



Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

How Can We Be Guided on the Marianist Path?

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

Opening Prayer

Scripture

"Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart?" (Lk 2:19) "They will proclaim the works of the Lord, and ponder what God has done." (Ps 64:9)

Prayer

Mary, you pondered in your heart all the awesome, confusing, and marvelous events of your life. You considered carefully what God might want of you and then abandoned yourself to God's goodness and your vocation.

Teach us to treasure and ponder, to consider and surrender.

Open us to your Spirit.

Place mentors, guides, and teachers in our lives, so that by living life in your name, we might come to that blessedness promised to your daughters and sons, the children of God.

Amen.

(Adapted from *Prayers for Marianists*, Saturday B)

Questions for Reflection

Making the Right Appointments

As a board how do you schedule time to nurture your spiritual journey during the meetings?

Influences on Chaminade's Method of Spiritual Direction

If the Marianist Founders were alive today, who or what do you think they would draw from for inspiration? Explain why.

A Marianist Method

As a member of the board, how do you experience these three dimensions in your own faith life?

- Acts of faith
- The example and influence of Mary
- Apostolic activity

In what area(s) are you most comfortable? What is less familiar?

What attracts you? What might be drawing you to deeper practice?

To what are you resistant? How do you experience spiritual resistance?

More than Just Me and God

Chaminade insisted that, while “the essential is the interior,” attention to this most important relationship with God is for the sake of the individual’s participation in the mission to bring Jesus the Christ to birth in my community and in the struggles of the world in my time...” The fruit of spiritual growth for Chaminade was witnessed in changing relationships and more effective ministry.

How has the time spent by the Mission Integration Committee helped the board understand the importance of living out the Gospel value of “participation in mission” at the meetings and at the retreat center?

What is Spiritual Direction?

What image of "spiritual direction" in this section or in your own experience most speaks to you?

Spiritual Accompaniment of Marianist Lay Communities

How does the Mission Integration Committee act as a spiritual guide in relation to the Marianist Charism?

Conclusion

What is your overall impression of the benefits of a Marianist method of Spiritual Direction?

What elements of this article resonate or challenge you individually and as a board as a whole?

Closing Prayer/Scripture

Scripture: Road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35)

Companion of God, thank you for the ways you visit us through Creation, Your Word, and the events and people in our lives. Your love breaks through again and again, surprising us in ordinary and profound ways. Guide us in finding the ways to nurture our spiritual journey and the companions to walk with us in living out our mission of faith. We ask this in union with our sisters and brothers that your love might be known to the ends of the earth, now and forever. Amen