

MARIANIST CULTURE, FAITH AND COMMUNITY

# ALIVE

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*Marianist ministries give India's urban poor a foothold in life, page 4.*

# A MESSAGE

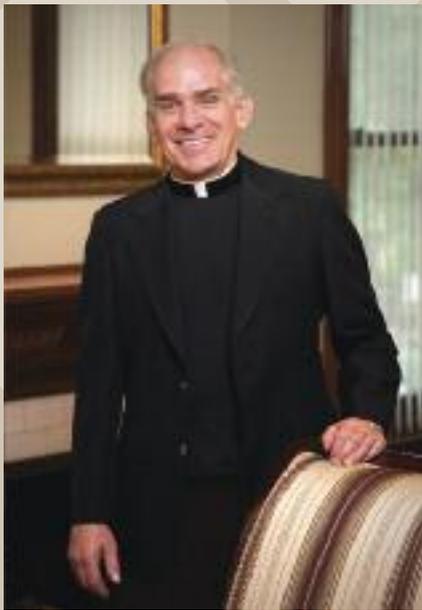
*from the Provincial*

Dear Friends,

At the heart of the Gospel of St. Mark, after teaching his followers on three different occasions about the meaning of his journey to Jerusalem and the meaning of discipleship, Jesus makes a remarkable statement: “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Jesus models for us what it means to be a servant leader and to give his life for others.

I’ve seen this selfless service by Marianists, especially in places like Africa and India that are experiencing growing populations, urbanization and changes to traditional culture. Here, social service nets are strained and many children, women and elderly fall through the cracks.

Some people live in unimaginable circumstances. I remember visiting several shelters our brothers in India provide for street children. Many are “ragpickers”—children who spend their days picking through heaps of garbage in the city, salvaging pieces of plastic or paper or cloth that can be sold for recycling. I remember entering the small house of a ragpicking family: a hovel, 8 feet by 8 feet, with a charcoal fire and one thin mattress. This was home for a woman and her five children. But most appalling was the sight of small children playing on a hillside covered by dwellings — tents made of plastic sheeting — where open sewage ran freely and there was no running water or electricity. Working in these places requires generosity and selflessness.



Father Martin Solma, SM

The first response of the Marianists in India is to provide a safe environment. The second is to provide education — formal and nonformal. Getting youngsters into schools or trade programs allows them to grow in human dignity and provides a better future for their families. With urban youth and their families, especially mothers who are often the sole provider, the Marianists are spending their energies and talents to do what Jesus did: bringing hope and a “ransom” for many.

Sometimes the “many” are closer than we think. The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, named in honor of Marianist Brother Raymond Fitz, the long-serving former president of the University of Dayton, addresses issues of urban poverty and seeks to develop leaders who can make a real difference. This year, Brother Brandon Paluch, one of our newly professed brothers, along with many UD students, will do internships at this Center, learning about urban poverty and the importance of being a servant leader like Jesus.

I hope the articles in this issue of *ALIVE* help you appreciate our work among the poor and the importance that this dimension of the Gospel has for all Marianists. We deeply appreciate your partnership with us in making a difference in the lives of so many people.

With my gratitude and prayers,

Father Martin Solma, SM  
Provincial

**Father Martin Solma, SM**  
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**Front cover**  
Marianists help families in the slums of Ranchi, India, through education and training. See story, page 4.

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The Society of Mary (Marianists) is an international Roman Catholic religious congregation of priests and brothers. About 350 professed members comprise the Province of the United States. They serve in communities and ministries from Honolulu to Puerto Rico and in Eastern Africa, India, Ireland, Mexico, Nepal and the Philippines. In the United States, the Marianists sponsor three universities: University of Dayton in Ohio, St. Mary's University in San Antonio and Chaminade University of Honolulu, as well as 19 high schools, seven parishes and several retreat centers. The order has had a presence in the United States since 1849, when the Marianists came to Cincinnati. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade founded the Society of Mary in France in 1817.

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# The Power of Kindness

*Through daily acts of compassion and encouragement, the Marianists in India reach out to society's outcasts — the urban poor — providing programs that empower them to gain a foothold in life.*

BY JAN D. DIXON

*Below, a boy "ragpicking" on the streets of Ranchi; right, Marianist Brother Alex Toppo working with a family that lives in a makeshift tent in the slums of Ranchi*



**S**ome Indians speak as many as seven languages. But in a country that recognizes 340 languages and more than 1,000 dialects, the universal language that everyone instinctively understands — especially the poor — is the language of kindness. It is the mother tongue of street ministry, one the

Marianists in the slums of India speak fluently and from the heart.

"You must have a heart for people," says Marianist Brother Alex Toppo, who has been working in the slums of Ranchi, India, for more than 10 years. "You couldn't work here otherwise."

To be successful in these ministries means looking beyond poverty and seeing what God must see: lives full of potential waiting to unfold.

"The people we work with have been rejected by almost everyone. Society does not accept them as full human beings," says Brother Alex. "They need someone to believe in them and a platform to establish themselves so they can do something with their lives."

That platform — a launching pad based on education and training — has been the focus of Marianist ministries among the urban poor in Bangalore, in southern India, and Ranchi, in the northern part of the country, for more than 20 years. The programs, administered through



an organization called REDS, have grown to include preschool, daycare and afterschool programs for children; microfinancing initiatives for adults; training in sewing and embroidery for young women; and skills training for adolescent boys who have dropped out of school or are living on the streets. Recently, the Marianists opened computer training labs to equip young men and women with basic computer skills.

"The programs are well managed," says Prema Mantesh, program director of REDS in Bangalore, who has been working for the Marianists for more than 15 years. The REDS ministries operate with 10 Marianists and a staff of more than 70. Prema credits Marianist oversight as one reason for its good reputation.

*Women load up bags of recyclables after rummaging through a garbage dump in Ranchi.*





Chotu Rom and his mother, Bulu

“There is integrity because the brothers are involved in daily operations.”

That involvement adds up to countless hours of relationship building: hanging out in the slums getting acquainted with people; helping when someone is sick or a child is hurt; answering the call when a family member is in trouble with the police. These small acts of kindness open the door to deeper bonds and allow the Marianists to help parents see the potential in their children and discover healthier

options for themselves. But seeking a better life takes courage. Just ask Chotu Rom.

