

# Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

*Marists in the United States*



May 22, 2026

**Justice & Peace Alert**



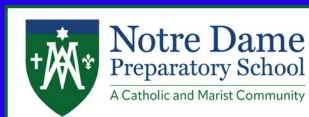
Atlanta, Georgia

Peace by Piece continues to remind us why this work matters so deeply - especially at the middle school level, when young people are still forming their understanding of identity, friendship, empathy, and community.

Last month, middle school students from The Davis Academy, The Mohammed Schools of Atlanta, and Marist School came together not simply to talk about peace, but to practice it: listening across difference, building trust, and learning from one another with openness and curiosity—as well as making matzo bread!

We are especially proud that this gathering marks the first middle school Peace by Piece chapter created by the Bearing Witness Institute. We are deeply grateful to The Davis Academy and The Mohammed Schools of Atlanta for partnering with us in building this growing national initiative dedicated to interfaith friendship, dialogue, and understanding.

The future feels brighter when students learn this young that difference is not something to fear — it is something to encounter with courage, compassion, and respect.



Pontiac, Michigan

**Serving Beyond Campus,**  
**Guided by Mission**





**FMS Champagnat –  
Reflections for Laudato Si' Week**



**“Care for peace is care for life”:  
Pope for Laudato Si' Week**

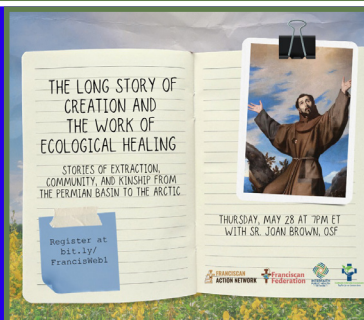


**World Environment Day events  
and activities**



**What indigenous communities teach us  
about climate change**

**Franciscan Eco-Spirituality: Renewing  
Our Vision in a Jubilee Year (A Four  
Part Webinar Series for 2026)**



**Why bees are essential to people  
and planet**



Pope Leo will publish first encyclical, 'Magnifica Humanitas,' on preserving humanity in the A.I. age on May 25



Pope Leo establishes new Vatican commission on artificial intelligence



Christians rally to support aid for Palestinians, end arm sales to Israel



Interfaith peace march in Jerusalem counters rising violence and division



San Diego bishop responds to attack at Islamic Center



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

Archbishop Coakley Expresses Sorrow and Prayerful Solidarity With Muslim Community Following San Diego Islamic Center Shooting

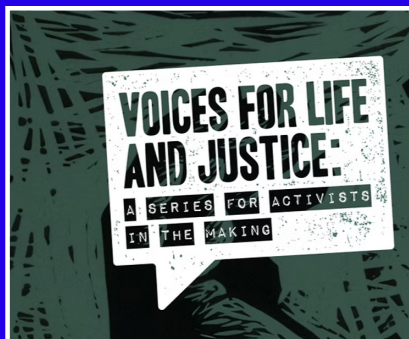
Cuba's breaking point tests the Church



Peace as a Way of Life - Charlene Howard of Pax Christi U  
Deacons Pod - Episode

Podcast: Peace as a Way of Life –  
Charlene Howard of Pax Christi USA

Pax Christi USA launches scholarship support  
for Conscientious Objectors Registry



Voices for Life and Justice: A Series for  
Activists in the Making!

The Catholic Committee of Appalachia's  
half-century mission to heal a wounded land



Bad news from Nigeria: Schools raided,  
churches burned



Fast and Vigil to Abolish the Death Penalty

**Annual Starvin' for Justice**  
**FAST AND VIGIL**  
to abolish the death penalty

**June 29 - July 2**  
**Washington, DC**

an energizing,  
grassroots week  
of training, advocacy,  
action, community  
and education  
in front of the  
U.S. Supreme Court

**abolition.org**

Catholic Mobilizing Network  
Announces Winners of 2026  
Justice & Mercy Poetry Contest

**JUSTICE & MERCY**  
POETRY CONTEST  
by Young Adults

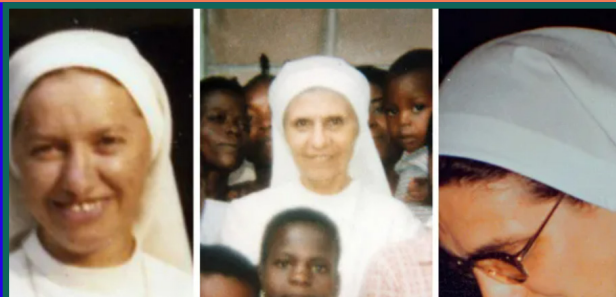
Read the winning poems:  
[catholicmobilizing.org/poetry-winners](https://catholicmobilizing.org/poetry-winners)

**1st Place**  
"And Still"  
Kate Letterman Conway

**2nd Place**  
"The Scent of Eden"  
Madeline Page

**3rd Place**  
"I Know Justice"  
Margaret Mayeux

6 Heroic nuns who fought Ebola and are on  
their way to sainthood





The Missionaries of The Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of Guadalupe (MSCGpe) are celebrating the Centenary of their foundation. In the United States the sisters collaborate in ministry with the Marists in Washington, DC and San Francisco, California. The Sisters also collaborate in ministry with the Viatorians in Arlington Heights, Illinois and with the Carmelites at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Joliet, Illinois.

