

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



November 7, 2025

Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

Marist Made for Global Impact: A Barcelona Exchange Rooted in Shared Values



Natalie Smith Childs '86 Honored with Marist School's Highest Award



Marist School Celebrates Emeritus Trustees



Marist School Unveils Bold Strategic Plan to Guide Next Five Years



The Marist Dance Company's fall show, "Kaleidoscope", brought color, creativity, and movement to life on stage October 29–30 in Woodruff Auditorium. With performances by the Marist Dance Company, the Dance: Expression and Movement class, Foundations of Dance class, and Aerobic Fitness class, the two-night production celebrated the many ways students explore their God-given creativity through dance. Emceed by Chayce Oliver '28, the show opened with a dynamic dance to "Bye Bye Blackbird" from Fosse and concluded with a high-energy finale to "In Living Color" by Heavy D & The Boyz. Choreography throughout the evening was a collaborative effort between students, Dance Company Artistic Director Mrs. Erin Mills, and Dance Company Director Ms. Prisca Lynch '13, with technical direction from Ms. Anna Lee Lanning.



Marist School's choirs filled the air with beautiful music during two recent fall concerts. On October 20, the 7th and 8th grade choirs—including the Girls Combined Chorus, Blue Chorus, Cantabile Advanced Girls Chorus, and Gold Chorus—performed at the Foundations Fall Choral Concert in Woodruff Auditorium. Just a few days later, on October 23, the Senior High Fall Choral Concert transformed the Marist School Library into a stunning performance hall featuring the Marist Singers, a Girls Trio, a Boys Quartet, soloists, and even a rendition of Billy Joel's "For the Longest Time" by senior Marist Singers. Both evenings showcased the dedication and talent of Marist student musicians under the direction of Mr. Tim Johnson and Ms. Rebecca Simanov.



Homecoming 2025

On October 24, 2025, Marist School celebrated Homecoming with the theme "Under the Sea", bringing together the Marist community for a weekend rooted in tradition and school spirit.

Festivities included a high-energy spirit week that culminated in a Friday afternoon pep rally. Alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago gathered in Whitehead Cafeteria for the annual Half Century Club Reception, which welcomed the Class of 1975 as its newest members. In the Arcade, the Class of 1980 marked their 45th reunion while Advancement Office volunteers were honored at a special dinner recognizing their generous service to Marist. Throughout the evening, alumni reconnected at the Alumni Tent and in the Eagles Nest during the game, which featured the induction of new members into the Blue & Gold Athletics Circle. During halftime, senior Jane Bennett was crowned Homecoming queen, and Coach Matt McMurray '12 received the Frank P. Hagan Memorial Coach's Award. The War Eagles earned a decisive 42-10 victory over Lithonia High School, and celebrations continued into Saturday for students with a spirited Homecoming Dance.



Duluth, Georgia



On All Souls' Day—and throughout the month of November—ND Academy joins the Church in praying for the souls of the faithful departed, especially those we have known and loved.

Senora Pol, the Lower School Spanish Teacher, has set up a beautiful Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead side altar in our Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, with beautiful "ofrendas" or offerings made by our Lower School students and mementos that students have brought in of their loved ones who have died. As we honor those who have passed, let us join together in prayer for all the faithful departed, celebrating the lasting impact of their love and the legacies they leave behind.

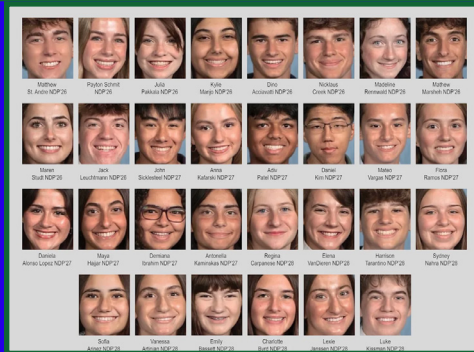
NDP Announces Two Key Advancement Appointments



Empowering Students in the Real World



NDP Students Recognized for Outstanding Academics at Prep Bowl



Notre Dame Prep Names to Top 100 National List



Fr. Joe Hindelang, SM, Society of Mary U.S. Provincial, celebrated Mass this week for 71 NDP 8th grade students in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception during their trip to Washington, DC.



