

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



January 31, 2025

Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

This week the Marist School community gathered for Mass in celebration of the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. The school welcomed two special guests: Bishop John Nhàn Trần, auxiliary bishop of Atlanta, and Father Fernando Torres, S.M., associate pastor at Holy Family Catholic Community in Wisconsin. This marked their first visit to Marist. During Mass, the Marist Fathers—Fr. Kenney, Fr. Olek, Fr. Rowland, Fr. Torres, and Fr. Ulrich—renewed their vows. Together, they represent more than 200 years of dedicated service to their faith community. In his homily, Bishop Trần emphasized the importance of humility and using one's God-given talents. "Don't be afraid of God's calling. Every day, ask the Lord, 'Help me to be the person you want me to be,' and ask yourself, 'What is it that God wants me to do with my life?'" he said. "Thereby you will find your calling, you are going to be at peace and happy. When you are at peace and happy, you will be able to live the life God is asking you to live." He encouraged students to embrace their gifts and follow the example of Mary in faithfulness and humility, reminding them that true fulfillment comes from answering God's call.



Bearing Witness Institute
Receives Generous Funding from
Foundations and Individuals



The annual Marist Goes Global fair, sponsored by the Marist Share the Journey student club, took place on January 17th. This event is one of the ways Marist School honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of unity and builds what he described as "the Beloved Community". Share the Journey is dedicated to amplifying the stories of refugees and migrants across the globe, and the fair serves as a platform for Marist students to celebrate their cultural pride while fostering intercultural understanding. Through the sharing of food, traditions, music, and dance, students and their families came together to raise funds for refugee resettlement efforts in Georgia. Faculty, staff, and students hosted a vibrant array of tables representing countries from around the world.

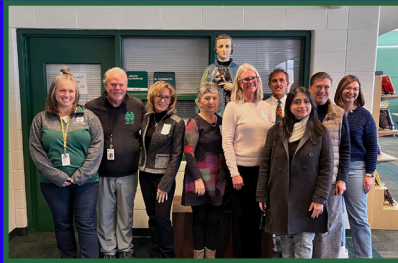


Catholic Schools Week

NDP began Catholic Schools Week with an all-school Mass that concluded with a rallying cry for the entire school community to participate in the 2025 food drive in partnership with Gleaners Community Food Bank. Michael Khouri, president of NDP's National Honor Society shared, "Notre Dame Prep is partnering with Gleaners Community Food Bank during our Catholic Schools Week by sponsoring a food drive as a way for you to participate in the Jubilee Year by bringing hope to those dealing with the hardship of food insecurity in our area." Learn more about the food drive [HERE](#).



Last week NDP was excited to welcome its International Baccalaureate reauthorization team to campus! As an authorized IB Continuum World School for nearly 15 years, NDP welcomes evaluators from the IB organization every five years to visit and evaluate the school's ongoing commitment to empowering its learners to become global change-makers who are thinking critically and analytically, focusing globally and putting ideas in action. The visit concluded during a quick celebration with the IB evaluation team that included a discussion by Head of School Andy Guest. Over the past several months, NDP teachers, staff and students — and especially the three IB coordinators, Paul Frank, Katrina Sagert and Katherine Thomas — have been working very hard to prepare for this visit. The reauthorization process is not only about meeting certain criteria, it's also about reaffirming Notre Dame Prep's commitment to the values and goals of an International Baccalaureate education.



Last week the NDV school community welcomed Florian Cardinaux, the Consul General of France in San Francisco. As the oldest French school in the west, NDV values its relationship with France and the Consul General as the school community celebrates 101 years of excellence in French Catholic education.



These NDV Spelling Bee winners will next participate in the regional spelling bee competition.





Duluth, Georgia

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week (CSW) at ND Academy

Day 1: On January 25th, to kickoff National Catholic Schools Week, ND Academy celebrated Mr. Jason Gambon, Co-Dean of Student Life and Upper School Theology Teacher, at the 17th Annual Archbishop's Mass and Celebration of Catholic Education. Mr. Gambon is Notre Dame Academy's Teacher of the Year!

Day 2: ND Academy continued its celebration of CSW by celebrating our nation. Recognizing the need, the importance, and the power of prayer, all students and teachers participated in praying the rosary for our nation's newly elected, national and local government leaders. 8th graders and Upper School Campus Ministry Club representatives for led the school community in prayer.

Day 3: On Tuesday, the ND Academy school community celebrated vocations. Students dressed according to the vocation they feel God is calling them to.

Day 4: On Wednesday, ND Academy celebrated our community, specifically the pre-K through 12th grade service learning partners who lovingly serve the metro Atlanta community and beyond. ND Academy was blessed to have 3 Marist priests celebrate this Mass with us: Bishop Joel Konzen, SM, from the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Fr. David Musso, SM, ND Academy Chaplain, and Fr. Joe Hindelang, SM, the Provincial Superior of the Society of Mary in the USA.

