

**Marianist Faith Sharing: October 1, 2010:
The Pillars of the Marianist Charism**

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

❖ **Call to Prayer**

Leader: Today the Church celebrates the feast of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower. Saint Theresa is known as the Saint of the Little Ways. Meaning she believed in doing the little things in life well and with great love---every glance, every word. She is also the patron Saint of flower growers and florists. She is represented by roses. And so let us pray St. Theresa's Prayer:

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you....

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.... Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is here for each and every one of us

Leader: St. Thérèse, Little Flower of Jesus

All: Pray for us

❖ **Reading: Marianist Foundation**

Reader 1: The foundation date for the **Society of Mary, the Marianists** is **October 2, 1817**. It was, predate by the foundation of the Marianist Sisters, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate(FMI) in May, 1816. Both of these vowed religious communities had arisen out of the Marianist Sodality –small groups of lay people begun by Fr. William Joseph Chaminade in Bordeaux, France at the end of 1800 and the beginning of 1801. The foundation of the Marianist Charism or spirit are five key pillars or ideas:

Reader 2: Faith...transformational... life-giving... directs our lives... attentive to the Lord... gospel-based... "What is essential is the interior"... thoughtful... growing... joyful... builds on tradition... engages mind and heart... embraces Mary as a model of courage and strength

Reader 3: Mary...person of faith... ponders God's ways... leads others to faith in Jesus... woman... risk-taker... gentle... mother... confrontational... compassionate... nurturer of life... humble... strong... steadfast... relational... care-giver... model of love

Reader 4: Community...embodies a "family spirit"... empowers others... builds on strengths, diversity, and equality... develops a sense of belonging... is prayerful... celebrates... is concerned and caring... is hospitable... a primary means of bringing people to faith in Jesus... spiritual family

Reader 5: Inclusivity...welcome to all... a wealth of experience... solidarity with others... respects differences... men, women, lay, religious as partners on the journey... inviting and growing... works toward a common unity... discipleship of equals

Reader 6: Mission...lead others through community to faith in Jesus... Mary as our model... committed to the poor and marginalized... a synthesis of faith and culture... works toward the greater good... "reads the signs of the times"... educates for life... proclaims the gospel...develops agents of change

❖ Sharing Questions

1. Today the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower—she focused on “the little things” done with love---every glance, every word. What are the little things that make your day to day life happier?
2. A few weeks ago we welcomed C-M’s grandparents to our campus---what role did your own grandparents play in your formation? Are you a grandparent---describe your experience.
3. As we remember the anniversary of the Foundation of the Society of Mary---what is your “foundation”: the people, events and ideas which have shaped you and give you guidance?
4.
 - a. What words or images from the five pillars of the Marianist Charism catches your attention?
 - b. How have you seen these images and ideas lived out in the C-M Community? Give examples
 - c. Which of these images and ideas does our C-M Community struggle with?

❖ Petitions/Our Father/Sign of Peace

Leader: What do we need to pray about...please voice your intentions...(give members time to voice their intentions)

Let us gather our prayers together as we pray with the word Jesus taught us....Our Father...

As we end our time of prayer together let us offer each other a sign of peace...

*****Remember First Friday Celebration afterschool in the Faculty Dining Room*****