### Breaking free

Chotu Rom, 19, grew up in a crowded slum in Ranchi. He, his parents and seven siblings survived by ragpicking — going through trash for anything they could find to sell for income. Ragpickers live on the lowest rung of Indian society. With no education or skills, the family saw no way to move up — not until they met the Marianists who took an interest in them. “Part of our job is to help parents envision a better life for their children,” says Marianist Brother Libin Minj, former director of REDS in Ranchi. “Most of them survive day to day without any thought of the future.”

In 2009, the Marianists convinced Chotu’s parents to let him move to Bangalore to receive technical training at the Marianists’ REDS Skills Training Center-Deepahalli. (The Marianists recently opened a similar training center near Ranchi that can accommodate 150 students.) Chotu studied the electrical and

plumbing trades and after two years returned to Ranchi. Today he earns income as a plumber and is the first in his family to make a living apart from ragpicking.

“It feels so good,” he says, beaming with pride about his newfound profession.

His accomplishment is huge, say the Marianists. It is difficult for people born in the slum to break free of family and cultural norms that keep them stuck. “It is a great accomplishment when any one of these children begins to see they have options and is brave enough to try something new,” says Brother Alex.

### The ministries: A family approach

When the Marianists started working in the slums in Bangalore in 1992, and in Ranchi in 1997, they began with programs designed to help children. They opened several centers in the slums to provide hungry street kids with a meal, a safe place to sleep and encouragement to attend school. “But it wasn’t enough,” says Marianist Brother Raj Mohan, director of the REDS Skills Training Center-Deepahalli, who worked in the Bangalore slums for three years. “We needed to address the entire family.”

Most slum children come from single parent households where the mother is the sole provider. Since she is gone most of the day, the children are left to roam on their own, often getting into trouble. “We set up daycare and after school programs to help the mothers and children,” says Brother Raj. The Marianists run 11 centers in Ranchi and 20 in Bangalore, serving more than 3,000 children.

“The mothers also needed to learn how to generate income and manage money,” says Brother Raj, so the

### Empowering Women: Sankri’s Story

Like many adolescent girls in the slums of India, Sankri was married by the time she was 14. “I was 15 when I gave birth to my first child,” she says. A few months later, she began working as a housekeeper to earn income.

Both she and her husband have little education. He is a rickshaw driver in Bangalore. Their combined income is roughly \$100 a month.

Early in the marriage, they ran into financial problems, so Sankri got a high-interest loan from a local bank. The lending fees pushed them further into debt, and tensions in the relationship rose.

That was until a few years ago when Sankri joined one of the self-help groups sponsored by the Marianists. The microfinancing

group has helped her save money and pay off her debts. “I cleared the bank loan this spring,” she says, with a sigh of relief.

Recently, Sankri, along with other members of her self-help group, signed up for tailoring classes offered by the Marianist REDS program. “I need to make more money so my children can go to a good school. One wants to be a doctor, the other a police officer. I want them to succeed in life,” she says.



Sankri (front) with her Marianist Self-Help Group in Bangalore

For more stories about women who have been helped by the Marianist ministries in India, go to [www.marianist.com/India](http://www.marianist.com/India).



Boys enrolled in the Marianist Skills Training Center-Deepahalli. To read more about them, go to [www.marianist.com/India](http://www.marianist.com/India)

Marianists launched several self-help groups (see sidebar on page 6). Today there are more than 40 groups in the slums of India designed to financially empower working parents, mostly mothers.

But there were still many children left on the streets. "Some had dropped out of school and had gotten into trouble with alcohol or criminal activities," says Brother Raj.

### The real impact

In 1998, the Marianists opened REDS Skills Training Center-Deepahalli on the outskirts of Bangalore as a way to remove young boys from a harmful city environment and give them a chance to learn a trade. Today the boys can learn skills in carpentry, electrical applications, welding, plumbing and tailoring. This year the Marianists also opened a computer lab. More than 700 boys have graduated from the program since it began 14 years ago.

But the program isn't a boot camp for learning a trade. "We are interested in developing the whole person," says Brother Raj. "We try to create a family-like atmosphere because many of these kids didn't get much love from their parents. We want them to know this is a safe place where they are accepted and loved."

Most of the children arrive at Deepahalli suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Besides training, the Marianists provide food, lodging and a wholesome place to grow. They also are determined to help these adolescents experience the joys of childhood through sports and other social activities. "Most of them never had a childhood, no toys to play with, nothing but ragpicking," says Brother Raj.

The real impact of the program often takes years to assess. Says Brother Raj: "It's not until these young men come back here, sometimes 15 years after they graduated, and talk about how the Marianists changed their lives — that we see the deep impact we've had. They say the brothers and staff here are like 'home' to them.

"I grew up in a small village in India," says Brother Raj. "Working in the slums was shocking. I had never seen anything like it. I have learned a lot from this work. I am deeply touched when I see these boys live a good life away from the slums. It makes me happy and tells me what we are doing is important." ■

### Help children live a better life!

There are many ways you can help the Marianists and their work among the poor in India. To send a donation now, please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website at [www.marianist.com/India](http://www.marianist.com/India). For more information, contact Marianist Father David Paul at 314.533.1207 or [dpaul@sm-usa.org](mailto:dpaul@sm-usa.org).

Marianist Brother Raj Mohan,  
director, REDS Skills Training  
Center-Deepahalli





Above: Marianist Brothers Ray Fitz and Brandon Paluch discuss community leadership strategies.

# Aiming for the Common Good:

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## Leadership Training Embodies Distinct Marianist Style

*Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at the University of Dayton empowers a new generation of leaders.*

BY SHELLY REESE

**L**eadership isn't about standing in front of a crowd barking orders.

It's about listening, gathering input and fostering relationships that help a diverse group of people define and work toward a shared vision — one that promotes the common good. That, in a nutshell, is the mission of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at the University of Dayton.

The Fitz Center, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, is about “teaching students to build communities with or without formal authority,” says Executive Director Dick Ferguson. “It’s what we call ‘leading from the middle.’ Convening, listening, facilitating honest conversation, seeking consensus — these are the leadership skills that build and sustain communities.”

