



# Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

## ***Three Offices: A Community Orchestra***

*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](http://www.nacms.org).

### ***Opening Scripture***

Take a moment and bring yourself into the presence of your loving God, opening your heart and mind to God's word.

"As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.' The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing,

Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

### ***A question to ponder***

What contributions is the board making right now to nurture the life of the retreat center community?



[Humblepiety.blogspot.com](http://Humblepiety.blogspot.com)

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## Reflection Questions

### Three Offices Today

Reflect on the following quote:

"Given the difficulty of finding a good leader due to the fact that the numerous qualifications required are seldom found in one person, this natural human defect is compensated for by giving the Superior three instruments to exercise the three main functions over which she has jurisdiction."  
(*Spirit of our Foundation*, vol. 4, p. 320)

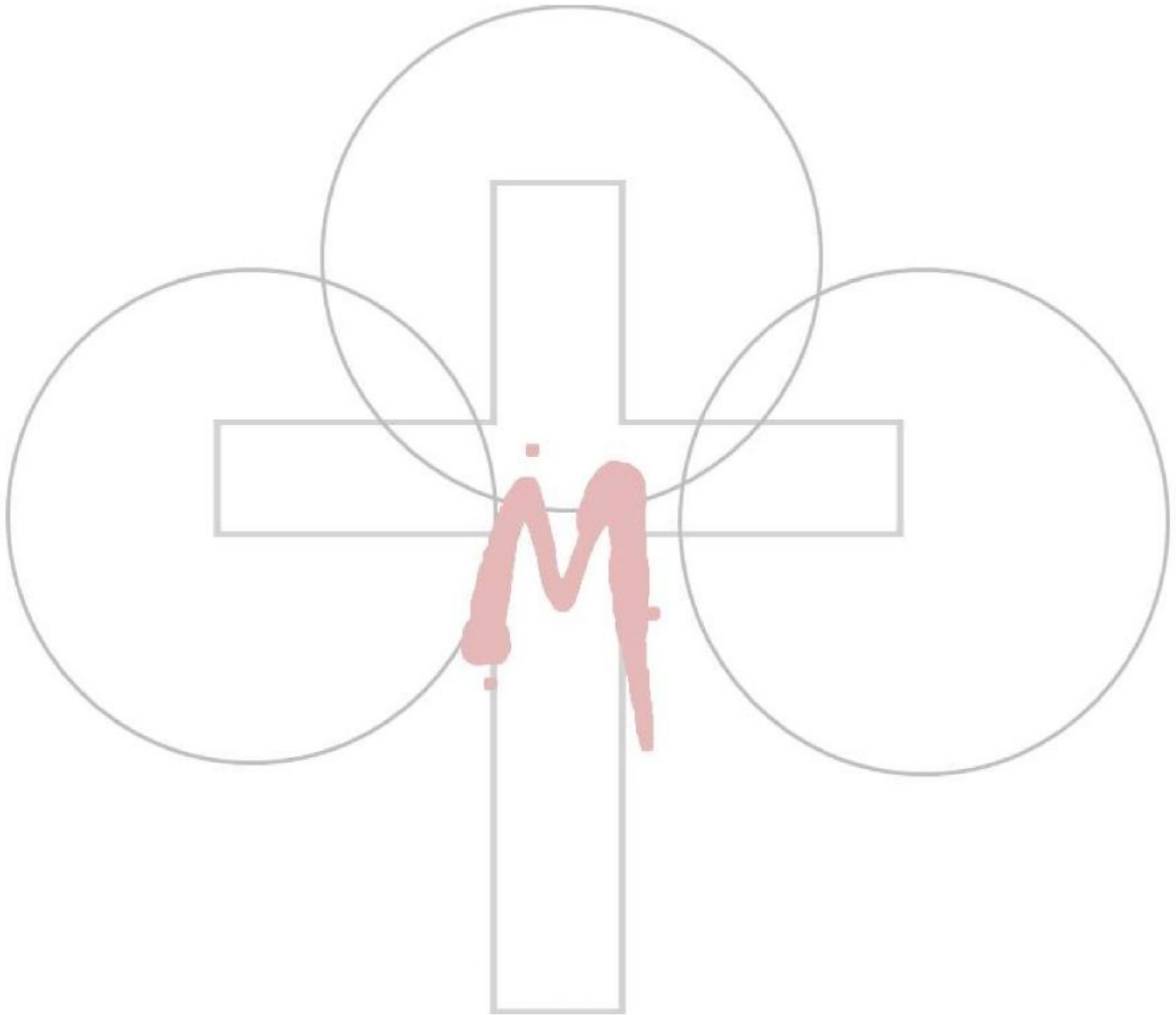
Reflect on the gifts and strengths the board has that prove supportive to you as an individual?

Share areas where your board can be challenged to grow.

### Practical Applications

In describing the "Practice of the Presence of God" Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, writes: "Living in the presence of God does mean we are always specifically thinking of God. It does mean we become so accustomed to God's presence and so familiar with God that our conduct and our attitudes are constantly influenced by that presence." In what way are board meetings reflecting the presence of God?





Using the graphic in the *Things Marianist* as an example, fill-in each circle of the blank graphic with ways your board is or can be "Present to . . . God, the World, your Community."

Discuss as a group.

### A Labor of Love

After watching this video as a community: <https://youtu.be/90Gq9mYTV44> reflect on how well do you "play together." As a board what are areas that need more practice? What contributions does your board make to the symphony of the retreat center community?



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## *Closing Prayer*

Virgin Mother, in Galilee and at Calvary  
you cooperated in the action of the Holy Spirit  
at the births of Jesus and of the Church.

You were present in prayer  
with the disciples in the Upper room.

awaiting the coming of the Spirit.

Remain always with us in prayer

as we await the Spirit's entry  
into our lives and work each day.

Amen.

(Don Boccardi, SM)

