

# Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

*Marists in the United States*



May 23, 2025

Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Marist School hosted the 2025 Alumni Awards Luncheon in the newly renovated Mary's Garden, located outside Esmond Brady Memorial Chapel at the Rectory. The event celebrated three exceptional women whose lives reflect the mission and values of Marist School—marking the first time in school history that the honorees were all female. The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Chieko Noguchi '94, executive director of public affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a prominent voice in Catholic media and communications. Kim Dollar, a longtime parent volunteer and current trustee, received the Father Hartnett Service Award for her unwavering support of the Marist community. Anna Roche Lange '13, a pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in palliative care at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, was honored with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Each recipient reflected on the lasting impact of a Marist education—whether experienced personally or through their children—sharing how it shaped their call to serve, their commitment to others, and their sense of purpose. Their stories highlighted what it means to be Marist made—grounded in faith, driven by compassion, and dedicated to making a difference.



At Marist School, passionate educators prepare students for lives of service and leadership by challenging them to think deeply, communicate clearly, and lead with compassion. In Dr. Nic Hoffmann '03 and Mr. Mike Burns' American Experiment class, high school students stepped into the roles of Cold War leaders, transforming classrooms into 1975-era "war rooms" for a high-stakes geopolitical simulation. Divided into U.S. and Soviet teams, students managed fictional international crises using only period-appropriate intelligence dossiers—no modern technology, just strategy, history, and teamwork. Acting as diplomats, leaders, and intelligence officers, they navigated alliances, weighed propaganda, and debated the cost of conflict. More than a history lesson, the simulation sharpened students' critical thinking and civic reasoning while fostering historical empathy. By living the complexity of Cold War decision-making, students gained the insight and confidence to act with purpose—an embodiment of Marist's promise to prepare young people to lead and serve.



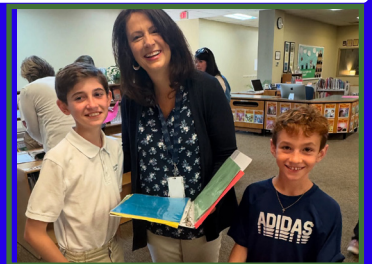
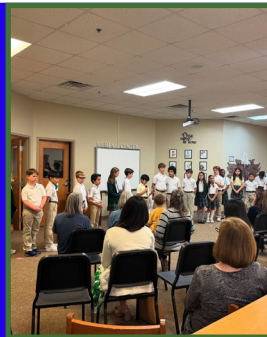
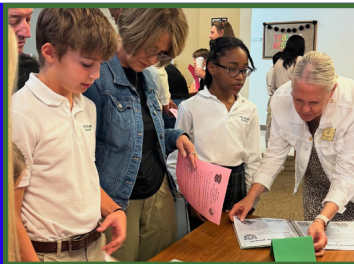
**Marist Matters – Latest Edition**



**Field Day**



ND Academy 4<sup>th</sup> graders took the spotlight as they shared their hard work during the parent celebration—the powerful culmination of their Sharing the Planet unit. Students proudly presented original poems in a variety of genres, using their voices to express their understanding of our responsibility to the world and each other.



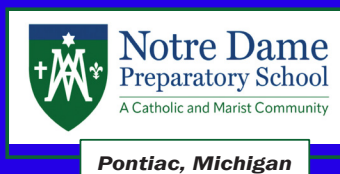
**Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Musical, “Wing it!”**







## International Thespian Society's performance of "Annie KIDS!"



## Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Internal Assessment

Student success at the end of the International Baccalaureate course Theory of Knowledge is assessed in two ways, the TOK exhibition and a 1,600-word essay on a prescribed title, both of which are mandatory for all students in the Diploma Program. This week NDP students in Kyle Lilek's TOK class participated in their exhibition, which requires them to curate three objects that explore how TOK manifests in themselves and in the world around us.

TOK plays a special role in the Diploma Program by providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature, scope and limitations of knowledge and the process of knowing. In this way, the main focus of TOK is not on students acquiring new knowledge, but on helping students to reflect on, and put into perspective, what they already know.

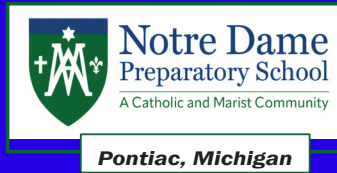


## 'Love Building Robots'



## 'Shaking Up the Future'





### Popsicles and Pen Pals

This year, third graders at NDP became pen pals with third graders from Parkway Christian School (<https://www.parkwaychristian.org>). Students wrote back and forth throughout the year and were able to finally meet their pen pals earlier this month. The students interviewed each other and ate popsicles – and played outside.