### Listening from the heart

The Fitz Center, named for former UD president Marianist Brother Ray Fitz, who now serves as the university’s Father Ferree Professor of Social Justice, is rooted in UD’s long tradition of serving the needs

of Greater Dayton and serves as a bridge between the university and the community.

**“Leadership means listening with your heart, not just your ears.”**

– Marianist Brother Ray Fitz

With its 28-member staff, the Center coaches a team of 120 student leaders who make commitments to serve Dayton for one semester to three years. Two Marianists are involved with the Center: Brother Ed Zamierowski

serves as a community advisor and Brother Brandon Paluch began this fall as an intern.

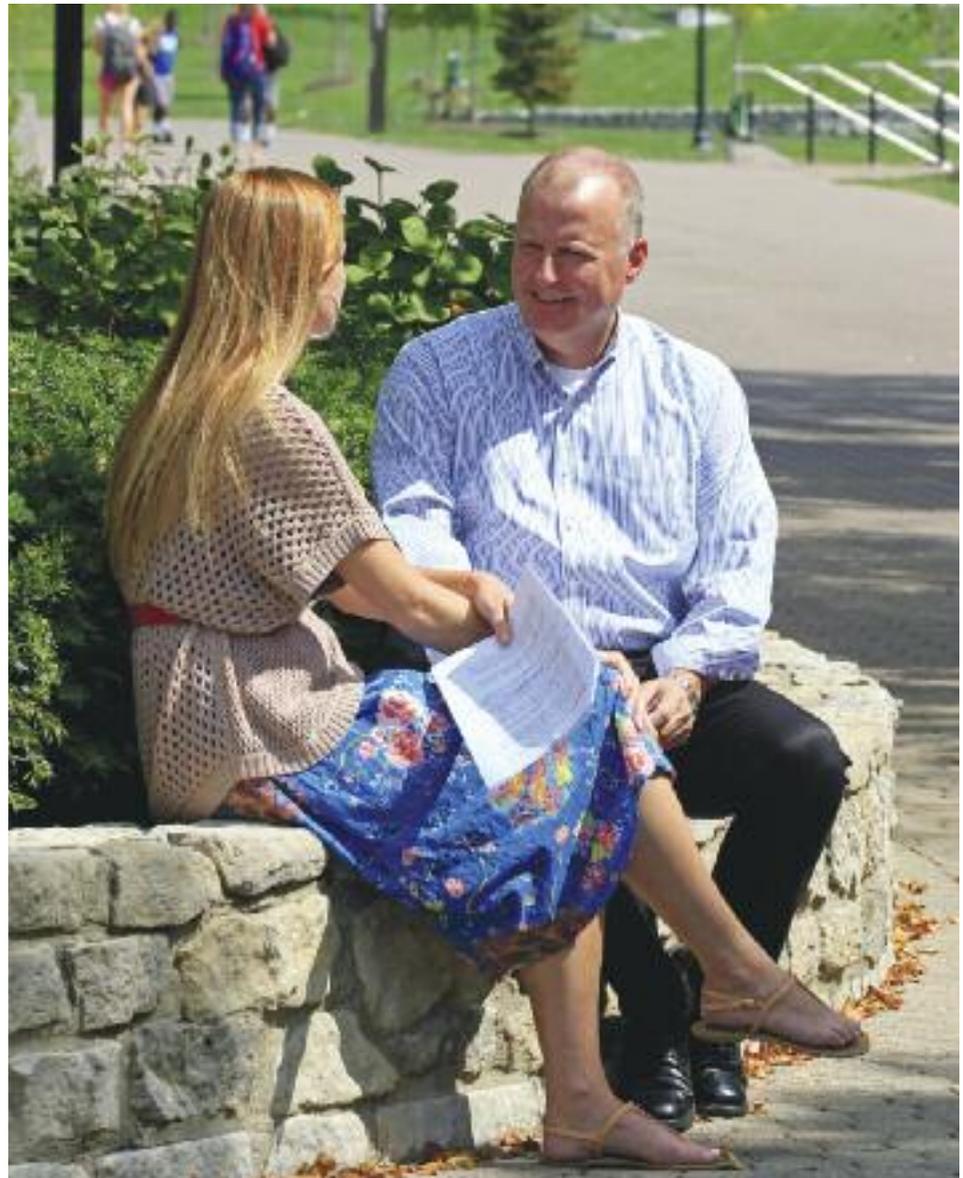
Students participate in one of five leadership programs: River Stewards, Dayton Civic Scholars, Semester of Service, Neighborhood School Centers and Graduate Community of Fellows. In addition, another 833 UD students participated last year in Fitz Center service initiatives on a per project basis.

But the Fitz Center is not simply a service learning center. Rather, it’s a hybrid service learning center/ research institute/ consulting group whose primary focus is to teach students to become community leaders.

The first lesson students learn is to listen.

“Many universities have a reputation for imposing their agenda on a community,” says Ferguson. “The most distinctive feature of the Fitz Center is that we start by asking, ‘What can we do *with* you?’ This means we start from a very different place.”

Brother Ray says the approach bears a Catholic and Marianist imprint because it emphasizes servant



*Dick Ferguson talks with graduate student Alexandra Robinson on the campus at the University of Dayton. Ferguson is executive director of the Fitz Center and Robinson leads the Dayton Civic Scholars program at the Fitz Center.*

leadership, a style that requires humility and grace. Every project builds on community assets and moves forward based on asking questions, seeking input and forging a consensus. But this takes more than patience.

“Leadership means listening with your heart, not just your ears,” says Brother Ray.

### Beyond the campus

The Fitz Center challenges students to take what they’ve learned about community building from their experiences at UD and apply it beyond the confines of academia.

“For our Marianist charism to inspire we have to show the art of building community beyond family and close friends,” says Ferguson. “As an institution, we need to teach the art of building community in the world around us.”

To do this, the Fitz Center works with 24 partners, including businesses, foundations, neighborhood organizations, not-for-profits and the Dayton Public

Schools, to develop long-term solutions that will have a meaningful impact. Forging a consensus with so many diverse players takes more time than prescribing and imposing a unilateral solution to a problem. But the results are more enduring because they are rooted in community ownership. Each success also fosters greater trust and stronger relationships.

