

Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States



February 28, 2025

Marist School

Atlanta, Georgia

Marist School students, faculty, and staff gathered on February 25th to celebrate the start of Term 3, marking the final stretch of the academic year. President J. D. Childs encouraged students to take pride in their contributions, saying, “Thank you for the part that you play—each and every one of you, from seniors to seventh graders—for honoring this place and your legacy. Always remember that you are Marist.”

Student Council Co-Presidents Emily Nelson '25 and Max Mraz '25 reflected on the student achievements, including athletic state championships, record-breaking performances, and championship runs that led the War Eagles to Mercedes-Benz Stadium. They also celebrated the marching band's top honors, including Best Band and Best Marching Band in state classifications, and looked ahead to upcoming events such as the spring musical and much anticipated “Sing-Off”. Shoutouts were given to various clubs, including the decorated speech and debate team, Active Minds for its uplifting initiatives, the broadcasting crew for its consistently stellar shows, and Share the Journey for hosting the Global Fair. Special thanks went to campus ministers and retreat leaders, school nurses for their care, and the facilities staff for maintaining the beloved campus.

Nelson emphasized the strength of the Marist community, saying, “The beauty of all of these accomplishments is that we’ve done them together. At the beginning of the year, we challenged you to be there for one another and make the most of your Marist opportunities. Carpe Marist. We are proud to say you have all done just that. There is still a whole term left, and it is full of opportunities.”

The event concluded with a spirited grade-level tug-of-war competition and fresh-baked cookies outside Centennial.



Marist School hosted the annual Mass of Remembrance on February 23rd, a tradition honoring alumni who passed away in the past year. Family, friends, and alumni gathered to celebrate the lives and legacies of those who left a lasting impact on the Marist community. The day began with a special pre-reception in the Marist Library, where books were dedicated to commemorate the interests and passions of the departed, including a book in honor of beloved modern and classical languages teacher Dr. Anne Washington Saunders. The Mass, held in Esmond Brady Memorial Chapel, brought the community together in a meaningful celebration of those recently lost in the Marist School community.



The Fine Arts End-of-Term Student Show took place last week, featuring an opening reception on February 13th, in the Bishop Gunn Art Gallery at Marist School. Parents, student artists, and friends attended the event, which showcased student creativity and fostered community. This experience continues to build confidence in the student artists while bringing the Marist community together.



Under the direction of Mr. Aaron Schmitt and Mr. Ben Barber, Marist School band students performed the Winter Band Concert in Kuhrt Gym on February 11th. Three clinicians—band directors Christine Kraemer, Sheila Smith, and Dennis Naughton—provided adjudication and rehearsal feedback on each piece immediately after the performance. Students responded enthusiastically, applying the clinicians’ advice in real time and seeing immediate improvements. This concert served as a valuable preview of their upcoming performance at the Southern Star Music Festival this spring in Atlanta, helping them refine their skills and prepare for a competitive showing.

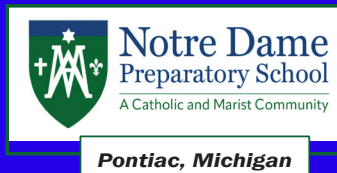


Kicking off the home builds with a Mass on February 23rd is a cherished Marist Women Build tradition. Sharing sacred moments with MWB homeowners, including special words from the first homeowner 25 years ago, breaking homemade bread together prepared beautifully by a homeowner & seeing past & present builders, board members & volunteers worship together is significant to what makes the experience with Habitat so great.





Throughout the year, alumni come back to serve within Reach for Excellence by volunteering and interning during the sessions & participating in Career Day with Reach's current scholars.



Pontiac, Michigan

UNPRECEDENTED



Earlier this week, some ND Academy Upper School students had an opportunity to participate in the YIG-EXPO. This is a three-day residential experiential learning program where high school students can explore multiple facets of public service through realistic simulations of government agencies. This program examines local government, national security, cyber security, and diplomacy pathways giving students hands-on experiences and an opportunity to explore government sector careers with field experts.





Duluth, Georgia

ND Academy 4th graders and altar servers did a beautiful job leading the school community in worship on February 19th at the all school Jubilee Year of Hope celebration of Mass with Fr. David Musso, S.M., school Chaplain.



Congratulations to Sebastian Millan-Florez (8th), Kristopher Peret (6th), Emilio Taba Espinoza (4th), and Gabriel Camacho (3rd) who represented Notre Dame Academy at the Archdiocesan Religion Bee.



3rd-5th grade Saddle Up Western Dance



3rd "Come Have Lunch with My Class"



Jubilee of Deacons

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church.

Last weekend OLA celebrated the deacons of the parish who have been called to “to be a servant of the mysteries of Christ and, at one and the same time, to be a servant of your brothers and sisters...Deacons embrace the ministry of word, ministry of liturgy, and works of charity which, in their turn, are carried into daily life.” (Source: US Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

OLA is blessed to have 5 good, holy men who serve our parish as permanent deacons. Read more about OLA’s deacons [HERE](#).



