

# Society of Mary

## *Marists in the United States*



February 2, 2024



### Alumni Speakers Focus on Service and Justice at MLK Day Assembly



Marist School Campus Minister Mr. Nik Rodewald brings a wealth of passion and inspiration to Marist through his role in Campus Ministry. Serving as the liturgical music coordinator, Nazareth retreat moderator, sports team chaplains moderator, and teacher of Marist Way and Faith and Reason classes, Mr. Rodewald's journey at Marist began as a seminarian with the Society of Mary before he moved into a lay employee role. This transition equipped him with a unique perspective to his diverse responsibilities.

Now in his fourth year at Marist, Mr. Rodewald is at the forefront of building the vocations program. Collaborating with teachers and implementing all-school programming, he equips students with the knowledge needed to discern and follow God's calling. Recently, he partnered with College Counseling to integrate the VIA Character Strengths Survey into theology classes. This initiative empowers students to better understand themselves and determine their callings both within and beyond the Marist community. His collaborative leadership significantly contributes to the mission of Marist School.

"I'm inspired by the way that our community practices being hidden and unknown," Mr. Rodewald says. "Our students accomplish a lot in the classroom and on the field. Yet, as soon as you dig a little deeper, you'll find that so many members of our community are most passionate about the things they do behind the scenes, whether that's volunteering at Trinity House or a night shelter, supporting Reach for Excellence or Centro Hispano Marista, creating beautiful art, working for sustainability, or witnessing to the human dignity of migrants and refugees. It's inspiring to be a part of a community like that."

## Catholic Schools Week

To help kick off Catholic Schools Week on January 29<sup>th</sup>, all Notre Dame Prep students (lower, middle and upper schools) attended Mass celebrated by Fr. Jim Strasz, SM.



## 'Shaking' It Up at the Middle School



## Emagine's Paul Glantz: 'Seize Life's Audition'

Notre Dame Prep middle school students get pep talk ahead of 2024 Amazing Shake competition. Read more [HERE](#).



## Alum Catholic School Principal Lauds Notre Dame and His Marist Educators







Duluth, Georgia

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week (CSW) at ND Academy

**Day 1: Celebrating Our Parishes** - To kick off the CSW celebration, ND Academy students wore their school uniforms to their local parishes at Mass on Sunday.

**Day 2: Celebrating Our Nation** - Recognizing the need, the importance, and the power of prayer, all students and teachers participated in praying the Rosary for world peace. Each grade level prayed for one of the five major continents.

**Day 3: Celebrating ND Academy Employees** - In addition to enjoying a jeans day and top in their favorite color and students joining in on the fun, all teachers, administrators, and staff received a special gift from their students and families to thank them for their dedication and service to Catholic education.

**Day 4: Celebrating Community** - A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others. On this day of Celebrating Our Community, an All School Mass with Archbishop Hartmayer, OFM Conv. And led by the 5th grade class, was offered for ND Academy service learning partners (SLP). Representatives from the SLPs were also in attendance at the Mass.

ND Academy 8<sup>th</sup> graders also attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Archdiocesan Mass led by Bishop Konzen, SM, during which he spoke about the importance and value of Catholic education. Following the Mass students enjoyed a special luncheon where they were able to connect with friends at the 20 schools that attended this event.

**Day 5: Celebrating Vocations** - On this day, students learned more about vocations and explored the many life paths that enable them to use their talents well in the service of God and others. In celebration of those whom God has called to the religious life, students wrote thank you notes to their parish pastor, priest, preacher, or Church leader, so they could express their love and appreciation for their service to God and the Church! In addition, Brian Engelhart, SJ shared his vocation story with 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

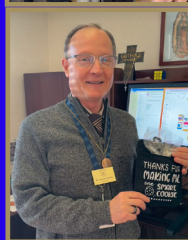
### DAY 1



### DAY 2



### DAY 3



### DAY 4



### DAY 5







ND Academy recently welcomed Neil Mandt, an alum of Catholic schools and Emmy award-winning producer from Los Angeles, who has done pioneering work in augmented and virtual reality. Mr. Mandt's presentation, titled "Empower Our Youth: A Journey into the Digital Future with an Award-Winning Media Expert," "aimed to inspire and educate students about crafting a positive digital identity, embracing future technologies and navigating the interplay of media and life in the digital age."