“The more successes people see, the more willing they are to be patient and to listen to one another,” says Brother Ray.

This means learning how to wait — even through awkward stretches of silence. “Father Chaminade insisted on silence as a way to move the conversation forward,” says Brother Ray.



*Jada Neal, Colin Gerker and Alex Galluzzo (back to camera) work on planning for the fall Semester of Service at the Fitz Center at the University of Dayton. These Fitz Center students coordinate the work of other students in the program. Galluzzo and Gerker are graduate students.*

The Fitz Center is an invaluable community asset, says Barbra Stonerock, director of community relations for the Dayton Foundation, which partners with the Center on numerous projects.

“The Center is known for building greater community good,” she says. “They don’t have an agenda or political issues. They are masters at seeking consensus. It makes them an energizing force.”

### Student leaders step up

Over the years, the Center’s mission has evolved to emphasize the role of student leaders.

“When we started we didn’t anticipate having a student leadership function,” Ferguson explains. “The team initially assembled had a lot of expertise. We could have been a great think tank or consulting organization, but what we learned quickly was the insight students had was fresh and enlightening.”

Staff members stepped back from projects and assumed the role of coaches while students stepped up to lead the projects.

“When I look back at our first decade, the thing I’m most proud of is the students and the amazing leadership roles they have taken in different aspects of the community,” Brother Ray says.

Stonerock echoes that sentiment. “The quality of the students is off the charts. They understand the issues they’re working on and they’re very humble about what they’re doing in the community. You can tell service is important to them.”

### Everyone wins

That service has produced impressive results. For example, through the Fitz Center’s Rivers Institute, student leaders are educating the public about the Great Miami River corridor and its importance to the community. As part of the team’s ongoing effort to educate the community about the importance of river stewardship, they applied for a grant to create a mobile learning studio that can be taken to area schools and used to teach students about the watershed.

The display will provide middle school students with more than an interesting, hands-on learning experience, says Brother Ray. “The younger students will see that science isn’t just something in a textbook, and when they interact with the college students, they also see role models in the community — young people who take education seriously.”

UD students likewise benefit from interacting with the community. Graduate student Colin Gerker works with the Neighborhood School Centers which supports five Dayton public elementary schools.

“The No. 1 request we get is for classroom assistants, homework help and reading tutors,” Gerker says. “We bring in student volunteers so they have a sustainable relationship with the kids. They aren’t just a ‘volunteer of the day.’”

Gerker says it’s fulfilling to be part of a movement aimed at advancing social justice, but he says that the experience has also helped him grow spiritually and enhanced his appreciation for the people around him.

“Putting community building into practice has been the highlight of my UD career,” he says. Working at the Fitz Center gives him a feeling of solidarity, because everyone is working toward a common good. “I never have a feeling of being alone. It gives me hope. The Fitz Center embodies what Father Chaminade would have wanted in the world today.” ■

*Shelly Reese is a freelance writer from Cincinnati.*

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# “We are all Founders”

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*At age 90, Marianist Father Joe Stefanelli is called to impart his knowledge to a new audience of Lay Marianists.*

BY JAN D. DIXON

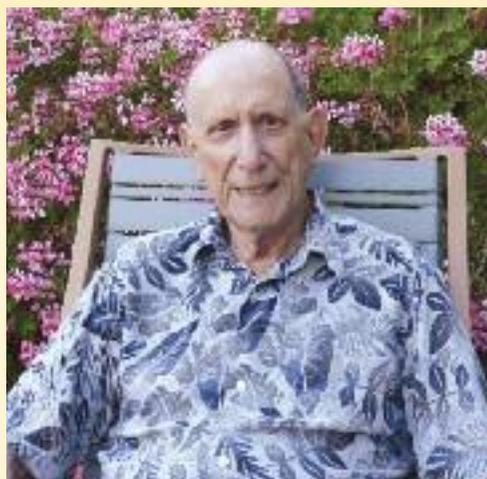
**M**arianist Father Joe Stefanelli says his motto in life can be sized up with two letters from the alphabet: AA. “Accept and adjust,” he says. “If there is something I can change, I change it. If not, that’s okay, too,” says this Marianist wisdom figure who turns 91 in November.

“I think I got that from Father Chaminade. If you look at his life, it was a series of failures. He tried to do one thing and it didn’t work. He tried something else and it didn’t work either, but he never got upset about it. He had amazing patience. He was someone with a deep faith in God and maintained the belief that whatever happens in life is for the good of those who believe. It’s surprising what you learn about him from studying his letters,” something this senior Marianist has been doing for the past 75 years.

Father Joe has had plenty of practice accepting and adjusting to life, especially 10 years ago when he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, rendering him unconscious for three weeks. But within weeks after the stroke, Father Joe was back home putting together another 5,000 piece puzzle, a hobby he has excelled at much of his life, and researching the life of Chaminade. “Right now I am translating a book by one of our Italian brothers about Chaminade, so I am rereading many of his letters,” says Father Joe.

## Tapping the source

Pati Krasensky, director of the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative, a program started seven years ago to equip lay people with community building skills, was looking for ways to enrich the program.



**“Father Chaminade said, ‘We are all missionaries,’ and missionaries are people who tell others about Christ and his message of love for the world.”**

– Father Joe Stefanelli

The phrase captured our imaginations and reminded us that we are called to do what the founders did.”

Father Joe explains further: “Father Chaminade said ‘we are all missionaries,’ and missionaries are people who tell others about Christ and his message of love for the world. The church is comprised of all sorts of people, but mainly lay people. Chaminade thought they were the best equipped to bring the message of the Gospel to the people where they lived.”

Adds Krasensky: “Our lay groups are called to do that same thing today.” ■

“I decided to call Father Joe because of his vast knowledge about the Marianist founders,” says Krasensky.

Last spring, through teleconferencing, the group invited Father Joe to be a guest speaker. They were not disappointed. “When we got off the phone, I felt as though we had just been on a walk with Father Chaminade. Father Joe has an uncanny way of making the Marianist historical figures come alive,” says Krasensky.

One question the group asked Father Joe: “If the Marianist founders were alive today, what would they tell us about community building?”

