

Society of Mary

Marists in the United States



January 29, 2021

**Bridge Building Through Languages:
The Role of a Lay Marist in the Formation of Catholic Priests**
Dr. Rowena J-M.H. Múzquiz, *Director of the Language Program*
St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach, Florida

We are selected by the “gracious choice” articulated by the founders of the Society of Mary. That selection defines us as Lay Marists and is essential to our developing identity. We are called to our vocations.

When I was called to serve at Saint Vincent DePaul Regional Seminary, my Marist identity unfolded. I had been trying to join work and service for a long time, and the then-rector noted: at Saint Vincent DePaul I could do that full time! That transformed how I see myself as a Marist, how I share myself as a Marist, and how I continue to learn as I teach. A Marist is both contemplative and active, and our identities depend on who we are as children of God, what roles we fill, and how we do what we do serving God and following God’s will. That dedication and commitment, always to seek God’s will, is the heart and core of being Lay Marists.

We are Marists wherever we go and whatever we do. At the Seminary, our work and service are focused on the formation of Catholic priests, so we are directly involved in the future of the church. As Director of the Language Program, bridge building is key to what I do; and it is a metaphor that I often use. Fr. Charles Girard, SM, noted that Lay Marists are “like a bridge” to reach out to people whom priests and professed religious could not touch, and he remarked that the phrase came as inspiration to a Marist lay woman. (“Marist Vision for Laity” 2007) When I teach homiletics in the pastoral languages, I am like a bridge for the seminarians between the clergy and the laity. I provide what some of us call “the view from the pew.” We must build a bridge between the priest and his parishioners. As we prepare our semi-



Dr. Rowena J-M.H. Múzquiz
at a Life Chain event

narians to become transitional deacons, they then need to build bridges between themselves and the priests they serve. And once ordained, priests need to build multiple bridges in their own parishes and even across parishes. Some of the most important vehicles for missionary discipleship come from interactions across parishes and dioceses. Strong bridges must be built. One example of such a bridge is with the Archdiocese of Miami, which provides special opportunities for missionary discipleship and for Hispanic ministry in our area through the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI) and through V Encuentro.

As professor, program director, and tutor, I infuse the various things that I do with a Marist consciousness and ask myself, “How would Mary respond?” to a given situation. I do my best to interact with my students as Mary would interact with them, keeping in mind that a priest must have a very special relationship with Mother Mary, who accompanies him his entire journey. I pray regularly to be more and more aware of Mother Mary accompanying me so that I can accompany others in her way.

At the seminary, we prepare men who answer God’s call for a future made more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic. As Director of the Language Program, my hope is for a Marian church envisioned by Fr. Francois Marc, SM, one that “lets in the wind of Pentecost, the wind which impels one to go out, which unties tongues.” (“Reflection on The Marian Church”). May our seminarians, like the Apostles, speak the multiple languages that they will need to communicate with their parishioners and with anyone who may be drawn to the church, building bridges as they go.



Altar in the main chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, prepared in the colors of the Holy Spirit.

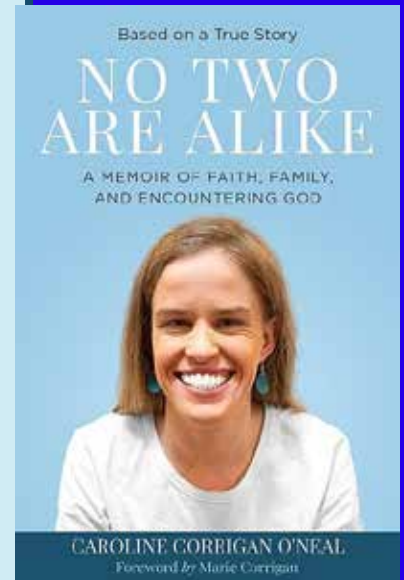
Guest Author: Caroline O'Neal
Our Lady of the Assumption, Atlanta, Georgia

On January 31, 2021 from 7-8pm (EST) Caroline O'Neal will be talking about her book, *No Two Are Alike: A Memoir of Faith, Family, and Encountering God*. Her book speaks to readers about her family's journey, guided by God, to open Sophia Academy. Sophia Academy was a Christian faith based school for children with learning differences.

Caroline was born premature with a very low birth weight and issues with lung development. These medical issues caused her to have a learning difference. Her book walks you through her journey through her eyes as her mother, Marie Corrigan, works with schools to meet her daughters educational needs. Guided by God, Marie opens a school to not only meet the needs of her daughter but also many other children.

During the gathering, Caroline will talk for about 30 minutes about her personal experience. There will then be time to ask the author questions after the talk. All are welcome to join.

RSVP by clicking [here](#) in order to receive the ZOOM link.



Reflection and Prayer from Marist School President Fr. Bill Rowland, SM Highlights
Two Marist School Faculty Featured in The Georgia Bulletin

During the morning prayer on Monday, January 25th, Marist School President Father Bill Rowland, S.M. mentioned two Marist faculty members who were recently featured in The Georgia Bulletin.

Campus Minister Mrs. Bernadette Naro was featured by the newspaper in the article, "[Marist campus minister reflects on radical discipleship](#)." Mrs. Naro discussed her parents' influence on her life and faith. She said, "What my parents did was demonstrate to me the importance of living my faith out and responding to God's call to build God's kingdom and making that the central question in my life."

