone associated with the MBCE-MHVC, I look forward to welcoming you “home” to Esopus soon. I thank you for being part of our family and ask Mary our Good Mother to watch over you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James M. Raimo", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James M. Raimo  
Executive Director



# *Inaugural* **HALL OF FAME**

Induction Ceremony & Celebration

**Saturday, May 8, 2021**

***HONORING THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE  
MBCE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING  
IMPACT ON THE CENTER AND THOSE IT SERVES:***

*Ticket sales and  
Sponsorship  
opportunities  
will open in  
January 2021*

Formal  
Invitation  
to follow.

Brother John Berchmans

Brother Don Nugent

Brother Raoul Molnar

Brother Declan Murray

Brother Steve Kappes

Brother Dave Cooney

The Founders of the Marist Encounter Program

*Brother Philip Robert | Brother Leo Richard*

Patricia & Edward McCormack

Tom Brophy

Gerald Dunworth

Katie O'Loughlin

The Founders of the Century Ride

*Damian Sciano | Joe McMenamin*

***MARIST BROTHERS CENTER AT ESOPUS***

***MID-HUDSON VALLEY CAMP***

1455 Broadway, Esopus, NY | 845-384-6620 | [info@maristbrotherscenter.org](mailto:info@maristbrotherscenter.org)

# LEAVE YOUR LEGACY IN ESOPUS



After caring for loved ones, including the **Marist Brothers Center at Esopus – Mid Hudson Valley Camp** in your estate or financial planning is an easy way to leave a lasting legacy in Esopus. A gift through your will or trust can have a significant impact on the mission of the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus for generations of young people to come. Gifts of life insurance policies that are no longer needed also make great legacy gifts. Planned gifts like these can be unrestricted or designated for a particular program or purpose.

If you would like to learn how you can create your legacy at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus, please contact Jim Raimo, Executive Director, at 845-384-6620 or [Jimraimo@maristbrotherscenter.org](mailto:Jimraimo@maristbrotherscenter.org).

If you have already included the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus in your will or estate plan, please let us know. Doing so will make it possible for us to ensure that your intentions for your gift can be honored and we can thank you for your generosity.

*Marist Brothers Center at Esopus - Mid Hudson Valley Camp, Inc.  
does not provide legal, accounting, or other professional advice.  
You are encouraged to discuss your plans and intentions with your legal, financial or tax advisor.*

## \*\*\*THANK YOU AND FAREWELL



**ROB DITTUS**, or "Dittus" as he's referred to at Esopus, had recently graduated from Saint Michael's College in Winooski, VT when he decided to be a year-long **VOLUNTEER** at the MBCE. Now that his year is up, he will be heading to the Marist Brothers Postulancy in September to begin a period of discernment. We wish Dittus the best of luck as he begins this exciting journey!

*"I'm so grateful to have had this year at Esopus and to have been welcomed so deeply by the community. I'm already looking forward to the next time I get to come 'home'!"*



**VALERIE SAVINO** in the interim of being present with her family, will be returning to her Marist roots at Mt. St. Michael Academy, as a full-time Campus Minister for Grades 6th - 12th. In addition, she will begin her Doctoral studies at Fordham University Lincoln Center, for Church and Non-Public School Leadership. We wish her all the best in her new life endeavors and we are so grateful for her time here as **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS** at the MBCE.

*"I have been eternally grateful and blessed to live in community at Esopus, and to work with all different types of amazing people, who all share the same charism of 'Making Jesus Known and Loved,' in a very tumultuous time in history. I am looking forward to carrying that charism with me in my personal life, my work, and my future research, and cannot wait to come 'home' to visit!"*

## CURRENT PROJECTS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Under the guidance of our Director of Facilities & Capital Projects, **TOMAS O'RIORDAN**, we have begun to work on the following:

- New Refrigeration system in kitchen
- New windows in the dining room and cottage
- New heating system throughout the house
- Deck off the back of the recreation hall

Stay tuned as we release more details about these projects!

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SAE SUH

Sae Suh is a graduate of Archbishop Molloy High School and spent full summers for many years at the MBCE volunteering his time. He is loved by campers and counselors alike, and brightens the day of anyone he comes into contact with.

A year ago, Sae was diagnosed with Stage 3 non-small cell lung cancer. Now he has been classified as Stage 4. The MBCE stands by Sae wishes to show him the love and support he has shown us and those we serve year after year. During this difficult period, Sae's time and energy should be spent on his family and this fight - not on mounting medical bills. We ask that you consider donating to Sae's GoFundMe page linked below. There has been a tremendous amount of support but there is still work to do. Anything you can do to help, whether by donating or simply sharing this page, would be greatly appreciated.



[View Sae's GoFundMe page](#)

## THANK YOU TO OUR #ESOPUSESSENTIALS

We launched our #EsopusEssentials campaign a few months ago to highlight those within our community who are on the front-lines, serving their respective communities as essential workers! They are OUR #EsopusEssentials.

Every week, we have posted a new #EsopusEssential, based on nominations from those within our community. We will continue to run this campaign throughout the coming weeks, ending with a culminating "THANK YOU" event hosted at our Center, to follow at a later date, in celebration of all those who have been nominated.