Father Joe’s response: “We are all founders.”

Says Krasensky, “For everyone on that phone call, that message hit home.

# UNPLUGGED:

## Texas Catholic Boys Camp

*A Marianist boys camp combines back-to-basics camping and outdoor fun with spiritual mentoring.*

BY MICHAEL BITTNER





It started the way so many good things begin, as a gift of generosity. Notre Dame Catholic School in Kerrville, Texas, held a benefit auction. A bidder purchased a pass for a young man to attend a two-week boys camp at Tecaboca, a renewal center the Marianists have sponsored since the early 1950s in rural Mountain Home, Texas. The winning bidder instructed the camp's director to give the opportunity to a deserving boy.

Antonio Flores, 14, of Kerrville, received that gift five years ago, and he's been back every summer. The boys fish, ride horses, shoot rifles, learn archery and participate in other outdoor activities. They also grow in their faith and receive the Eucharist daily, which is the part of camp Antonio finds most satisfying.

"I'm always a different person when I come home from camp," Antonio says. He was wearing a T-shirt that read *Esto Vir*, the camp's motto that means "Be a Man" in Latin.

Antonio's mother, Emily, a single mom, says that without the gift she could not have afforded the camp fees. However, since Antonio attended the camp that first summer, she's sacrificed and found a way for him to make it to Tecaboca.

"When the paperwork comes in the mail, there

isn't even a discussion," Emily says. "That first gift got us hooked."

### A different world

Tecaboca is different from everyday life for the boys, Executive Director Kay Tally-Foos says. Here, pickup soccer games and ropes courses replace organized soccer practices and computers. Here, boys learn that being a man is about following Jesus, respecting others and themselves and being personally accountable.

"Everyone who comes to Tecaboca leaves as a better person," said Nathaniel Dyer, 14. Dyer plays dozens of soccer games every year for a competitive team in south Texas, and for him, Tecaboca is a place to relax and take a break.

"I love competitive soccer, but I'm always nervous," Dyer said. "At camp, soccer and everything else is about having fun."

Tally-Foos says the boys camp is unique because it's one of just two outdoor Catholic youth camps in Texas, and the other is co-ed.

"To have Catholicism within the fabric of a camp like this is special."

Tally-Foos says Tecaboca has survived an entire

*Campers enjoy canoeing on Johnson Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River.*

**"We are very much an 'unplugged' camp, a back-to-basics kind of camp, and that's what parents are looking for. Boys see how easily normal life meshes with a prayerful life of working to hear God's call."**

— Kay Tally Foos,  
executive director, Tecaboca



*Antonio Flores and his mother, Emily*



*Kay Tally-Foos, executive director, Tecaboca*

cycle in the camping world: In the last 40 years, other summer camps featured everything from speedboats to video games. Now, so-called “retro camps” are popular.

“We are very much an ‘unplugged’ camp, a back-to-basics kind of camp, and that’s what parents are looking for,” Tally-Foos says. “Boys see how easily normal life meshes with a prayerful life of working to hear God’s call.”

Tally-Foos believes it’s much easier to bring a boy up right than it is to fix a broken man. She says lessons boys learn at Tecaboca can stick with them for life.

“It’s healthy for boys to settle things in the cabin or on the soccer field without adults getting involved,” Tally-Foos

says. “Those are lessons that could come in handy someday in the workplace.”

### Lessons to remember

The memories of Tecaboca can be powerful for men who attended camp as boys. “A gratifying part of my job is seeing the twinkle in a grown man’s eye when he talks about Tecaboca,” says Tally-Foos. She tells

the story of a man who attended Tecaboca in the 1960s and later struggled with alcohol abuse during his adult life. He said if he could have lived the life lessons he learned at camp about community, simple pleasures and listening for God’s voice, he would never have turned to alcohol.

For Jin Takamura, 35, rural Tecaboca was about as different a world as he could imagine.

Jin attended St. Joseph’s School, a former Marianist school near Tokyo, from kindergarten through high school. Marianist Father Jim Mueller was principal of the school and invited some students to attend summer camp at Tecaboca. Jin was homesick the first summer, but ended up returning every summer until he graduated from high school. He loved Texas Hill Country and the Marianist charism and attended St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, a Marianist-sponsored school. Now a technology consultant and married father of two in Singapore, Jin is grateful for Tecaboca and hopes his sons can attend one day.



*Marianist Father Jim Mueller celebrates Mass with Tecaboca campers.*



## Tecaboca: Serving Catholic youth in Texas Hill Country for 75 years

The Marianists founded the Texas Catholic Boys Camp on rented property near the town of Comfort, Texas, in the 1930s. In 1951, they purchased 100 acres along Johnson Creek and the camp was moved to its present location outside Mountain Home, Texas. The story goes that one day shortly after the move, one of the Marianist brothers was painting the camp's name on a kayak. Unable to squeeze the long name on the boat's narrow stern, he shortened it to "TECABOCA." The name stuck.

This year, Tecaboca celebrates 75 years of serving Catholic youth in Texas Hill Country and 60 at its current location. Campers participate in the same activities they did 60 years ago, which pleases both parents and campers. Father Jim Mueller first visited Tecaboca as a high school student in 1952. "The world has changed, but the beauty and simplicity of Tecaboca has not," he says. "Tecaboca is sacred ground."

Read more about the boys camp, other types of retreats and Tecaboca's facilities at [www.tecaboca.com](http://www.tecaboca.com).



*Tecaboca began offering a variety of sports, including horseback riding, when it moved to its location outside Mountain Home in 1951.*

"My wife tells me I'm open-minded and positive," Jin said. "I think this was influenced by my experience at Tecaboca. I can safely say if I would have been stuck in Tokyo every summer, I would not be who I am today."

A self-described "camp person," Tally-Foos knows the impact a camp like Tecaboca can have on a young person. After her father died when she was 13, the first person she wanted to talk to was her camp counselor.

"That's who I wanted to cry with and get support from," Tally-Foos says. "My heart and soul understands what camp can give a kid."