The following is a brief summary of the MSCGpe congregation shared from their [website](#):

*Our religious family was born in 1926, inspired by the Holy Spirit, through the Servant of God María Amada del Niño Jesús Sánchez Muñoz. From its beginnings, we were entrusted with a profoundly evangelical charism: to live in ardent love for the Heart of Jesus and in apostolic zeal for the extension of His Kingdom, especially among the poorest and most needy. This charism has been the source that has given meaning, unity, and fruitfulness to our mission throughout time.*

*Today, by the pure grace of God, we are approaching the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of our Congregation. This centenary journey has been marked by the fidelity of the Lord, who has sustained and guided us to live and spread the merciful love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Always inspired by the testimony of faith, generous dedication, and profound trust in God of our Foundress, we have strived to respond with simplicity and joy to the mission entrusted to us. ...*

*As the beginning of this jubilee journey, on December 27, 2025, we celebrated the Opening Eucharist of the Jubilee Year in the Cathedral of Azcapotzalco, a place of special significance for our charismatic and missionary history. This solemn celebration was presided over by Bishop Adolfo Miguel Castaño Fonseca, Bishop of this particular Church in Mexico City, and it was for us a profound moment of communion, praise, and thanksgiving. ...*

*We entrust this Jubilee Year to the loving intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, so that it may be a fruitful time of communion, service, and fidelity to the Heart of Jesus, and so that, as a religious family, we may continue to be a witness of His merciful love in the world.*

The MSCGpe community in Washington, DC will celebrate the centenary with a Mass of Thanksgiving at Marist College in Washington, DC on May 30, 2026.

May our Blessed Mother and the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to guide the sisters in their ministries.



MSCGpe Community in Washington, DC (left to right):  
Srs. Maria Eugenia, Guadalupe, Josephina, and Maria Gracia



The Society of Mary continues to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month by highlighting the second of two parishes the Marists were invited to serve in the newly formed Diocese of Honolulu in 1944. St. Catherine of Alexandria was also located on Kauai, on the eastern side in Kealia. The church was built in 1887 and the modern rectory, overlooking Kealia Bay, was built in 1938 and afforded the initial Marist priests, Reverends Joseph Callaghan and William Collins, SM, comparative luxury. The Society of Mary continued to serve at St. Catherine's until 2004. Today the church is the namesake of the St. Catherine Parish which also includes St. Sylvester and St. William churches.

(Content and pictures shared by Susan J. Illis, Archivist, Archives of the Society of Mary, U.S. Province)



St. Catherine's main altar



St. Catherine's side altar



Mass at St. Catherine's; Marist priests (behind cross-bearers): Thomas Clemens, Robert Logrip, Joseph Robeck, John McDonald, and Bishop Sweeney.

## Pentecost

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost on May 24<sup>th</sup>, we pause to remember that because they bear the name of Mary, Marists desire to be like her and follow Jesus as she did. Contemplating Mary in the mysteries of Nazareth and Pentecost and her role at the end of time, Marists come to share her zeal for her Son's mission in his struggle against evil, and to respond with promptness to the most urgent needs of God's people. (Marist Constitutions, 8)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful  
And kindle in them the fire of Your love  
V: Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created  
R: And You shall renew the face of the earth





As *Laudato Si'* Week 2026 concludes, we are invited to move from hope to action. Hope is not passive; it is lived and shared through daily choices, community life, prayer, and concrete acts of care. This year reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step – through relationships restored, creation protected, and communities strengthened. The next chapter of *Laudato Si'* begins with us, wherever we are.

### Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church - May 25<sup>th</sup>



Mary is the icon of God's Spirit. As her fellow disciples, we pray that with God's grace we become the same.

Statement of Identity, US Province of the Marists Assembly and Chapter of June 2012

As we celebrate Memorial Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>, we would like to remember the lives of Fr. Robert Brett, SM (dec.) and all chaplains who have died while serving in the armed forces.



### Mass and Prayers for Society of Mary Living Benefactors May 25<sup>th</sup>

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the Marists remember in prayer our living benefactors. We are mindful of the gifts that we have received from the hands of our friends and benefactors in assisting us in our ministries and our deeply grateful.

Be assured of our continued prayers and may the gentleness of Mary be our strength.



“Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit”, located at Esmond Brady Memorial Chapel at Marist School, Atlanta, Georgia

## *Prayer for Peace*

*Lord of Life,  
you shaped every human being in your image and likeness.  
We believe you created us for communion, not for war,  
for fraternity, not for destruction.  
You who greeted your disciples saying, "Peace be with you,"  
grant us the gift of your peace and the strength to make it a reality in history.*

*Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world,  
asking that nations renounce weapons  
and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy.*

*Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference,  
so we may become instruments of reconciliation.  
Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear,  
but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.*

*Lord, enlighten the leaders of the nations,  
so they may have the courage to abandon projects of death, halt the arms race,  
and place the lives of the most vulnerable at the center.  
May the nuclear threat never again dictate the future of humanity.*

*Holy Spirit,  
make us faithful and creative builders of daily peace:  
in our hearts, our families, our communities, and our cities.  
May every kind word, every gesture of reconciliation,  
and every choice for dialogue be seeds of a new world.*

*Amen.*