

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States

February 20, 2026

Justice & Peace Alert



PEACE by PIECE

Students from Marist School and Al Falah Academy came together to listen, to ask honest questions, to share their stories, and to build friendships across faith traditions. In a world that so often pulls people apart, these young leaders choose curiosity over assumptions and encounter over separation. Around tables filled with conversation and laughter, they modeled what it looks like to seek understanding with courage and humility. Peace isn't built all at once. It's built piece by piece — through conversation, hospitality, and the simple but powerful act of seeing one another as human beings made with dignity. Grateful for our partners, our students, and the spirit of openness that filled the day. This is how bridges are built.



ND Academy's third team of 8th graders had a wonderful morning of service at Clyde's Kitchen! They made sack lunches and distributed toiletry bags to homeless men, women, & children served by Crossroads Community Ministries in the heart of downtown Atlanta. The 8th grade students are very grateful for their service, learning partner and the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ.



Doing the Work of Mary

When members of NDP’s Culinary Club recently organized a bake sale for charity, they were continuing a long tradition of students stepping up — often quietly, often without fanfare — to serve others. This is what it looks like when students live the mission.

“Doing the work of Mary” is not reserved for grand gestures and it’s not simply an add-on to our day. It is woven into who we are. Through both direct and indirect service, our students are challenged to put faith into action, develop a strong moral compass and build habits that reflect respect for the dignity of others. Whether it’s a bake sale, a service project or ongoing outreach, each effort reinforces the same lesson: charitable acts of service, when rooted in purpose, can make a meaningful difference.

The NDP community is proud of its students for recognizing that all such initiatives can be powerful expressions of care for others — and for consistently choosing to serve.



Suva, Fiji

Land preparation has begun at Tutu Rural Training Centre (TRTC) for the installation of our new food drier, an important step in strengthening our participants’ learning environment and advancing product development — especially breadfruit value-added processing.

This initiative is part of TRTC’s Farmer-Led Research focusing on food storage, food safety, and sustainable processing methods. It will support trainees in learning practical skills that transform local crops into safe, high-quality products, creating new opportunities for income, nutrition, and year-round food security.

Through innovation and hands-on learning, TRTC continues to empower farmers to build resilient livelihoods and strengthen community food systems.





Davao City, Philippines

At the end of January, Marist aspirants from St. Peter Chanel Formation House joined the NSTP in Maa Jail, journeying with male PDLs who have undergone Early Recovery Skills Training. Through the UIC NSTP, UIC Duyog Sagup Kinabuhì Program, and the City Anti-Drug Council, this initiative becomes a program of hope—offering second chances, healing, and the grace to redeem oneself.



World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking (February 8th)

Talitha Kum Bangladesh organized prayers and seminars in different communities to recognize this day. May St. Josephine Bakhita intercede for all victims of human trafficking.



Solidarity Campaign - Archbishop Molloy Syria Video

Archbishop Lori issues pastoral letter on renewal of U.S. political culture



Catholic bishops call on Trump to apologize for racist meme



Holy See will not join Trump's 'Board of Peace' for Gaza, Cardinal Parolin says



Take action: Urge Congress to block funding for new nuclear arms race



Through Amjad's Eyes: The Human Cost in Gaza



Peacebuilding and migration justice: Peace Pairs pilgrimage of hope, reflection #5



'God does not need papers': Cardinals spend Ash Wednesday with ICE detainees, their families



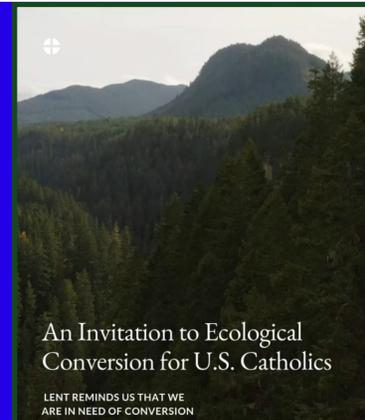
New graphic novel brings Sister Helen Prejean's story to next generation of anti-death penalty activists



