

# Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

*Marists in the United States*



January 30, 2026



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

## Catholic Schools Week 2026 (January 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>)

The Society of Mary has a century and a half long commitment to Catholic education in the United States. Guided by the Gospel, the doctrine of the Church, and the insights of Father Colin on education, Marists devote themselves to all forms of education, especially among the young. (SM *Constitutions* #13)

“At the heart of a Marist school is the realization that the journey of faith is to find the “Joy of the Gospel.” Therefore, the works of the Society aim to bring the good news of Jesus in Mary’s way—a way of humility, caring, listening, forgiveness and justice.” (*Standards and Expectations of a Marist Education*)

Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

Marist School was blessed to have Fr. John Harhager, S.M., preside over Mass on January 28<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast holds special meaning for religious communities like the Society of Mary, and Marist honors it each year with a community Vocations Mass during Catholic Schools Week. Fr. Harhager, who took on the role of Marist School rector this month, serves as a spiritual guide and liaison to the Society of Mary, working closely with President J. D. Childs to uphold the school’s Catholic identity and Marist charism. After the liturgy, three Marists - Fr. Harhager, Fr. Kenney, and Fr. Olek - renewed their vows. In his homily, Fr. Kenney reflected on the significance of light, which is fitting for a feast that arrives just as days begin to lengthen. “We celebrate Jesus as the light of the world,” he shared, calling us to carry that light forward. The school community is deeply grateful for the witness and presence of the Marists as they continue to lead with faith and great heart.



Following the school-wide Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Assembly on January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Share the Journey student club hosted the annual Marist Goes Global fair in Kuhrt Gym during Activity Period. This beloved tradition invited students, families, faculty, and staff to honor Dr. King’s vision by building intercultural understanding and celebrating the richness of the global Marist School community. Through the sharing of food, music, and traditions, the event fostered unity and joy while raising funds for the Amani Women Center in Clarkston, this year’s community partner supporting refugee women and their families. Marist is grateful for the opportunity to uplift diverse voices and walk in solidarity with others.



### All-School Mass

During Catholic Schools Week on Tuesday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time, all Notre Dame Prep students, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the liturgy today with Fr. Juan Gonzalez, SM. Always a joyous and moving Eucharistic assembly!



### Forming Faithful, Thoughtful Graduates



### We Are All About the Mission



### Kairos: Four Days That Change a Lifetime



### Senior Earns DAR Good Citizen Award



### NDP Irish Magazine (Fall-Winter 2025-26)







## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week (CSW) at ND Academy

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, ND Academy students kicked off National CSW by wearing their school uniforms at Sunday Mass in their local parishes. On Tuesday of ND Academy “Celebrated Our Nation.” Pre-K-12th grade Big Little Buddies prayed a Rosary for our nation, for world peace, and for our service learning partners. Afterwards, Big Little Buddies enjoyed doing a variety of activities together. The theme for Wednesday was “Celebrate Vocations!” The ND Academy community prayed for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and in celebration of the many gifts and talents God has blessed the students with, students came to school dressed according to the vocation or career they feel God is calling them to. May ND Academy students continue to live as holy young men and women and may they always be open to the vocation and profession that God is calling them to.



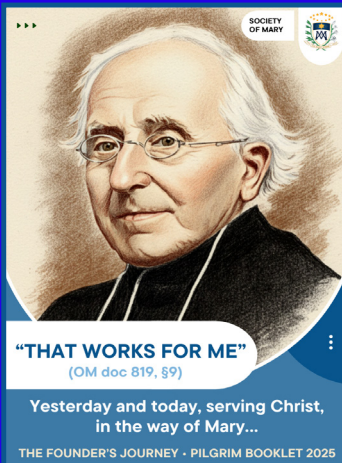
## Catholic Schools Week Kickoff Mass

The NDV community began Catholic Schools Week with a beautiful Mass presided over by Fr. Renee Iturbe, SM. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students served alongside their Kindergarten buddies, making the celebration especially meaningful and reflective of NDV's strong school community.



