

# **LIFE Meeting Unity August 31, 2016**

- 1. Ice breaker: Snow Ball Fight**
  - 2. Opening Prayer**  
**Kinley**
  - 3. Large Group: Meet Core and Marianists**  
**Becca/Casslyn**
  - 4. Small Group: We are Many Parts**
  - 5. Large Group: Discussion and Reflection**  
**Jesse**
  - 6. Small Group: Hand Activity**
  - 7. Big Group: Hands on Board**  
**Molly**
  - 8. Closing Prayer**  
**Molly**
- Next Meeting: September 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Bring Pictures for bulletin board

## Ice Breaker

Names will be written on pieces of paper and everyone will get one. Then everyone will crumple up their paper and we will have a "snowball fight" and can throw the balled up papers everywhere. Then everyone will stop throwing and pick up a paper then find the two to three other people who have the same character written on their paper. They get together, we ask them a question, they talk about it with the other people in their group. Repeat as many times as needed.

1. Minnie Mouse
2. Cinderella
3. Captain Hook
4. Winnie the Pooh
5. Harry Potter
6. Percy Jackson
7. Mario
8. Sonic
9. Darth Vader
10. Captain Jack Sparrow
11. Harambe
12. Spongebob
13. Tweety Bird
14. Dora
15. Mr. Clean
16. Power Puff Girls
17. Kim Possible
18. Batman
19. Tony the Tiger
20. Freddy Cougar
21. Goofy
22. Nemo
23. Spiderman
24. Rapunzel
25. Lightning McQueen
26. Tinker Bell
27. Yoda
28. Sheldon Cooper
29. Pac Man
30. Mr. Potato Head

## Questions

1. Where did you go to grade school?
2. Favorite thing you did over the summer?
3. Talk about your pets
4. What is your favorite comfort food?
5. Favorite superhero
6. Dream vacation
7. If you could have one superpower what would it be and why?
8. What is your favorite Netflix binge watch?
9. What is your favorite game or sport to watch and play?
10. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
11. What would you sing at Karaoke night?
12. What is your favorite game or sport to watch and play?
13. What makes you laugh the most?
14. What is your favorite thing about Gross?

## Opening Prayer

Be One by Natalie Grant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq-6pXBHCZM>

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

We don't feel ready  
We don't feel steady  
Question what we really have to give  
Stay where it's safer  
Claim faith, but waiver  
Is this how we really meant to live?

We pray but never move  
We say but never do

**It's time to get our hands dirty**  
**Be love there's a whole lot of hurting**  
**Calling all hearts**  
**Calling all hands**  
**Calling all feet to take a stand**  
**Why sit around and wait for a miracle to come**  
**When we can be one**  
**When we can be one**  
**When we can be one**

A little somethin'  
Might feel like nothin'  
But in His hands it's all we'll ever need  
To speak life to the broken  
Watch the blind eyes open  
It's who He's calling you and me  
To be

We can be the change, be the hope  
We can be the arms that don't let go  
We can be a light in the dark  
We are, we are where it starts

It's time  
Be love there's a whole lot of hurting  
Calling all hearts  
Calling all hands  
Calling all feet to take a stand

Why sit around and wait for a miracle to come  
when we can be one  
When we can be one  
When we can be one  
We can be the change, be the hope  
Yeah  
We can be the arms that don't let go  
Calling all hearts  
Calling all hands

**Reflection**

Calling all hearts, Calling all hands, Calling all feet to take a stand why sit around and wait for a miracle to come. As the song says, in order to make a difference, we have to work together. Sitting around will not change things, standing up and making a difference will. Unity is a major part in our lives, even if you can't really see it. For example: Our cougar family, our relatives, our closest friends, parishes, schools, etc. we all work together to make a better community and to do what God wants us to do. Are there any intentions? We ask that the Lord hear our intentions both said and unsaid, and as your people let us be one and joyfully proclaim May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary Amen.

