

# Society of Mary

## Marists in the United States



November 19, 2021



### News from San Felipe de Jesus Parish Brownsville, Texas

#### Project Shoes for Migrants

John Cuvillier of San Felipe de Jesus was inspired by the idea of organizing a shoe campaign among his friends and family. The photos show how John collected about 200 pairs of shoes, some for adults, others for children.

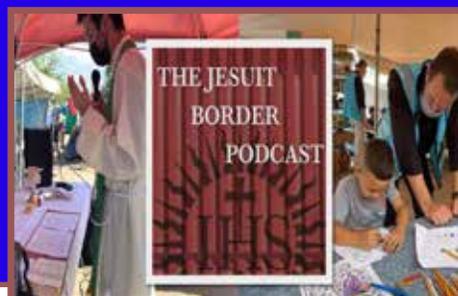
A group of ladies from the parish who take food to the migrants in Matamoros, Mexico will organize the distribution of the shoes to migrants in Matamoros and Reynoso, Mexico.



#### Virtual Conference on Migrant and Refugee Awareness

On the morning of November 12, 2021 a virtual conference was held between Fr. Tony O'Connor, SM, pastor of San Felipe de Jesus, parishioners, Sisters Sindy and Claudia Lorena of the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation in Brownsville and student members of the Circle of Support Ministry at Notre Dame Preparatory school in Pontiac, Michigan led by Mrs. Della Lawrence (Campus Ministry).

Click [HERE](#) to view the virtual conference.



Louie Hotop, SJ, and Brian Strassburger, SJ, are two newly ordained Jesuit priests working on the US-Mexico border in Brownsville, Texas. One of the parishes where they are gaining ministerial experience is San Felipe de Jesus, a Marist ministry. They help Fr. Tony O'Connor, SM out in a variety of ways at the parish. They have started the Jesuit Border Podcast to share stories and interviews that highlight the tremendous Catholic response to the migrant situation. In the first episode of their podcast they share their experiences working with the migrants in Reynosa, Mexico and have a conversation with Bishop Daniel Flores who is deeply committed and invested in the ministerial work on the border.

Click [HERE](#) to listen to the first episode.

## Thanksgiving Prayer Service at Marist School (Atlanta, Georgia)

by Mr. Nik Rodewald, Theology Teacher & Campus Minister

On November 15th, at the beginning of end-of-term exams, the faculty and staff of Marist School gathered for an annual Thanksgiving prayer service. This year the prayer service had a slightly different feel to it, as we celebrated both Fr. Jean-Claude Colin's anniversary of death and the beginning of the Marist Vocations Year.

It began by recognizing our need for a time of what the Reverend Howard Thurman terms "ingathering" – that is, a time when we intentionally remember the people and places that have touched us and allowed us to "taste God." By creating space to remember how God touches our hearts, we begin to reap a "harvest of the heart."

We created this space through an intentional breathing meditation led by theology teacher Amy Eaglen. Aware of our breathing and with eyes remaining closed, English teacher Mike Carroll read the poem "You Were Brave in that Holy War," by the Sufi mystic, Hafiz. In this poem, Hafiz uses an image of soaking his fingers in warm milk and allowing a kitten to nurse on those fingers as an image of the tenderness of God. Recognizing that our most fundamental vocation is to see the ways in which God's love embraces us and then to share this love with others, each person was asked to take a small stone and a marker; to reflect on how they have experienced the tenderness of God; and to write a word or phrase on the stone that encapsulates this experience of God. Finally, each person was asked to give their stone away to a colleague at some point during the week.

After this time of reflection, basketball coach and Athletic Marketing Specialist Dontavious Eberhardt shared his reflection on how he came to know that he wanted to work with kids, as well as what gives him joy in his vocation. Donta spoke of the joy of being around other people, the influence that coaches and educators have on others, and his gratitude for being at a place that does not embrace mediocrity, allowing all of us to call to mind our own calling to work as Marist educators. Our prayer service closed with a communal recitation of Psalm 30 and the Prayer for the Marist Vocations Year:



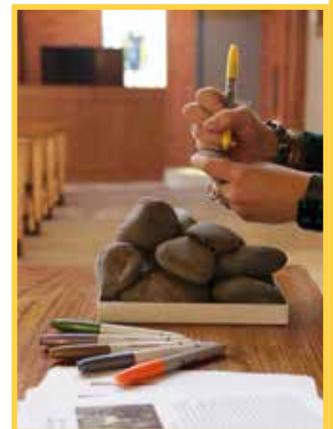
*Jesus, Good Shepherd, we ask you to look on this family of Mary, your Mother, with eyes of mercy.*

*Throughout this year of vocations, we ask you, Lord, to enrich the Marist world with the fire of your Holy Spirit.*

*May Mary's subtle and delicate presence enable us to breathe her spirit, so that, committed to our own vocation, we will be credible witnesses of your Gospel, and, renewed and strengthened with the fire of your Spirit, we may help bring to life the seed of a vocation which you have implanted in the hearts of the young.*

*Enable us to accompany them in the fulfillment of their personal vocation.*

*Lord Jesus, give us vocations according to your heart.  
Amen.*



Marist Robotics recently hosted over 32 Atlanta-area robotics teams for the FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Tournament. More than 300 students and volunteers gathered together in this community which seeks to empower students with the tools of computer science and engineering. This competition was the first of five weekend robotics tournaments where students design, build, and program robotics systems to solve engineering challenges related to transportation and logistics. After the first round, Marist Robotics teams are ranked in the top 10 teams.



The 6th grade students at Notre Dame des Victoires (NDV) in San Francisco, California recently staged a climate strike after learning about *Laudato Si'* and the example of Greta Thunberg. They presented their projects to the student body at morning assembly and spoke about practical ways the NDV community can work together to care for God's gift to us.



## 71st Annual Bal de Paris Hosted at Notre Dame des Victoires

It was a night to remember and much needed funds to support NDV school and church were raised.





On Veterans Day the Notre Dame Academy (NDA) school community came together to honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country, and their families too. The community prayed that our veterans will be blessed for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.



### SAVE THE DATE...

**NOVEMBER 30, 2021 IS GIVING TUESDAY!**

The Society of Mary (Marists) invites you to join the celebration of Giving Tuesday by coming together with millions around the world who will participate in this global generosity movement. There's a fundamental truth that gives us hope - that together we can do extraordinary things. Gifts to the Society of Mary will support a variety of Marist ministries in the United States.

Please consider sharing your blessings with us on Giving Tuesday. Click [HERE](#) to access our online donation form.

We encourage our Facebook users to donate through our [Facebook page](#) on Giving Tuesday when Facebook will be joining in this global day of giving by matching donations made to non-profit organizations.

With gratitude for your support, May God bless you!

### *Thanksgiving Blessings!*

As Thanksgiving approaches, the Marists thank you for your support and prayers this year. Certainly, over the last year, we have appreciated these gifts more deeply than ever.

We're so grateful! May you have a Thanksgiving full of blessings.

