

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



December 20, 2024

Justice & Peace Alert



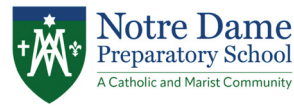
Marist School hosted the Heads Up for Harry “Spark the Conversation” 5K on December 14. Heads Up for Harry, a nonprofit organization, promotes mental health awareness and provides resources for adolescents, young adults, and their support networks. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to give back, connect with the Marist community, and enjoy the holiday season together. The Alumni Office supported the 5K by providing treats for participants, and members of the Alumni Board volunteered by distributing hot chocolate and T-shirts.



The Modern & Classical Languages Department hosted its fifth annual Berkeley Lake Book Drive, the largest group service project in the department’s program. A collaborative effort across all Marist School modern language classes—Spanish, French, and German—the drive partners with Berkeley Lake Elementary School (BLES) to provide personalized books for every 1st and 2nd grade student at the school. Student officers from each language led the initiative with a festive book-wrapping party on December 13. Each book matched a BLES student’s wish list, paired with a holiday card written by Marist students to inspire a love of reading. Officers will deliver the books during a special event at BLES on December 18. Through this act of service, Marist students answer Jesus’ call to love and serve others this Christmas season.



Jocelyn M. Calvillo '12 recently returned to Marist School to meet with the Marist Law Society and Share the Journey student clubs to discuss her work as a staff attorney specializing in immigration law with Catholic Charities Atlanta. She provided an in-depth overview of her daily efforts to assist children and other vulnerable individuals in navigating Georgia's immigration processes. Marist students eagerly engaged with Ms. Calvillo, gaining firsthand insights into the complexities of legal procedures for immigrants and refugees.



Pontiac, Michigan

Sending Christmas Cheer and Prayers to Cincinnati



Smile Makers

This week members of the National Junior Honor Society visited with senior residents at All Seasons Rochester Hills, singing holiday songs and spreading abundant Christmas cheer and joy to all!



Earlier this month, NDP's 4-H Club made fleece blankets for The Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Oakland County Association.



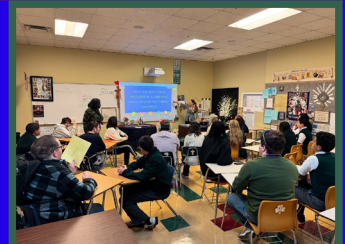
The Notre Dame Prep lower school E-Club visited the greenhouse recently as part of their December engagement activities. Laura Elwood, who teaches science in the upper school and manages the Melissa Kozyra Greenhouse and Botany Learning Lab, took the students through a study of native plants and their benefits to pollinators. Garden Club member and upper school junior Emily Seifert then helped the younger students plant rose milkweed to take home and watch them flourish. They also learned that the milkweed is a host plant for Monarch butterflies.



ND Academy 2nd graders had a wonderful first visit at Country Gardens last week! They played Bingo with the residents and made a beaded candy cane craft for them to enjoy during the holidays.



ND Academy 8th graders recently had an amazing day of service with the Villagers from Annandale Village and members of Jackson House, Annandale Village's day program. The 8th graders and the Villagers enjoyed playing Christmas Jeopardy and Just Dance Holiday Freeze. Great conversations and sharing took place during lunch, and afterwards, 8th graders led the Villagers in a variety of board and card games and Christmas crafts.



3rd grade Book Collection for their service learning partner, Amigos for Christ



ND Academy community members helped fill three entire bins for the Advent St. Vincent De Paul Society Clothing Drive!



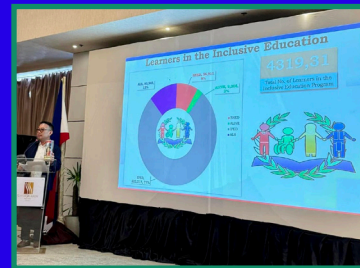
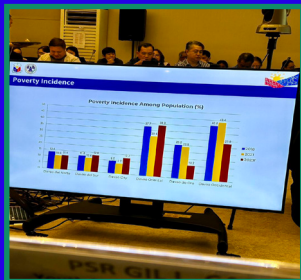


Balay Pasilungan Joins the Call to Address Poverty in Davao Region

Fr. Gil Casio, SM, Executive Director of Balay Pasilungan, joined the Regional Development Council (RDC XI) 4th Quarter Full Council Meeting, where key issues were discussed, including poverty statistics, sustainable development goals, and peace and order updates.

