



FamilyOnline

A monthly email newsletter for The Marianist Family



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A MARIANIST HEART FOR THE CLASSICAL ARTS IN LOS ANGELES



At Assumption Catholic School in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, Fr. Ted Ley leads the children of the Escolanía Pacífica in song. Jan Dixon photo

Boyle Heights, a low-income Hispanic neighborhood near downtown Los Angeles, is known for gang violence – not classical music.

Yet two years ago, **Fr. Ted Ley** and three young adults – **Vicente Bastidas**, **Julio Maldonado** and **Christina van Ingen** – launched a choir school called *Escolanía Pacífica* at Assumption Catholic School in this neighborhood.

It was the perfect setting for Fr. Ted, whose dream was to create a modern choir school that would expose Hispanic youth to classical and world music.

“This is a needy school, but it has strong Catholic and family values,” said Fr. Ted. “Beyond music, we’d like to turn it into a Catholic magnet school in communications arts.”

Today, the program includes instruction in voice, choral music, violin, mandolin, drums and classical guitar. Recently, it began offering creative writing and composition classes, and added a campus radio station so that students can learn basic broadcasting skills.

For more about this arts ministry, look for the spring edition of [ALIVE](#) magazine in your mailbox later this month.

Congratulations and prayers of thanksgiving echoed across oceans as the Marianist Province of the United States marked ordinations in India and Rome last month.

On Feb. 4, **Deacon Mariandu Belevendiran** was ordained to the priesthood at the Marianist chapel in Deepahalli, Bangalore. Emeritus **Archbishop Dr. A.M. Chinnappa, SDB**, of the Archdiocese of Madras and Mylapore presided. **Frs. Sudhir Kujur** and **Dave Fleming** concelebrated the Mass, which was attended by nearly 300 members of the Marianist Family.



On Feb. 18, three members of the U.S. Province were among five seminarians ordained as deacons at the Marianist Seminary in Rome. **Bros. Armando Añeses** (from Puerto Rico and formerly a teacher at [Colegio San José](#)), and **Sebastian Bara** and **Raj Mohan** of the District of India were ordained by **Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrar, SJ**. See [more photos](#).

Fr. Mariandu Belevendiran

The Marianist District of India is a dependent unit of the Province of the United States.



Five new deacons were ordained in Rome last month. From left, they are Simplicie Moluantan (Côte d'Ivoire), Savio Choi (Korea), Raj Mojan (India), Sebastian Bara (India) and Armando Añeses (U.S.).

THREE QUESTIONS WITH ...

Kim Matzen

Kim Matzen is a teacher and coach at [Daniel Gross Catholic High School](#) in Omaha, Nebraska, where she's also moderator of the [Marianist LIFE](#) group. She became a Marianist [Lay Affiliate](#) in 2011 and is a regional coordinator of the LIFE summer program.

When did you get "bitten by the Marianist bug"?

Bro. Joe Barrett introduced me to the loving family spirit of the Marianists when I was in 7th and 8th grade; my sister was already a student at Gross Catholic. In 2006 I went to my first summer LIFE program, and that really sealed the deal.

What do you want your students to get out of Marianist LIFE?

I want my students to see Marianist LIFE as the place they can come and share their faith, as well as food and fellowship.



Photo by Eric Francis

LIFE at Gross Catholic is for all grades, and it's great to see students connect with people they normally don't interact with. LIFE is a safe place where they can talk about their faith in a relaxed, open environment.

What's your favorite part of the LIFE summer program?

Seeing so many youth take such an active role in their faith! I find it very moving when I hear them praying or singing in unison at our worship services. There is such a variety of students, yet they all have in common their love of God.

HONORING OUR BICENTENNIALS – A PAGE FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM

To celebrate the bicentennials of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Society of Mary, *FamilyOnline* is featuring occasional peeks into the past.



It would be interesting to know the story behind this 1911 photo of [Chaminade College Preparatory](#) in St. Louis. Note the drummer who's second in line. Founded in 1910, Chaminade was the first school in the United States to bear the name of Marianist founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. Today, the school has an enrollment of 830 boys in grades six to 12.