English Department Chair Ms. Gina Parnaby was interviewed and pictured with her eldest child, Elizabeth, in the article, "[Then & NOW: A mom who teaches lessons at home and school](#)." The article highlights how Ms. Parnaby tries to instill in her children the importance of living your values.

Ms. Parnaby talked about how their presence at the 2009 Mass for the Unborn was Elizabeth's first participation in witness to life. Since then, their family has supported other efforts to promote life. In the summer of 2020, they attended marches and rallies for racial justice in Atlanta and Roswell.

In his remarks, Fr. Rowland said, "I want to thank Ms. Parnaby and Mrs. Naro for showing us what it looks like to protect life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. They embody the best of Catholic social teaching and model the kind of students the Society of Mary wants to graduate from its schools.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Campus Minister, Mrs. Bernadette Naro



English Department Chair, Ms. Gina Parnaby with her eldest child, Elizabeth

Faculty & Staff – Bring Your Pet to Work Day at Marist School!

Marist School knows the cure for brightening a winter's day—just add pets! Lots of tails wagging and faces smiling seen in the pictures below from this year's bring-your-pet-to-work day for faculty and staff which occurred on January 15th!



Memory Project at Notre Dame Preparatory and Marist Academy (NDPMA), Pontiac, Michigan



Despite home quarantine, IB Visual Art seniors and AP Studio seniors at Notre Dame finished (in May 2020) what is an annual tradition for the college-bound student-artists - a portrait project for orphans and disadvantaged youth around the world. This year each of the seniors created a portrait of an orphan living in Venezuela as part of the Memory Project, a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for children and teens around the world who have been neglected, orphaned or disadvantaged. Portraits created by the students last school year recently arrived in Caracas, Venezuela, and were distributed to the orphans.

Read more about the annual tradition and **view** a video to see the many happy faces of the children after receiving the artwork.



Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan - Rosary for the Unborn



NOTRE DAME

On Friday, January 22nd, NDP students, Therese Allard (11), Thomas Belej (10), Luka Cvetkovic (10) and Anthony Ghaith (11) participated in the Archdiocese of Detroit Rosary for the Unborn which was livestreamed from the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. A recording of this livestreamed event is available [HERE](#).



Independent Reading Challenge at NDPMA

Check out Notre Dame seventh graders, who are taking a deep dive into the world of nonfiction literature in the St. Peter Chanel Library. It's part of an Independent Reading Challenge where they're asked to read seven books from a variety of different categories.

Notre Dame librarian Steve Palizzi guided the students through a rotation of a variety of topics, including sports, spies, presidents and current issues. They used their book previewing skills to find titles that are appealing to them. This challenge also allows them to expand their reading and step out of their comfort zones.

Catholic Identity at Marist School, Atlanta, Georgia

Marist's Catholic identity is at the root of all we do, from the Emmaus retreat for juniors and seniors, to the invitation to participate in the "9 Days for Life" novena, to the Student for Life Club's virtual March for Life and diaper/baby supplies drive, to today's Eucharistic Adoration in Esmond Brady Memorial Chapel.

Student-led retreats like Emmaus provide opportunities for sharing, reflection, and prayer and encourage ongoing spiritual growth.

Through the efforts of Students for Life, Marist students are praying for and supporting the protection of human life. As club member William Schulman '21 shared during morning prayer, "Christ invites us to embrace our own lives and the lives of others as true gifts. We look to see the God-given dignity in the elderly, in those on death row, in women and men of different backgrounds from ourselves, and in the precious life of a child waiting to be born."

Today's Adoration, a devotion in which the Eucharist is exposed on the altar in a monstrance (a vessel), offered students, faculty, and staff another opportunity for prayer and contemplation. Campus Ministry plans to offer additional opportunities to pray in Adoration together during upcoming Activity Periods.

At Marist School, we live our faith and provide students with the spiritual foundation they need to lead and serve with compassion, integrity, and a sense of purpose.



A scene from a recent Emmaus retreat



Marist students who participated in the January 2020 March for Life in Washington, DC

Adult Catechism Study

Our Lady of the Assumption, Atlanta, Georgia

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is like the treasure buried in the field. Out of sight and out of mind. Yet, when you dig it up, your effort is always rewarded.

Matthew Kelly, a modern Apologist and Evangelist claims, "You become what you think." It is a simple and profound thought. If you want to be a Catholic; first you must think like a Catholic. This class will focus on what Catholics think and how we think differently from non-Catholics. So if you want to think like a Catholic then this course may be for you!

Sessions are via Zoom on Thursdays from 9-10am. For more details email Art Keegan at artkeegan@hotmail.com.

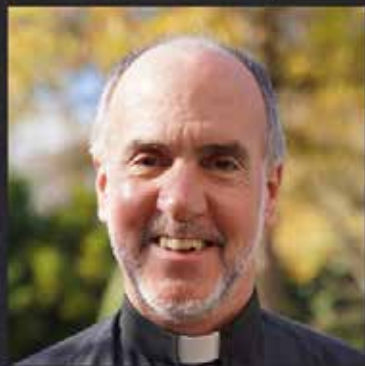
CATECHISM STUDY:

I Believe

CATECHISM
OF THE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

THURSDAYS @ 9AM

Beginning Late January



Father Kevin Duggan, SM



Father John Ulrich, SM

Welcome Reception

Join us for a socially distanced reception welcoming our new parochial vicars

after the 10am Mass on Sunday, February 21.

Masks and Social Distancing required.

ATLERNATE DATE

Sunday, February 28
(in case of bad weather)