



MLC Base Community Activity Friday, November 18, 2005

In the early 1800s, Fr. William Joseph Chaminade began gathering people into small faith communities which he called Sodalties. In 1817, he founded the religious order of the Society of Mary. Today, the Marianists are brothers, priests, sisters, and lay people who follow the teachings of Blessed Fr. Chaminade and live their lives with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as their model.

Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton founded the American Sisters of Charity in 1809. Working in community, these women devoted themselves to the education of children, and the care of orphans, the poor and the sick.

At Purcell Marian High School, we are blessed with a blended identity. Marianist LIFE gives students an opportunity to experience the vision that Fr. Chaminade and Mother Seton had so many years ago. We strive to work as a community to care for others and grow in faith. As we prepare for the holiday season, we take time to give thanks to those who have come before us as models of how we can live our lives by following the charisms of the Marianists and the Sisters of Charity.

Today, we will be working with our own small faith communities to give thanks. MLC invites you to take time to reflect on the things for which you are thankful and share them with the members of your base community. Together we will create a symbol of our thanks in preparation of next week's Thanksgiving liturgy. We will also be honoring those Marianists and Sisters of Charity who have influenced Purcell Marian High School by choosing names for our base communities.

At this time we ask the moderators to distribute the reflection sheets. Please send a representative to Mr. Pope's office to receive a base community name and poster board.



GIVING THANKS IN COMMUNITY

MLC Activity Bell

Friday, November 18, 2005

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, you will be meeting in base communities to share the things for which you are thankful, to create a symbol of thanks for your community, and to choose a community name based on the influences of the Marianists and Sisters of Charity.

I. Introduction

- a. Presented by the MLC leaders over the PA system

II. Individual Thanks

- a. Distribute the "I am thankful for..." reflection sheets and ask students to work quietly on filling in the sheet with the things for which they are thankful.
- b. This should take no longer than 5 minutes. They do not have to fill in all the spaces, but encourage them to put down as many things as they can.

III. Group Sharing

- a. Come together as a large group and share with each other the things written on the sheets.
- b. Do not force students to share, but invite them to be a part of the community and give others the chance to get to know them.
- c. You may want to have a student at the board to write a list of the things shared by the group.

IV. Naming of Communities

- a. A representative will be sent to Mr. Pope's office to draw a name from the list of Marianists and Sisters of Charity who have had an influence on PMHS. The representative will be sent back with the new name and a description of the person for whom your community is named.
- b. The representative will also bring back the poster board for the community poster.
- c. Ask the representative to present the new community name to the group.

V. Group Poster

- a. As a group, decide on what the base community is thankful for. This could be the most common thing shared by the group, or it could be something else that the group comes up with.
- b. Using the poster board and supplies provided, create a poster that illustrates the thing(s) the base community is thankful for. Encourage the students to work together and include everyone in the creation of the poster.
- c. Include your new community name on your Poster of Thanks
- d. Designate 2 students who will be willing to carry the poster during the offertory procession at the all school Thanksgiving liturgy.
- e. Send these 2 representatives with the poster to Mr. Pope's office to be kept until mass.

VI. Close with Prayer

- a. Bring the group together in a circle to close the session with a prayer. You may want to allow students to offer their own intentions.
- b. You can include the Marianist's Three O'clock Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, we gather in spirit at the foot of the Cross with Your Mother and the disciple whom you loved. We ask your pardon for our sins which are the cause of your death. We thank you for remembering us in that hour of salvation and for giving us Mary as our Mother.

Holy Virgin, take us under your protection and open us to the action of the Holy Spirit.

St. John, obtain for us the grace of taking Mary into our life, as you did, and of assisting her in her mission. May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.”
- c. You can also use the following guideline if you do not feel comfortable with doing your own prayer:
 - i. “As we prepare ourselves for the holiday season, let us take this time to offer our thanks to God as we share with each other our intentions.....” (Allow students to share their intentions.)
 - ii. (After a few minutes of sharing...) “We offer these prayers, as well as those in our hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.”
 - iii. Finish with the Our Father or Hail Mary.