## European Education Meeting at the General House

From January 14-16<sup>th</sup> the European Heads of Establishment meeting took place at the General House under the guidance of Fr. Martin McAnaney, SM and Mr Frank Dowling. It gathered many lay collaborators involved in the Marist schools in Ireland, France and Germany, along with Marist confreres ministering in Education. The meeting was also attended by Fr. Kevin Duffy, SM provincial of Europe and Fr. Tony Kennedy, SM who represented the Superior General. In his address to the participants, Fr. Declan Marmion, SM, the Superior General, referred to the recent General Chapter: “Our General Chapter called for structures that would ensure the Marist educational legacy into the future. Specifically, it asked the Superior General and his Council *“to promote and sustain structures that empower our lay colleagues and confreres to carry forward this mission in the characteristic Marist spirit and ethos for generations to come.”* The group listened to key speaker, Dr Antony Christy Lourdunathan sdb, had group discussions and planned for the future work to be done. The enthusiasm and commitment to carry out our Marist charism in the Marist founded schools in Europe was tangible and encouraging for all.



## The Founder's Journey – Pilgrim Booklet 2025

The pilgrimage to the places of Marist origin took place in November 2025, to mark the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of Father Colin. This resource includes homilies, presentations and reflections from the pilgrimage.

Click [HERE](#) to view booklet.



## Children's Day Celebration





## VIVA PIT SEÑOR: A Devotion That Protects

On January 18<sup>th</sup> many Filipinos celebrated the Feast of the Santo Niño - a day marked by joy, gratitude and hope. But beyond religion, the heart of this celebration is something everyone can understand: when we choose to protect children and care for the vulnerable, we help our communities heal.

This is why this feast resonates deeply with the mission of Balay Pasilungan. Every day, Balay Pasilungan welcomes boys who have carried heavy stories too early—neglect, abuse and homelessness. Many arrive guarded and tired, unsure if adults can still be trusted. Yet with safety, structure, and steady guidance, something beautiful happens: a child begins to hope again. Here is the truth we see every day: Children heal when someone stays—when care is consistent, and love is made practical.



Matti, Digos, Philippines

Our Lady of Fatima Parish joyfully celebrates fourteen years of the Marist Mission in Matti, a blessing that began on January 28, 2012, when Fr. Patrick Muckian, SM and Fr. Lauro Arcede, SM arrived in Brgy. Matti, Digos City to establish a new mission and organize what was then known as the Matti District Catholic Center. They were warmly welcomed by the Catholic faithful, whose openness and cooperation helped lay the foundation of a growing faith community. Today, that humble Catholic Center has become Our Lady of Fatima Parish, a living testimony to God's grace and the faithful service of the Marists.

With grateful hearts, the parish thanks the Marists of the District of Asia for walking with us through the years, as well as Bishop Guillermo Afable, DD, parishioners, leaders, mission partners, church organizations, youth, volunteers, and staff for their constant support, generosity, and dedication. As we celebrate this milestone, we entrust our parish and our Marist missionaries to the loving care of Our Lady of Fatima. For the greater glory of God and the honor of the Mother of God!



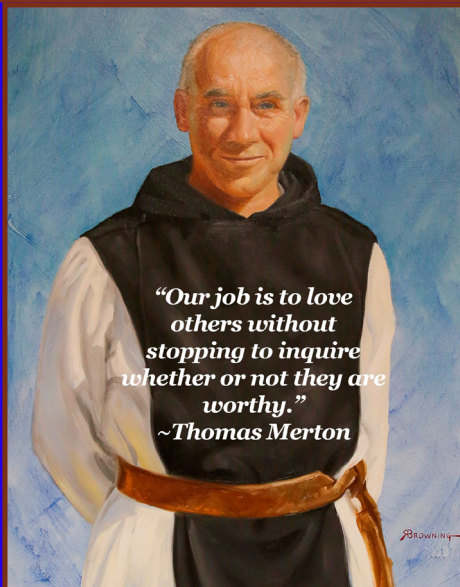


### The Call to Serve: New Leadership Team for the Region of the Americas (2026-2028)

This month the Marist Missionary Sisters in the Massachusetts area gathered around the Eucharistic table to give thanks to God for the dedicated service of Sr. Helen Muller and her team and to warmly welcome Sr. Palepa Ioane and her team as they begin their new ministry. It was a moment of gratitude, prayer, and fellowship, marking both an ending and a new beginning in the service of the Region.



