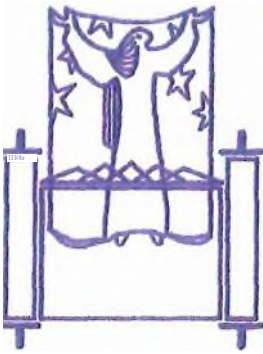

Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards



A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

Who Makes Up the Marianist Family?

Reflection questions on the role of being a missionary in the Marianist tradition.

Note: These reflection questions are based on the four 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.

Opening Scripture

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

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Those who believed shared all things in common.

They went to the temple area together every day, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day after day they were being saved.

(Acts of the Apostles: 2:42, 44, 46-47)

Reflection Questions

Family Spirit

Describe a tradition of the board that you feel creates the feeling of "Family Spirit."

Which board traditions that been passed from year to year? Are there new traditions that the board has started that you hope are continued in future generations?

Bordeaux Sodality

What do you think is the significance of the lay branch being founded first in the Marianist Family?

Does your experience on the board reflect the experience of a "discipleship of equals"? If so, how? If not, how can this be improved

Faces of the Marianist Family

Which branch of the Marianist Family was new to you? Surprised you? Was attractive to you?

Future of Marianist Family

Suggest ways each branch of the Marianist Family can continue to work with one another.

Take some time to reflect on the words of Blessed Chaminade, "May our hearts always beat in unison, and may we all form a single great family intimately united in the bonds of mutual friendship and religion." Share your thoughts.

Closing Prayer

Marianist Family (Jose Maria Arnaiz, SM)

Our Creator, we pray for our Marianist Family
with all its weaknesses and all its wealth.

look upon us with kindness;

it is our mother and our family.

Give it your grace so that it may become
what it longs to be.

A family that fosters life and enthusiasm,
in which all can express what they think and feel,
what they believe and desire;
a community of freedom.

A family of which people will say:

"See how they love one another,"

rather than, "See how well organized they are":

a living and growing community.

Marianist Family, you are small but growing,
fragile but full of hope,
hesitant but believing.

Lift up your eyes and see:

Jesus and Mary are always with you. Amen.

(The Marianist Family Prayer Book, p. 81)