

# Society of Mary

## Marists in the United States



September 29, 2023

### MARIST LAITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ANNUAL COMMITMENT & BLESSING OF CHILDREN BORN AND UNBORN

St. Andrew Catholic Church in Coral Springs, Florida, celebrated the annual September Marist commitment and Blessing of Children Ceremony on September 16, 2023 with pastor Monsignor Michael A. Souckar. The ceremony was followed by a joyous reception.

This year two women, Fabiola Bastardo (Detention Ministry) and Joan Salansky (Emmaus Ministry), made their Marist Commitment to the Most Holy Trinity with Our Lady. The following reflections were shared by each of these women.

#### *Reflection from Fabiola Bastardo*

As a new member of the Marist Way, I would like to thank Our Mother Blessed Virgin Mary for the call to be part of this Society. Also, I want to thank Sheila Barrett, from whom I received the invitation, and our pastor, Monsignor Michael Souckar, for the beautiful Commitment Ceremony of Commitment, along with other members of the Family of Mary.

May the Mother of Mercy bless and protect us now and forever.

#### *Marist Laity commitment*



*Marist Laity commitment ceremony attendees*



*Marist Blessing of Children Born & Unborn*



#### *Reflection from Joan Salansky*

As I reflect on my commitment to the Marist Way, I cannot help but think of what a spiritual gift I was blessed with when asked to participate in the Society of Our Holy Mother, Mary. I am a long standing member of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Coral Springs, Florida. It is through this parish that I have become involved in ministries that have allowed me to profess my Catholic Faith. Being part of the Marist Ministry, affords me the wisdom to bring the Gifts of Mary to my Religious Education Confirmation II students with grace and blessings as they receive the second of three Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

I am also able to use Mary's way by living out the gospel of Jesus as I step out into the secular world. By the grace of God, I was able to become employed at a Chic-fil-A. Here, even though it is Christian based, I am faced with an array of people, both believers and nonbelievers. This is where, my commitment to Marist, will allow me to "think, feel and act as Mary" would. Just this week, I was faced with a young man who was very distraught and crying. He was sitting in the back of the dining room early in the morning. I offered him a drink and said I would pray for him. He thanked me and told me a bit of his story. Within the hour, he drove away and I pray he will allow Jesus to walk with him on his journey.



*Marist Laity celebration*



## Centennial Celebration for Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, LA

[Notre Dame Seminary](#) (NDS) in New Orleans, Louisiana celebrated its 100th Anniversary from September 14-16<sup>th</sup> with a rector's dinner, documentary film premiere and Centennial Mass.

NDS began educating Catholic men for the priesthood and religious life when it opened and began offering classes on September 18, 1923. That first year, 25 students registered for philosophy and theological courses.

According to the Notre Dame Seminary website, a facility for the local Catholic church to train young men was first established in 1838 Lafourche Parish. Subsequent facilities in New Orleans served the same purpose.

Archbishop John Shaw led a campaign to construct a new seminary building on a site on S. Carrollton Avenue. The building was designed to house 96 students and six faculty members. The seminary opened for classes in September 1923 and was formally dedicated that November. A host of religious leaders were present, led by Archbishop Shaw and Archbishop John Glennon of St. Louis. According to The Times-Picayune, a cablegram from Pope Pius XI was read at the dedication: "The Venerable Pontiff, with a prayer for every blessing for the new seminary, very lovingly imparts the Apostolic blessing."

In 1925, a residence was built next door to the seminary for the Archbishop of New Orleans. Pope John Paul II stayed there during his visit to the city in 1987. Archbishop Gregory Aymond is an alumnus, former professor and president-rector of the seminary, which now also offers theology degrees for lay people. (Source: [Gambit](#))

Bishop Joel Konzen, SM, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia and an alum of NDS attended the anniversary dinner. From the beginning of the seminary until 1967, the Marists administered the seminary. The first rector was Father Charles Dubray, SM.

I



(Left to Right) Bishop Joel Konzen, SM, Rev. Joshua J. Rodrigue, Current NDS Rector, and Bishop John Nhan Tran, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia

**Marist School**  
Atlanta, Georgia

### **Generations Welcome Back Tailgate: Fostering Legacy Connections and School Spirit**







Notre Dame  
Preparatory School  
A Catholic and Marist Community

Pontiac, Michigan

## Homecoming 2023!



## NDP'S Power Couple of Robotics

It's not unusual to see upper school science teacher Louise Palardy and husband, Jerry, in Notre Dame Prep's robotics center at any hour of any day of the week. What's even more impressive is why they do it. Read more [HERE](#).



## 2023 NDP Lower School Fall Family Festival







## ND Academy Annual Multicultural Mass



## Archdiocesan 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocation Day

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, ND Academy 5<sup>th</sup> grade students attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocations' Day. 700 fifth graders from the Archdiocese of Atlanta were in attendance.



## Freshman Retreat



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - "Come Have Lunch with my Class!"







## School Mass and Blessing of Altar Servers on September 22, 2023



## Kindergarten & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Buddy Activities



## NDV Parents' Association Family Picnic on September 24, 2023

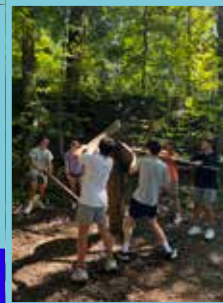


## Our Lady of the Assumption

Brookhaven, Georgia

OLA's Confirmation Retreat took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at [Camp Hidden Lake](#) in Dahlonega, Georgia!! It was a beautiful day and a great time as the Confirmation Candidates had the opportunity to pray together, learn about the Message of the Gospel, and participate in some fun activities at Hidden Lake. Fr. Jim Duffy, SM (OLA Pastor) and Fr. Kevin Duggan, SM (OLA Parochial Vicar) also came to the retreat site to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation and celebrate Mass with the group.

Please pray for these teens! They are one month away from receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.



## Marist Missionary Sisters Elect Their New Congregational Leader

Sr. Cristina Giustozzi, smsm was recently elected as the new Congregational Leader of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM). Sr Cristina, who is Italian, is a medical doctor and was General Assistant in the previous administration. The new General Councilors are Srs. Denise McMahon, Aubierge Amoussou and Pelenatita Kieoma Finau.



## Opening of New Parish in Parish in Guanambi, Bahia, Brazil

On September 24<sup>th</sup> a new Parish in Guanambi, Bahia, Brazil was created: São Francisco de Assis. The Diocesan bishop, Dom Carvalho, confirmed that the new Parish will be part of the ministry of the Marist Mission Community of Bahia and Father Leandro Martins, SM was installed as its first parish priest.