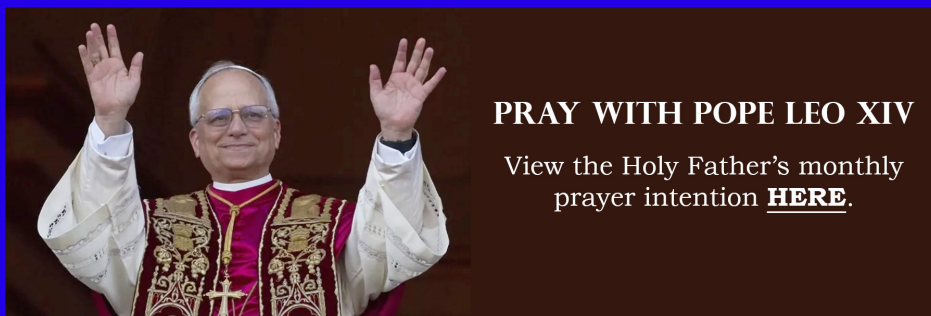
### Thomas Merton's, O.C.S.O Birthday (January, 31, 1915)



### Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we observe the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, honoring Jesus Christ's presentation in the Temple when he was a young child. The feast of the presentation is also known as Candlemas. It is a feast meant to remind us that Christ is the light of the world, and that we in turn are called to let our light shine before others.

On this day, we also celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life. As vowed Marists may our vocation and the vocations of the many men and women who share our vocation in collaboration with the Marist laity be a bright light to the world.



### PRAY WITH POPE LEO XIV

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



# Vocation Corner



On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Diocese of Auki celebrated the episcopal ordination of Bishop-Elect Jacob Aba, S.M., in Auki. This historic celebration marked a significant milestone for the Catholic Church in the Solomon Islands. Bishop Aba became the second local bishop in the history of the Catholic Church in the Solomon Islands and the first local Marist bishop, a moment of pride and thanksgiving for the Diocese of Auki, the Marist family, and the wider Catholic community.



## Renewal of Vows

At the beginning of January, at Casa di Maria, the Marist International Theologate in Rome, Italy, 11 students - Robert, Manuele, Eduardo, Hansford, Joseph, David, Zulu, Lachie, Alban, Pascal and Marc Fidèle - renewed their vows for one year. The vows were received by Fr. Tony Kennedy, S.M. representing the Superior General. Let us pray for these young men and for more vocations to consecrated religious life.

## The Beauty and Joy of Religious Life Series:

Fr. Lauro da Silva Ferreira, S.M.



Archbishop Paul Martin, S.M. of Wellington, NZ





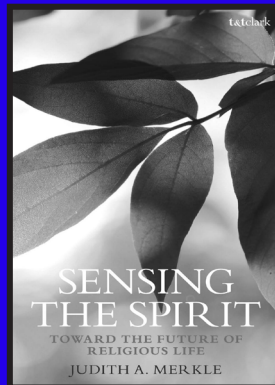
Sr. April Acero, sm has been appointed by the Marist Sisters' Congregational Leader, Sr Sylvette Mane, to the Fiji Islands to serve as pre-novitiate formator beginning January 2026. The Marist Sisters express their gratitude to God for her willingness to say 'Yes' to serve the Congregation of Marist Sisters.



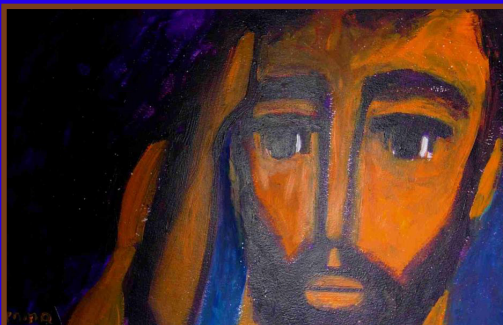
### Building a Parish Culture of Vocation



### Mary, Model of Grace



A challenging, hopeful look  
at religious life today



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

The [article](#) found at the link below is the sixteenth 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 16: The Vital Necessity of Lay Marists**  
(Printed with permission from Fr. David Kennerley, SM)





### **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! Dignate 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.**