

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



May 1, 2026

Marist School
Atlanta, Georgia

Last week, Marist School celebrated St. Peter Chanel Day, a longtime tradition known for its emphasis on faith, service, and plenty of fun. The day began with Mass in Young Gym celebrated by Fr. Joseph Hindelang, S.M., provincial of the U.S. Province of the Society of Mary and Marist trustee. Reflecting the missionary spirit of St. Peter Chanel, he reminded students that “good news isn’t just meant for missionaries, but for all of us who are Christians,” adding, “we are called to bring God’s love to others and even to bring peace and joy to others.”

During the Mass, 48 juniors from the Class of 2027 were commissioned as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. The class also planned the day as their annual service project. Afterward, students enjoyed a full day of festivities in perfect spring weather, including games, live music, and food trucks. Since 1983, St. Peter Chanel Day has reflected the best of Marist through faith in action, shared happiness, and a commitment to serving others.

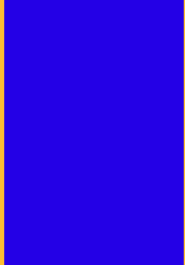


Alumni Weekend 2026 at Marist School welcomed graduates back for a vibrant, all-alumni celebration filled with connection, tradition, and shared joy. The weekend began with a lively Welcome Back BBQ on April 24, where alumni gathered for live music, food trucks, and campus tours in a festive outdoor atmosphere. The Class of 1976 marked its 50th reunion and entry into the Half Century Club, while Sunday’s Alumni Mass and the blessing of Mary’s Garden offered meaningful moments of prayer and reflection. The weekend concluded with the Alumni Golf Tournament on Monday, bringing the community together in friendly competition. Across each event, alumni experienced the enduring spirit of Marist and the lasting bonds that continue to bring the community home.



Marist School celebrated its 2026 Alumni Award recipients through two meaningful gatherings that brought the school's mission to life. The Alumni Awards Assembly, "Learn. Lead. Serve. Living the Marist Mission," marked the first time honorees engaged directly with students in a school-wide panel. Inspired by student voices during the strategic planning process, the assembly offered a clear and compelling look at the impact of a Marist education in the world. Kieran Kidder '26 introduced Kyle Hamilton '19, recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Anna Ferrero '26 introduced Dr. Laura Bleekrode, M.D., recipient of the Father Hartnett Service Award. Luke Childs '26 introduced Father Jack Butler, S.J. '82, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The celebration continued at the longstanding Alumni Awards Luncheon in the Rectory, where family members, friends, school leaders, and past honorees gathered in gratitude and community. We are grateful for the witness of these alumni who live the Marist mission every day. Their return to campus offered students a clear vision of what it means to learn with purpose, lead with courage, and serve others with great heart.



Marist School is proud to recognize its 2026 Governor's Honors Program (GHP) finalists in world languages: Lilly Chill '27 (Latin), Sean Negus '27 (German), Tomas Lopez-Morton '28 (French), and Johanna Hanes '27 (Latin). These students exemplify the curiosity, discipline, and passion for learning that define a Marist education. Through their study of languages, they have not only demonstrated academic excellence but also a deep commitment to understanding cultures and connecting with others. This summer, they will join outstanding students from across Georgia at the Governor's Honors Program, where they will further develop their talents in a collaborative and intellectually vibrant community at Georgia Southern University.



Marist School hosted its Spring Eagles Nest Gathering on April 14 to honor Annual Fund leadership donors and celebrate the impact of their generosity. Guests enjoyed dinner together while overlooking Hughes Spalding Stadium during a varsity boys lacrosse practice. Events like this highlight the strength of Marist as a community committed to investing in the next generation of students.



The Marist Dance Company's spring showcase, "Salute to Broadway", took center stage April 15-16 in Woodruff Auditorium with a vibrant, student-led performance. Featuring the Dance Company alongside students from Dance: Expression and Movement and Foundations of Dance classes, the two-night production highlighted the program's depth of talent and strong spirit of collaboration. From "Hamilton" to "Hadestown", the show wove together beloved Broadway works through choreography largely created by students. Under the leadership of Dance Company Artistic Director Mrs. Erin Mills, Dance Company Director Ms. Prisca Lynch '13, and Technical Director Ms. Anna Lee, the evening held special meaning for members of the Class of 2026, who took the stage for their final Marist performance.

