

## Reflection on the State Retreat, May 2011

The **Marianist State Community** met for their semi-annual retreat at the Marianist Retreat Center, Eureka, MO, May 13-15, 2011. The retreat began Friday night when three Marianists from the Provincial Council, USA, St. Louis attended. Joe Kamis, Bill Meyer and Dennis Schmitz talked about the Society of Mary's USA, Vision 2020 and steps to make the vision a reality.

A major part of the vision was the focus on the three Marianist universities: St Mary's in San Antonio, Chaminade University in Honolulu and the University of Dayton. These will be important centers of growth and development of the Family of Mary. Joe Kamis noted that at this point in the history of the Family of Mary there were more Marianists than ever, and the emergence of lay communities continues.



Sr. Mary Louise Foley gave four talks on Mary entitled: *Mary and the Four Pillars of Marianist Spirituality: The Annunciation, Wedding Feast of Cana, Foot of the Cross and Pentecost*. Mary Louise said that she thought Mary from Nazareth, a Jewish mother of Palestine, must have worried about her son, Jesus, and his encounters as he traveled around the countryside and city. She wondered and worried during his years of public ministry- who were these people he travelled with, and how was he doing?

Each presentation full of insight was a chance to deepen love for Mary looking at her as a historical person, and at the same time, a person intensely present to us here and now. The community was invited to use time after each talk to journal and quietly gather in small groups to reflect on events in our lives in the spirit of Mary.

The four pillars: the Annunciation and Mary's faith; the Feast of Cana and Mary's confidence in Jesus' ministry; at the Foot of the Cross and her courage when just about everyone else had left the scene; Pentecost and Mary's central role as inspiration and call to mission.

There was much for the community to consider both during the weekend and after.

Ken Palisin