



Things Marianist Talking Points For Boards

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What do you Mean “Community is a Gift and Task”?

Note: These reflection questions are based on the different sections from this particular *Things Marianist*. You may go through each section or use this guide as a starting point for a board discussion. Copies of *Things Marianist* can be obtained at www.nacms.org.

Opening Prayer:

Take a moment and bring yourself into the presence of our loving God.
(Note: Taken from educationforjustice.org)

Lord God, in Jesus, you came in the body: flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone.

We thank you that you did not remain an idea, even a religious idea, but walked, wept, and washed feet among us.

By your love, change our ideas, especially our religious ideas, into living signs of your work and will. Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

Lord God, in Jesus your body was broken by the cowardly and the powerful. The judgment hall of Pilate knew your silence as surely as your critics knew your voice.

In word and silence, take on the powerful of the world today: those whose words sentence some to cruelty or unmerited redundancy; those whose word transfers wealth or weapons for the sake of profit or prejudice; those whose silence condones the injustice they have the power to change.

O Savior of the poor, liberate your people. Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

Reflection Questions

We are a community of faith

What has been your experience of a faith community? Has a Marianist community proven to be more compassionate? Less powerful? "Closer to the troubles of the people?"

We are a community of life

What gifts have you received as a result of being on this board? Compare and contrast the results of a board that is insular versus a board that puts its faith into action.

We are a community that builds communities

"It is to be part of a vision and hope of being Church in the modern world. To work actively in building this community is a task that is both enriching and demanding. It calls us to a state of hopeful tension that holds the promise of ongoing conversion and growth, if we remain faithful to its challenge. It calls us to discernment that is not only personal, but also communal. It calls us to leave our comfort zones and risk the unknown by helping to form new communities so that the gift may be shared by new people, in new places, and in new times." Share stories about the unexpected and challenging aspects of creating community as a board.

We are a community "in permanent mission"

Describe how does your board helps the staff work together to bring God into the world?

We are a worldwide community

"Isolated communities are incomplete....All communities are thus enriched by a larger worldview that goes beyond local concerns." Marianist Communities are called to be global in vision and mission. This is easier said than done; what are specific tasks your board can do to ensure that the retreat center focus on being more of a worldwide community?

Suggested Scripture for closing prayer

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians)

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all and through all in all." (Eph. 4:1-6).