

Society of Mary

Marists in the United States



January 14, 2022

WISDOM: Knowledge Born of Love

Catholics from across the Washington, DC region gathered on Zoom on Saturday, December 11, 2021 for a day of recollection on "Wisdom" presented by Father Ted Keating, SM. The following is a reflection by Angela Miotto, one of the Greenbelt community participants.

Who is this Being called Lady Wisdom who danced before the face of God during the creation of the world? Who was God's delight? These are some questions we asked Fr. Ted Keating, SM to help us understand "Wisdom". "We" are an Intentional Eucharistic Community of about 30-40 souls who worship together each Sunday and for whom Fr. Ted is our main presider. Each year we also ask him to lead Advent and Lenten Days of Recollection on a variety of topics. During Advent we gathered by Zoom to hear Fr. Ted's wisdom on "Wisdom." Also in attendance were two other Intentional Eucharistic Communities in the Washington, DC area - the PAX Community and the NOVA community from Virginia who were invited and where Fr. Ted also presides.

Fr. Ted talked about Wisdom as awareness or consciousness, the ability to taste God given the origin of the words for wisdom in Latin, Spanish, and French, in order to experience fully that of which we become aware in Wisdom. For historical context, he cited the Axial Age (500-300 BCE) during which humanity awakened to transcendence leading to the emergence of some of the great world religions such as Confucianism, Buddhism and Hinduism. It was also during this amazing period that the Wisdom literature emerged in the Hebrew Scriptures along with the voice of the Prophets and the philosophers in Greece.

Under Fr. Ted's guidance, we then explored how the evolution of consciousness is integral to any discussion of Wisdom. The three driving forces of evolution in general include:

- Attraction, connection, interaction—all that exists is drawn to all else that exists
- Growing freedom
- Growing consciousness/knowledge



This is an image of a large tapestry that is displayed in the front of our Marist Church in London, Notre Dame de France. The image of Lady Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 8, as well as of Mary, Seat of Wisdom, was used during the day of reflection.

After a brief review of the evolution of the universe from the Big Bang to the formation of the earth, Fr. Ted guided the group as Christians to recognize the "Call of the Universe" in the context of our Christian call to deepen spirituality. As humans, we are invited to "...join the processes of billions of years to take up the mysterious task of ongoing freedom, higher consciousness, and love to see not only our Christian call but our human call to spirituality, contemplation, and response." As our awareness of God's presence increases, aided by Lectio Divina, contemplative prayer and the examination of consciousness, we come to see that "...Wisdom has become a type of knowing what it is that God expects of us...and we are given the "tasting of God" as the sustaining motivation and strength...for living out a life of discipleship to Jesus." We can then see the "tasting of God in Jesus Christ in the Eucharist" as another aspect of all this.

The message of the Day of Recollection was perfect for Advent - to live quietly and contemplatively, to maximize opportunities for receiving the gracious gift of awareness of the Call of the Universe in all of its majesty as the continuing creation of God before our eyes and ourselves reconciled to its 13.8 billion years of history.

[Quotations are from the PowerPoint Fr. Ted prepared for his presentation.]

On January 6th, to celebrate the Epiphany, Latin American Studies Culture Club (LASCC) student leaders at Marist School dressed as the Reyes Magos (the Three Wise Men) and visited several Spanish classes as well as the Early Learning Center for children of Marist faculty and staff. They placed Latin American treats and candies in the shoes left out by students and children, as is typically done.

Epiphany ends the 12 days of Christmas. In Spain, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and some other Latin American countries, Epiphany day is called El Día de Reyes or El Día de los Reyes Magos (The Day of the Kings or The Day of the Wise Men or Magi). Observed in many Spanish-speaking countries, the day is traditionally celebrated with family, food, gift-giving, and a Rosca de Reyes (sweet bread or King's Cake).



Celebration of Epiphany at San Felipe de Jesus (Brownsville, Texas)





On January 6th, for Día de Los Reyes (Three Kings' Day), middle school Spanish teacher Sra. Aguilar and her students celebrated with a special bread called Rosca de Reyes that includes small dolls hidden inside, representing baby Jesus and symbolizing the hiding of the infant Jesus from King Herod's troops.



Centro Hispano Marista (Atlanta, Georgia) Graduation Ceremony 2021

The priests and brothers of the Society of Mary USA congratulates the Centro Hispano Marista Class of 2021 who celebrated their graduation on December 14, 2021.

We wish you the very best and may the spirit of Mary guide you in all you do.



Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“I have decided to stick with love, hate is too great a burden to bear.”

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day will be celebrated on Monday, January 17, 2022. It is a day to remember the history of Dr. King and serves as a reminder of how Dr. King fought for equality, dignity, and freedom.

The founder of the Society of Mary (Marists), Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, envisioned a world where people from all walks of life would live Mary's life in their time and make present in the world the Holy Spirit as modeled in Mary's life of grace. This inspires Marists to enter into the quiet, passionate work of mercy and calls us to live in compassionate humility reflecting the spirit of Mary: gentle, loving, relational, inclusive, and merciful. Our concerns in Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation are rooted in this. Our commitments draw us to stay:

- Aware of current and emerging global problems compromising safety and security, social and economic fairness, and the delivery of reasonable justice.
- In direct contact with people on the economic margins of society.
- In solidarity with those who are involved in the struggle for justice.

The Marists encourage you our readers to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King by participating in **volunteer opportunities** in your local community. It is our prayer that we can all walk together and live a life of compassion and mercy.

Honest to God: Healing Our Economy

Tuesday, January 18, 7 pm (EST)

In 1968, Dr. King founded the Poor People's Campaign to "focus the nation's attention on economic inequality and poverty." In honor of MLK weekend, Dean Randy Hollerith hosts Dr. Arthur Brooks of The Happiness Project and Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner for a conversation on healing our economy. Registration is required to view this online discussion. Register [HERE](#).



Washington National Cathedral and the Cathedral Close Schools – Beauvoir Elementary School, St. Albans School, and the National Cathedral School – will host a **service** for students this year in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. In his last Sunday sermon give at the Cathedral, Dr. King, Jr. preached on "Remaining Awake During a Revolution." Focusing on his charge to us over fifty years later, Dr. King's granddaughter Ms. Yolanda Renee King will join in her grandfather's footsteps and preach from the Canterbury Pulpit. The service will feature special readings and music provided by the Beauvoir, St. Alban's and National Cathedral School choirs. Ms. King, 13, is a young activist who fights for voting rights, representation, and justice for all. Read her recent op-ed in Teen Vogue [HERE](#).

This service will be livestreamed and available for the public to join virtually. Educators and students are invited to join us virtually as we remember Dr. King and his mission.

For advance and live access service link, click [HERE](#).