One alarming highlight: poverty incidence remains critically high in some provinces exceeding 40%. This calls for urgent collaboration across sectors to address these challenges and bring hope to the most vulnerable.

Balay Pasilungan is committed to empowering the children and youth and contributing to poverty reduction in the region.



Interreligious Youth Camp in Ranong

From December 6-8th an Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Youth Camp took place in Ranong, Thailand. 17 young people camped on the grounds of the Marist Asia Foundation Harmony Centre. 3 of them were Thai, all Catholics, and 14 Burmese: 7 Christians, 2 Muslims and 8 Buddhists. The goal of the Marist Camp was to encourage friendships between young people from diverse cultures and faith traditions, build relationships of mutual respect, understanding and appreciation, break down stereotypes and prejudices and become promoters of compassion and peace.

The Camp created an unthreatening opportunity for youth leaders, who would never normally meet each other because of the cultural walls surrounding their daily lives, to build friendship and understanding. Participants were struck by the warm welcome extended to the group while visiting each other's places of worship.



Toy Collection for Children



“The Climate and Social Action Group” helped by some of the St Annes Tumanako girls from the school prepared and packaged up gifts for 450 women prisoners.



A MARIST CHAPLAIN IN A MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON



Since late 2020, I have served as the chaplain at Sulmona prison in the Abruzzo province of L'Aquila, Italy. This maximum-security facility houses approximately 460 inmates from diverse regions, all convicted of serious mafia-related offenses. Reflecting on the time since I began my ministry, I feel content with my work and the feedback from the inmates.

✦ Echoing the gospel's words, 'I was in prison, and you visited me...', I can affirm that I have been visited by the Lord for my conversion.

A chaplain to prisoners is a pivotal figure, carrying significant responsibilities toward both the institutions and the inmates. These prisoners, my brothers — yes, brothers — have indeed sinned, but I, perhaps even more than they, remain a part of both society and a fallible church. Thus, we must all embrace Christ the Redeemer, who vanquished sin and restored life through His resurrection.

Together, we undertake this redemptive journey, aiding one another without judgment or bias. The Spirit of God fosters heart transformations and operates within us all, yielding, at the very least, astonishing fruits within the prison walls as evidence of genuine and profound faith.

Lorenzo Marcucci, sm



Kiwi Marists reflect on
“wicked problems”



Vanuatu at the Hague -
consequences for humanity

Vanuatu 7.3 magnitude earthquake:
First reports of damage



Envisioning a Livable Future

Laudato Si' Contemplative Vigil



At Vatican Christmas tree
lighting, Pope Francis calls
attention to sustainability



Pope's World Day of Peace message: 'We are all in debt to God'



Catholics seeking to end US death penalty chart Jubilee course in God's justice



Franciscan Sisters support special education in Zambia



Fr. Joe Nangle, ¡Presente!



A liberatory look at Marian apparitions

What are the “O Antiphons”
of Advent?



Happy Birthday Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA!

Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi on December 29, 1937. The granddaughter of slaves, Thea Bowman, was reared as a Methodist, until at age nine when she asked her parents if she could become a Catholic. When she was sixteen, Bertha entered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration community and became the only African-American in the white order.

Sister Thea Bowman said, “I bring my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my African-American song and dance and gesture and movement and teaching, and preaching and healing and responsibility as a gift to the Church.”

Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, Pray for us!



Due to the holidays, this will be the last Society of Mary USA Justice & Peace bulletin for 2024. We look forward to sharing more justice and peace related news with you in 2025!

Wishing you a safe and Blessed Christmas and New Year!