Mr. Mandt's presentation to our 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, as well as some ND Academy parents, covered a range of topics, including: Mastering Digital Identity for Success; Selling Yourself in the Digital Age; Staying Ahead of Digital Disruptions; Innovations in AR/VR Technology; The Future of Media and Content Production; AI in Business and Everyday Life.



Fr. David Musso, SM, ND Academy Chaplain, recently visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to help prepare them for their First Confession, the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



The Catholic Ministry Appeal Commitment Weekend #1 at OLPH was a great success thanks to the guest speakers: Dr. Latonya White, Principal of St. Peter Claver Catholic School; Mrs. Eileen Odom, Principal of Morning Star Catholic School; Mrs. Cristina Delgado-Wazni, Immigration Attorney and mother of a student at Tampa Catholic High School; and the students from the BLESSED Club at Tampa Catholic High School.





The Marist Fathers and Brothers of the US Province congratulate our newly professed, Alban, Pascal, Marc and Lachlan. May Mary continue to guide you in your journey.

The recent Marist International Novitiate newsletter shares reflections that offer a glimpse of the way in which the newly professed have lived their novitiate. Letting God be God and allowing themselves to be changed by him. View the newsletter [HERE](#).



On January 27, 2024, Sr. Tulua Otuafi, sm made perpetual profession as a Marist Sister in Holy Cross Parish Church Papatoetoe, New Zealand. The Sisters of the Unit of Aotearoa New Zealand were so happy to have Sr Sylvette, Congregation Leader, present to receive Tulua's Vows. Bishop Steve Lowe of the Auckland Diocese was the main celebrant at the Eucharistic celebration. Many of Tulua's family members travelled from different parts of the world to be in New Zealand for this special event including her mother, Huni and her namesake, Tulua Senior, who travelled from Tonga.

Before the Solemn Blessing at the end of the Mass, Bishop Steve congratulated Tulua and reminded her that she has made a wonderful witness to Marist Religious life. In his own words he said "Tulua, you have guts" - in these days, a lot of people do not seem to have the ability to commit to a relationship permanently. After the Eucharist, everyone was invited to the parish hall for some lunch and entertainment.



The Marist parish in Peru, Parroquia Virgen Misionera - Padres Maristas, participated in the XIX Diocesan Pastoral Assembly of the Diocese of Callao held at the Parish Basilica Santuario Virgen del Carmen de la Legua. On the second day of the assembly the following two topics were focused on: "Synodal Church" and "Spirituality of communion and dialogue". The day ended with the plenary of some questions that were worked on in groups.





## Synodality Corner ...

The Synod on Synodality is a three-year process of listening and dialogue that began in 2021. The first session of the Synod in Rome concluded at the end of October 2023.

Until the next session begins, let's remember some highlights of this first Synod session from Pope Francis.

*"Pope Francis reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the force behind this entire process. The only way to hear the Spirit's voice is to listen for it, to put aside our own agendas and truly listen to what everyone has to share. This is a real chance for bishops to hear what their faithful feels and for the faithful to hear what issues their priests face. It is an opportunity for all involved to grow in the Spirit"*



*Stay tuned for the upcoming Society of Mary USA Lenten Calendar. The daily thoughts on the calendar, shared by Marists and Marist friends, are quotes that inspire them and are influenced by Marist spirituality. The calendar will be available on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.*

*May Mary be our guide and example of courage this Lent.*



## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we observe the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, honoring Jesus Christ's presentation in the Temple when he was a young child. The feast of the presentation is also known as Candlemas. It is a feast meant to remind us that Christ is the light of the world, and that we in turn are called to let our light shine before others.

On this day, we also celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life. As vowed Marists may our vocation and the vocations of the many men and women who share our vocation in collaboration with the Marist laity be a bright light to the world.



Marists and many others throughout the world mourn the death on January 31<sup>st</sup> of their confrere, spiritual guide and friend, Fr. Kevin Bates, SM (77). After months of failing health, Fr Kevin's last moments were spent at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, where he died peacefully after days of family and fellow Marists by his bedside.

Fr Kevin, the author of many albums of songs, hymns and reflections, is known not only for his musical talents but as a gentle, ever-cheerful and devoted guide and pastor. Prior to his retirement he had been parish priest of Holy Name of Mary parish, Hunters Hill-Woolwich, NSW.

Requiem liturgy for Fr Kevin will be celebrated at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, at 10.30 am, Wed, February 7<sup>th</sup>.