

# Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

*Marists in the United States*



August 30, 2024



The Marist Fathers and Brothers of the USA Province welcomes all faculty, staff, and students back for the 2024-25 school year!

May the Blessed Mother be your guide and keep you safe.

God bless you all!

Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

During the first full week of August Marist School welcomed faculty and staff back to campus for “Mission Launch”, an invigorating day centered on the Marist Way pillars of Prayer, Service, and Community. The employees participated in various prayer practices across campus, including music, art, writing, and meditation. They also assembled 1,200 food bags for Mercy Care. Throughout the day, groups participated in the Adult Big Wheel Club team-building event, which energized their community spirit.

Principal Kevin Mullally, in his opening address, shared insights from the recent Marist summer pilgrimage when he visited La Neylière, the site where Fr. Colin is buried and where he wrote much of the Society of Mary’s Constitutions. Mr. Mullally highlighted a powerful metaphor of the Marist mission as a ship guided by Mary. Bishop Joel Konzen, S.M.’s homily during Mass at La Neylière emphasized the laity’s role in continuing Mary’s work and advancing the mission: “Let us rejoice to be in the ship with Mary at the helm. And let us not be afraid to think, judge, feel, and act as she would.”



During the opening of the 2024-25 school year, the Peer Leaders engaged with new students during each grade's orientation, offering warmth and support to build a strong sense of belonging from the start. Each Peer Leader is paired with two or three new students, reflecting the school's commitment to hospitality and community.



On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Marist School celebrated the Mass of the Assumption, the first school-wide Mass of the academic year and the feast day of the school's patroness. They prayed for the student Retreat Leaders, chosen for their demonstrated leadership and faith, who will lead their peers on spiritually enriching retreats this school year. School Chaplain Fr. John Ulrich, S.M., shared this reminder during his homily: "Our school crest, and the crest of the Society of Mary, reminds us that we are 'Sub Mariae Nomine'—under the name of Mary. We bear her name as Marists and are sheltered under that name. Do you know what is the greatest desire of Mary, our spiritual mother? It is that we live good lives, worthy of our dignity as men and women created in the image of God. Mary wants nothing more than for us to live good, holy lives."



## New Faculty



Marist School students enjoyed the Activities Fair on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Marist School's commitment to educating the whole person is reflected in the wide breadth of extracurricular activities offered, designed to ignite passions and unlock the God-given greatness within every student. All over campus—from on stage to the robotics ring, in the art studio, and beyond—Marist students explore their interests and develop their strengths and talents. With 88 student clubs and activities, 100% of the students participate in at least one extracurricular activity during their time at Marist.





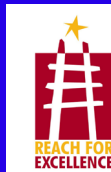
Marist School's Generations families gathered for a lively tailgate on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hosted by the Marist Alumni Office, the Generations Welcome Back Tailgate annually celebrates alumni who are current Marist parents or grandparents. This event is both a joyful reunion and a warm "welcome back" to new legacy families, marking the start of the school year with enthusiasm and the promise of creating new Marist memories.



Marist School sponsored an 8-day pilgrimage to Marist places in France. There were 25 participants with Marists Bishop Mgr. Joel Konzen and Fr. John Harhager acting as chaplains, along with a diocesan friend of Bishop Konzen. Sr. Terri O'Brien, sm provided her enthusiastic expertise to the trip – helping make it a Marist Family event. The participants were staff members including the president and principal of the school, alumni and parents of alumni. Most of the Marist sites were visited including Fourvière, Le Puy, St. Bonnet-le-Troncy & Coutouvre, Cerdon, Belley, La Neylière, and L'Hermitage.

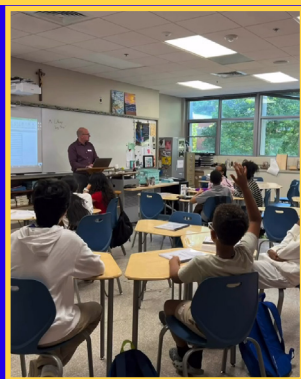
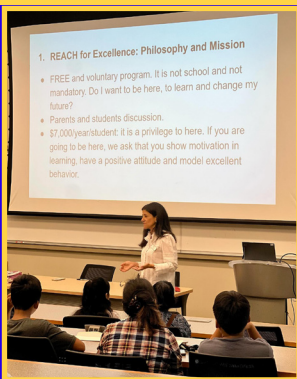


Reach for Excellence families met with the Reach for Excellence team to talk about the upcoming 2024-2025 Saturday schedule. Around 55 families and students attended the informational meetings about the Saturday curriculum, schedule and SSAT preparation class. The Saturday sessions began on August 24<sup>th</sup>.



Atlanta, Georgia

Over 80 Reach scholars participated in the Topical Talk curriculum in partnership with the Economist Educational Foundation. Reach for Excellence students made 12 times the progress of peers across critical thinking and communication skills. At the end of the six week session, the Economist Educational Foundation selected 3 students who won the following awards for their final summer project called The Standpoint. Hanna (Rising 8<sup>th</sup>, Bronze award), Sharon (Rising 7<sup>th</sup>, Silver award, and Yacob (Rising 7<sup>th</sup>, Gold award).