The show opened with the iconic "A Chorus Line" number, featuring dancers "auditioning" for one of eight ensemble spots. Blending original Broadway choreography with new material taught by Ms. Lynch, the piece used energetic combinations and playful details like freshly printed headshots to immerse the audience in the world of Broadway. The finale, "The Prom," choreographed by Mrs. Mills, captured the excitement of preparing for a night to remember. Onstage joy and connection reflected the dancers' own end-of-year experiences, offering a fitting and heartfelt close.

At Marist, the performing arts express the school's mission in action where students are discovering and developing their God-given talents, striving for excellence together, and stepping into the spotlight as artists formed with great heart.



Reach for Excellence is excited to share that some of its high school alumni attended the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC) Workshop at Emory University! This workshop offered amazing sessions intended to help guide students and parents through various aspects of the college admissions process. It was a fun and informative day!



A Day of Celebration and Remembrance



The Notre Dame Prep senior class came together this week for one of their final Community Time gatherings before graduation. The morning “tailgate” was filled with laughter, connection and a well-earned break, as students enjoyed cookies, chips, popcorn, popsicles and more while playing games and spending time with friends. Moments like these make the countdown to graduation even more meaningful.



Notre Dame Prep upper school students gathered this week for a powerful and engaging assembly as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. We were honored to welcome Alexa Weber, who, alongside her assistant Lane, shared meaningful insights on building a strong mental mindset and navigating challenges with resilience.

Drawing from her experience as a former Division I athlete and mental performance coach, Alexa connected with students through real-world strategies for managing pressure, strengthening self-awareness and prioritizing mental well-being. Her message encouraged students to take ownership of their mindset and recognize the importance of mental health in both academic and personal success.



NDP Theatre Community took center stage at their recent annual banquet as they celebrated a year of creativity, growth and achievement. Nine students were inducted into the International Thespian Society Troupe, and 10 earned varsity letters, an impressive milestone for a program that was established just a year ago and now includes 30 dedicated members.

The evening also recognized student leadership, honored graduating seniors and reflected on an outstanding upper school season featuring “Puffs” and “Frozen.” As Theatre Program Director Kathleen Moore shared, “The banquet was a chance to thank our outgoing officers, pin our officers for 2026–27, honor our seniors and celebrate our amazing upper school theatre season.”

At Notre Dame Prep, theatre is more than performance — it’s a place where students find their voice, build confidence and discover their passions. Whether on stage or behind the scenes in lighting, sound, makeup or direction, every student plays a vital role in bringing stories to life.



A Continuum of Language Learning



NDP Celebrates 2026 IB Diploma Candidates



The NDV community was honored to receive recognition at the 2026 California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony, as Tony Thurmond, California’s State Superintendent of Public Instruction, personally congratulated our team on earning the Blue Ribbon distinction. Dr. Cheeseman and Mr. Galvan, the president and vice president of NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) and San Francisco Superintendent Fisher as well as two associate superintendents, Ms. Grewal and Dr. Johnson also joined us NDV in its continued Blue Ribbon distinction.





ND Academy's Upper School Symphonic Band recently earned an "Excellent" rating and took home 1st place at Music in the Parks in Charlotte, NC.



Kindergarten Parent Lunch



ND Academy 2nd graders have been joyfully preparing for First Holy Communion! Last week, they spent special time with Fr. David Musso, SM, the school's chaplain, and Mrs. Julie Pack learning about priestly vestments, liturgical colors, and sacred vessels and linens, and they celebrated a beautiful teaching Mass together.



A periodic publication to promote awareness of the Cause for the Beatification of the Founder of the Society of Mary, Ven. Jean-Claude Colin, among those involved in Marist ministries, as well as among the many people whom Marists serve throughout the world. View publication [HERE](#).

On the Feast of St. Peter Chanel, Superior General, Fr Declan Marmion, s.m., celebrated the Eucharist in the General House Chapel in Rome, Italy with the chalice of St Peter Chanel, in the presence of the General House and Casa di Maria communities and of many friends of the Marist Family.



