



Christmas 2024

Dear Marist Friend,

Christmas Greetings from the Marist Fathers and Brothers!

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah or Christ. As we get to know Jesus and his mission through scripture and our personal prayer life, we believe that he is more than a messenger. He reveals that he is **God become human**. One of the titles of Jesus in the beginning of the Gospel of St. Matthew is, Emmanuel, which means **God is with us**. This is truly something to celebrate!

At the beginning of the book of Genesis in the Old Testament, it is revealed that male and female **human beings are created in God's image**. That is a great honor but not the only honor that God gives to us. Despite the times we turn away from God and behave selfishly, God never gives up on us. Throughout salvation history God is always with us and welcomes us back. And then, in the Incarnation, God became a human being. That, too, is a great honor for us.

The birth of Jesus, God and man, is the beginning of our salvation. Christmas is truly an event to celebrate! The birth of Jesus came about because Mary of Nazareth said yes to God's plan for her to be the Mother of God's Son. The Society of Mary came about in the early 1800's, with the inspiration that people in the world today are also invited to make God present in our time, in a sense, to give birth to God each day. This is not only an invitation to Marists but an invitation to all disciples of Jesus, to imitate the example of Mary, the first disciple of her Son, Jesus.

The Society of Mary began in a very small way in a rural area of France with 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. **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 16 sites 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. Please join the Marists as we try to "**foster an attitude of gratitude.**" Strive to be more aware of God's gifts in your life and more aware of people who bring goodness into your life. **Take time to express your gratitude to God and to others.**

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 peace and an attitude of gratitude to you and to all those you love!

Sincerely,

Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m.

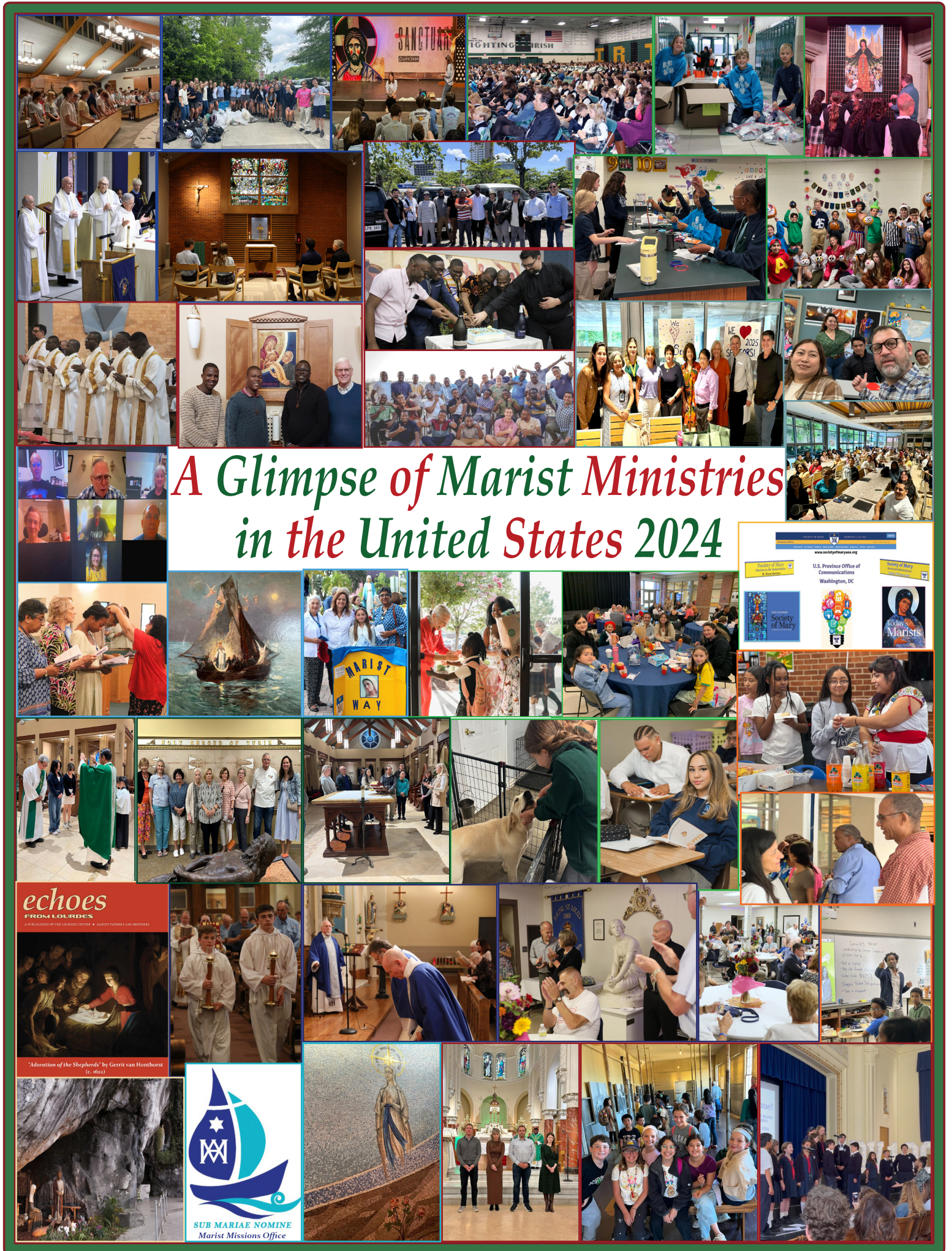
Very Rev. Joseph Hindelang, s.m.
Provincial

Yes! I want to invest in the Marists.

Donate Online at: societyofmaryusa.org

(Your gift is tax deductible.)



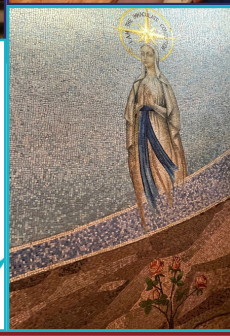


A Glimpse of Marist Ministries in the United States 2024

echoes
FROM LOURDES



"Adoration of the Shepherds" by Gerrit van Honthorst (c. 1622)



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/