The General Councils of the four Marist Branches met for a couple days in mid-February to grow as Marist Family



Building A Home of Love: Team-Building for a Stronger Balay Pasilungan

The Balay Pasilungan community believes that a strong, compassionate team creates a loving home for the children. On February 12-13, 2025, FBP’s staff and volunteers came together for a transformative Team-Building Workshop at the Gloriani Family House in the Shrine of Mother of Mercy, New Carmen, Tugbok, Davao City.

Guided by Miss Fatima Jennae Jereza, FBP’s volunteer psychologist, they took time to reflect, heal, and grow together. They deepened their understanding of the boys they serve and learned how to provide even better care. Through activities focused on empathy, gentle parenting, personal healing, and teamwork, they strengthened their commitment to FBP’s mission.





Parroquia Virgen Misionera
(La Perla, Peru)

Mass for the sick presided over by Fr. Jose Maria Da Silva SM



Start of New School Year!



TRTC Welcomes Caritas New Zealand's Tony Sutorius!

The Tutu community is delighted to welcome Mr. Tony Sutorius, Communication Staff of Caritas New Zealand, for a five-day professional video and photography training! This initiative aims to enhance the visibility of TRTC's activities and showcase the impact of the programs.

As part of his visit, Tony is also working on a documentary video highlighting the transformative impact of Tutu Rural Training Centre (TRTC) on individuals, families and communities.

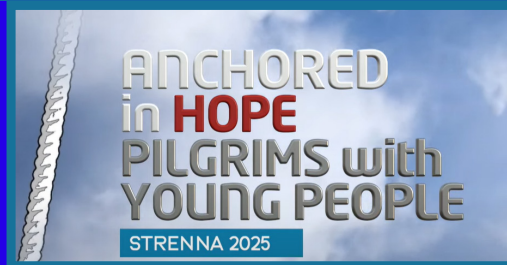




Jubilee Year 2025 Resource:
What is a Jubilee Year? The history and meaning behind a centuries-old tradition



Jubilee Year 2025 Resource:
Anchored in Hope, Pilgrims with Young People



Today we remember the 152nd anniversary of the Approbation of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin's Constitutions of 1873.

Fr. Colin was the founder of the Society of Mary – priests and brothers. Born at the close of the 18th century in revolution-torn France, Fr. Colin was convinced that the Blessed Virgin wanted a group of men and women to do her work in the world at a time of turmoil and challenge. In 1836, Fr. Colin obtained from Pope Gregory XVI canonical approbation of the Society of Mary with simple vows, and in the same year Fr. Colin was chosen superior general. Two years before his death he had the joy of seeing the Constitutions of the Society of Mary approved by the Holy See on February 28, 1873. With this inspiration he forged the way for a new family of consecrated religious and laity in the Church - the Marist family.



Stay tuned for the upcoming Society of Mary USA Lenten Calendar. The daily thoughts on the calendar have been collected from reflections published on the [Marist Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation \(JPIC\) blog](#). These quotes inspire us to enter into the quiet, passionate work of Mary, Mother of Mercy. The calendar will be available on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

*Let Mary be our Guide and Example of Courage and Hope this Lent.
Mother Mary, Pray for Us*

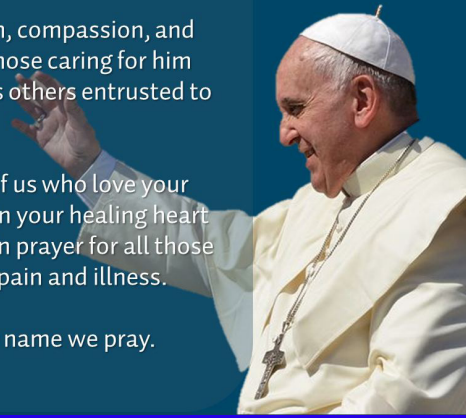
A prayer for Pope Francis

Lord, we ask that you watch over Pope Francis and grant him the courage, strength, and healing he needs.

Grant wisdom, compassion, and empathy to those caring for him and as well as others entrusted to their care.

Grant those of us who love your Church faith in your healing heart and unite us in prayer for all those experiencing pain and illness.

In Jesus' holy name we pray.
AMEN.



Vocation Corner

Novitiate Orientation Program

At the International Novitiate, “Cerdon” in Eden, Davao, Philippines, eight young Marist candidates have arrived at the end of January to start their novitiate orientation program. The candidates come from Africa, Oceania, New Zealand and South America. The orientation program helps them to adjust to this new stage of formation, to begin to come to know each other and to become familiar with aspects of the Filipino culture while being hosted by committed Marist Families. The group is now staying at the RNDM Sisters’ international formation house and will move to Cerdon on March 25th to begin their novitiate.





First Profession of Sr. Utu'one and Sr. Annett, smsm



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

The [article](#) found at the link below is the ninth 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 9: Mary, The Mother of Mercy

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



Leaven of Hope



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.