



3 February 2010

Dear Brothers,

Following a consultation of the Formation Advisory Council and the Province Vocation Team, the Provincial Council happily announces the appointment of **Bro. Tom Wendorf** as Province vocation director for a five-year term beginning in July 2010.

Originally from Brunswick, Ohio, Tom graduated from the University of Dayton in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in English. He joined the Society of Mary after graduation, making his first vows in 1988. For three years he taught English at Hackett Central Catholic High School in Kalamazoo, Mich. Tom professed his perpetual vows as a Marianist brother in 1991. He earned a master's degree and doctorate in English and American Literature at Washington University in St. Louis, specializing in Modern Literature and in the Catholic writers Graham Greene and Flannery O'Connor. Tom is an associate professor of English at the University of Dayton, where he has taught literature and composition for 10 years, specializing in Catholic writers and literature dealing with religious experience.

As he accepts this call to vocation ministry, Tom expresses what it means to him:

Vocation ministry is an exercise in mystery to me. We walk with other Christians in the midst of discovery, of themselves and of Christ who walks with us. Only God knows where the walking may lead, but my role, I think, is to be steady, to listen and invite, and to know when and how to get out of the way. That means I'd better be praying and seeking the God of love myself and letting myself be found and changed. How else can I hope to accompany others as they seek to understand the unfolding grace of the One who calls us to fullness of life?

We are deeply grateful to Tom for responding so generously and enthusiastically to this new ministry in his life. At the same time, we offer heartfelt thanks to **Bro. Charles Johnson** for his eight years of dedicated service as Province vocation director. Charlie has been a significant presence within the Province these past years, and he has rallied us to prayer and activity in vocation ministry. His efforts have set the pace for our commitment to the future.

Over the next several months, Charlie and Tom will work together to effect a smooth transition. Let us renew our efforts to invite others to share our Marianist life, and let us stand with Tom as he begins to direct those efforts!

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life