Ready for the start of the Fall Semester!





Prior to the start of the new school year, NDP faculty and staff gathered for Mass and meetings.



## Senior Sunrise

The Class of 2025 had a wonderful beginning to their last first day of school together with laughs, games, food and simply enjoying each other before the start of the new school year!



## Meet the Middle

A fun Friday evening as students, parents and staff enjoyed the 2024 Meet the Middle School Faculty and Social Night.



## Upper School – Meet the Teacher Tailgate



## Clubs and Service Opportunities

NDP students had the chance to check out the abundance of clubs and service opportunities at the school. A number of area community organizations, including Grace Centers of Hope, Angels' Place and Lighthouse of Oakland County, also were on hand to speak with interested students.





## NDP Middle School “House” Selection Day

Notre Dame Prep middle school “house” selection for new students this school year occurred last week. The middle school house system is designed to build community across grades and to create leadership opportunities for all students. Each student is placed into one of four houses: Bon Repos, Cerdon, Hermitage and Little Seminary of Belley. These names represent significant places in the life of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, s.m., who founded the Society of Mary.



## Annual Back-to-School Prayer Service & Picnic



## New Faculty



## 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School







ND Academy 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders led the school community in worship on August 15<sup>th</sup> for the first all school Mass of the 2024-2025 school year on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary!



ND Academy recently had the opportunity to host 11 students from China for a cultural experience for a week. This was a wonderful opportunity to embrace the global-mindedness that is a key part of the International Baccalaureate Programme.



## 2024-25 NDV Faculty



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Night



## North American Marist Educators Conference

Educators and administrators from four USA schools owned or sponsored by the Society of Mary gathered at a retreat house near Detroit, Michigan for three days of prayer, talks, discussion and socializing. Thirty-one teachers came from Marist School, Notre Dame Prep, Notre Dame Academy, and Notre Dame des Victoires School. Presenters were Marist Frs. Alois Greiler from Germany and Jim Strasz from the US along with lay Marist educators Kevin Mullally and Mike Coveny from Marist School.





## Society of Mary USA Annual Retreat, Assembly, & Chapter

The confreres of the US Province attended their annual retreat from June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. The retreat, led by Fr. Alois Greiler, SM (from Germany) and was attended by 31 members. The retreat was followed by a Province Assembly, facilitated by former Congregational Leader, Sr. Georgeanne Marie Donovan, SMSM. The purpose of the Assembly was to surface issues for the Provincial Chapter which met from June 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, with 14 delegates along with Fr. Ben McKenna, SM the link person from the General Administration.



## Complexe Scolaire des Pères Maristes (CSPM)

(Niakhirate, Dakar, Senegal)

CSPM students who were 11+ years and older attended a presentation by SONATEL (a national company for telecommunication) about social media and the use of the internet.



## Start of new school year at Colegio Pedro Chanel (Guadalajara, Mexico)





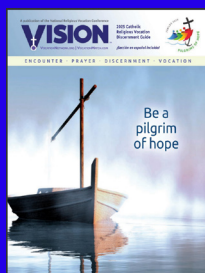
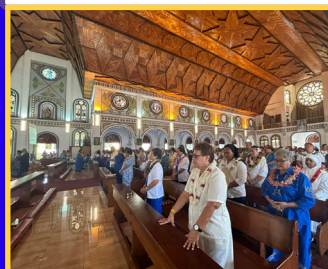
## Unveiling of Statue of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin at Marist Sisters' College (Woolwich, NSW Australia)

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, at Marist Sisters' College Woolwich (MSCW), a unique statue was unveiled – a life-sized bronze depiction of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin with two college students. Immediately striking is the relational connection among the three – the French woman, the student beside her and the younger one opposite. Standing before them, one senses the years of history converging into the now, bringing the foundress to life in this new setting. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the story behind the sculpture.



## 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marist Missionary Sisters (SMSM) in Samoa

Since 1864, the SMSMs have served Samoa and other Pacific countries through prayer, education, health services and the formation of Christian families.



### Society of Mary USA Vocation Ad

We invite you to [view](#) and [share](#) the Society of Mary USA Vocation ad in the 2025 VISION Religious Discernment Vocation Guide.

### Pope's Letter Announcing the Jubilee Year 2025

In his announcement about the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis stated, "The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope."

Read the full announcement [HERE](#).



### 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 cautions that there are risks in the synodal process that we must avoid if our communication is to be effective. The first is formalism, which he describes as admiring the magnificent façade of a church without ever actually stepping inside. We have to set aside worries about how we might appear to others and take a courageous look into our own hearts. This process may reveal unpleasant and painful truths, but it is a necessary part of growing as the body of Christ."*