## Large Group

Meet the Core Team Video

### **Meet the Marianists**

The Marianists were founded by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Venerable Adele de Batz de Tranquelleon, and Venerable Marie Therese Charlotte de Lamourous during the French revolution. He started with gathering everyday people to form communities, then he founded the Marianist Sisters, and then the Marianist Brothers.

All of these groups strive to practice the virtues of Jesus and Mary so that they might educate as Jesus and Mary would.

Gross Catholic is a Marianist high school striving to fulfil the five characteristics of the Marianist education alongside 17 other Marianist high schools and 3 universities.

These five characteristics are

1. Educate for formation in faith
2. Provide and integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice, and peace
5. Educate for adaption and change

You are at a LIFE meeting. All across the United States and various parts of the world, there are groups coming together to grow in their faith in the Marianist tradition. We come together to discuss faith topics and to explore our faith journey as a Marianist community. All of the communities are brought together by our prayers and beliefs. Unity is the theme of this meeting and we have begun by uniting ourselves to each individual Marianist community with the lighting of the LIFE candle so we can Live in Faith Experience with one another.

Now please advert your attention to the projector as we will play a short "Meet the Marianists" video.

### **Transition to First Small Group**

Close your eyes and put yourself in a reflective state of mind. Where do you feel most united? sports teams, your family, your friends? Do you feel that LIFE could be a place of unity for you? If so, why? Do you relate to any of the Core members? Have you found something in common with someone you talked to during the ice breaker? What do you hope to get out of this meeting? Dear Lord, please be with us as we go into small groups. Guide our words and actions to be respectful and open. Open our hearts to what others have to say and help move us to say what is on our mind. Help us to find unity with our group and see how God wants to unite us all together as one holy and apostolic church. As your people let us joyfully proclaim, May the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.



## **Small Group**

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

### **Corinthians 12:12-19**

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body."

### **Reflection**

God calls us to be our own individuals created in His image and likeness. He gave us each our own gifts and talents that we can each use in our unique way to serve him and to spread His Word. We are different in our genders, our races, our personalities, our habits, and just who we are. But despite our differences we are all made up of the one Body of Christ. The gift of God's grace brings us all together.

In order for a body to remain healthy and whole, all components must be functioning and working together. We are supposed to be distinctive from one another because we each have our part in the community of Christ. Just as we are one Body in Christ, we are one body in our families and communities. We all have an important role to play, for no part of the body is useless. We are called by Christ to use it in service to build up the body of Christ, to strengthen the body and to carry out its purpose within the world. Through our own natural gifts and graces, we are called to serve the Church and its people. The diversity of our gifts, each working with one another, make the body strong and unified.

### **Small Group Questions**

1. How would you define unity and what does it mean to you?
2. What gifts, talents or passions from God do you feel makes you a unique individual?
3. Now seeing each other's different qualities, what are some common themes we have with one another?
4. Where in your life do you feel most unified with those around you?
5. In what ways are we called to fulfill our role in the Body of Christ and serve Him?
6. Here at Gross we are connected together as one Cougar Family. What does it mean to you to be a part of this family?
7. What are some ways you can create more unity and more connections among the community in Gross?

### **Closing Prayer**

Dear Jesus, You are our Prince of Peace and You prayed for unity in the body of Christ – that we may be united in love just as You are united with the Father - in love. Give Your children the desire to love one another, as You have loved us, for by this will all men know that we are Your disciples. Give us a hunger to live in union with each one another, and may we be united as one, in the bond of peace and fellowship, in the Spirit. This we ask in Jesus' name Amen.



## **Large Group**

1. How is unity expressed in our lives? When/Where is it the most prevalent?
2. Are there times when we don't feel as united? How do we respond to those situations?
3. Do you think unity is a choice, or does it just happen?
4. What are some things we can do in our lives to "choose unity" ?

