Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

Docket RM2017-3

January 22, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Marist Brothers, join The NonProfit Alliance and the nonprofit mailing community at large in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation with proposed increases of between 28 and 40 percent, or more, over the next five years.

The Marist Brothers, founded in 1817, is a religious Brotherhood rooted in the mission “Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved,” set forth by their founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Today, The Marist Brothers Province of the USA is comprised of over 130 Brothers and numerous Lay partners who serve as educators, counselors, spiritual directors, retreat coordinators, campus ministers, social workers, and youth leaders, as well as advocates for those who are marginalized in society. Marist Ministries in the United States include:

- seven owned Marist high schools
- work in several Diocesan schools,
- two summer camps
- a retreat center
- parish work
- retreat work
- spiritual accompaniment
- work with at-risk youth
- young adult ministries
- hospital chaplaincy
- prison ministry
- work within University campuses

As a nonprofit, we heavily rely on the U.S. Postal Service for the majority of our fundraising efforts. Each year we raise approximately 90% of our income from direct mail. But, we also operate on a very limited, fixed, fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings and this will have a disastrous, negative impact on not only our revenue but to our mission of outreach to the young people we serve.

We urge you to stop and contemplate the negative impact your decision will have on thousands of worthy nonprofits across the country that do outstanding ministry. Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Respectfully,

Paulette M. Karas, CFRE  
Director of Development

LEAVE A LEGACY TO YOUTH - REMEMBER THE MARIST BROTHERS IN YOUR WILL