

Society of Mary

Marists in the United States



September 15, 2023

Reflection on My English Studies in Washington, DC by Fr. Orlando Orosco, SM

My name is Orlando Orosco, and I am priest of the Society of Mary from Perú. I have been a Marist priest for 6 years. I have worked at [San José School](#) in Callao - Perú as Promotor (Head of School) since January 2022. This month I will participate in the Marist Mission Studies (MMS) program in Thailand together with Marists from different countries. The theme of the course is: "Marist mission is life. Life is a Marist mission."

Since the MMS will be conducted in English, before going to Thailand I attended a Vacation English Program in Washington, DC at the [International Center for Language Studies](#) (ICLS). At ICLS I attended classes four days a week for four weeks. My classes were taught by three teachers and my classmates were from different countries such as: Italy, Togo, Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Lithuania. It was an enriching experience.



During my stay in Washington, DC I lived at the Provincial House where I was well-received. I thank the Marists from the USA who were very generous with me. A big "Thank you" to Marists Fr. Joe Hindelang, Fr. Ted Keating, Br. Randy Hoover, Fr. Philip Gage, Fr. Howard Smith and Br. Richard McKenna and the other Marists of the Province as well as the sisters at the Provincial House who prepared the delicious meals.

Three afternoons a week I studied English at the Provincial House with Elizabeth Avila, the Communications Coordinator for the Province. I appreciate all her help and patience. I also appreciate the help from Phil Isacco (Province Comptroller), Kathleen Henry (Business Manager), Sr. Susan Plews, S.S.N.D. (Administrative Assistant to the Provincial and to the Provincial Treasurer) and Eugenio Avila (Provincial House Infrastructure Consultant), for their warm welcome and many ways of assisting me.

As part of my English class experience, I had the opportunity to visit different Smithsonian museums ([National Museum of Natural History](#), [National Museum of American History](#), [National Air and Space Museum](#), [National Gallery of Art](#)) and the [Planet Word Museum](#). At the museums I learned more about the history and culture of America. In my free time I visited The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception <https://www.nationalshrine.org> and the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America <https://myfranciscan.org> where I was impressed with the details of the religious artwork and statues and the magnificent structures. Both were places for prayer and contemplation.



Fr. Orlando

I consider my first time in Washington, DC very fascinating since I was able to learn many things about both the culture and the country and was able to be immersed in the English language through my studies.

I am thankful to God and the Blessed Mother, our perpetual superior, for all the blessings given to me.

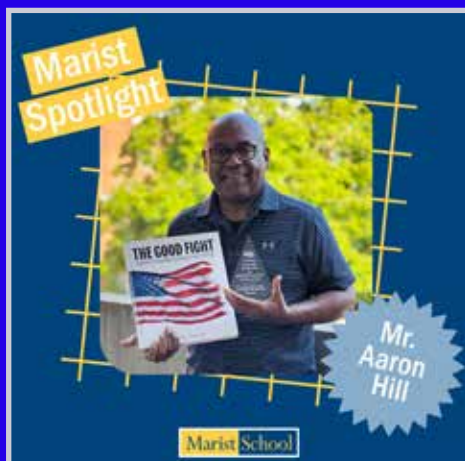
Marist Mission Studies Program

The Marist Mission Studies Program began in Ranong on September 6th, with participants from around the Marist world and with the Superior General, Fr John Larsen.

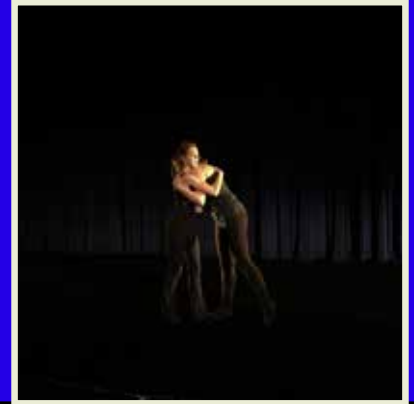


The Marist School community gathered for the first Family Mass of the school year on September 10th. This occasion took on special significance as they gathered to pray for Fr. Thomas Ellerman, SM '58, who passed away on September 9th.

Father John Ulrich, SM, Marist School chaplain, presided over the Mass, and Marist School President, Mr. J. D. Childs, delivered closing remarks. A luncheon was held in the Crest Lobby following Mass, where fond memories and stories about Fr. Ellerman were shared. The Marist school community is grateful for the opportunity to come together in prayer.



Mr. Aaron Hill Honored with Anti-Defamation League's Educator Changemaker Award



Last week, members of the Marist School administration, faculty, and staff were invited to attend a showcase by the Dance: Expression and Movement class in Woodruff Auditorium. Freshman students conceptualized and choreographed contemporary pieces as statements on mental health, not only showcasing their remarkable dancing abilities but also their thoughtfulness and empathy as they created pieces that illustrated various sides of adolescent mental health. Through stunning duets and intimate small group numbers, they wove narratives that explored the multifaceted dimensions of social and emotional struggles in high school and touched on themes like bullying, stereotypes, and friendship.