### **Jesse's Reflection**

Honestly, I think it's kinda funny that I was chosen to come up here and give this talk. We have talked about unity and the cougar family and stuff like that a whole bunch tonight. I remember hearing all about the cougar family my freshman years and thinking "Wow, I wonder why they all say that, like is it really true or is it just some unspoken rule not to say anything contrary." I didn't buy into it. In fact, after my sophomore year, I wanted to leave Gross. My three best friends were all leaving the school, and I was afraid of what school would be like without them. My thought process was "well if I am gonna be miserable no matter what, I might as well save my Mom some money and go to public school." But God knew way better than I did, so he told my Mom not to let me transfer, and honestly I am really glad that everything worked out the way it did. I was wrong; I am not alone at Gross. That following year, the one where I didn't even plan on coming back to Gross, was my favorite year I have had so far in High School. That's my favorite thing about unity; It happens whether you plan it out or not. I was sure that the "Cougar Family" was bogus, but I felt it that year the most. As we start of the year, I just want to ask you all to keep an open mind, try new things, and allow God to work in your life. Maybe He will show you the Cougar Family like He showed it to me.

### **Transition to Small Group**

Close your eyes and put yourself in a reflective state of mind. What stood out to you most in your small group? Have you found somewhere at school yet where you feel at home? Are you still trying to find your place? Did you relate to Jesse's talk about his community and family? Do you feel united with our Marianist family? How are you going to carry that feeling outside of this meeting? Dear God, as we go back to our small groups help us to take what we just heard and find our own meaning in it. Open our hearts to sharing and our minds to creativity. Bring a continued unity to our groups and be there in our presence. As your people let us joyfully proclaim, May the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

## **Second Small Group**

I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness, no longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady will power. We are all together now, reaching out our hands, for a power and strength greater than ours, and as we join hands we find love and understanding. Amen.

### Make Hands Activity

1. Cut out hands
2. We are all unique individuals and each have our own character. On your hand, color and design it describing who you are. You can add pictures of family, sports or activities you're involved in or words describing your personality. Just any design or abstract showing who you are.

