



Christmas 2023

Dear Marist Friend,

Each Advent and Christmas season, we are invited to turn once again to the God who created us, loves us and saves us. Advent is an opportunity for conversing with our God in prayer. There are many forms of prayer and if they help us to focus on God, rather than ourselves, they are good ways to pray. Prayerfully celebrating Christmas and the start of a new year is a sign of hope.

We human beings bring our human concerns in prayer to God. Our concerns may be about family members or friends, situations at work or school, health or financial issues, or violence in our world, our cities or our families. God cares about every aspect of our lives and invites us to bring our concerns to prayer, but always with a sense of hope.

Christmas is a time to refresh our sense of hope. The celebration of the birthday of Jesus is a celebration of our God becoming human. The whole reason that God became human for us was to bring us hope. No matter what difficulties faced people in Bethlehem in the first century, the angels proclaimed to Mary and to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid!" The message then and now is the reminder that God is with us, a part of our lives, concerned about each of us. God's love for us should increase the hope in our lives.

As you read this letter, my prayer for you, for all those you care about and for those whom you may have lost contact with, is that God's love for us brings us a deep sense of hope. Hope can give us a new energy to commit ourselves to open our lives to God's plan for us. Hope can help us to focus less on ourselves and more on others around us. This focus outward could be an intention for us to bring to God this Advent and Christmas season.

The Society of Mary began in a very small way in a rural area of France with a few seminarians who had a tremendous sense of hope. They believed that their poor efforts would succeed because they believed that God was with them as they established a religious order in honor of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Marists today are still committed to living and working in hope. We strive to honor the Mother of God as we do God's work with and among God's People. The Marist Fathers and Brothers live and work in 17 different sites here in the United States. Our goal is to bring hope to people in schools, parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, the military, prisons and mission areas. Please join the Marists in prayer for the people we have the privilege to serve and the people with whom we serve in this country and around the world.

If you are also willing to make a financial contribution to the Society of Mary for those studying to be Marists, for our senior members, for the training of lay people who minister with us, or for any other Marist need, that would be deeply appreciated.

This Advent and Christmas season I bring the Church's invitation to you to find some time for prayer in your life. Focus on God and others who are a part of your life but remember to allow God's gift of hope, to grow greater and greater in your prayer and in your life.

I assure you of the prayers of the Marist Fathers and Brothers this Christmas season and into the New Year. May Jesus, who brought hope into our world so long ago, bring hope and peace to you and to all those you love!

Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m.

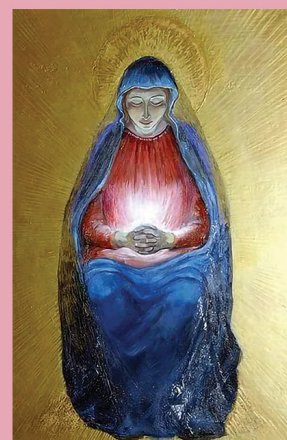
Very Rev. Joseph Hindelang, s.m.
Provincial



Yes! I want to invest in the Marists.

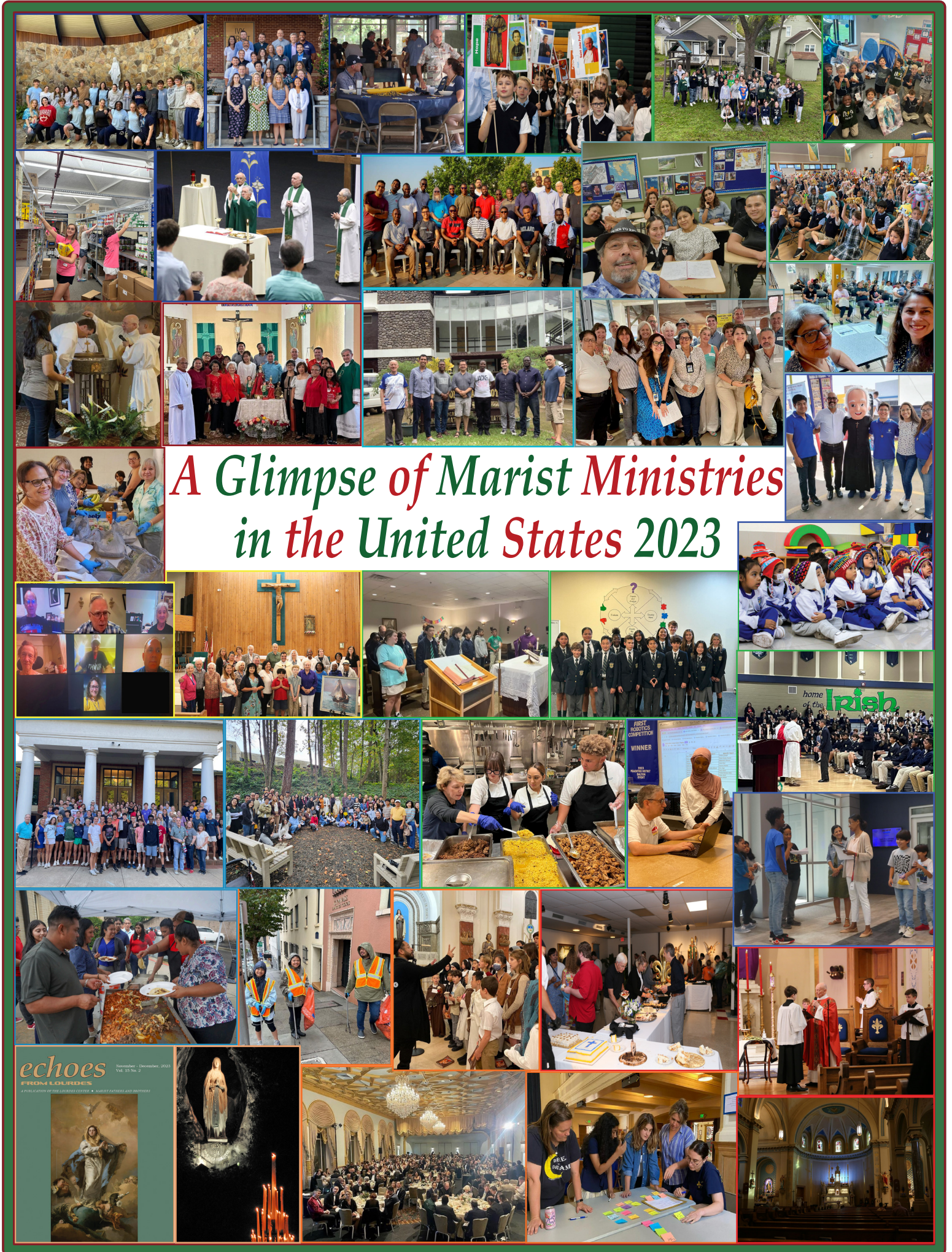
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(Your gift is tax deductible.)



Marist Development Office
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development@maristsociety.org

Thank you for your generosity!



A Glimpse of Marist Ministries in the United States 2023



The Power of Prayer

Through prayer, we are joined together with those who support our mission.

If you would like us to pray for your loved ones or any special intentions, please submit a prayer request at:

www.societyofmaryusa.org/connect/prayer-request/