

MARIANIST L.I.F.E MEETING

WHO ARE WE? MARIANIST LIFE

WHAT IS OUR MISSION? FAITH AND COMMUNITY

TOPIC: ACCEPTANCE: GOD'S LOVE KNOW NO BOUNDARIES

ICEBREAKER:

Note cards---each person identifies themselves on a note card(ethnic background, activity they are involved in, interests, etc)---the cards are passed around and people write something about this group(can be positive or negative) ---people get their cards back and reflect on how people view this group they belong to---the struggles with acceptance in community of diversity

OPENING PRAYER: Song: One Love

PRESENTATION OF THEME

1. Marianist Moment: The Founder share about their struggles during the French Revolution

2. GUIDED MEDITATION---Everyone lays down; meditation questions:

---ask everyone to close their eyes and relax and read the scripture passage:

As you listen to the reading from the Gospel of Mark, image the scene---what do you see---who are the “outsiders”, how does Jesus treat them:

“ As Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as Jesus sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick. I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

---Think of a time when you felt left out or excluded; describe what that was like, how it felt.

Now think of a time you felt included, a part of the group---how did that feel?

Are you always accepting of people or are you tempted to judge people based on stereotypes and gossip?

Have you ever be judged---how did that feel?

What are some things that make someone an “outsider”?(race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, body type, economic level, looks, etc)

Think of someone you consider to be an outsider---could you take the risk to reach out to this person, showing genuine hospitality and friendship, as Jesus did for outcasts.

Pray for strength for acceptance, as we are challenged by the words of Paul’s in his Letter to the Corinthians:

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”

SMALL GROUPS

Have everyone introduce themselves---highs and lows of the week

1. Re-read scripture passages from meditation.

2. Discussion questions:

---Why do we judge people? How does it feel to be judged?

---have you ever been judged before people got to know you? how did it feel?

---how did you treat new people? Why?

---what are some things that make someone “different” in your eyes even before you talk to them? (race, ethnicity, religion, body type, looks, economic levels); why does this happen? How can you over come it

---why is it sometimes hard to accept others?

---What does our faith say about loving ourselves and loving others? How is that hard and challenging?

---who could you reach out to this week?

CLOSING PRAYER: Shared Prayer---Who Do You need to reach out to this week?

SNACK/SOCIAL