### Questions to reflect on

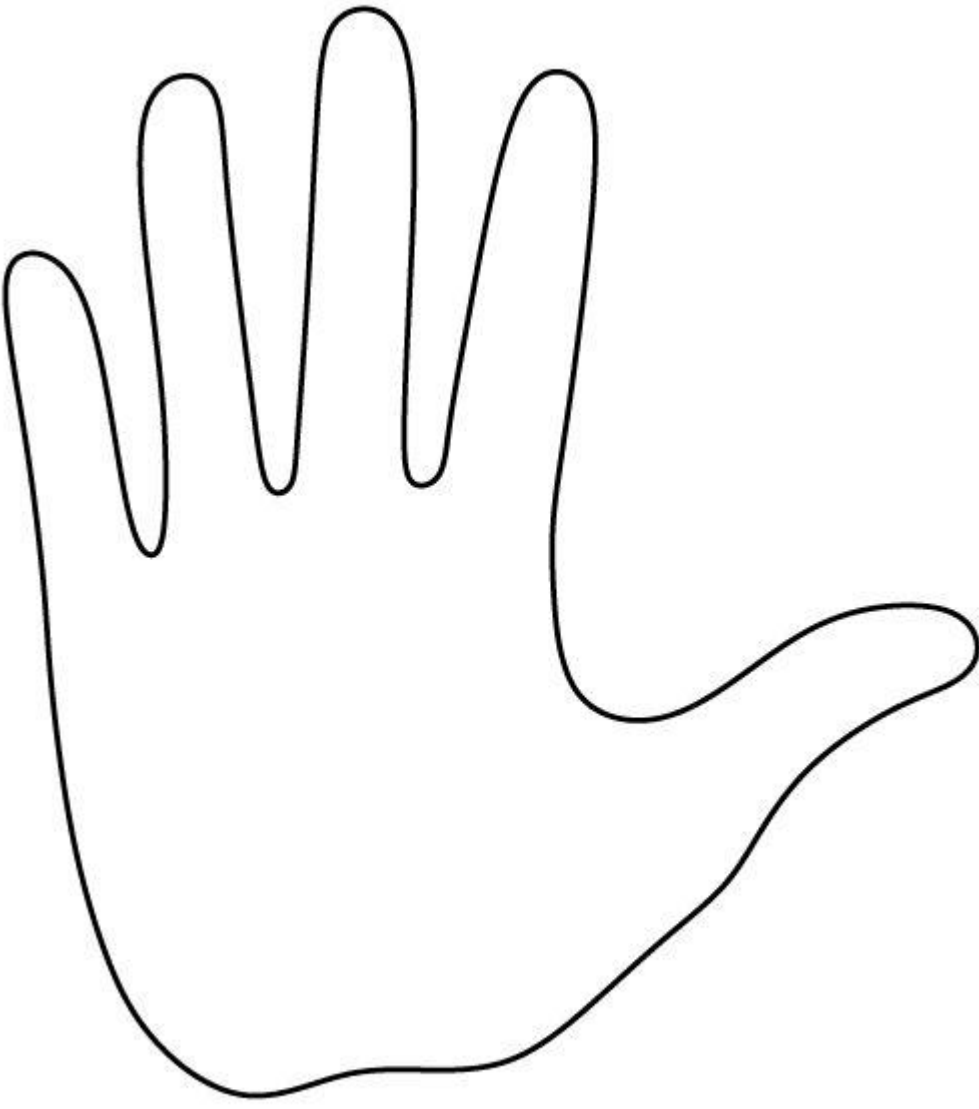
1. Describe what is on your hand and why you put that on there to reflect who you are as an individual.
2. God gave us our own unique and different fingerprints and in that sense we are all different from each other. But we must come together as one under Him in community. How does the Gross Catholic community of various unique individuals come together as a family? Where do you see this in our school?
3. What do you feel is your role in your family and community?
4. How does knowing you are united with others around you in your family, school, and community help you live out your life as a Christian?

## **Large Group**

In our small groups we talked about how we each have an individual fingerprint and personality, but how we are called to come together as one. The hands signify each one of us as an individual. Putting the hands together shows our unity with one another. We come together in various different ways but one of the most influential ways is through prayer. 1 Corinthians 12:12 says "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ."

Now to signify our unity we will all place our hands around the world.

Come up one small group at a time



## **Closing Prayer**

If didn't have you—Monsters Inc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRhnWA84qwc> (No Lyrics)

If I were a rich man, with a million or two  
I'd live in a penthouse in a room with a  
view  
And if I were handsome, it could  
happen  
'Cause dreams do come true

I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
you  
Wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
Wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
Wouldn't have nothin'

For years I have envied  
Your grace and your charm  
Everyone loves you, you know  
Yes I know, I know, I know

But I must admit it  
Big guy you always come through  
I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
you

You and me together  
That's how it always should be

One without the other  
Don't mean nothin' to me, nothin' to me

Yes, I wouldn't be nothing  
If I didn't have you to serve  
I'm just a punky little eyeball  
With an ugly little optic nerve

Hey, I never told you this but  
You know sometimes I get a little blue  
Wouldn't have nothing if I didn't have  
you  
Dance with me

I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
you  
I wouldn't know where to go  
Wouldn't know what to do  
I don't have to say it  
'Cause we both know it's true

I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
you  
Wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have  
you

"I wouldn't have nothin' if I didn't have you." Think about that. Who would we be without the people in our lives that have shaped us? It is so important to surround ourselves with people who help us to become the best versions of ourselves. In this song we are told how friendship and love are more important than material items. Matthew 18:20 says "where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am with them". This is why the Marianists focus so heavily on community; they want you to surround yourself with other believers to help you live a life surrounded by God and all his children. As your people let us joyfully proclaim, May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.