The Marist School community was honored to have been extended this invitation to bear witness to the extraordinary talents of these students and to be a part of this powerful artistic dialogue on mental health. It was a reminder of the transformative power of the arts in fostering understanding, empathy, and connection within our Marist community.



Kicking off the Fall 2023 session!



Notre Dame Prep Middle School Students Inducted into NJHS

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) recognizes students for their accomplishments and challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. More photos can be viewed [HERE](#).



On September 8th, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mary's birthday), Notre Dame Prep's kindergarten celebrated by making birthday cards, praying the rosary, listening to songs and stories, and decorating cookies.



Big Little Buddies mentoring program is one of ND Academy's favorite traditions in the Lower School and Middle School! Recently kindergarten, first, second, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students all had the chance to do a "Get to Know You" activity with their buddies.





On the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary the NDV community gathered for Mass. At the liturgy, 5th grade teacher Mrs. Amil was honored as she and her husband prepare to welcome a baby girl into their family.



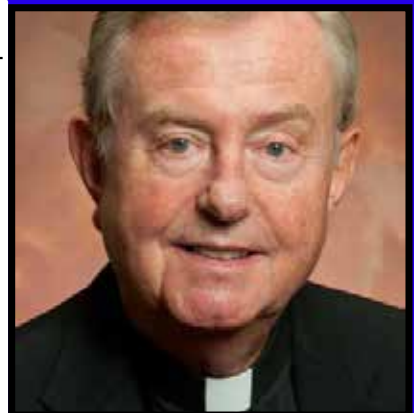
Brookhaven, Georgia

OLA's Confirmation class is in its 3rd week of preparation! The Confirmation Mass will be on October 25th. Please keep these teens in your prayers.



Archbishop Lori to recognize 17 missionary disciples with papal honors issued by the Vatican

The Marists wish to congratulate Fr. Mel Blanchette, P.S.S. one of the recipients of papal honors. In 2017 Sulpicians Mel Blanchette and Larry Terrien facilitated the Marist annual Province Retreat at Bergamo Center in Beavercreek, Ohio. The theme of that retreat was *Colinian Spirituality in Context of the French School*. Fr. Blanchette has been an invaluable consultant to the Marists USA formation program for many years.



Vocation Corner

On September 2, 2023, the Parish Church of Sainte Anne d'Obili in Yaoundé, Cameroon was packed with people for the ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Christian Ngoura by Marist Bishop Yvan Mathieu, Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, Canada. The celebration was full of color, song and dance.

Fr. Christian underwent his novitiate in Eden, Davao, Philippines and then joined the seminary at Casa di Maria in Rome. He is appointed to the community in Burundi and will be the principal of the new Marist nursery, primary and secondary school, which opened its doors recently with 286 pupils enrolled.



The St. Peter Chanel Formation House in the Philippines welcomes this new school year with twelve young men who desire to become Marist religious and missionaries. They will study Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at the University of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Lauro Arcede, SM is the Formator at the House and Fr. Gil Casio, SM is the Assistant formator and Pastoral Coordinator. Keep them in your prayers for their perseverance as they discern their religious vocation with the Society of Mary.

Marist Spirituality Reflections by Fr. David Kennerley, SM

The [article](#) found at the link below is the seventh in a series of 12 reflections on Marist Spirituality by Fr. David Kennerley, SM. Fr. Kennerley was formerly Novice Master for the Society of Mary and later as the New Zealand Provincial. He is currently involved in spirituality in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.



Fr. David Kennerley, SM

Part 7: Nazareth

(Printed with permission from Fr. David Kennerly, SM)

Elements of Synodality



Synodality and New Life



Marist Vocation Prayer

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

Lord, we ask you 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.

Jean Claude Colin
– Pray for us.

Oración por las vocaciones Maristas

¡Oh Jesús, Buen Pastor! Dígnate a mirar a esta familia de María con tus ojos misericordiosos.

Señor, te pedimos que enriquezcas el mundo marista con el fuego de tu Espíritu Santo.

Que la presencia sutil y delicada de María nos conduzca a respirar su espíritu. Así, comprometidos con nuestra propia vocación, seremos portavoces creíbles de tu Evangelio.

Y, renovados y fortalecidos con el fuego de tu Espíritu, podamos ayudar a dar vida a la semilla de la vocación que has implantado en el corazón de los jóvenes.

Permítenos acompañarles en el cumplimiento de su vocación personal.

¡Oh Jesús, danos vocaciones según tu corazón! Amén.

Padre Juan Claudio Colín, ruega por nosotros.