

Sponsorship NEWS

January 15, 2021



Keep Chipping Away!

I had a conversation recently with a Marianist educator and asked her: "What have you learned from your experience as a teacher during the COVID-19 era?" She quickly responded, "That God has a plan for me ... and this isn't it!" Like most of us, she is tired of living and working in this altered reality. But she hasn't given up; she trusts in God and keeps doing the best she can to care for and educate

the students entrusted to her.

The Italian sculptor, Michelangelo, was once asked how he was able to create beautiful works of art from a big block of stone. He responded, "Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it. I see the statue in the stone and carve until I set it free." Michelangelo knew to keep "chipping away" until the results of his hard work are revealed to him.

In many ways, this pandemic is like a big block of stone that obstructs our view of the path ahead of us and hides the beautiful works of art derived from Marianist education and ministry. While it may be difficult to see the path ahead of us, we have to trust in God and keep chipping away!

On behalf of the Office of Sponsorship, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Deacon Dan Donnelly
Director, Office of Sponsorship

Chaminade Names New Leadership



Congratulations to **Fr. Ralph Siefert, SM** (president, Chaminade College Preparatory School in St. Louis) on the announcement of his retirement effective June 2022. And congratulations to **Dr. Todd Guidry** (Chaminade middle school principal) on his appointment as the school's next president.

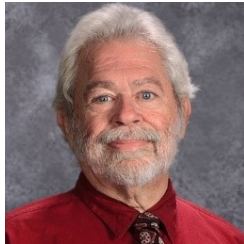
"The 2021-2022 school year will serve as a transition year with Fr. Ralph in the role of president and Dr. Guidry serving as executive vice president," stated **John F. Eilermann**, chair of the Chaminade Board of Trustees. "This will allow for a seamless transition upon Fr. Ralph's retirement in June 2022." [Click here](#) for full details on this exciting announcement.

2021 Marianist Administrators Conference

The 2021 **Marianist Administrators Conference** (MAC) has been moved to October 22-24 in St. Louis. This year's program will include a **Board Development Workshop**, led by Mr. Jack Peterson of Managing for Mission. Ministry CEOs and a member of the ministry's governing board will be invited to attend the Board Development Workshop on Saturday. A **Marianist School Principal Workshop** will also be offered on Saturday as part of the MAC experience. Download the [Marianist App](#) or [click here](#) for more information.



Bill Raddell Inducted in VASJ Hall of Fame



Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, a Marianist-sponsored school in Cleveland, Ohio, announced the latest inductees into the VASJ Hall of Fame. The inductees include **William J. Raddell '68**. As reported: "For nearly 50 years, Bill Raddell has remained an integral fixture of the St. Joseph High School and VASJ community. Generations of students have had the opportunity to explore and grow in their faith in the traditions of our Marianist founders thanks to Bill."

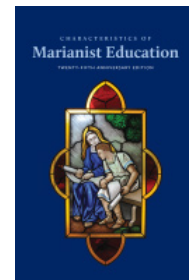
The VASJ Hall of Fame was established to honor alumni, faculty and staff members, and others associated with the Viking community who embody the mission and values of Villa Angela Academy, St. Joseph High School and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. Congratulations, Bill!

"Integrity of Creation" Included in Updated CMEs

The 25th anniversary edition of the Characteristics of Marianist Education includes an update to one of the CMEs. The fourth characteristic now officially reads:

Educate for service, justice, peace and the integrity of creation

From the Endnotes of the updated document we learn: "The addition of 'integrity of creation' recognizes the contemporary understanding of the vital awareness and action toward what Pope Francis says in his encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, regarding, 'dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.'" Pope Francis explicitly states that *Laudato Si'* "is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching."



Sponsored ministries are encouraged to update their marketing and instructional materials as soon as practical to reflect this change.

Copies of the 25th anniversary edition of the CMEs were delivered to each sponsored ministry for distribution to administrators, faculty, staff and board members. An [online version](#) is also available for download from the Province website, or select "Marianist Characteristics" on the [Marianist App](#).

2021 Formation Programs

Here is a schedule of upcoming formation programs offered by the Office of Sponsorship. Please note that some of the program dates originally announced have changed.

- **Teaching as Ministry (TAM) Workshop:** October 5-7, 2021, Marianist

Retreat & Conference Center – St. Louis, MO (*Note: An additional TAM Workshop is scheduled for June 14-16, 2022.*)

- **Board Development Workshop:** October 22-23, 2021, Sheraton Westport Plaza – St. Louis, MO
- **Marianist Administrators Conference:** October 22-24, 2021, Sheraton Westport Plaza – St. Louis, MO
- **Head to Heart: Marianist Spirituality Workshop:** November 8-10, 2021, Marianist Retreat & Conference Center – St. Louis, Missouri

Go to Formation Programs on the [Marianist App](#) or [click here](#) for more information about programs and registration.

Other Upcoming Events

- **Los Angeles RECongress:** The Religious Education Congress, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, is offering an online version of its annual gathering **February 18-21**. Registration is \$35/person and covers admission to the entire virtual event including exhibits, concerts, liturgies, Sacred Space, Keynote Addresses, Youth Track and all workshops. For more information, visit <https://recongress.org/>
 - **NCEA Annual Convention:** The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) is offering a virtual option for its Annual Convention **April 6-8**. Attendance passes for individuals are \$129/attendee. A watch pass of unlimited faculty/staff of NCEA member schools is \$999/school. For more information, visit <http://2021.ncea.org/>
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Let Us Pray

Several Marianist-sponsored ministries are engaged in a process of hiring new partners in mission who serve in leadership roles. Please join the Marianist Province in prayers of support for these ministries:

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks and praise for the abundant graces you bestow upon us.

We ask you to bless our sisters and brothers in Marianist-sponsored ministries who are in the process of hiring new leaders in mission. Reveal to them qualified candidates who can support and lead with humility and courage. Help them select individuals who will embrace, animate and promote Mary's mission of bringing Christ to the world.

May those entrusted with the leadership of the selection process be guided by a spirit of collaboration and wisdom; may their dialogue be open and their discernment clear.

Lord, bless and strengthen all who join in the mission of the Catholic Church and who help to deepen and expand the charism of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary.

May the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

Get Connected

Stay in touch with the Marianist Province by [downloading our new mobile app!](#)

The app is **FREE** to download and is compatible with Apple iOS devices and Android devices. The app features direct links to the most commonly used information to support formation and mission integration, as well as other important collaborators, like Marianist LIFE, NACMS, JPIC, and the Marianist Mission.



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