

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

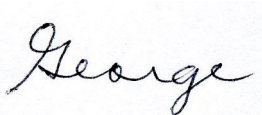
The summer months are upon us. For many, this provides an opportunity to relax a bit and to renew ourselves spiritually, physically and psychologically. Early in the month, in the United States, we will celebrate Independence Day. After six years of war with no clear end in sight and facing crucial elections in November, we are called this day to pray mightily for peace and to work for peace, not only abroad but in our own hearts, homes and communities.

Also during this month, close to a half million young people will attend World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, including several hundred Marianist-related youth. The theme of this year's gathering is the Holy Spirit who helps young people become witnesses to Jesus in our time and place. Let us join these young pilgrims in prayer and spirit, especially our Marianist pilgrims, that God might grant all of us a new vitality and energy for witnessing gospel values in our world!

There are many liturgical celebrations throughout the month. I have chosen to highlight some of them in the attached document.

May the Lord bless you during these summer days with rest, relaxation and a renewed spirit!

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life