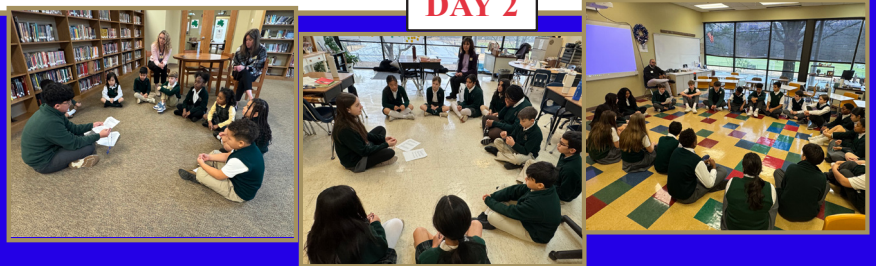
ND Academy 8th graders enjoyed fellowship with other Catholic schools around the Archdiocese by attending the annual Catholic Schools Week Archdiocesan Mass. Afterwards, they enjoyed a visit to St Brendan the Navigator Catholic Church for the Shroud of Turin Exhibit.

Day 5: On Thursday, ND Academy employees were celebrated. Teachers, staff and administrators were honored with a special gift and thank-you cards and notes from the students showing their appreciation for the employees dedication and service to Catholic education.

DAY 1



DAY 2



DAY 3



DAY 4



DAY 5





Congratulations to Grant Amadi (7th) and Dominic Caporusso (6th) who represented Notre Dame Academy at the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee on January 28th. It was a tight race between the final 3, but Grant finished in 2nd place.



Jubilee of Hope: Opening the Jubilee Doors

This year we celebrate the Jubilee of Hope. During this year we are called to find hope in God's grace and in the world and people around us. We are called to be signs of hope for others – bringing God's peace and light into the world. Pope Francis ushered in the Jubilee on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's Basilica by opening its Holy Door. Holy Doors at the other major basilicas of Rome - St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls - were opened in the following weeks along with a holy door at Rebibbia Prison.

The two large doors at OLA that lead from the narthex into the baptistry of our church are called Jubilee Doors. (They are also known as Doors of Life and Holy Doors.) They were designed specifically to be opened during Jubilee Years. Although our doors will not serve as a pilgrimage site for the Archdiocese, they will be a reminder to the faithful of OLA that we are Pilgrims of Hope!

On January 18th, Fr. Jim Duffy, SM, pastor of OLA, opened OLA's Holy Door in honor of this Jubilee Year. Decorating the doors are cast bronze relief's illustrating stories from the Hebrew (OT) and Christian (NT) Scriptures, marking events in salvation history. They are replicas of reliefs created over several centuries in the middle ages for the Basilica di San Zeno Maggiore in Verona, Italy.

The scenes on the side of the doors facing the narthex are: The Expulsion from Eden, The First Works and Death of Abel, Noah's Dove, Abraham's Hospitality, The Sacrifice of Isaac, The Bronze Serpent, Jesse's Generations and Nebuchadnezzar. Those on the side of the door facing the interior of the church are: The Annunciation, The Nativity with Shepherds and Three Kings, The Flight into Egypt, The Anointing, The Last Supper, The Crucifixion of Christ, The Descent into Limbo and the Glory of God.





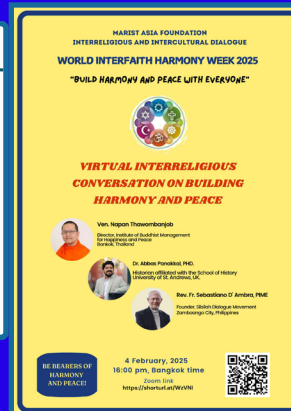
“Virtual Interreligious Conversation on Building Peace and Harmony”

Date: February 4, 2025

Time: 16:00 pm (Bangkok time);
4:00 am (Washington, DC time)

Meeting ID: 833 4348 7174

Passcode: 017232



Annual Planning for 2025: Strengthening Our Mission at Balay

On January 21-22, 2025, the Balay Pasilungan team, led by Executive Director Fr. Gil L. Casio, SM, conducted a 2-day annual planning session focused on enhancing the foundation’s residential care programs and services. This annual activity aims to ensure that Balay Pasilungan continues to provide quality care and transformative support to the boys under its care.

Key members of the planning session included the Admin Team—comprising the Finance Staff, HR Officer, Material Resource Officer, and Program Manager—alongside the Program Coordinators of Homelife Services, Social Services, Education Services, and Health Services. Together, they reviewed past achievements, identified challenges, and mapped out priorities for the year ahead.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Marist Community for generously accommodating the team with a venue, providing an ideal space for collaboration and planning.

To our donors and supporters, this would not have been possible without your trust and unwavering generosity. Your partnership strengthens our mission to provide a nurturing environment and brighter futures for the boys of Balay Pasilungan.

Let us continue to journey together as partners in transformation.