[View a recap of our #EsopusEssentials](#)

# VIRTUAL MID-HUDSON VALLEY CAMPS

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions placed on overnight camps due to COVID-19, we did not get to welcome our Mid-Hudson Valley Camps home this summer.

Thankfully, we have incredible counselors who've created virtual content and have found ways to stay connected to their campers during these uncertain times.

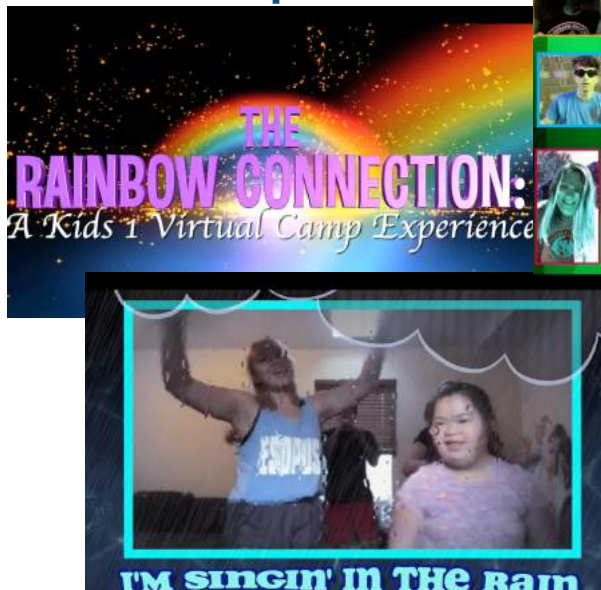
## Camp Angels

"Our goal was to share the feeling and connection we have when we are home, in Esopus, at our camp. Our staff and counselors were outstanding and worked to get this off the ground, and we couldn't be happier. It might have looked easy; however, it took time to plan and to coordinate to ensure our campers were able to enjoy most of our camp activities."

- Camp Director, Omar Ortiz

[Check out Camp Angels awesome welcome video!](#)

## Kids 1 Camp



## Deaf Camp

"Deaf Camp would have been happening in August this year and it would have been the last time at camp for 10 of our campers as they graduated the 8th grade. We are sending them the MHVC Strong 2020 camp shirts in the mail, which they will be getting soon. It's something to remind them of camp with a note inside saying how great it's been having them in our camp family. As for the virtual content we are thinking about sending out a video possibly or simply sending the slideshow from last year to reminisce."

Camp Director, Dana McMenamin



## Camp Volunteer Seminar/Work Week

**When:** Sunday, August 23rd - Friday, August 28th

**Where:** Marist Brothers Center at Esopus

This week is designed for those who would have normally volunteered as Counselors, or are part of a Camp's Leadership staff. This week will consist of both physical work projects around property and throughout the house, some segments on Diversity as well as a small group discussion on progressing towards the Center's new Strategic Plan. These workshop/small group discussions will be facilitated by our Executive Director, Mr. Jim Raimo, Ms. Valerie Savino, our Director of Operations, as well as some of the additional Staff and Volunteers currently on property. In addition, we will be providing three meals a day, as well as morning and evening prayer.

For those interested, please email

Valerie Savino at: [vsavino@maristbrotherscenter.org](mailto:vsavino@maristbrotherscenter.org)

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## Day Visit Opportunities!

**Where:** Marist Brothers Center at Esopus

Thanks to the creativity of our amazing Summer Volunteer Staff, the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus is now offering pre-scheduled Day Visits for any family that wishes to come up and enjoy a day outdoors at the Center! We are happy to welcome three families per day, and we ask your visits are limited to the members of your household only. We are doing this to minimize any additional contact among visitors and staff, as we are still adhering to the Ulster County COVID-19 guidelines and safe practices. Upon arrival, you will be able to schedule time at the pool, the river, or even a visit to our MBCE Store!

### Available dates:

Monday August 3rd, Tuesday August 4th, Saturday August 8th, Wednesday August 12th, Thursday August 13th, Saturday August 15th, Monday August 17th, Friday August 21st, Saturday August 22nd

For those interested, please email

Valerie Savino at: [vsavino@maristbrotherscenter.org](mailto:vsavino@maristbrotherscenter.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Esopus Runners**

**When:** October 2, 3 & 4

**Where:** Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, NY

An annual fundraiser that benefits our special needs camps.

[Click here for more info.](#)

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## **Sharing Our Call II**

**When:** October 4, 5 & 6

**Where:** Marist Brothers Center at Esopus

A three-day program which builds upon the themes of level 1. It is designed for those faculty and staff members who have embraced the Marist charism and who are looking to deepen their understanding of the Marist mission and spirituality.

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## **The Marist Youth Encounter**

**When:** November 12-15

**Where:** Marist Brothers Center at Esopus

The Encounter program has been an innovative and creative retreat for young people throughout the Province of the USA. Through our Catholic Marist tradition of "Making Jesus Known and Loved" the Encounter is an opportunity for young people to connect with each other and God.

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## **Giving Tuesday**

**When:** December 1st

**Where:** Anywhere!

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past seven years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Stay tuned for information on how you can donate to the MBCE for Giving Tuesday!