

# Society of Mary

## Marists in the United States



September 10, 2021

### 35th Anniversary of Marists at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH)

by Fr. Hector Cruz, SM, Pastor, OLPH, Tampa, Florida



On September 1st OLPH celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the Marist Fathers presence at the parish. On this occasion a brief history from Fr. Ted Keating, SM (at Marist College in Washington, DC) about the Marists coming to this parish was shared with the parishioners.

“Leading up to 1986 the Marists were expanding the cross-cultural ministries in areas of Tampa, Florida, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Texas. The Marist Provincial at the time, Fr. Gene Driscoll, along with the Provincial Council planned for the Marists to move forward with this expansion. OLPH offered a diverse parish composed of parishioners from the Puerto Rican/Mexican/Cuban and Filipino communities in the Tampa Bay area, besides the American mainstream. Through dialogue with Most Rev. W. Thomas Larkin, Bishop of St. Petersburg at that time, Fr. Driscoll accepted to minister at OLPH beginning in 1986. OLPH also offered an ideal place for our senior Marists.

Father Thomas Stokes, SM served as the first Marist pastor from 1986 until his retirement in 2012. He was succeeded by Fr. Roland Lajoie, SM, who served at OLPH until January 2017. Fr. Hector Cruz succeeded Fr. Lajoie and is the current pastor of OLPH.”



### Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

by Delia Homs, OLPH Legion of Mary General Coordinator

On Saturday, August, 28th, the parishioners of OLPH celebrated a Special Mass of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary where a group of 30 faithful were consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In February 2020, before the pandemic, Sol Ramirez, OLPH's Legion of Mary's President, called for a Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, using the method of Saint Loui Marie de Montfort.



The first group engaged in a series of spiritual exercises for 33 days. They had their consecration on May 16, 2020, with their intentions being to increase their love for the Lord and for our Blessed Mother.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave us the grace to be docile to the Holy Spirit so that we could go on the path that, according to Saint Loui Marie de Montfort, “is the safest, the easiest, the shortest and the most perfect to go to Jesus Christ.”

The process of consecration consists of emptying oneself and filling oneself with the spirit of Jesus Christ through a series of spiritual exercises recognizing the spirit of the world, and its effects on one's life. This is followed by prayers and reflections during which a deeper understanding of self, Mary, and Jesus Christ is achieved.



## Opening School Mass



On September 1st, at Mass in the lower school, Fr. Ron Nikodem, SM, faculty and students celebrated the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Pope Francis says "Let us pray together with our brothers and sisters . . . and work for our common home at this time of serious planetary crisis."



**Light of Hope**  
**FREE Online Concert**  
 with Fr. Chris Skinner SM.  
 from the  
 Marist Seminary Chapel  
*Hope to Un St.*  
 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
 @ 7pm  
*Light a candle at home and pray.*  
 Bishop Pat's Facebook  
 Hosted By  Catholic Diocese of Auckland  
 Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

Concert by Candlelight at Marist Seminary, New Zealand  
*Remembering the 20th anniversary of 9/11*

**Join** in a virtual candlelight concert to be hosted on Bishop Patrick Dunn's (Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand) Facebook page on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 7pm (New Zealand time).

It will be presented by Fr. Chris Skinner, SM and will be a wonderful opportunity for music and hope-filled, prayerful reflection.



*Called by Mary to live, to pray and  
 To serve the Church and the world  
 In the community which bears her name  
 ... The Marists*

*The SM Publications Team would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all vowed Marists who are celebrating anniversaries on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary!*

*May Jesus' love transform you, and Mary's gentleness be your strength.*