



Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

How do Marianists do Social Justice?

Note: 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 Scripture

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

In the 8th century B.C. the Word of God spoken through prophet Isaiah told the people how that there is a cause and effect relation between justice and peace.

"Then justice will dwell in the wilderness;

And righteousness will remain in the fruitful field.

The work of righteousness will be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

My people will live in a peaceful habitation, in safe dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

(Is 32: 16-18)

Introduction

Vogt writes, "Catholic morality has focused on what each individual is called to do to live a life that reflects a commitment to the values of Jesus Christ."

Share examples of how you have witnessed this in as a board.

Describe your reaction after reading Dom Helder Camara's statement regarding social justice. "When I gave food to the poor they called me a saint. When I asked why the poor were hungry they called me a communist."

Marianist Roots of Social Justice

Ferree writes that social justice is organizing for the common good. What would that look like as when it comes to board decisions?

Review the seven qualities that characterize social justice and discuss how they work toward the Common Good.

Building Community

“Together in community, Marianists believe we are powerful beyond our imagination.”

Take a moment and let your imagination run free . . . What can be accomplished for social justice as a Marianist board? How powerful can a Marianist board be if they work and organize together?

(Suggestion: take a five-minute writing break using this prompt before sharing.)

Living Simply

What does “Live Simply so that Others May Simply Live” mean to you as a board?

Hospitality

“To be truly hospitable to others, we must sacrifice time and energy. It is a total giving of ourselves.” (Brian Halderman, SM)

Looking at Marianist hospitality as a journey, how can or do you stretch your comfort zone as a board regarding hospitality?

Joining voices with the voiceless

Describe a time when, as a board, you might have felt voiceless. How has this allowed you to be more compassionate with the voiceless or marginalized in our society?

Interdependence

As a board, what does “interdependence” look like when it is working well? What are the challenges we meet in trying to promote interdependence as an important value in our culture? Share some practical examples of overcoming these challenges.

Passion for the Mission

In which examples given from Mary’s life do you find real passion or inspiration that resonates within your life?

Closing Prayer

My God bless us with discomfort at easy answers,
Half-truths, and superficial relationships, so we may
live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people, so we may work for
economic justice for all people.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who
suffer from pain, hunger, homelessness, and rejection,
so we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to
turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to
believe that we can make a difference in the world,
so we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.