

# Marianist Faith Sharing

## May

### The Magnificat--- Mary's Song of Joy

❖ **Check-in:** Highs and Lows since the last meeting.

❖ **Call to Prayer**

<b>Leader:</b> Let us give thanks to God for he is good.	<b>All:</b> Thank you Lord
<b>Leader:</b> For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends.	<b>All:</b> Thank you Lord
<b>Leader:</b> For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve.	<b>All:</b> Thank you Lord
<b>Leader:</b> For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play	<b>All:</b> Thank you Lord
<b>Leader:</b> For the past, the gift of today and the hope that tomorrow brings.	<b>All:</b> Thank you Lord

❖ **Reading:**

**Leader:** The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary and mothers in many cultures. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. For us May comes at the end of the school year--- but one end always leads to a new beginning. So let us reflect on the Magnificat---Mary's Song of Joy she proclaims in Luke's Gospel:

**Reader 1:** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**Reader 2:** His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

**Reader 3:** He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

❖ **Reflection and Sharing**

The "Magnificat" is both a Song of joy and a manifesto of hope. It is filled with sentiments of thanksgiving and sharing.

In recent years, Mary's prayer of thanksgiving, the **Magnificat**, has become an important prayer for members of the **Marianist** Family. The World Council of the **Marianist** Family encourages us to pray it each Friday. In one sense, the **Magnificat** can be seen as Mary's mission statement. Her life was dedicated to proclaiming the greatness of God, the God who called for a transformation of society. Chaminade asserted: "We are missionaries of Mary." The **Magnificat** of Mary, prayed regularly, might keep us focused on the great mission of our family—to proclaim the greatness of our God, a God who calls for the transformation of society. If we are faithful to our mission as a family, we will truly be a gift to the church.

1. What words or images come to mind when you hear the Magnificat---what is comforting, what is challenging, which words speak to you today?
2. The Magnificat is a song of joy and hope, but also of transformation and change---what brings you joy and hope in your life and what needs transformation and change?
3. As you look back over the school year: What has been your highs and lows? What have you learned about your self, others and God?
4. This Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day---share a favorite memory about your mother(or other important women in your life).

❖ **Petitions/Our Father/Sign of Peace**