### A dedicated staff

Operating a summer camp is not a 9-to-5 job. Besides Tally-Foos, Program Director Howie Dotterweich and college counselors work around the clock for nearly the entire summer. It's important to Tally-Foos that the counselors are role models for the boys. One counselor, Justin Quiroz, a senior at St. Mary's University, is considering the Marianists' aspirancy program for men interested in joining the order. Emily Flores' dream is for her son to attend college, and she appreciates the example Justin and the other counselors set.

Those who serve at the camp get satisfaction from knowing they're making a difference in the lives of young people. Father Jim Mueller first served at Tecaboca as a high school student in 1952. This summer he helped campers with fishing. One of the younger boys didn't know how to fish and was nervous about learning. Father Jim convinced him to try and he eventually enjoyed the activity.

"He looked up at me and said, 'You know, you would make a pretty good grandpa,'" Father Jim says.

The boys camp has made great strides under Tally-Foos' leadership. When the Marianists hired her in 2009, less than a dozen boys had signed up for summer camp and it had to be canceled. Between the two sessions this year, 73 boys attended and there was a waiting list of 16.

"Someone recently asked me if Tecaboca needs a boys camp," Tally-Foos says. "Well, no, Tecaboca doesn't need a boys camp. But boys need Tecaboca." ■



# “It Feels Like Home”

*Marianist Brother José Julián Matos-Auffant shares insights from his life as a Marianist brother.*

BY JOHN SCHROEDER

It didn't take long for Marianist Brother José Julián Matos-Auffant to feel needed in his assignment at St. Mary's University, a Marianist school in San Antonio. As soon as he arrived on campus this fall, he was “thrown into the maelstrom,” he says. Which is no surprise given that his new job at the university — campus minister for spiritual development — is more like three jobs in one: residence hall ministry, retreat ministry and Hispanic ministry.

“Starting in a new place when lots of things are in motion is complicated, but exciting,” he says. But with more than a decade of experience as a high school teacher, counselor and campus minister, the Puerto Rican native is used to taking on high-energy challenges. “I feel I can serve people well here.”

## Pivotal moments

Taking a step forward in trust — and finding a fit — is a pattern that has guided Brother José's personal and spiritual development since he was a high school student in the early 1990s. As a junior, he took part in a summer program sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Juan, joining 20 other high school students on a cultural immersion trip to Venezuela. “We assisted the parish priest, teaching catechism in the morning and doing home visits with the poor and elderly in the afternoon. It was a pivotal experience,” he recalls. “That's when I realized that I could do this work for life.”

After graduating from college, he took a position at the archdiocese. That post gave him opportunities

to join and lead immersion trips throughout Latin America. One experience left an indelible impression: a trip to Calabozo, Venezuela, where he took a group to minister to native people who scavenged for their food from the city dump. “Though we didn't share the same language, we were amazed how they welcomed us, and how we were transformed by their smiles and gentle spirits.”

It was a gift he wanted to share when he joined the faculty at his alma mater, Colegio San José, a Marianist school in San Juan, in 1999. Along with teaching duties, he organized immersion trips for students to Marianist parishes and missions that served the poor in Puerto Rico. He also found himself being drawn more closely to religious life.

“I was one of three Colegio teachers who rented small apartments on campus,” he says. “It was an intriguing dynamic because the Marianists would invite us to join them for community prayer and daily Mass. The more I shared their daily routine, the more interested I became in discerning a vocation.”

## Companions for the journey

The journey reached a significant milestone when he entered the Marianist novitiate in 2009. Already closely connected to the Marianist community at Colegio, he found a new level of spiritual growth and satisfaction by formalizing the relationship. “It has deepened my prayer life,” he says. “The community has helped me become more consistent — learning how to start with prayer, rather than trying to fit it in around my schedule.”

Brother José, who professed first vows in 2011, believes that religious life is important for the witness it provides. “I see great value in being a layperson who

**“I see great value in being a layperson who lives a Gospel-centered life. I also know that being a brother can inspire others. Students often ask me about my personal journey—and those conversations can help them discern their vocations.”**

— Brother José Julián Matos-Auffant



lives a Gospel-centered life. I also know that being a brother can inspire others. Students often ask me about my personal journey — and those conversations can help them discern their vocations.”

One thing Brother José has discovered is that good companions help him find his way. “By reflecting on

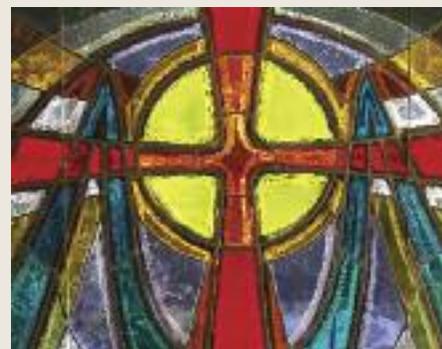
the highlights of my life — the people, the places, the everyday experiences — I get a good sense of where God is leading me,” he says. “Every time I visit a different Marianist community, it feels like home.” ■

*John Schroeder is a freelance writer from St. Louis.*

*Marianist Brother José Julián Matos-Auffant*

### Help our vocation ministry.

Vocation ministry is crucial to the Marianists’ mission of bringing Jesus into the world by following the example of Mary. One thing you can do to assist this vital ministry is provide financial support. There are monthly giving clubs and other options to choose from. To send a donation now, please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website at [www.marianist.com/support](http://www.marianist.com/support). For more information, contact Colleen Kammer at 937.222.4641; ext. 244 or email [colleen.kammer@marianistmission.org](mailto:colleen.kammer@marianistmission.org).



# Pillars of • Service

*Our Lady of the Pillar, a Marianist parish in suburban St. Louis, launches its 75th anniversary celebration.*

BY JAN D. DIXON

**W**hile in exile in Saragossa, Spain, in the 1790s, Blessed Father Chaminade often went to pray at a sacred shrine called Our Lady of the Pillar. It was here that he conceived the idea of founding the Society of Mary. To honor this occasion each year the Marianists celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar on Oct. 12.

But this year, Our Lady of the Pillar, a Marianist parish in suburban St. Louis, had something more to commemorate: a 75th anniversary.

"We are planning celebrations all year long," says Marianist Father Tom French, pastor of the 600-member parish. This includes the publishing of a 75th anniversary parish cookbook, youth activities and events for the family. "I'm amazed at how much this parish does in its outreach to the poor. These celebrations will help us honor all who have been so generous with their time and gifts," says Father Tom.

