



Coordinating Team Meeting
Opening Prayer/Faith Sharing
(based on Bro. Stephen Glodek, SM's *Marianist Praxis*)

We Are Marianist Educators

Objective:

Through this prayer and faith-sharing session, Coordinating Teams will have the opportunity to reflect upon their roles as “formators” in a Marianist program.

Supplies:

- Copies of the prayer aid (attached)
- Bible(s) or access to online bibles
- Marianist Family Prayer book with Founders’ quotations in the back.
- Pens

“The object is to carry out the words of Mary: ‘Do whatever he tells you,’ and therefore extends to all classes, to all sexes, and to all ages, but to the young and the poor especially.”

“Ours is a great work, a magnificent work. If it is universal, it is because we are Missionaries of Mary, who has said to us: ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Yes, we are all missionaries: each one of us has received from the Blessed Virgin a commission to work at the salvation of his brothers (and sisters) in the world.”

Letter to Preachers of Retreats (Bordeaux: August, 24, 1839)

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Please be with us as we gather this weekend to prepare for Marianist LIFE. You have blessed us with the experience of building community as members of the LIFE Family. May we be ever mindful of our work as missionaries as we continue Mary’s mission in bringing Christ to the world as Chaminade did. Thank you for the LIFERs and Moderators who continue this work. We ask for your guidance and inspiration for us and the other Regional Coordinating Teams as we plan for the coming Summer Program. We ask all these through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

Have each office member read the excerpt from *Marianist Praxis* by Bro. Stephen Glodek (31-32) as indicated.

• **Head of Religious Life**

The young person is beloved by God. And because of this, Marianist educators strive to resemble Jesus and Mary in all their interactions with students. Through their own prayer and God’s grace, educators strive to adopt the attitudes of Jesus and Mary. They demonstrate these attitudes by their solicitude and kindness toward their students.

- **Head of Temporalities**
Marianist educators teach in order to educate The Marianist educator gives a lesson in Christianity with every word, by every gesture and with every look.
- **Head of Program**
Like the Good Shepherd, Jesus, Marianist educators open their hearts to their students, attending to their weaknesses and ignorance with kindness. The Marianist educator understands that it is not the teaching of religion or devotional practices that inspire the Christian faith, but rather, the heart of the educator to which the students respond.
- **Assistant for Temporalities**
Discipline is a necessary part of any educational effort. Marianist educators, mirroring the patience of God, require of their students study, order, silence and fidelity to rules. The Marianist educator is careful not to reject as bad what is not absolutely god. The educator understands the uniqueness of each individual and the uniqueness of God's action in that individual heart.
- **Assistant for Religious Life**
Marianist educators nurture faith in their students. The educator provides willing students the opportunity to gather in small groups, outside the classroom, in order to nurture a deepening of this faith through prayer and community.
- **Assistant for Program**
Marianist educators provide excellent instruction ... This excellent education is always being adapted to the needs of the times and the needs of the society from which the students come.

Reflection – Group Discussion

Provide some time for individual reflection on these questions. Members will then share their responses with the Team. Team can also break into pairs to have a more in-depth discussion of these questions, then share summaries with the whole Team.

- How do these characteristics of Marianist educators apply to you as a Coordinating Team?
How do these characteristics apply to your specific office?
- What are some things you are apprehensive about regarding this summer?
- What are some things about which you are hopeful for this summer?
- How can I be an effective formator of the LIFERs who will participate in LIFE this summer?
 - What are some things I can do to understand my role prior to the summer?

Personal Reflection & Covenant

Using a bible or the Marianist Prayer Book, choose a scripture passage or a quote from one of our Founders that can serve as your personal mission or guide as you prepare for the Summer Program. Write this on the last page of your prayer aid.

Closing Prayer

Have each Team Member (including Regional Coordinator) read their chosen passages aloud.

Our Father

Hail Mary

Marianist Doxology