Notre Dame Prep was honored to recently welcome Pastor Ron Smith, formerly of the Pontiac Missionary Baptist Church, for a special visit. Pastor Ron brought a newly created plaque commemorating the founding of his church and asked that it be displayed in the new chapel NDP is planning for the building.

NDP Head of School Andy Guest and Corporate President Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., gratefully accepted the plaque, expressing that it would be a privilege to honor the church's legacy in its new chapter. Notre Dame Prep has formally requested permission from Archbishop Edward Weisenburger of the Archdiocese of Detroit to convert the former Baptist church into a Catholic chapel, which will be named the Holy Name of Mary Chapel. The school is planning to hold middle school confessions there in the coming weeks.

At Notre Dame Prep, faith and learning come together in powerful ways that shape the whole person in mind, body and spirit. Middle school Spanish students recently experienced “Karate in Spanish,” a unique program led by Sensei Rudy Aguilar of Grace Karate Do. Through this dynamic lesson, students practiced their Spanish skills while learning discipline, respect and self-control, which are values rooted in both the Catholic faith and the International Baccalaureate approach to developing compassionate, globally minded citizens. Middle school Spanish teacher Sra. Aguilar said she’s grateful she works at a school that allows such diverse programming and activities. “I thank God for Principal Brandon Jezdimir because he always lets us do new and different things in our classrooms.” During the sessions this week, Sensei Rudy also reminded students that true strength comes not from fighting, but from peace: “The best fight is the one that isn’t fought.”



President Lalabalavu Visits Marist General House in Rome

The President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, was welcomed at the General House in Rome on October 28th, where he, accompanied by the First Lady attended a Mass and Veiqaravi Vakavanua hosted by the Marist Family in honor of his official visit to the Holy See.

The event brought together a group from across the Pacific who serve within the Marist community in Rome and the Vatican. They were joined by Italian religious members, friends of the Pacific, and Pacific Islanders employed at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome.

President Lalabalavu was received on arrival by Fr. Setefano Mataele, SM, who extended a warm welcome on behalf of the newly appointed Superior General of the Marists, Very Reverend Declan Marmion. Fr. Marmion, who recently assumed global leadership of the Marist Society, conveyed his greetings and prayers to the Fijian delegation, as he was unable to be present.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mika Tuilau, SM, with the homily delivered by Fr. John of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. His Excellency received a special blessing from the four main congregants.

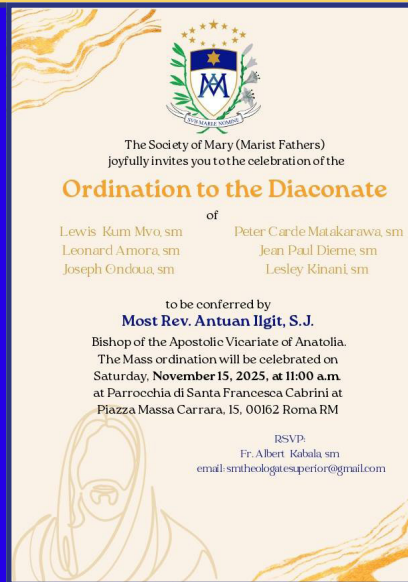
The Mass was celebrated by the Marist priests. Attendees included members of the Marist Family representing Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Bougainville.

In his remarks, President Lalabalavu expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Marist Family for their enduring role in shaping Fiji’s education, faith, and moral formation. He noted that the Marist mission has long served as a cornerstone of Fiji’s nation-building and continues to inspire values of discipline, compassion, and service.

President Lalabalavu also highlighted the importance of moral and faith-based leadership in addressing contemporary social challenges, including the fight against drug abuse, reaffirming Fiji’s vision for a drug-free and peaceful Pacific.

The Marist General House, which this year marks its 100th anniversary, holds deep historical significance. It was originally entrusted to the Marists in the 1920s, briefly occupied during the Second World War, and later restored to the congregation in the 1950s. Today’s occasion was of special significance, as President Lalabalavu became the first sitting Head of State to visit the Marist General House — an honor that coincides with the centennial year of this historic building. The visit concluded with a traditional welcome ceremony, Talanoa, and dinner, where the President, the First Lady, and the delegation shared fellowship with the Marist community, Pacific clergy, and members of the Pacific diaspora serving in Rome.

