

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



September 27, 2024



MARIST LAITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ANNUAL COMMITMENT & BLESSING OF CHILDREN AND TEENS

On September 14th, St. Andrew Catholic Church (Coral Springs, Florida) Marist Laity group had a wonderful “Today’s Marist” experience! By Mary’s gracious choice, four adults — Elizabeth, Enola, Naika, and Yves — committed themselves to “Do Whatever He Tells You” and entered the International Society of Mary. The presiding supportive pastor was, Reverend Monsignor Michael A. Souckar, assisted by seminarian Jonathan Sanchez. This 19th annual Marist Commitment included the Blessing of Children and Teens.



Marist Blessing of Children & Teens



Painting of The Barque of Mary by Alphonse Chigot, (1824-1917) lends a reflective invitation to move on, out of self, into service for the Church in this age, Mary’s Way, living from God more than for God.

Included in the picture are Pastor, Reverend Monsignor Souckar and Jonathan Sanchez, Seminarian (from [St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach, FL](#)).

Marist Laity members of South Florida return yearly to renew their consecration to a Marian “Ministry of Awareness” from their simple niche in life, choosing to live their vocations sacramentally as missionaries by baptism and Marists by gracious choice. The group had a delightful gathering for fellowship and light refreshments at Mary’s grotto, on the parish grounds, following the consecration.



On the following page are brief reflections from a few of the new Marist Laity.

Reflection from Enola

As a mother, wife, teacher and Marist, my responsibility is to be an example of devotion and obedience to God. To be compassionate, understanding, patient, kind and loving to my family and students. To model for my students, through my actions, not be self serving but to think of the needs of others before my own, to pray for others rather than for myself, to put Jesus first in my life. To try everyday to be a good disciple of Jesus and be worthy of his blessings and graces on me.



Reflection from Elizabeth

What Marist means to me in this age:

- My professional life was focused on helping vulnerable young families, the homeless and elderly needing care. I feel like my Marist vocation of prayer, work and study help me continue that work and do it through Mary and her guidance.

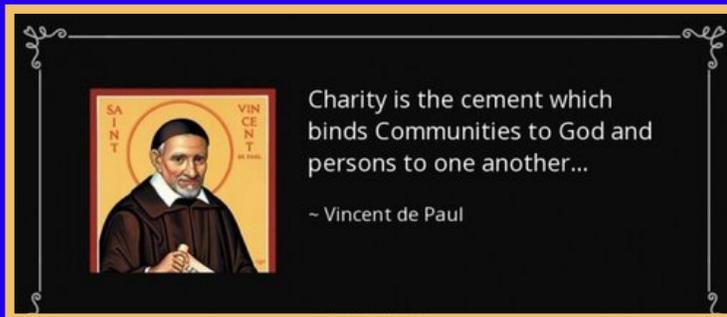
- Working to make the Church a family for all persons regardless of their social, cultural, and/or financial stature.

- I love that as Marist, we ask the Holy Trinity to help us use the graces we are given to live life as Mary did and bring peace, joy, and kindness to those who need it in her quiet and loving way.

Reflection from Naika

The calling to be a Marist is profound in itself. To receive the blessing, nourishment and presence of our Lady, precious. No words can explain what this means to me. Therefore, I have no other choice than to live the calling.

September 27th: Feast of St. Vincent DePaul – Secondary Patron of the Society of Mary



Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

Marist School is happy to announce that 10 seniors have been named semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These Marist students represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors and achieved top scores on the PSAT taken last fall. As semifinalists, they will now compete for a spot as National Merit finalists. Join us in congratulating these outstanding seniors on their academic excellence and national recognition.



On September 10th, Marist School hosted the Fall President's Circle Dinner in the rectory, honoring donors who generously supported the school during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This event recognized members of the President's Circle who contributed at the Pope Gregory XVI Guild, Fr. Jean-Claude Colin Guild, and Fr. John Gunn Guild levels to the Annual Fund. Their leadership gifts play a vital role in advancing Marist's mission and upholding our tradition of excellence.