What can the Year of St. Francis do for the world? A lot, say these Franciscans



An Invitation to Ecological Conversion for U.S. Catholics



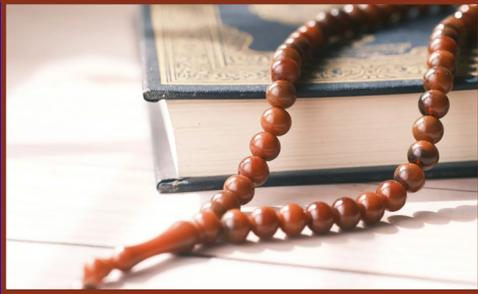
Faith in Action at United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) : Advancing an Accelerated and Inclusive Renewable Energy Transition



Vatican launches Catholic stock indexes to measure ethical investments



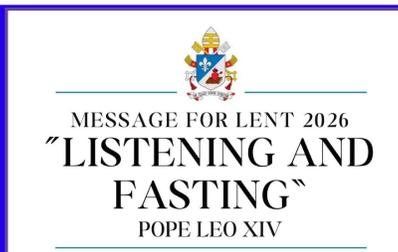
Lent and Ramadan: a time for Catholic-Muslim solidarity amid rising bigotry



Pope on Ash Wednesday: 'Call death for what it is'



Message of the Holy Father
Leo XIV for Lent 2026



Journeying through Lent with
Augustine and Pope Leo



A Lent to ignite justice in the world



Encounter Grace Quotes Journal



Radical Trust: God's Track Record
(Lent Reflections 2026)



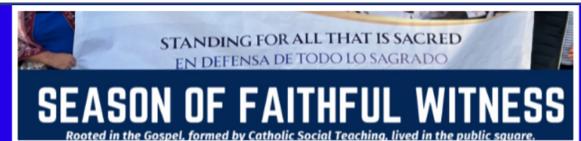
Lenten Guide 2026: A Journey Toward Peace



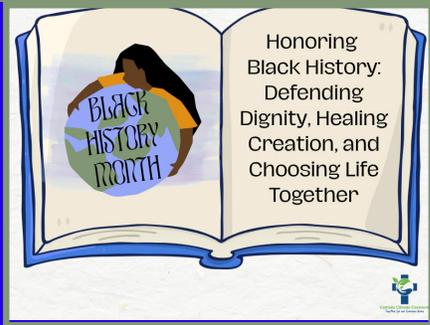
Lenten prayer service with the Pax
Christi USA community



Season of Faithful Witness Conversation for
Religious Congregations



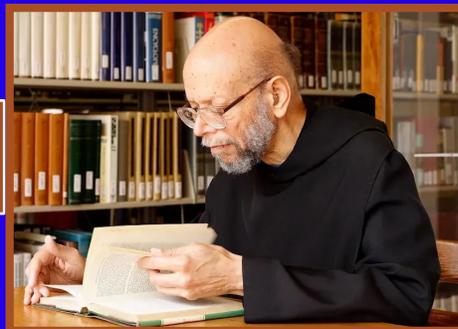
Honoring Black History: Defending Dignity, Healing Creation, and Choosing Life Together



Season of faithful witness: Hope and joy, a reflection for Black History Month



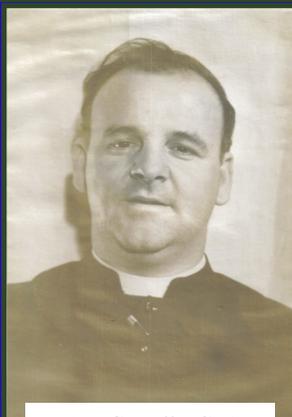
Remembering Cyprian Davis, a giant of Black Catholic history



Some history from the Society of Mary Archives as we continue to recognize Black History Month. (Prepared by Susan Illis, U.S. Province Archivist)

Rev. Joseph A. Costello, SM

In 1953, Archbishop Joseph Rummel of New Orleans announced that all Catholic institutions in the archdiocese would be desegregated, saying, "...let there be no further discrimination or segregation in the pews, at the Communion rail, at the confessional and in parish meetings, just as there will be no segregation in the kingdom of heaven." In the aftermath of his decision, the archbishop faced a maelstrom of criticism. Rev. Joseph A. Costello, SM (1916-1996) supported Rummel through the publication of "The Moral Aspects of Segregation." This document, published in 1956, drew upon religious scholarship and Costello's own experience teaching moral theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for nearly 20 years. Costello said racial segregation "should have no place in Catholic life. To hold the supremacy of the white race, explicitly or implicitly, is a sin contrary to the virtue of faith, if knowingly and deliberately, it is a grave sin."



Fr. Costello, SM

