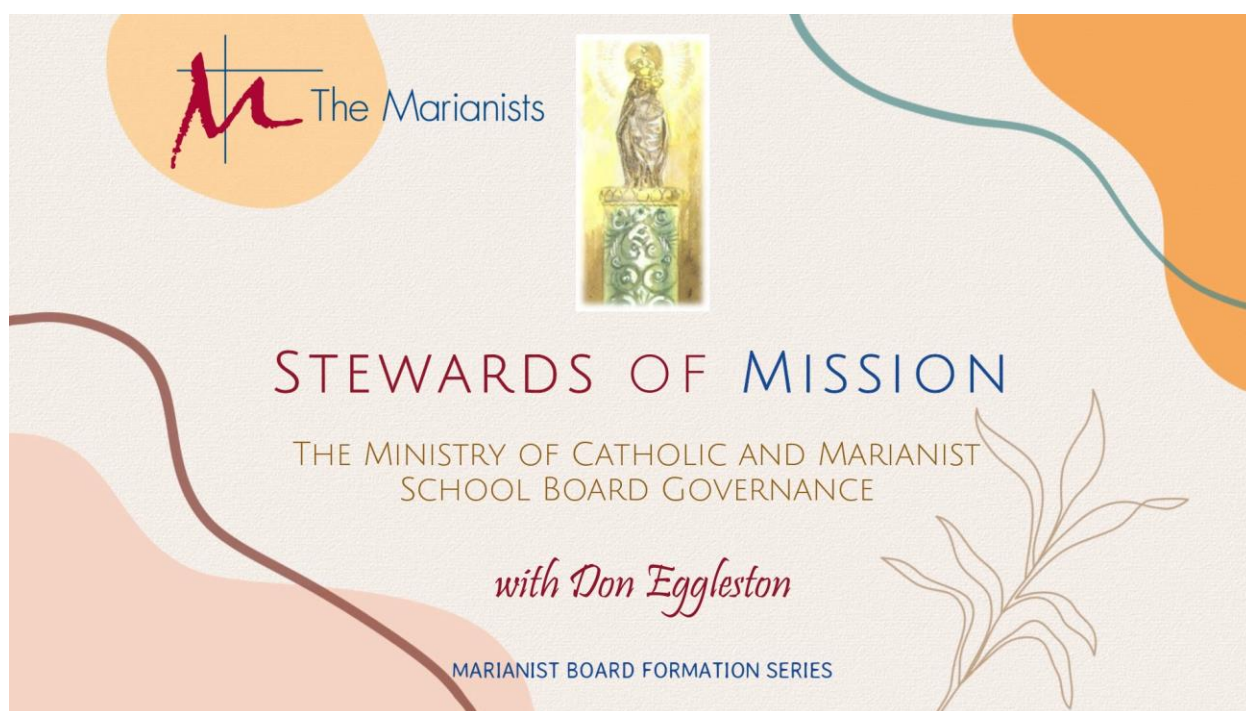


Supplement for “Through a Marianist Lens”

Marianist Board Formation Series

Reflection Questions



With excerpts from the Manual titled:

Materials Prepared for the Mission Integration Committee of Marianist School Boards,

available at www.marianist.com/board-resources

Reflection Question 1 of 4:

How am I being called to Lay Ministry in the Catholic Church?

Commentary:

Preface:

In the Catholic Church the term minister enjoys a variety of usages. Lay ecclesial ministry includes a broad category rather than a specific job title. It most commonly refers to the person, whether lay or ordained, who is commissioned to perform some act on behalf of the Church. It is not a particular office or rank of clergy, as is the case in some other churches, but minister may be used as a collective term for vocational or professional pastoral leaders including clergy (bishops, deacons, priests) and non-clergy (theologians and lay ecclesial ministers). It is also used in reference to the canonical and liturgical administration of sacraments, as part of some offices, and with reference to the exercise of the lay apostolate. Leadership in a particular area of ministry

Lay Ministers:

In a general sense, any Christian exercising a ministry is a minister. Since all the baptized are part of the universal priesthood, whenever they engage in their vocation to evangelize the world and to help those in need, they are ministers. In addition, the Church calls people to the responsible stewardship of their time and talent in support of the Church. This often takes the form of volunteering for a specific lay ministry, most of which are liturgical, catechetical, or involved in pastoral care and social justice. Other lay ministries include those who work with charitable activities, pastoral care and outreach, or advocacy for social justice.

