

Things Marianist Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

Why Mary?

Reflection questions on Mary's role and influence on Father Chaminade's thoughts and the faith of the Marianist Family.

Note: These 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 communal discussion. Copies of *Things Marianist* can be obtained at www.ncams.org

Opening Prayer: Take a moment and bring yourself into the presence of our loving God.

My soul comes in darkness and unknowing,
Seeking understanding of the happenings of
these days.

Can it be?

God looks upon the people in a new way and
all generations from this day forth are called
to walk in peace and love.

Others will call it strange and wonderful
when we walk, blindly trusting.

We will be called blessed for God will be
within us, making all things new. Holy is
God's name, the Creator, the Renewer and
the Peacemaker.

God's guiding hand reaches from age to age .For those
who grope and stumble in search of the saving way. We
are shown the power of being present to one another,
while our proud expectations for our chosen nation are
shattered. The warrior-king we expected to establish us
on earth as the righteous power has not come.

And we see instead the promised messenger as a
common man. The hungry of heart are fed with enabling
love. In places where there was need. People now give
to others from their abundance. The rich are troubled
and then love strips them of their power. They are
converted by love and reconciled with the poor. Together
they praise God's goodness and renewal. Amen.

(Note: Adapted from a prayer by the Australian Catholic
Social Justice Council)





Reflections Questions

On Formation

"The radical change that our Marianist vocation demands is usually gradual and progressive. It is seldom sudden, and never violent. It is Mary's way of forming us." Describe how the role of Mary is an important aspect of the Marianist charism and sets the tone for the work of the board in determining policy and oversight.

On Mary as Model


Mary's life was full of prayerful activity. We know she was in constant conversation with God discerning what God was calling her to as she raised Jesus as a child and young adult, teaching him love, kindness, and respect by her example. Identify a recent action or decision where the values lived by Mary were particularly important in coming to a conclusion.

A Magnificat for Today

In the Magnificat Mary sings of God solidarity with the poor, the afflicted, and the marginalized. She is a witness to the transforming power of God that raises the lowly and destroys evil in the world. Following the example of Mary, how has the board been a witness and a profit of the greatness, power, and mercy of God.

On Mission

As Marianists we see our mission to be that of Mary's: to bring forth God into our broken world. How does the board bring God into the work of the retreat center? What challenges have you met in this mission? What joys have you experienced?



Suggested Scripture for closing prayer

A reading from the Gospel of John

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:1-11)