### Student Art Show





## Marist Farewell Celebration

On May 18<sup>th</sup> a farewell Mass and celebration for the Marists was held at OLA. The Marists will be transferring leadership of OLA to the Archdiocese of Atlanta in July 2025. Since 1965, OLA Parish has been entrusted to the pastoral care of the Society of Mary. The Marist Fathers and Brothers consider it an important ministry and have been pleased to work with the people of the parish and the schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. It is difficult for the Marists to give up the pastoral responsibilities of OLA and the Marists are grateful to the people of the parish and school for the real privilege and blessing of working with such a faith community for almost 60 wonderful years. The parish and school have a rich history and the Society of Mary is pleased to have been a part of it. The Marists hope that they are leaving strong Marist values and traditions which will endure into the future. They are grateful to the Archbishop and his predecessors for entrusting the pastoral care of the parish and schools to the Society of Mary.



On May 13th, OLA was honored to host a Pipe Organ Dedication and Recital for the new instrument. Archbishop Hartmayer blessed the organ, after which a recital was given by Jake Mappes, Director of Music & Liturgy, and his organ instructor, Nick Johns-Cooper, Director of Music at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church. The program also included the world premiere of Marian Fanfare, a new piece composed by Jake specifically for OLA's organ!



### With Mary, Our Mother of Hope

In celebration of Mother's Day and Good Shepherd Sunday, the boys of Balay Pasilungan visited the Marian Exhibit and joined the Holy Mass at NCCC Victoria Plaza. The Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. George Rimando, D.D., and concelebrated by FBP Executive Director, Fr. Gil Casio, SM, with the theme: "Journeying Together with Mary, Mother of Hope."



### Balay Pasilungan marks 36 years of shelter and transformation



Matti, Digos, Philippines

### Our Lady of Fatima 6<sup>th</sup> Parish Festival







## Marist Asia Foundation – Graduation 2025



## Staff Orientation Day at Marist Asia Foundation: A Day of Unity and Shared Values



## Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation



## Sister Sylvette visits “Down Under”



## Founding Day celebrations in Fiji

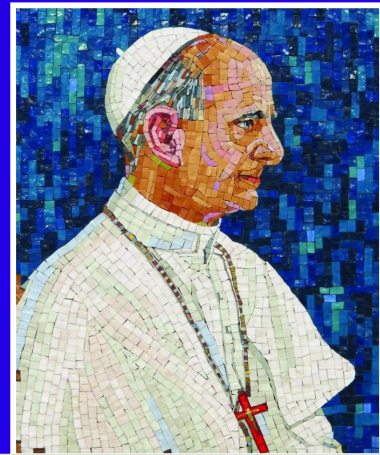




On the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, Sr. Prista Haga, smsm welcomed three young women from Wainoni Parish (Makira, Solomon Islands) into the Marist Laity. This marked a meaningful step in their faith journey, as they embraced the call to live the Gospel in Mary's way - to think, judge, feel, and act as she did.



As we celebrate Memorial Day we would like to remember the lives of Fr. Robert Brett, SM (dec.) and all chaplains who have died while serving in the armed forces.



**Feast Day of Pope St. Paul VI – May 29<sup>th</sup>**  
St. Paul VI coined the phrase that “dialogue is the new word for love”. The founder of the Society of Mary, Jean-Claude Colin, said that our spiritual life must be one of a growing “emptying of self” so that others with whom we engage will find nothing that would stand in the way of their experience of God or the Gospel.





Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.



May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

*Francis*

## The scriptural roots of calling in our synodal church



**Tell Congress to Protect God's  
Creation in Budget Reconciliation**

# Vocation Corner

## Concert of Vocation Promotion

A concert organized by the Society of Mary International Theologate, "Casa di Maria" in Rome.



## Vocation as Listening

Earlier this month, Fr. Frank Bird, SM shared at 'The Upper Room Formation' event in Auckland, New Zealand on "finding a life worth living". It was an opportunity to share two questions of spiritual direction and two lessons from St John of the Cross. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the big picture of Vocation as Listening.



## Vocation with the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary

Welcome to this space of meeting with the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary. In this short but meaningful video, Sr. Georgeanne Marie Donovan introduces the Marist SMSM vocational path, inviting you to reflect on the calling, mission and discernment.

## Vocation story of Sr. Jhorna Gomes, smsm from Bangladesh





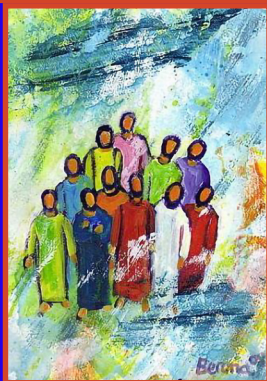
## Reflections on Key Elements of Marist Spirituality by Fr. David Kennerley, SM

The [article](#) found at the link below is the eleventh 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 11: A New Church

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



### To know and be known: a brief theology of the vows



### **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.**