

We invite you to catch the Marianist spirit!

BY BROTHER MIKE SULLIVAN, SM

Food plays an integral part of any family's life. The act of gathering around a table for a meal can provide stability for day-to-day living or bring much joy in the celebration of a holiday. These times of breaking bread can help create the most fundamental of all communities, allow deep relationships to be built and provide opportunities for people to learn more about themselves by looking at those around them. For these reasons and for so many more, gathering around the table is of utmost importance for a very special family, the Marianist family.

Just as a family is comprised of many members, the Marianist family is comprised of lay people (Marianist Lay Communities), religious sisters (Daughters of Mary Immaculate) and religious brothers and priests (Society of Mary). Where this family differs from most is that its members have the opportunity to discern



Photo provided

Father Tim Dwyer, SM, second from right, met with Marianist aspirants, from left, Ken Barrett, Brandon Alana and Ray Dominguez.

which part of the family God is calling them to live in. We have the grace to find out at which part of the table we are to sit.

The Marianist charism can be fully lived as a lay person,

brother or sister, but God leads us to one of these distinct lifestyles. And what a blessing that is!

Anyone can catch the Marianist spirit; the question at hand is "Now what am I supposed to do with it?" And the answer for three men (myself included) has been to look deeper into devoting our lives to fostering this familial spirit for others. Each of us has spent the time before this year growing in the Marianist spirit as laypersons. We worked along side other members of the family at Marianist universities and high schools, all the while gathering around the table to create communities based on faith.

Realizing that God has touched us through the lives of the members of the Society of Mary (SM), we made the choice to live the life for a year to see if it is right for us to devote ourselves to fostering the growth of the Marianist family.

In a sense we are starting to see if it is our time, and our vocation, to cook the food for the feast which has nourished us in so many ways.