

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



June 6, 2025



The Marist Priests and Brothers would like to congratulate the graduates of Marist School in Atlanta, Georgia; Notre Dame Academy in Duluth, Georgia; Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac, Michigan; and École Notre Dame Des Victoires in San Francisco, California.

As you learned throughout your years in school, Marists are people who are called to do the work of Mary in her name and in her spirit. As you continue your journey in life, may you continue to bring the spirit of Mary to the people you encounter. We wish the graduates of the Class of 2025 the best of luck and know that you will continue to be in our prayers.

Senior Sendoff



Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia



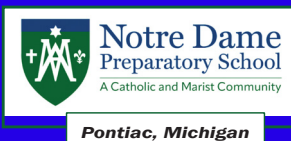
Graduation Ceremony



**Marist School Celebrates the
Class of 2025**

Baccalaureate Mass





Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation Ceremony



Another NDP Class Graduates Ready to Make a Difference

8th Grade Graduation

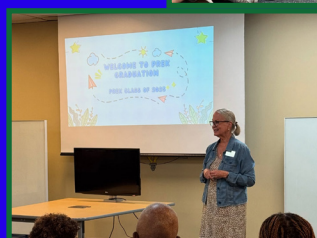
The NDP 8th grade Mass (celebrated by Fr. Leon Olszamowski, SM) and graduation ceremony was held at St. Mary of the Hills Catholic Church in Rochester Hills, Michigan.



8th Grade Transition Mass, Student and Parent Blessing, & Signature Awards Night



Pre-K Class of 2025



Marist School celebrated the talents of its student artists through a series of year-end events, including the AP Student Art Show, choral concerts, and the Spring Band Concert. These showcases highlighted the creativity and discipline of students across all grade levels. From an emotional tribute to retiring Choral Director Mrs. Sharon Coheley to a meaningful send-off for senior musicians, each event affirmed the vital role of fine arts in the Marist experience.



Celebrating the retirement of nine remarkable members of the Marist School community!

Mrs. Sharon Coheley, choral director and fine arts teacher; Mrs. Susan Mistretta, Advanced Placement test coordinator; Fr. Bill Rowland, S.M., rector and former president (2017-2023); Ms. Margrit Gillespie, modern & classical languages teacher; Mr. James Naum-Bedigian, science teacher; Mr. Tim Perez, math teacher; Mrs. Carol Rivera, science teacher; Mrs. Celina Garcia, housekeeping; Mrs. Marcia Dunn, library assistant (not pictured)

Their legacy lives on in the students they've inspired and the community they've helped build.



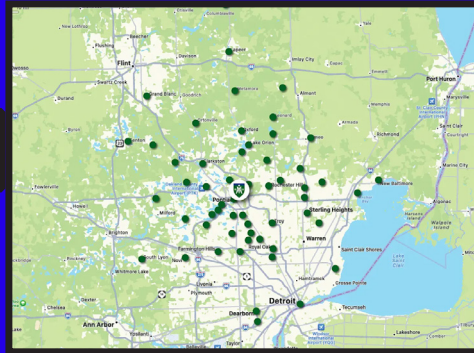
Marist School Advances Strategic Planning with Interactive Community Workshop



Thank you to Dollar General Literacy Foundation for their generous 2025 adult literacy grant. We are truly grateful for their support of education!



Making the Long Commute



Lower School Field Day



Mission Carnival Crazy Hair Day Fun!
NDV raised over \$6,000 for Marist missions and had so much fun doing it.





**Kindergarten and 8th grade
buddy lunch**



NDV May Crowning



Our Lady of the
Assumption

Brookhaven, Georgia

**OLA bids farewell to Marists after six
decades of service**



Upcoming Marist Retreat

From June 15-20th, 29 Marist Fathers and Brothers will attend their annual retreat at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois. Other members of the Province, who are unable to travel, will participate in the retreat through recorded sessions sent out each day.



The retreat will be led by a longtime friend of the Marists, Sulpician Fr. Melvin Blanchette, PhD. Fr. Blanchette is a seminary formator, spiritual director, counselor, mentor and retreat director who has impacted the lives of countless priests, religious and laity throughout the United States and Canada. The Marists are blessed to have him with them for this time of prayer, reflection and relaxation. The week will include a Memorial Service for the U.S. Marists who have died in the past year as well as a jubilee banquet to celebrate those members who have a major anniversary this year.

The final day will be an Assembly day for a presentation from Paola Muñoz, of Praesidium, on safety standards for our lives and ministry. The afternoon will be devoted to issues and ideas for our upcoming General Chapter in Rome later this year.

We ask for your prayers for the Marists and they will certainly be praying for you and your families. We thank you for your continued support!



Prayer for the Marists on Retreat

*Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in
them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
And You shall renew the face of the earth.
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
Did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and
ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*



Mass from St. Marie Lyon
La Verpilliere



Balay Pasilungan Culminates “Tree of Hope” Campaign

Balay Pasilungan joyfully celebrated its 36th Foundation Anniversary with the culmination of the month-long “Tree of Hope” campaign on May 31st - a heartfelt event rooted in gratitude, simplicity, and renewed commitment to the mission.

