



Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

Can You Explain What You Mean When You Say...?

Note: These questions are based on certain terms within this particular *Things Marianist*. Copies of *Things Marianist* can be obtained at www.nacms.org.

Opening Prayer

Prayer for our Marianist Family

By José Maria Arnaiz, SM
The Marianist Prayer Book, p. 81-82

Loving God, we pray for our Marianist Family with all its weaknesses and all its wealth. Look upon us with kindness; it is our mother and our family. Give it your grace so that it may become what it longs to be.

A family that fosters life and enthusiasm, in which all can express what they think and feel, what they believe and desire; a community of freedom.

A family in which all can pray in their own language, develop and cherish their own culture, appreciate the heritage and history in which they feel at home; an incarnational community, one that knows

the paschal mystery and experiences a new Pentecost.

A family of which people will say: "See how they love one another," rather than, "See how well organized they are": a living and growing community.

Marianist Family, you are small but growing, fragile but full of hope, hesitant but believing. Lift up your eye and see: Jesus and Mary are always with you.

Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Marianist Charism

Identify which element or characteristic of the charism first attracted you to the Marianists?

How would you describe the Marianist charism to someone you just met?

Discernment

“Marianists often refer to Mary's pondering—how she took in a situation and stepped back to see where God's action was in all that was happening.”

Describe the board's discernment process. In your opinion, how has the board's learning and growing in the Marianist charism changed how decision are made?

Discipleship of Equals

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12 Paul writes

"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..."

How does the Marianist expression of “Discipleship of Equals” influence the decisions made by the board?

The Marianist Family

In what ways can the board might become more connected to the larger Marianist Family? What actions might be required to grow as a working community and to welcome others?

Closing 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 in her mission.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.