

MARIANIST LIFE – SUMMER 2005

Marianist LIFE is a faith formation experience for high school students throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Based on Chaminade's vision for building a community of communities, Marianist LIFE (Living In Faith Experience) provides Marianist and non-Marianist institutions opportunities for small faith communities to form, grow, and flourish. Marianist LIFE Communities, existing in both parishes and high schools, build bridges of Marianist charism with young people and the world.

The summer LIFE week is a faith formation experience for high school students and their moderators. Moderators (campus ministers, youth ministers, teachers, adult volunteers, etc.) attend "Moderator Days" prior to the students' arrival to learn about the summer LIFE week, in addition to building and modeling communities of faith. The students arrive for a week-long experience of small faith communities, sacraments, prayer, leadership development, and retreat. This past summer, in 2005:

- 227 students participated from twenty-seven high schools and eight parishes, hailing from nine different states and Puerto Rico
- Nearly 100 adults participated as moderators and coordinating team members
- Marianist LIFE Pacific (July 10-15) was held at Mission Springs Conference Center in Mission Springs, Calif.
- Marianist LIFE Central (July 18-23) was hosted by Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning in Dayton
- Marianist LIFE South (July 26-Aug. 2) was held at TECABOCA in Ingram, Texas

Student Reflections

"When I walked in I was so overwhelmed by everyone. They were all so warm, welcoming, and enthusiastic to meet us, and that was something that I had never before experienced in my life. My small group became more than a small faith community; it became a close-knit family. We shared pain, heartache, loss, love, laughs, good times, and LIFE. My MLC helped me deal with my issues of self acceptance and the depression I felt over losing my father."

"One experience that I still think about almost every day was Social Justice Day. From the moment we started early in the morning with the Social Justice Stations of the Cross, I had a feeling that we all were a part of something very special to come. And I was right. Our solidarity meal that night was one of the most special things I've done. Our Marianist Young Adult representatives did a fantastic job of giving us the harsh reality of how many people go hungry each day ...I only wish I could do it again, and do it in exactly the same way, so I could get all I could out of Marianist LIFE."