

Marianist Faith Sharing

October

Feast of the Guardian Angel and the Anniversary of the Foundation of the Society of Mary

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

❖ **Call to Prayer**

Leader: Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Guardian Angel and so we pray together:

All: Angel of God, my guardian dear, To whom God's love commits me here, Ever this day,
be at my side, To light and guard, Rule and guide. Amen.

❖ **Reading: Marianist Foundation**

Reader 1: The foundation date for the **Society of Mary, the Marianists** is **October 2, 1817**. It was predated 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:

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

❖ **Reflection and Questions**

1. Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Guardian Angel this week; do you feel you have a Guardian Angel?
2. Last week 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?
c. Which of these images and ideas does our C-M Community struggle with?

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