

Society of Mary

Marists in the United States



July 2, 2021

Follow-up: Marist Fathers and Brothers USA Virtual Retreat and Virtual Assembly

The Marists wish to thank all those who prayed for the success of the virtual retreat and virtual assembly that occurred last week.

Fr. Larry Lewis, a Maryknoll priest, led the retreat with the theme, "Generative Waiting – The Spirituality of Transition." From the feedback the leadership team received, the retreat was a success - reflective, prayerful and stimulated many conversations.



Fr. Larry Lewis, MM



The retreat concluded with a memorial service for our deceased confreres: Peter Blanchard, SM; Robert Champagne, SM; Edwin Keel, SM; Roland Lacasse, SM; James LaCrosse, SM; Normand Martin, SM; and Dennis Steik, SM.



The virtual assembly was facilitated by Maryknoll Brother Wayne Fitzpatrick. As the Province transitions into the 2020s, the assembly focused on a number of critical issues that will be further addressed in their upcoming Chapter.



Bro. Wayne Fitzpatrick, MM



The assembly concluded with a thanksgiving prayer for the outgoing provincial, Fr. Paul Frechette, SM. This was followed with the commissioning of Fr. Joe Hindelang, SM, the new provincial for the Marist Fathers and Brothers United States Province. May our Blessed Mother continue to guide and strengthen them in their new journeys.





Father's Day at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (OLPH) Tampa, Florida

On Sunday, June 20, 2021 (Father's Day) Fr. Hector Cruz, SM (OLPH pastor) remembered all living and deceased fathers at the two Sunday Masses. He also gave a greetings card to the fathers attending the Masses.



Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

On Sunday, June 27, 2021, the OLPH parish community in Ybor City, Tampa, Florida, celebrated their patroness feast day. This advocacy is so much loved by the faithful of the parish. Some events made the parish feast a beautiful tribute. Of special note is the small but emotional concert by the parish choirs before the English and Spanish Masses. There was also the blessing of Gerardo and Gloria Biaquis, who celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary, and the consecration of five children from the Junior Legion of Mary to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These children, who are also altar servers, received the Miraculous Medal as a sign of their consecration. Melinda Lugo and the Morillo Family brought beautiful floral arrangements for the Blessed Mother on her feast day. These arrangements decorated her icon and the altar. This beautiful celebration was made possible by the enthusiastic participation of all parishioners. During the Liturgy the parishioners raised their prayers to Mary asking her to remain a perpetual intercessor on behalf of them who seek her help during the journey through life. The OLPH community knows that she is the safest way to Jesus and that she will always lead them to Him.



Gerardo & Gloria Biaquis



Happy Retirement Nimi Wanigatunga – Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) Pastor’s Secretary for 22 Years! Atlanta, Georgia



On June 30, 2021, Nimi officially retired as the pastor’s secretary at OLA. Nimi was born in Sri Lanka. She moved to the United States in 1984 to join her husband, Jehan, in California. Over the years their life’s adventure took them from California to Utah and Colorado before settling in Georgia. Their family grew to include two beautiful children, Melanie and Jason, who practically grew up in the OLA parish community!

In September of 1999 Father Jim McGoldrick, SM, OLA’s former pastor, hired Nimi for a temporary position coordinating a parish financial campaign. The following spring, right before her temporary position was ready to expire, she transitioned into the position of pastor’s secretary.



Nimi and Fr. Jim Duffy, SM (OLA Pastor)



Karen Kotara

OLA announced the addition of Karen Kotara who took on the role of pastor’s secretary on July 1, 2021. Karen is a native Texan, who graduated from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. She has been in the Atlanta area for three years. For the past 30+ years, she has worked in parishes in Texas and Marietta, GA, as well as with Catholic Charities and Catholic Schools.

She is also a lay consecrated member of the Focolare Movement (an ecclesial movement in the Church) and lives in a lay community of six women who assist with the spiritual formation of adults and children in the Spirituality of Communion. She enjoys anything related to the “great outdoors” and volunteering in the community.

The Marists of the USA Province wish Nimi well in her retirement and welcome Karen to the OLA parish community!



[Read the latest issue of the IRISH magazine
from NDPMA \(Pontiac, Michigan\)](#)



Letter from Pope Francis to Archbishop of Miami

Pope Francis sent a message of solidarity to Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami after learning of the collapse of the condominium building in Surfside, Florida. His Holiness expresses his “deep sadness at the grievous loss of life.”

The Marists join Pope Francis in prayer for the victims and their families of this building collapse.



Happy Birthday America!

The Marists invite you to reflect on the following prayer for July 4th. We wish everyone a safe and peaceful Independence Day!

God, source of all freedom,
 this day is bright with the memory
 of those who declared that life and liberty
 are your gift to every human being.
 Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.
 Make our vision clear and our will strong:
 that only in human solidarity will we find
 liberty,
 and justice only in the honor that belongs
 to every life on earth.
 Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:
 to understand the ways of others,
 to offer friendship,
 and to find safety only in the common good of
 all.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.
 (Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)

Join the National Cathedral in Washington, DC for a free virtual concert - celebrating with patriotic music that has become the soundtrack of our nation, including favorites from Aaron Copeland, John Philip Sousa and many others. Register [HERE](#) to receive the link to view the concert on July 4th.

Discover the stories of the saints of the East Apse of the Crypt Church in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC and explore the chapels where they are portrayed in the Basilica in 360.



This will be the last Society of Mary USA E-Newsletter until mid-August. We look forward to sharing more news about our Marist ministries with you when this publication resumes!

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following our posts on the Society of Mary USA Facebook and Instagram pages.

Thank you for your continued support! Wishing you a safe and relaxing summer!

