



Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

How do People Make Commitments to Living Marianist Life?

Note. These reflection questions are based on 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 Scripture

Take a moment and bring yourself into the presence of your loving God.

Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

"My soul proclaims the greatness of our God, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior who has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; You O God have done great things for me; and holy is your Name.

You have shown mercy on those who fear you in every generation.

You have shown the strength of your arm, and have scattered the proud in their conceit.

You have cast down the mighty from their thrones, and have lifted up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things, and the rich you have sent away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

The promise you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and their children forever."

Reflection Question

Why Stability?

As a board, how would you respond to the questions posed in this section of the reading?

Mary's Apostolic Mission

Which of Mary's attributes discussed in this section attracts you the most and would be useful for board meetings and policy decisions?

Which of these attributes do you struggle with?

Discuss how can you encourage your board to be an example of being like Mary?

Personal Thoughts on Stability

Reflecting on the personal thoughts shared, what do you see as a common theme in the reading?

Stability in the Marianist Family

How are you called to make Christ present in the retreat center?

Where is Mary the most present in the life of the retreat center?

Where is Mary's presence visible on your board? How can you help make her presence more visible?

Conclusion

How is or can your help to make the retreat center the "spiritual home" for retreatants?

Where is retreat center community called to "meet the needs of those around us, in our time and in our place"?

Take some time to reflect and write down your personal thoughts on stability in the space below.

Share your thoughts as a board.

Closing Prayer;

Mary (Laura M. Leming, FMI)

You made space in your life for God .

Help us make space for God in our lives.

You gave Jesus his first welcome into this world .

Help us welcome him.

You knew the power of the Holy Spirit ...

Help us follow the Spirit's call.

You pondered the Word of God in your heart ..

Help us listen to God's Word.

You sang God's praises with your cousin Elizabeth

Help us share our joys with others.

You knew the suffering of being homeless

Help us provide shelter for those in need.

You knew the suffering of living in exile ...

Help us welcome refugees.

You taught Jesus to seek God's will for his life .

Help us say, "thy will be done."

You recognized the needs of others ...

Help us be sensitive to others' needs.

You helped the Disciples believe .

Help us grow in faith.

As we endeavor, members of one Family,

To live the Marianist mission

Of building God's reign. Amen

(The Marianist Family Prayer Book, p. 76-77)