



Things Marianist Talking Points For Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

What is the Marianist Tradition of Prayer?

Note: Reflection questions are based on the two 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.

"Lord, teach us to pray."
(Lk 11:1)

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Creator knows what you need before you ask." (Matthew 6:7)

"Lord, teach us to pray."
(Lk 11:1)

Reflection Questions

Introduction

"Prayer is the source of the vitality of our faith which transforms our view of persons and events."

(Rule of Life of the Marianist Sisters)
Brother Stephen Glodek, SM, reminds us that people often requested Father Chaminade to teach them to pray.

"For a Christian, everything can and should become a prayer. If we do everything for God, dear friend, then everything becomes prayer. Let us eat, speak, work, and suffer for God, and never perform an action that we would not dare offer him."

(Adèle de Batz de Trenquellèon)

How does Adèle's statement challenge the board in its role of creating policies for the retreat center?

How can you support campus life to reach this goal of "everything becomes a prayer"?

The lens of Blessed Chaminade was the Incarnation. If we view the Gospel through this Chaminadean lens, we begin to understand the special emphasis that evolved in his thought around conformity to Jesus Christ, and participation in the mission of Mary.

Describe how prayer life of the retreat center been enriched through the Marianist Charism.

Chaminade's Method of Prayer

"Virtue is the inner ability in a right way or to do what is good. It is the power to act in ways that lead to excellence in goodness." (Quentin Hakenewerth, SM)

Chaminade offers us five "tools for his method of prayer: Faith, Silence, the Apostles Creed, Mary, and Practice. Discuss how board policies can provide a foundation for these five tools.

"Our place of activity is the everyday world. The prophet mission of Christ comes alive in us. Personal and communitarian encounter with the Lord [through prayer] nourishes us and helps us overcome loneliness, fatigue, and boredom; it revitalizes us." (Cecilia Araya Compos)

How does the retreat center prepare retreatants to be prophets in their "place of activity" ?

Read the Creed silently, slowly to yourself. What line(s) speak the loudest to you at this moment?

Closing Prayer

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Creator almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Creator.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.