Each summer, the Marist School Counseling Department partners with the Alumni Office to provide juniors with a unique opportunity to apply for internships that help them explore and develop their career interests. Through the Career Connections program, students gain hands-on experience, engaging in the daily operations of various companies and organizations. In 2024, 40 students interned with organizations such as medical and law practices, Catholic Charities of Atlanta, the Georgia Bulletin, Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Discover Dunwoody, and the Georgia Attorney General's Office. This invaluable experience not only broadens their horizons but also equips them with the tools to shape their futures with confidence and purpose.

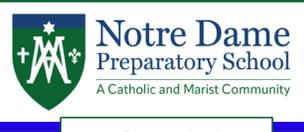


Blessing of some of the NDV Parent School Board Members at the recent 5th Grade Class Mass.



Earlier this month Reach for Excellence hosted a high school fair for Reach for Excellence current 8th graders. Reach families had the opportunity to connect with admissions staff and alumni from various private and independent schools.





Pontiac, Michigan

Six from Notre Dame Prep Earn Honors from National Merit Scholarship Program



Code Green



NDP Celebrates Constitution Day at County Courthouse



This week Notre Dame Prep first graders experienced the real world when alum Hannah DiNardo NDP'14, an interior designer at Pophouse in Detroit, Michigan visited and discussed how she uses design thinking in her own profession to solve problems. After her presentation, students applied what they learned by making a floor plan for a home renovation.



2024 NDP Lower School Fall Family Festival





Duluth, Georgia

ND Academy's Freshman class recently participated in their yearly retreat at St. Benedict Catholic Church. This was an opportunity for the students to be together as a class, to build and strengthen who they are as a community built on faith, and to begin to recognize and value the gift each one brings and shares to the wider community. "Community in the Body of Christ" was the theme, and they focused on this theme through games, large and small group discussions, and community building activities!



On September 16th, ND Academy began its celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15th - October 15th. These dates coincide with national independence days in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Chile. During this month of celebration, the culture, history, and contributions of Hispanics and Latinos in the United States are recognized and celebrated.

Teacher Professional Development on September 20th focused on the culture of IB in the classroom.



5th Grade "Come Have Lunch with My Class"



Marist Omnes Gentes Community (Samsun, Turkey)

On September 15th, the Feast Day of Mater Dolorosa, the Marist Omnes Gentes Community in Samsun, Turkey, held a festive celebration during which 7 adults were accepted as catechumens for the Catholic Church with the Rite of Acceptance. On the same occasion a special blessing was given to a group of university students, both foreign and Turkish, at the beginning of the new academic year. The celebration was followed by a festive, fraternal meal. Less than a year ago the Omnes Gentes community started carrying out its challenging mission in the area around Samsun, on the Black Sea, where many university students live as well as refugees. The celebration last Sunday was a hopeful sign of the Marist presence among the people in Turkey.



"Bingo Sanjosesino" – Festival celebrating 88th Anniversary of Parroquial "San Jose"



Parroquia Virgen Misionera (La Perla, Peru)

On September 15th, the youth in the confirmation program at Parroquia Virgen Misionera experienced a day of spiritual growth and unity at the 3rd Diocesan Gathering of Confirmandi.





Celebration of Māori Language Week



Synodality Meeting on Youth



Welcoming ceremony for Tutu Rural Training Centre's (TRTC) visitors from Hawaii participating in an exchange program with farmer to farmer tour Pacific Farmer Organisations.



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 doesn't mince words here: complacency – we've always done it this way – is 'poison' for the life of the Church. The world is vastly different from what it used to be. As the People of God we have been faced with issues that have made many of us question our faith – from the scandal of abuse to the role of women to figuring out how to worship together again after a pandemic forces us into isolation. To settle for 'how we've always done it' runs the grave risk of not allowing ourselves to grow as a Church. Let us not be afraid to find new solutions to new problems.”