WHO'S DOING WHAT AROUND THE PROVINCE



Andrew Currier will become the new president of [Archbishop Riordan High School](#) in San Francisco beginning July 1. Andrew has served as principal at Catholic elementary schools in Indiana and Maryland for the past nine years. [Read more.](#)



Susan Ferguson, a Marianist Educational Associate and director of the [Center for Catholic Education at University of Dayton](#), has been tapped to serve as a consultant for the Committee for Catholic Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. She was nominated for the prestigious role by Cincinnati **Archbishop Dennis Schnurr**. [Read more.](#)

Bro. Darwin Joseph has been named the assistant district superior for the Marianist District of India beginning in mid-June. Bro. Darwin's appointment followed a consultation with members of the District, which



is a dependent unit of the Province of the United States. He will serve a three-year term alongside **Fr. Sudhir Kujur**, district superior.



Sr. Laura Leming gave the keynote address and workshop at the International Union of Superiors General earlier this year. The USIG is made up of the heads of women’s religious congregations worldwide. Sr. Laura’s paper was translated into four languages. [Read more.](#)



Bro. Justin Quiroz was featured in an article in *The Catholic Review* (Archdiocese of Baltimore) regarding the choice of a religious vocation. Bro. Justin teaches at [Mother Seton Academy](#), a Marianist co-sponsored school in Baltimore. [Read the article.](#)



The late **Fr. Joe Tedesco** is being honored by Carroll High School, an archdiocesan school in Dayton. The school’s lacrosse program will select an athlete for the “Fr. Joseph ‘Teddy’ Tedesco Award.” A recipient must demonstrate hard work and a love of the game. Fr. Joe introduced the sport at Carroll, as well as at [Chaminade Julianne](#) and [Archbishop Moeller High Schools](#). Fr. Joe died in December 2016.

MARIANIST FAMILY REUNION IN LOS ANGELES



Every year the Marianist Family photo at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress is — wonderfully — a little more crowded. Marianist school staff members, Lay Marianists, sisters, brothers, priests and friends of many stripes were in attendance at the big annual conference Feb. 24-26.

See [more photos.](#)

FROM OUR SPONSORED MINISTRIES

DEMONSTRATING A LOVE OF SCIENCE AT MARIANIST SCHOOLS

Six sophomore chemistry and physics students from [Purcell Marian High School](#) in Cincinnati recently participated in the Youth Energy Summit sponsored by the Ohio Energy



Under the founder's watchful eye, Purcell Marian sophomore LaDayja Buchanan describes the physics of sound waves and pitch to students from St. Francis de Sales parish grade school.

Project. The group learned about topics such as sound waves, electric circuits and light reflection, as well as how to provide lively demonstrations on these topics.

Keeping things in the family, the teens then shared their knowledge in demonstrations to younger students from the Marianist parish school, [St. Francis de Sales](#), as part of Catholic Schools Week observances. See [more photos](#).

CARING VASJ STUDENT SAYS, 'PROM ME PLEASE'

[Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School](#) senior **Ashley Wilson** asked for dresses for her 18th birthday.

But not for herself.

Ashley was concerned about girls who may need to forego attending their proms this spring because of the cost of the dress. So, she conducted a one-day drive at VASJ that blossomed into a collection of 250 dresses for donation to Cleveland-area teens.

Watch a [local TV news feature](#) about Ashley's efforts.



VASJ senior Ashley Wilson with donated prom dresses.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM CONFRONTS THE SIN OF RACISM



“Racism is a dysfunctional social system rooted in sin,” said **Fr. Ted Cassidy**, co-chair of the racial and immigrant justice team of the [Marianist Social Justice Collaborative](#). Before we can work toward justice, said Fr. Ted, “we need to acknowledge our part in this system and seek forgiveness.”

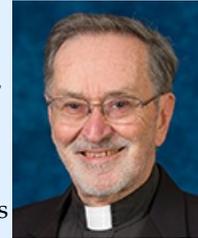
To help Marianist communities and friends confront racism and white privilege, MSJC recently published “[Calling the Marianist Family to Renounce the Sin of Racism](#)” a booklet designed to spark conversation and

action.

The first step in overcoming white privilege is awareness, said Fr. Ted. “Many are unconscious of what racism is and their role in perpetuating it. Racism is powerful, like a hurricane that takes over our emotions, our power to act and our resolve to do the right thing,” he said.

