



Christmas 2025

Dear Marist Friend,

Christmas Greetings from the Marist Fathers and Brothers!

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, God become human. Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary, Mary who said yes to God's plan for her to be the Mother of God. That was quite an honor for Mary, a simple Jewish woman, who was a person of deep faith. But the fact that God chose to become human, was also quite an honor for all human beings. To show us God's mercy and love in person, the Son of God became one of us, and through his life, death and resurrection won salvation for all of us.

You may remember that last Christmas Eve, Pope Francis inaugurated the Jubilee Year of 2025, which will conclude with a celebration by Pope Leo XIV on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026. The theme of this Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope. Christians believe that life and each year of life are gifts from God. As we move through our lifetime, each of us is called to be aware of the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, given to us by God. The virtue of hope during this Jubilee Year is also an appropriate theme as we celebrate Christmas.

The original Christmas in Bethlehem was challenging for the Holy Family. However deep hope in the heart of Mary and the dreams of Joseph confirmed to both that they were doing God's will, and that the birth of Jesus would change human history for all time. I pray that your Christmas in 2025 is filled with hope, despite whatever challenges that you and your family may face. One of the titles of Jesus, is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The birth of Jesus and the promise of Jesus means that God is with us on our pilgrimage through life. This is truly something to celebrate with hope each day, not only at Christmas.

The Society of Mary began with the hope of a few seminarians who believed that their poor efforts would succeed because God was with them as they established a religious order in honor of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. They moved from a rural area of France to bring the Gospel to foreign missions in the Pacific, to classrooms of students who learned of God's love for them and to small villages where the Marists were instruments of divine mercy to people who had wandered from their faith. Marists today still believe that God is with us as we strive to honor the Mother of God as we do God's work with and among God's People.

The Marist Fathers and Brothers live and work in 15 sites here in the United States – in schools, parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, the military, prisons and mission areas. Please join the Marists in prayer for the people we have the privilege to serve and the people with whom we serve in this country and around the world.

If you are also willing to make a financial contribution to the Society of Mary for our senior members, for those studying to be Marists, for the training of lay people who minister with us, or for any other Marist need, that would be deeply appreciated.

This Advent and Christmas season I invite you to be more aware that God is always with us, especially on difficult days. With this awareness, we can all continue to be pilgrims of hope. Strive to be more aware of God's gifts in your life and more aware of people who bring goodness into your life.

I assure you of the prayers of the Marist Fathers and Brothers this Christmas season and into the New Year. May Jesus, God-with-us, bring hope and peace to you and to all those you love!

Sincerely,

*Very Rev. Joseph Hindelang, s.m.*

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Provincial



**Yes!** I want to invest in the Marists.

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*(Your gift is tax deductible.)*







# A Glimpse of Marist Ministries in the United States 2025



## The Power of Prayer

Through prayer, we are joined together with those who support our mission.

If you would like us to pray for your loved ones or any special intentions, please submit a prayer request at:

[www.societyofmaryusa.org/connect/prayer-request/](http://www.societyofmaryusa.org/connect/prayer-request/)