

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States

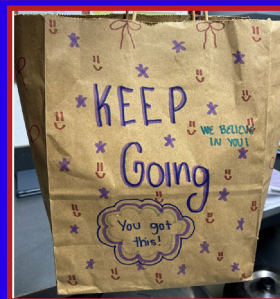


March 15, 2024

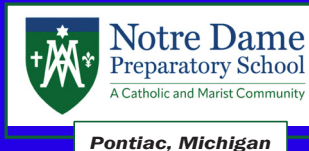
Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

For six Friday nights each winter, the Marist School community rallies behind the vital ministry of the Bashor Men's Shelter in downtown Atlanta. This shelter provides essential services, offering overnight accommodation, hearty evening meals, and nutritious breakfast and lunch bags for up to 100 guests every night. This year, Marist families once again showed unwavering support for the shelter. Through their collective efforts, they assembled breakfast and lunch bags, donated funds for evening meals, arranged transportation of food to the shelter, served meals, and volunteered as overnight monitors. The men who seek refuge at the shelter welcomed our volunteers warmly each week, expressing gratitude and offering blessings to the Marist community. This partnership between Marist Campus Ministry, Bashor Homeless Men's Night Shelter, and Marist families reflects the school's commitment to compassion and service. Together, the school community answers God's call to care for our neighbors in need, honoring the dignity and integrity of each individual, and embodying Jesus' call to love and serve others.



**NDP Eighth Graders are
Tenth in the Nation**

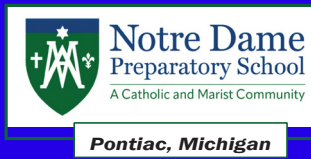


County-Wide Collaboration



Artists Extraordinaire

A few pics from dress rehearsal for this weekend's Sound of Music (March 15-17). Tickets are available [HERE](#).



National Reading Month

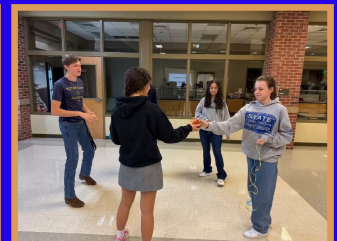
To celebrate March as National Reading Month teachers and parents converted the gymnasium into a fun beach setting for children in PreK – 5th grade who were able to relax on the “beach,” read books, and play games for prizes.



Peer Mentor Program

Freshmen students and their mentors recently got together to relax and discuss community-building activities. It's part of a monthly ritual of students connecting with their mentors and for the mentors to check in with their freshmen.

Junior Retreat was held on March 8th. The day kicked off with breakfast and students then participated in games, multiple enriching discussion and reflection sessions, and Mass with ND Academy chaplain, Fr. David Musso, SM. After lunch the students made 294 sandwiches for the homeless, helped with the ND Academy Run for Fun, and received a mustard seed takeaway to end the day to remind them that small changes can have a Big impact. The students also planted their class tree and spruced up last year's tree planting.



Run for Fun



Read Across America Day



2nd & 3rd grade "Bugsz" Musical



NDV Annual Jog-a-thon



Academic Decathlon team placed in History, Current Events, and Super Quiz in a recent academic competition.



The NDV Girls in Science team won Best in Science in the Mercy High School Burlingame Girls in Science Fair. Two of the NDV students placed 1st and 3rd overall as well.



OLA Night of Praise

Parishioners of all ages gathered together on February 4th to participate in OLA's Night of Praise event. Although the event began as a Youth Ministry event, the planning team quickly realized that this was something special that should be experienced by everyone.

After enjoying a Lasagna meal as a community in Moylan Hall, everyone came down to the Church, where they heard a thought provoking talk delivered by Kelly Simpson, VP of Program Development at Life Teen International. Kelly posed the question, "What would you do if Jesus walked into the room right now?"

After this talk, Jesus did walk in the room, in a way. We had Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship led by Jake Mappes and members of our 5:30 Life Teen Mass band. Fr. Jim was there to pray with everyone the entire time. After spending the weeks prior discussing Jesus in the Eucharist in an effort to participate in nationwide Eucharistic Revival efforts, the goal of Night of Praise was to be an opportunity to experience Jesus in the Eucharist firsthand and pray in His presence.



On March 7th, ministers from around the diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida gathered for a synod listening session as part of the interim stage of the Synod on Synodality in the diocese. Three members of the OLPH Parish Council - Ana Ramos, Bill, and Lynn Andrews - attended this session.

The session featured prayer and small group discussion that culminated with whole group sharing. This allowed participants to voice strengths and concerns in many areas in in order to have their voices heard as the five-year pastoral plan is being drafted.





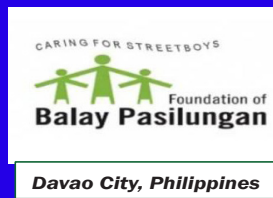
On March 8th, in recognition of International Women's Day, the school community at Colegio San Jose honored and thanked all the women who are part of the educational community.



Day of Forgiveness and Reconciliation at Parroquia Virgen Misionera (La Perla, Peru)



At a recent LIMATEJ math event at the secondary level, students from Colegio Pedro Chanel demonstrated their talent and dedication. Congratulations to all the participants for representing the school so well!



