



## Marist Worldwide Missions

Summer 2024

Dear Marist Mission Office Friend,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy during these summer months. Know that you are kept in the daily prayers of the priests and brothers of the Society of Mary (Marists).

Being missionary in character, Marists reach out to all people with an open heart in Mary's quiet way. Our founder, Ven. Jean-Claude Colin, envisioned that Marists are to be "in the world." He realized that the place for the "work of Mary" – where she wants Marists to be – is in this world, not watching from the sidelines.

Marist missionaries understand that the "work of Mary" demands courage and the willingness to adapt to cultures, language and a changing world. Being "in the world" doing the "work of Mary" is evident through the on-going growth of the Marist missions around the world which you support through your prayers and generous financial contributions.

***"Love is never wasted."***  
(Motto of Foundation of Balay Pasilungan)

With the vision of the Marist missionaries in mind, I want to share with you some of the "work of Mary" being done in the Marist missions in the District of Asia, particularly in Davao City, Philippines at the Foundation of Balay Pasilungan. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of Balay Pasilungan by the Society of Mary. Founded in 1989, Balay Pasilungan is a shelter home that offers more than 30 boys ranging in age from 5-15 years a safe refuge from street life, family breakdown, and exploitation. The boys eat, sleep, play, and pray as a family and are supported by educators, social workers, volunteers, and the Marists. The operation of the center is completely dependent on the help and support of generous donors.

The boys at Balay Pasilungan are taught practical skills that they can bring with them when they return to their families (i.e. cooking, daily chores). They also participate in activities within the local community. For example, the boys along with the staff members participated in a clean-up drive through which they became aware of the importance of waste management. The boys also help to exemplify the importance of the work at Balay Pasilungan. In June this year the boys participated in the Inter-faith World Week of Prayer for Children-at-Risk held in Davao City. The gathering aimed to unite different faiths in collective prayer and reflection for the well-being and protection of children at risk. The participation of the boys in this event was a "testament to the impact of community support and the ongoing efforts to provide a safe and nurturing environment for vulnerable children."

Praying together is a key part of Balay Pasilungan, and the boys gather in the Nazareth Chapel at the home each day for morning and evening prayer. One of the boys said, "I feel like an angel because we pray all the time." While several of the boys attend the local school, supplemental educational support is provided at the home. Balay Pasilungan also has an on-site dental and medical clinic for the care and well-being of the boys. As Fr. Gil Casio, SM, current executive director of Balay Pasilungan shared, "The real shelter for these boys are the people who support them. .... As we continue this God-given project, transforming lives, may God's grace, love, and peace be with us always .... Love is never wasted in 35 years."

Balay Pasilungan is just one example of the "work of Mary" occurring at the Marist missions around the world. I ask for your continued prayers for all our Marist missions. I also invite you to submit your prayer intentions at:  
<https://www.societyofmaryusa.org>.

The Marists are grateful for your financial contributions that continue to support the work in our global missions. I ask you to please consider doing what you can to help us financially so that we may be able to continue the "work of Mary." May the Lord Bless you and may the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for your every need.

Shalom!

*Rev. Walter Gaudreau, SM*

Rev. Walter Gaudreau, SM  
Director, Marist Missions Office of the U.S.

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## Marist Worldwide Missions

**Yes!** I want to help further the work of Mary and the Church  
through the Marist Missions Office

**Donate Online at:** [societyofmaryusa.org](https://www.societyofmaryusa.org)

*(Your gift is tax deductible.)*

Marist Missions Office  
698 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02215  
617-451-3237 (Phone) 617-451-3247

**Thank you for your generosity!**



Davao City, Philippines

# 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/](http://www.societyofmaryusa.org/connect/prayer-request/)