Mrs. Maria Elizabeth Jolampong, member of the Board of Trustees, delivered an inspirational message that uplifted the spirit of the community, reminding everyone of the transformative power of love and presence in the lives of children.

Two of the boys courageously shared their personal stories, touching hearts with their reflections of struggle, resilience, and the hope they now carry as part of the Balay family.

The highlight of the celebration was a Rite of Blessing led by Fr. Kevin Medilo, SM, Major Superior of the Marist Fathers in Asia, held in the spirit of Laudato Si. The blessing of the trees and plants became a sacred gesture—symbolizing care not only for creation, but for the children whose lives are being nurtured in this home. As Pope Francis reminds us, “everything is interconnected,” and the act of planting becomes an act of faith, hope and justice.

The generosity of Balay Pasilungan donors and supporters was also honored, whose names were read aloud in a moment of gratitude and recognition. Their gifts help continue this mission of compassion and growth.



First Bishop Appointed by Pope Leo XIV Visits Balay Pasilungan!

At the end of May, the Balay Pasilungan community was graced with the visit of Bishop-Elect Fr. Miguel Ángel Contreras Llajaruna, SM, a Marist priest from Peru, recently appointed by Pope Leo XIV as Auxiliary Bishop of Callao - the first bishop appointed under his new pontificate.

Fr. Miguel has long served the poor and marginalized in Latin America. With his deep Marist roots and missionary heart, he brings to the episcopacy a love for those on the margins, especially the young and the forgotten. His presence at Balay Pasilungan was a profound moment of solidarity and joy. He prayed with us, blessed our children, and reminded us that the mission we share—to protect, heal, and accompany vulnerable children - is a global calling of the Church.





Closing of the Marian Month



Matti, Digos, Philippines

Youth Jubilee: "Hope that Grows in Prayer"





Northern Catholic Rally - Taveuni

Over 600 vibrant and faith-filled youths gathered at Wairiki Parish, Taveuni for this year's Northern Catholic Youth Rally. It was a powerful weekend of worship, learning and fellowship which started on the 23rd of May. The idea was to guide the young people on their faith journey and prepare them to make responsible decisions for their future. There were heartfelt sessions by married couples and talks on vocation by different religious groups. Fr. Samu Tukidia, SM and some of the Marist seminarians were there to promote vocation for the Society of Mary.



Tutu Rural Training Centre proudly hosted a one week Contemporary Weaving Workshop, bringing together creativity, culture and community. The workshop concluded on a high note with a vibrant TRTC Women's Handicraft Show, showcasing the incredible talent and craftsmanship of TRTC Women's staff.



Marist Laity Retreat - Samoa

The Samoa Marist Laity held its annual retreat at Tofamama'o Center last month and also the election of new office holders. The Sector Leader, Fr. Mikaele Tuimavave, SM assisted Archbishop Mosese in conducting the retreat guided by the theme 'Witnessing to Jesus with Joy.' The Archbishop urged the Marist Laity to be joyful in their services to the Church and in their family.



Marist Laity NZ – June Reflection:
Words from Pope Leo XIV through
Marist Eyes



Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat

Today, June 6th, the entire Catholic Church joins Marists across the world in celebrating the life and legacy of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

St. Marcellin Champagnat . . . Pray for us.

Pentecost

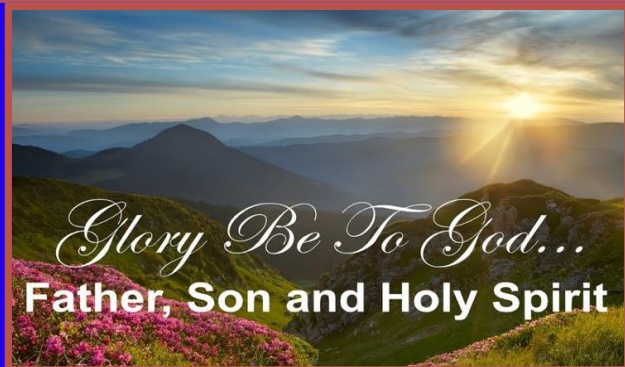
As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost on June 8th, we pause to remember that because they bear the name of Mary, Marists desire to be like her and follow Jesus as she did. Contemplating Mary in the mysteries of Nazareth and Pentecost and her role at the end of time, Marists come to share her zeal for her Son's mission in his struggle against evil, and to respond with promptness to the most urgent needs of God's people. (Marist Constitutions, 8)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of Your love
V: Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created
R: And You shall renew the face of the earth



Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

On the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, June 15th, we recall the words of Pope Francis, “May the Virgin Mary, perfect creation of the Trinity, help us to make our whole lives, in small gestures and more important choices, an homage to God, who is Love.”



St. Joseph, Pray for Us

Happy Father's Day

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. St Joseph, Pray for all our Fathers, Amen

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This will be the last Society of Mary USA E-Newsletter until mid-August. We look forward to sharing more news about our Marist ministries with you when this publication resumes!

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following our posts on the Society of Mary USA [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Thank you for your continued support! Wishing you a safe and relaxing summer!