The parish also is served by Marianist Father Oscar Vasquez, assistant pastor, who also teaches at Chaminade College Preparatory School, a Marianist school nearby, and Marianist Brother Bill O'Leary who helps with service projects.

## Following Mary's example

"This is a family-oriented parish with the Blessed Mother at the helm," says Joannie McNulty, who remembers the day she joined the parish 70 years ago. "Besides family support, there is so much spiritual enrichment if you take advantage of it."

Ann Geraty agrees. Having been a member for 50 years, 30 of which she served as parish secretary, Geraty has seen the inside workings of the church. She believes it's the service outreach to the inner city poor that defines the character of the parish. "People aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty when it comes to service. We feel called by the Gospel to help those less fortunate than ourselves."

Father Tom has witnessed this spirit of service. At the heart of the parish is an undeniable sense of kindness, he says. "They have a devotion to the Blessed Mother that is strong. Not just saying the rosary, but taking seriously Mary's example of caring for those less fortunate. I've seen parents bring their kids with them to work in the inner city to show them how to help others. They are great role models." ■



*Joannie McNulty, Marianist  
Father Tom French and  
Ann Geraty*

# THE WORK OF A SHEPHERD

*By helping students at Our Lady of Nazareth, a Marianist school in Kenya, an Ohio couple paves the way for a brighter future.*

BY SHELLY REESE

**M**ichael Githae has never met Bob or Betty Ann Perkins. He lives in Nairobi, Kenya. They live in Centerville, Ohio. Yet he ends his letters to them, "I love you."

While the giver of a gift may know its cost, only the recipient can truly understand its value. Michael, a former street child, understands the value of his education, which Bob and Betty Ann financed.

"He says, 'without you I would have been dead,'" says Betty Ann. "We feel we did something that made a difference."



Betty Ann and Bob Perkins

## Reaching across an ocean

Since the late 1990s, Bob and Betty Ann have contributed to a scholarship program that enables graduates of Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School, a Marianist school located in Nairobi's sprawling Mukuru slum, to attend high school. Thanks to their generosity, Michael and a number of other students have been able to continue their education. In 2009 Michael graduated from Aquinas High School in Nairobi and, with Bob and Betty Ann's continuing support, is now earning a nursing degree at the Sisters of Mercy Nursing School.

The Perkins learned about the OLN scholarship program from Betty Ann's brother, Marianist Father Bill Behringer, who worked in Nairobi during the 1990s. Father Bill told Betty Ann that Father Marty Solma, former director of the school and now provincial of the Province of the United States, was looking for donors to help graduates continue their education beyond the eighth grade.

"We have a deep connection with the Marianists, not only through my brother, but through UD," Betty Ann says. She and Bob met while attending the University of Dayton in the 1940s. She later taught history there for 18 years. "I taught Father Marty in one of my classes," she recalls.

Although they'd never been to Nairobi, Bob and Betty Ann felt they already knew the school, its 1,900-plus students and the crushing poverty they faced. Father Bill had described how the school was an oasis of hope for children growing up in the city's violent, disease-ridden slums.

"My brother used to tell us stories about these kids and describe how the school was literally saving them and giving them choices in life," Betty Ann says.

## The work of shepherds

By helping OLN students continue their education, "We shared our blessings," says Bob, a retired sales engineer. "We helped a student move beyond surviving day to day to a place where he experienced the gift of life."

The value of that gift can never be overstated. As Michael Githae wrote in an email to Father Marty last year, "The work of a shepherd is to make sure that none gets lost and that is what you and my sponsors have done for me. I am so grateful." ■

*Shelly Reese is a freelance writer from Cincinnati.*



Michael Githae

**To Learn More**

about how you can sponsor a child, visit [www.marianist.com/oln](http://www.marianist.com/oln) or call 1.800.348.4732

# SLICE *of Life*



The Casa Maria Marianist community, from left, Brother Dennis Bautista, Fathers Tim Eden, Bill Behringer, Aspirants Allen Pacquing and Andrew Giles, Brothers José Julián Matos-Auffant, Mike Sullivan and Brian Halderman

## Giles and Pacquing Welcomed as Aspirants

The Marianists welcomed two aspirants — Andrew Giles and Allen Pacquing — into the aspirancy program during a community Mass on the feast of the Queenship of Mary in San Antonio. During the ceremony, Andrew and Allen pledged to

discern Marianist religious life during this year in community and ministry. Aspirancy is the first step in the Marianists' discernment process of becoming a brother or priest in the Society of Mary.

## Workshop Held for Staff of Marianist-sponsored Schools

The "Growing in Commitment to Marianist Education" workshop was held this summer at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, with 34 Marianist educators representing 13 of the 18 Marianist-sponsored schools in the Province of the United States. Presentations were made by George Lisjak of the Office of Education, which hosted the workshop, and by Brothers Tom Giardino, Association of Marianist Universities, and Tom Wendorf, Province vocation director, Carol Ramey and Patti Gehred of the North American Center for Marianist Studies, and Bill Raddell of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School in Cleveland. Growing in Commitment provides formation for administrators, faculty and staff of Marianist-sponsored schools.



Newly professed brothers Lloyd Chimwayi, Gilbert Okade, Dennis Kinoti and Daniel Ouma Otumba

## Four Brothers Profess First Vows in Region of Eastern Africa

This summer, four brothers professed first vows in the Society of Mary, Region of Eastern Africa: Brothers Lloyd Chimwayi from Malawi and Daniel Ouma Otumba, Dennis Kinoti and Gilbert Okade from Kenya. The Mass was held at the novitiate in Limuru, Kenya, at Our Lady of the Annunciation chapel. Father Michael Jun Otieno served as the main celebrant and homilist, and Regional Superior Brother Valentine Chola Mulenga received the vows. Father Gabriel Kirangah assisted in the ceremony.