Livestream of Diaconate Ordination



Pope appoints Rev. Fr. Jacob Aba, S.M., as Bishop of Auki



In Solidarity for Children – 33rd National Children’s Month

The Foundation of Balay Pasilungan joined in opening the 33rd National Children’s Month celebration — a reminder that protecting the rights, safety, and dreams of every Filipino child is a shared responsibility.

Led by the Special Office for Children’s Concerns (SOCC), this year’s celebration calls on all sectors — families, schools, faith communities, government, and civil society — to stand together in strengthening the campaign against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM). As we journey through this month of celebration and advocacy, may we continue to build partnerships that nurture a world where every child is safe, seen, and supported.



Those Who Love Never Truly Leave Us

On the solemn celebrations of All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days, the boys of Balay Pasilungan joined the Mass for the Launching of the Vocation Month at Davao Memorial Park, Matina — praying in thanksgiving for the saints who remind us that holiness is lived in the small, faithful acts of every day. Later, they visited the grave of the Society of Mary at Wireless Public Cemetery, where Marist priests rest in peace. As they lit candles and offered prayers, the boys shared their own intentions — for their families, for their benefactors, and for those who once cared for them but are now with God. In the quiet moments by the graves, they learned that remembering is also an act of love.

The Marists who came before us still guide us, not through their presence, but through their example of gentle service and steadfast faith. “Love is never wasted — it continues to live in those who remember.”



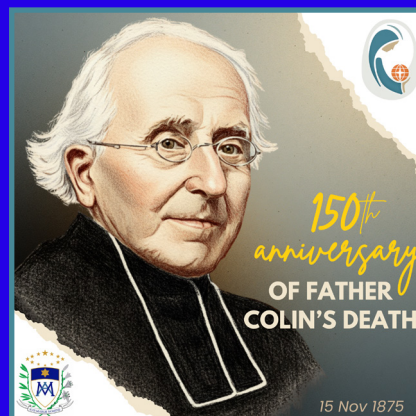


Parroquia Virgen Misionera
(La Perla, Peru)

Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Parroquia Virgen Misionera



Celebration of the feast of the Lord of Miracles, patron saint of Peru and symbol of unity and hope for all the faithful.

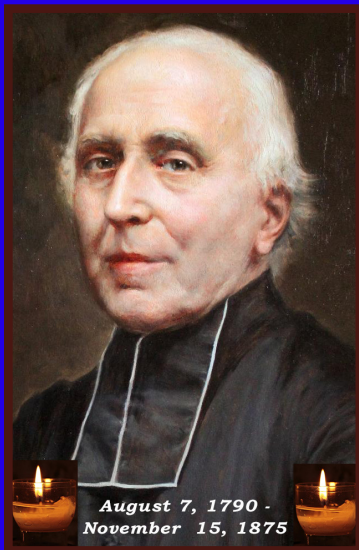


Marist Laity NZ – November Reflection: Fr. Colin: A friend and guide



On Veterans Day (November 11th) the Marists would like to honor the men and women of the United States who have served in the military - especially our benefactors, alumni, our Marist laity and our own Marist Chaplain Colonel Joseph M. Fleury, SM (ret.).

We recognize your sacrifices and all the good you have done in this world. We are grateful for your service. We invite you to read the Today's Marist article (Vol.8, Issue 2) about Marist Chaplain Colonel Joseph M. Fleury, SM (ret.), "[Builder of Bridges](#)."



Anniversary of Fr. Colin's Death

November 15, 2025, marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Fr. Jean Claude Colin, the founder of the Society of Mary (Marists).

On this anniversary, Marists throughout the world give thanks to God for the witness of this humble and courageous man. Fr. Colin was a gift to the Church, to the Society of Mary and to the whole world.

May Fr. Colin continue to inspire all – to continue the work of Mary: simply, generously and in her gentle spirit. To be Mary's compassionate presence in our world. We invite you to view the booklet "[Jean-Claude Colin Novena – Reflection and Prayer with the Founder of the Society of Mary](#)."



PRAY WITH POPE LEO XIV

View the Holy Father's monthly prayer intention [HERE](#).