Jubilee preparation: Study the Documents of Vatican II - Focus on Prayer

Vocation Corner

50 Years a Marist, a Conversation with Fr. Joe Hindelang, SM

Notre Dame Preparatory's (Pontiac, Michigan) Talk of the Irish Podcast Club recently had an [interview](#) with Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., provincial superior of the Society of Mary USA, during which he spoke of his 50th anniversary as a Marist. Listen [HERE](#).



Fr. Joe Hurtuk's, SM 50th Anniversary Celebration of Ordination



On September 22nd, the [Franciscan Monastery](#) in Washington, DC celebrated its 125th anniversary with a solemn Mass of thanksgiving presided by His Eminence Cardinal Wilton Gregory, in the presence of Fr. Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land.



The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Guadalupe who minister at the Marist Provincial House in Washington, DC attended this celebration.



Ordination of Fr. Clinton Kube, SM

On September 17th, Fr. Clinton Kube, SM from the District of Africa was ordained to the Priesthood by Mgr. Andrew Nkea, Archbishop of Bamenda. The celebration took place in the Marist Parish of “Notre Dame de Fatima” in Bambili, and was attended by a big crowd of Marists, family, friends and parishioners. Fr. Kube, who has lived at Casa di Maria in Rome, Italy the past four years, has been appointed as vicar of the Marist Parish of St. Anne d’Obili in Yaoundé and he is also the director of the Laudato Si’ project in Nkolbison. He will celebrate his first Mass on October 6th at St. Anne d’Obili. Please keep Fr. Kube in your prayers.



The Society of Mary (Marists) invite you to the Perpetual Profession of six Marist seminarians on September 28th in Rome, Italy. The Mass will be livestreamed and can be viewed starting at 5am EDT HERE. Please keep the seminarians in your prayers.



On September 22nd, nine young people officially entered the St. Pierre Chanel Marist Postulate in Yaoundé, Cameroon to begin their training. They come from 6 countries including Cameroon, Togo, Senegal, Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. Pray for them as they journey to Mary’s school.





On September 14th, the Novice community of the Marist Sisters held a Eucharistic celebration at Parroquia Universitaria Cpu in Toluca (CPU) during which a group of lay women made their Marist Promise for the first time while others renewed it. This promise is to commit to living for a year in the style of Mary: “Think, feel, judge and act like Mary.”



New Beginnings (Mexico)

Marist Sisters Norma J. González Barrios and Marta Elena Chica Silva have been living in the Marist Sisters new novitiate house in Mexico since the beginning of August. They have been busy preparing the novitiate house. Read more [HERE](#).



Mindanao (Philippines) Formators Convention

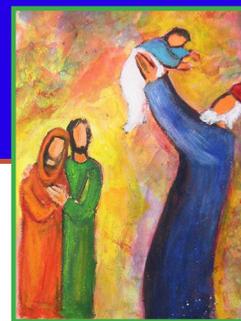


How mercy connects to vocation
(Jubilee Year 2025)

by Brother Jonathan Beebe C.S.C.,
Sister Camille D'Arienzo R.S.M., Sister
Michelle Leshner S.S.J., and Brother
William Sprauer O.S.B.



**Reflections on Key Elements of
Marist Spirituality**
by Fr. David Kennerley, SM



The [article](#) found at the link below is the third in a series of 20 reflections on Marist Spirituality for educators by Fr. David Kennerley, SM. Fr. Kennerley originally created these reflections for teachers meeting at lunch. The idea was that they would have material to reflect on once a week across the school year. This series of reflections can be useful for any small group or personal reflection interested in deepening their knowledge of key elements of Marist Spirituality.

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.

Part 4: The Spirit of the Society of Mary

(Printed with permission from Fr. David Kennerley, 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! Dignate 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.