Participants in the "Growing in Commitment to Marianist Education" workshop held July 9 – 12 in San Antonio

## Members of Common Bond Reunite, Revive Faith and Friendships

About 200 members of Common Bond and their guests reunited in Dayton for a special weekend gathering this summer. Common Bond is an association of former members of the Society of Mary that fosters and strengthens the faith and friendships created during the members' experience as Marianists. "Common Bond is a fine example of our Marianist sense of building community and staying connected," said Provincial Marty Solma, who attended the reunion.

Common Bond members hold a formal reunion every three years. Highlights from this year's gathering included a gravesite liturgy at Queen of Heaven Cemetery and a Mass at the University of Dayton. Father Pat Tonry served as the main celebrant, assisted by Deacon Mike Maho, a member of Common Bond.



Members of Common Bond at the group's reunion in Dayton

### In Remembrance

For the complete obituaries of these Marianists, visit [www.marianist.com/obits](http://www.marianist.com/obits).

**Brother Francis Deibel, SM**, 103, died July 30, 2012, in Dayton, Ohio. Brother Frank served the Marianists as a high school English, Latin and religion teacher at schools in Ohio for 24 years. In 1943, he earned a degree in library science from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland. Starting in 1954, he spent 46 years working as a librarian at the University of Dayton until he retired from full-time ministry in 2001. At the time of his death, Brother Frank was the oldest vowed male religious in the United States.



Brother Francis Deibel, SM

**Brother Louis Pinckert, SM**, 87, died July 26, 2012, in San Antonio. Brother Louis started his ministry as a teacher at Marianist high schools in Texas and Missouri. For five years, he ran the print shop for the former St. Louis Province before launching a 25-year career as a community business manager in

St. Louis and for the former Marianist seminary in Toronto. In the remaining years of his ministry he assisted with food preparation at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in St. Louis and projects for his community.



Brother Louis Pinckert, SM

**Brother Joseph Scheible, SM**, 82, died July 11, 2012, in Dayton, Ohio. Brother Joe started his career as a Marianist educator working at schools in New York and Pennsylvania where he taught English and religion. Brother Joe accepted two stints as a teacher at St. Joseph College in Yokohama, Japan, during the mid-1950s and again in the mid-1960s. While



Brother Joseph Scheible, SM

in Japan, Brother Joe became active in the International Boy Scouts and was the

longest tenured leader in the history of the organization, serving for more than 30 years. Brother Joe left Japan in 1997 and began his last assignment at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School in Cleveland where he served as a tutor in the Marianist Urban Students Program.

**Brother Joseph Spehar, SM**, 85, died on Sept. 10, 2012, in Cincinnati. Brother Joe served as a Marianist educator starting at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland where he taught math for 14 years. He received a master's degree in mathematics in 1958 and continued his career as a high school principal and administrator at Marianist schools in Florida, Kentucky and Ohio. Brother Joe retired from teaching in 1987 and served the Lighthouse Community, an evangelical lay community he helped co-found in Cincinnati, until his death.



Brother Joseph Spehar, SM

For more Marianist news, visit [www.marianist.com/familyonline](http://www.marianist.com/familyonline).

# WHAT KIND OF LEADER DO YOU WANT TO BE?

*A leadership coach shares her views on leadership styles.*

BY MARCETA REILLY

**Y**ou probably know the story: James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus to ask him to seat them on either side of him on his throne in the glorious kingdom to come. Jesus chided them, alluding to the great personal sacrifice he would have to make and told them it was not his decision anyway. It was God's decision. The other 10 apostles were angry about the power play the Zebedee brothers had made, and that is when Jesus taught them about true leadership — the servant kind.

I am a leadership coach. I partner with people to bring out their best selves in relationships. I often start with the question: "What kind of leader do you want to be?"

Do you want to be known as "the expert" or "the great problem solver" or "the creative ideas person?" These leadership styles may get you recognition, fame and notoriety. But they only help others as long as you are in the equation.

There is another approach. You can choose to be the kind of leader who is a great listener, one who believes in the goodness and

capacity of others. This gets you trust and loyalty and builds upon the talents of others so they soar long after you are out of the picture.

In my work we call this "leading from behind." It is focused on building the core strengths of others. Yet it has received a bad name recently in our political discussions. The irony is that as leaders focus on developing those around them, they earn deep trust and loyalty — deeper than if they were the experts, dictating the work and making all the decisions themselves.

This kind of leader creates an atmosphere of high trust and rapport that unleashes the creativity and shared responsibility of others. People you lead are engaged because the work has meaning for them — not because you are cracking the whip. In this environment, everyone becomes more confident, competent and courageous in their own actions.

But this kind of leadership — servant leadership — is counter-intuitive for many of us. Leaders want to be recognized as the boss. They want to tell others what to do, give unneeded advice and reap rewards for themselves rather than sharing with the team. Like the Zebedee brothers, they have God's message all wrong. Jesus takes the ego out of leadership and turns our traditional thinking on its head. Yet it is a hard lesson to learn.

That's why I love the Marianists. Blessed Chaminade understood Jesus' message. He built servant leadership into Marianist community life and traditions. He followed Mary's lead and created an institution that calls us to be our best selves as leaders within our communities.

How do we learn to lead this way? One thing I know: Servant leadership requires a deep level of humility. To take the ego out of leadership, to step aside, means letting God be God and trusting that life — and the full capacity of others — will step forward exactly as it should.

*Marceta Reilly lives with her husband, Larry, in Holton, Kan., and works as a leadership coach. She is a member of Our Lady of the Round Table, a Marianist small faith community that meets regularly via the Internet.*

**"... Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve ..."**

—Mark 10:43-45





# Joy

*is the gift of a generous heart*

The Marianists thank you for your acts of kindness, generosity and support throughout this year — and the year to come. May peace and joy be yours abundantly!



### **Marianist Thanksgiving Prayer**

Good and gracious God, fill us with gratitude for your many blessings, both physical and spiritual.

Grant us the grace

to serve you in response

to your bountiful gifts to us, and

bless all who serve you throughout the world.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, your son, our Lord, who gives all things freely according to our needs.

Continue to bless us and give us your peace. Amen

### **Join us in this labor of love**

The Marianists rely on your generous support to fund many ministries and programs in the United States and around the world. As this year comes to a close, if you would like to share a financial gift with us, please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website at [www.marianist.com/support](http://www.marianist.com/support) or call 1.800.348.4732

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