



# Things Marianist Talking Points

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## Setting the Marianist Table

Note: Reflections 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 communal discussion. Copies of *Things Marianist* can be obtained at [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org).

### Opening Scripture

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

"When he saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:36-38).

### Reflection Questions

After reading and perhaps even experiencing "Setting the Marianist Table" take some time to reflect on your board community and contemplate how this experience represents the experience of this community.

Which of the characteristics of a Marianist table have you experienced? Share some stories.

What gifts do you bring to the table?

How can you encourage others on the board to share their gifts at the table?

How can you invite others to the Marianist table?

If Mary walked into your board meeting how and where would she feel acknowledged?

Now that the meal is over, where is your board's presence felt outside of your meeting?

Take some time to reflect and share on what you are most grateful for on this board.

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## Closing Prayer

### A Prayer of Hope

We pray today for God's world. We pray that it might discover its human face. We pray for a world divided.

Divided unequally between the prosperous and the desperate.

Divided unequally between the wealthy and the poor.

The power-filled and the poor.

The greedy and the poor.

The corrupt and the poor.

God of life, into your world you come. Into this divided human community you arrive.

You sit amongst the poor but the wealthy do Not see you.

You walk with the lonely and the abandoned but those with power cannot hear your footsteps.

You live among the powerless, the frightened and the weak, but the corrupt fail to notice you and continue to exploit you.

God of hope, deliver us all from self-righteousness so that whilst we may call the world toward a different way, we might also, in your name, become the answer to the prayers of the silent, suffering, struggling ones.

God of justice, not just us, grant us the courage to live as well as proclaim your gospel.

God of love, enable and allow us, with all our weaknesses and fears, to continue this walk of faith, for faith and in faith.

Amen.

(Rev. David Pargeter, Executive Director,  
Commission for Mission, Uniting Church)