Still, Fr. Ted remains hopeful. “I am encouraged by the number of Church and societal leaders who refuse to accept racism and are developing practices and programs to help us address it,” he said.

Read Fr. Ted’s paper, “[The Hurricane of Racism](#).”



Fr. Ted Cassidy

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT AT CAPE MAY



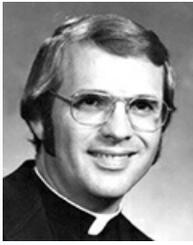
Participants at the Young Adult Retreat last month at the Marianist Family Retreat Center. The retreat was led by Dan Donnelly (standing, at back right).

Deacon Dan Donnelly, director of the Office of Sponsorship for the Marianist Province of the United States, was the lead presenter at a Young Adult Retreat last month at the [Marianist Family Retreat Center](#) in Cape May Point, New Jersey. The retreat drew a capacity crowd of university alumni, as well as retreat center “regulars,” according to retreat center director **Anthony “Foch” Fucci**.

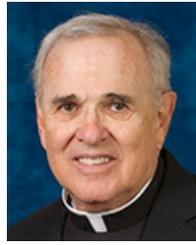
A highlight of the weekend was the witness talks given by some of the retreatants, according to Foch. “These young people openly shared why they are passionate about their faith and what faith practices help them become the person God is creating them to be,” he said.

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY MEMBERS

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS



Fr. Dave – 1970s



Fr. Dave – 2015

✦ **Fr. David Paul**, age 78, died Feb. 22, 2017. Fr. Dave was a Marianist for nearly 60 years, serving as an educator, administrator and fundraiser. He ministered for 10 years at [Gross Catholic High School](#) and was president of [St. Mary's University](#). Read his [obituary](#). See [more photos](#).

- ✦ [Recent deaths of Marianist Family members and friends.](#)
- ✦ [Those in need of prayers for healing.](#)
- ✦ [Obituaries of Marianist brothers and priests](#) (U.S. Province) since 2007.



A MOMENT WITH VENERABLE ADELE

"Look at the smallest blade of grass. Is there a human being skillful enough to make its like? Is there anyone else endowed with the power and authority to cause a grain of seed to multiply, as God does? Everything in nature sings the grandeur of God."

RESOURCES

ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL SEEKS NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL



Applications are now being accepted for the role of head of school at [St. Anthony School](#), a historic, Marianist-sponsored school in Maui, Hawai'i.

Founded in 1848, SAS is the only Catholic school on Maui that offers a seamless preschool through grade 12 experience.

The next head of school will be expected to bring the energy, charisma and executive administration and advancement skills necessary for this school community to build on its legacy of excellence. The new head of school would begin on July 1. [Learn more.](#)



Yes, God!
Committing to the
Marianist Movement

SIGN UP NOW! MARIANIST LAY ASSEMBLY

Registration is now available for the Marianist Lay Assembly July 13 – 16 at the University of Dayton.

This family-oriented event is open to all who embrace the Marianist charism. [Learn more.](#)

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

March 20 St. Joseph, spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred from March 19)

March 25 Annunciation of the Lord



BLOGS

[Bro. Phil Aaron](#)

[Fr. Mike Nartker](#)

[Susan Vogt](#)

[Bro. Brian Zampier](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Gifts & Tasks](#) from the International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities

[Justice Jottings](#) from the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

[Magnificat](#) from the World Council of the Marianist Family

[MLC-NA E-News](#) from the Marianist Lay Community of North America

[Via Latina](#) from the Marianist General Administration

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MARIANIST BIRTHDAYS

2017 *FamilyOnline* production schedule

MAY THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT BE GLORIFIED
IN ALL PLACES THROUGH THE IMMACULATE VIRGIN MARY



Editor: **Carol Dexter**; assistant: **Ann Mueller**. This monthly email newsletter produced by the Society of Mary features news about the Marianist Family: Marianist brothers and priests (Society of Mary), Marianist Sisters; and Lay Marianists. **Fr. Martin Solma, SM**, provincial; **Bro. Joe Kamis, SM**, assistant provincial. Send news, digital photos and comments and suggestions to editor [Carol Dexter](#) using *FamilyOnline* as your subject line.

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