Parroquia Virgen Misionera
(La Perla, Peru)

Mass for the Sick



The Superior General on Visitation in Cameroun and Burundi

Fr. John Larsen, Superior General of the Society of Mary recently visited Cameroon. He met with both the District Council and the Formation Council, and he also had a conference with the twenty-five Marist students in philosophy in the recently renovated seminary. Fr. Larsen also visited several of the developing projects within the District: Obili, where the Marist team in the parish is re-building the parish church and a function hall to cater for more than 1,000 people; the Laudato Si' ecological farm in Yaoundé and the Marist community in Bambili, in the north of Cameroon, where his visit included seeing the new electricity solar panels to serve some of the study needs of the local university students and the site for the proposed new secondary school .

Fr. Larsen, accompanied by District Superior Fr Martin Simna, SM, then traveled to Bujumbura in Burundi for the official inauguration of the new Marist school which is already catering for more than 500 students.



Youth Ministry in New Zealand

Marist Youth Leader, a leadership program for 17–18-year-olds from the nine Marist Fathers and Sisters schools in New Zealand was held from January 16-22; 105 students and 20 staff attended the program. The program is a process of personal and team development using a pattern of input, reflection, interaction and practice. The participants learn about liturgy, the foundations of good leadership and had outdoor activities promoting teamwork and personal challenge. This year the program welcomed Fr. Daniel Fernández, SM and two lay Marist collaborators, Sebastian Aguilar and Enrique Campos from Mexico as observers; they are pictured here with Fr. Mark Walls, SM who is the director of the program.

New Zealand confreres Frs. Neil Vaney, Frank Bird and Hayden Powick were recently involved in two national Catholic Church programs, “Hearts Aflame” and “Lifeteen”. They gave talks and supported the participants with their Marist presence. Hearts Aflame is a ten days program for young adults and Lifeteen is a Summer camp which was attended by 340 teenagers.





Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.



May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus

**Jubilee Year 2025 Resource:
8 questions and answers to your
prayers**



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On February 2nd, 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.

Vocation Corner

On January 4th, 13 young Marists renewed their vows in the Society of Mary. These vows were received by the very Reverend Father John Larsen SM, Superior General of the Society of Mary.

“When they make profession, Marists declare before the Church and one another their intention to live out their baptism more fully. They choose to follow Christ more closely by a radical commitment to the spirit of the Beatitudes in a community that has one heart and one mind. They consecrate all that they are and have to the service of the Gospel wherever they may be sent in the name of the mission entrusted to the Society.” - *Constitutions of the Society of Mary* no. 93.

Let us pray for these young men and for more vocations to consecrated religious life.



On January 9th, Rev. Fr. Cameron Mota, SM was ordained by Bishop Dariuz Kaluz at the Cathedral of the Diocese of Bougainville. Fr. Mota celebrated his first Mass of Thanksgiving on January 12th at Tabago Parish, Buin. Many friends, families, and people of Buin came to show their support, love and care for the newly ordained priest. It was indeed a day of celebration, full of life, joy and hope.



Youth and Vocations Days in Peru

The Youth and Vocations Team of the District of South America recently organized two “youth and vocations” days in Peru; one in Callao and one in Sullana. The aim of these encounters was to help young people to strengthen their Marist identity, to promote fraternity among them and to discover their vocation. Both gatherings were very successful and have been encouraging many young people to live their faith in a more active and committed way. The participation and enthusiasm of the young people have been very encouraging for the Marist community, which continues to promote vocations and accompany young people on their journey of faith.



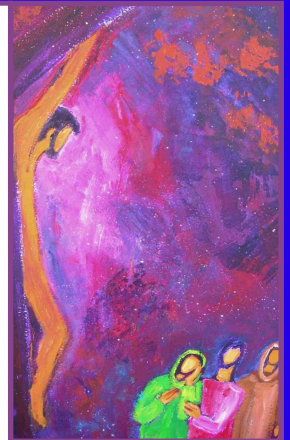
Reflections on Key Elements of Marist Spirituality by Fr. David Kennerley, SM

The [article](#) found at the link below is the eighth 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 8: Mary, the Support of the Newborn Church and of the Church at the End of Time.](#)

(Printed with permission from Fr. David Kennerley, SM)



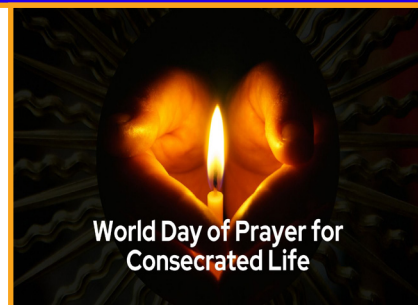
Unpacking One of Newman’s Gems



Influences on Young Adults in Discernment

World Day for Consecrated Life, February 2, 2025

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day for women and men in consecrated life. This global celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.



There are several ways to celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life. Invite sisters, brothers, and priests to publicly renew their vows at Mass, send cards of support to newer entrants, ask to visit a mother house to meet and pray with sisters, brothers, and priests, invite a vocation director to visit your classroom, Board meeting, or faith group to learn more about consecrated life. Send flowers, make a donation to a religious community, or invite someone to discern their vocation to consecrated life! View additional resources [HERE](#).



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! Dígnate 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.