Last month, Balay Pasilungan was visited by Sr. Sylvette Mane, SM, the Marist Sisters' Superior General, and Sr. Jane Frances O'Carroll, SM, the Marist Sisters' Regional Leader for Asia-Pacific.

Their visit was a special moment for Balay Pasilungan, as it is a visible sign of the Marist Fathers working together with Marist Sisters. Sr. Sheila Manalo, SM, who is part of the Balay Pasilungan team as a Health Services coordinator, dentist, and child protection officer, exemplifies this spirit of collaboration. Balay Pasilungan is grateful for the Marist Sisters' continued support and dedication to its mission.



Balay Pasilungan Boys Unleash Creativity at the Art Jam

The children of Balay Pasilungan had a blast joining the 1st Art Jam with DAFI: Dabawenyo Artists Federation, Inc. Handled by DAFI's own renowned Davao artists, this rare Art Buffet of 10 activities offered the children two whole hours of exploration and creativity. Each activity had variations and levels to suit them, and the children had their sketches done! It was a fantastic opportunity to meet new friends and fellow art enthusiasts while celebrating Art Month

Heartfelt Thank You to the Psychology Interns

Balay Pasilungan is grateful to the dedicated Psychology Interns from Central Mindanao Colleges (CMC) Kidapawan! They provided leadership training to our staff and facilitated vital psychological interventions for the children, like individual consultations and group activities. Balay Pasilungan also extends its deepest gratitude to Dr. Jerson John L. Trocio, RPsy for his unconditional support in developing the Psychological Unit in Balay Pasilungan.





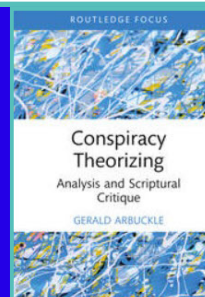
In recognition of International Women's Day – a few pictures shared by the Marist Missionary Sisters of their sisters in the mission field. "For the glory of God and the honor of Mary." In gratitude to the Lord for all that he has done for us and through us.



The annual Unit Assembly of the Sisters of Brazil was held from January 22-26th in Belo Horizonte. Sister Silvia, General Councillor, participated. It was a special time of spirituality, meetings, celebrations and sharing. It was a wonderful experience, strengthening the Marist mission.



New Book by Fr. Gerald Arbuckle, SM - Conspiracy Theorizing



'So wonderfully exciting'



Pope Francis' 11th anniversary as Pope

[View](#) the recording of "The Francis Factor at 11 Years: The Synod, Lay Leadership, and the Social Mission of the Church."



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 makes it very clear that the listening we are called to do in the Synod process is listening to the Holy Spirit. "If the Spirit is not present," he says, "there will be no Synod." Our task is to get out of our own way and make ourselves open to what the Spirit is trying to do in and through us. We come to this process full of convictions and opinions. But are we so sure that our convictions are correct that we have pushed away the voice of the Spirit/ The synodal process works only when we are all open to the Spirit, and the first step is really listening to one another."

Vocation Corner

Academic studies have started again at Pacific Regional Seminary and this year there are a total of 12 students. Please pray for our students as they continue their discernment into the Marist and ordained life.



A glimpse into the Vocation Workshop at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Digos City, Philippines where twelve young men embarked on a journey of self-discovery.



Perpetual profession of Sr. Rebecca Tangna Mayataguiba Magnedena, SMSM. Sr. Rebecca is from Togo and she made her perpetual profession in Senegal.



Karibu Tanzania Mary Juliet is discerning her vocation to religious life with the Marist Missionary Sisters. Please remember her and all those who are in formation in your prayers.



INTERNATIONAL FORMATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The General Council has established a Committee to carry out a review of our International Formation.



The committee is composed of:

- **Fr Martin McAnaney sm** (Chair) from the province of Europe. Martin has been the Provincial Superior of Europe and has a large experience to work in administration and formation, in an international context.
- **Sr Jane O'Carroll sm**: she is current Unit leader of the Marist Sisters in New Zealand. Jane has been Superior General of the Marist Sisters, and has vast experience in Marist formation and administration.
- **Fr Samuel Agcararca svd**: Rector of the Divine Word School of Theology, Tagaytay. He teaches there and at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He has a doctorate in missiology and specializes in anthropology and interculturality.

The committee has been asked to focus, amongst other things, on:

- how well are we forming our students as Marists, in the Church, in this current challenging world.
- evaluating the International Marist Formation Houses in the light of the pillars described in our International Directory of Initial Formation, i.e. human, spiritual, intellectual, pastoral and intercultural formation.
- Marist religious life and spirituality in the formation houses.

A first meeting of the committee took place last week by zoom. The work of the committee will include visitations of our two International formation houses and interviews with people involved in formation, which will include also some former formators and students.

It is hoped that the committee will be able to give their report and recommendations to the General Council by the beginning of next year, and that it will be submitted for consideration at the General Chapter in 2025.

Connect to Gen Z: what the data reveals



Marist Spirituality Reflections by Fr. David Kennerley, SM

The [article](#) found at the link below is the last 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 12: Understanding Jean-Claude Colin

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



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.