The Church in Cameroon welcomed Pope Leo XIV on his recent apostolic visit with joy and prayer. Marists of the District of Africa took part in the activities and Eucharistic celebrations organized for the occasion. The Pope's message focused on peace, especially the peace that Christ gives us and shares with each of us, which calms the storms of life. This was an invitation to everyone to continue promoting peace and to put an end to conflicts. Reiterating his closeness to the local Church in Cameroon, the Pope expressed his joy saying, "the Cameroonian Church is alive, young, rich in gifts and enthusiasm, vibrant in its diversity and marvelous in its harmony."



Frs. Yvan Carré, Martin Simna and Charles Mbara Apéké at the Papal Mass in Yaoundé



Matti, Digos, Philippines

Last weekend Our Lady of Fatima held the Renewal of Commitment of 53 Lay Ministers in the Liturgy. Through the prayer and celebration of the Eucharist, they reaffirm their desire to faithfully serve God and humanity.





75th Anniversary of the Marist Sisters' presence in Senegal

CELEBRATING COMMITMENT & MARIST MISSION (WA)



Reflection by Sr. Masela Tenisio, smsm as the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary look forward to the 70th anniversary of St. Mary's College in Samoa.



A Webinar with Danny Collum, author of *No Throwaway People*

**No
Throwaway
People**

An ALL-NEW Webinar
with author
DANNY COLLUM



PRAY WITH POPE LEO XIV

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

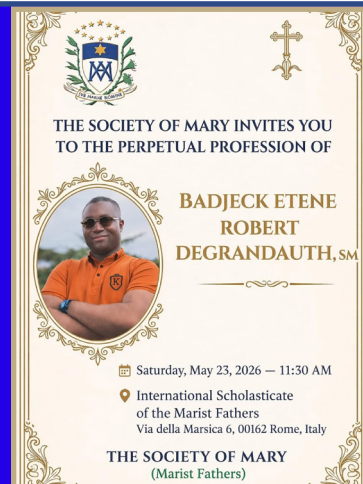
Vocation Corner



Pre-Novitiate Orientation Newsletter



Please keep in your prayers Badjeck Etene Robert Degrandauth, SM as he prepares for his perpetual profession on May 23, 2026 in Rome, Italy.



Building brotherhood through sport! Seminarians from 'Casa di Maria' Marist International Theologate recently participated in the Roman seminaries and religious formation houses football tournament.



In March “Les journées maristes” (Marist Days) were celebrated in the Marist schools north of Paris: Bury and Le Rosaire. After Easter similar days took place in the three Marist schools in Toulon: Cours Fénelon, Institution Sainte Marie, and Externat Saint Joseph la Cordeille. An enthusiastic team with members of the Marist Family shared testimonies with hundreds of children and teenagers about their vocation and the Marist mission around the world. Reactions were very positive: the speakers were encouraged by the attentive listening and openness, and many students and teachers were moved by the testimonies about Marist life in different realities of today’s world, in the footsteps of Fr Colin. The members of the team were Frs. Jimmy McElroy, Rafael Ramila, Constant Amoussouga, Christian Abongbung and Mika Tuilau, two Marist Missionary Sisters, Angela and Hélène, and Sr Teri O’Brien, sm.



God had a plan for me



Missioned to make connections



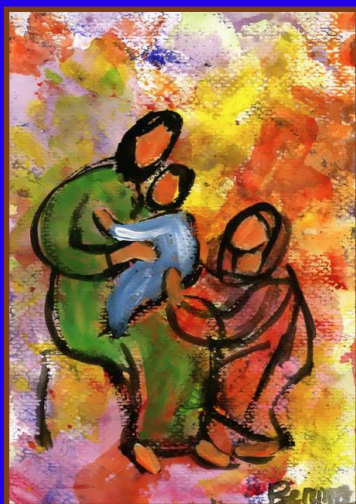
**Reflections on Key Elements of Marist Spirituality
by Fr. David Kennerley, SM**

The [article](#) found at the link below is the nineteenth 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 19: Nazareth

(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.