Those who are called to serve on a Marianist Board are called to the important ministry of social justice and pastoral care along with the responsibility of ensuring the strength of the school lived out through the Marianist Charism. They are truly Lay Ministers.

Reflection Question 2 of 4:

In light of my background and gifts,
how can I contribute to my Marianist board's central purpose –
Mission Integration?

Commentary:

Marianist Mission Integration:

A Mission Integration Committee is charged with overseeing the activities of the Board and the efforts of the administration with respect to mission integration—from the perspective of the overarching vision for the ministry grounded in the mission of the Marianists, as well as standards by which these efforts can be measured. This committee will lead the development of policies and procedures to foster and evaluate the marks of effective integration of Catholic and Marianist characteristics in all aspects of the ministry's operations.

Specifically, the committee will provide resources and develop formation and educational programs for the Board as well as administrative leadership charged with mission integration (Mission Integration Team). The committee will work to raise understanding of the gift of the Marianist charism and define behavioral indicators that point to the Catholic and Marianist identity of the ministry. When appropriate, the committee will support and participate in formation and educational programs provided by the SM Province of the United States on mission effectiveness.

Reflection Question 3 of 4:

How can I grow in authenticity as a Marianist board member?

Commentary:

Characteristics of a Board of Trustees associated with a Marianist institution:

Members of a Marianist Board:

- Know well the mission of the institution in the Marianist tradition and the board's roles, responsibilities, and performance standards.
- Respond together to the call in mission and ministry to help the institution envision a direction, shape strategies, and promote the Marianist charism/vision as part of the Province of the United States
- Foster inclusivity, leadership, cohesiveness, and collaboration among its members—lay and religious
- Bear witness with a personal and committed faith that touches the heart and embraces a Marian attitude and approach
- Cultivate interpersonal relationships among major constituencies connected with the institution

Behaviors associations with the institution and its ministry:

- Openness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Dialogue
- Hospitality
- Consensus building

Reflection Question 4 of 4:

Where do I see the Marianist Mission being alive and well in our school community, thus making us distinctively Marianist?

Commentary:

How are we . . . educating for formation in faith . . . ?
educating in family spirit
providing an integral, quality education
educating for service, justice, peace, & the integrity of creation
educating for adaptation and change

What is Recognizable as “Marianist” from One Institution to Another?

The following features of Marianist “places” were drawn from the Mission Statements of Marianist schools and retreat centers. As many of the same values and instincts were mentioned, we developed the following synthesis. These characteristics are hopefully evident, relevant, and sustained in all of the Marianist institutions and ministries.

Characteristics Shaped by Our Christian Faith

- ❖ We aim to encourage all of God’s people to be more open to the Holy Spirit and to become more closely united to Christ and his Gospel.
- ❖ We guide individuals to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, seeking the reign of God by fostering Gospel values.
 - We foster personal traits of integrity, self-discipline, personal responsibility, and accountability.
 - We facilitate the development of the whole person and challenge our clientele to participate in that development.
 - We prepare and strengthen those we serve to face the future with confidence—morally aware and capable of being outstanding contributors to the future.
 - We work with our constituencies, local churches, and neighborhoods in promoting the development of the social

values of commitment to life through service, justice, and peace.

- ❖ We encourage excellence in the development of gifts, talents, and abilities in the context of a caring community; accepting and celebrating multi-cultural diversity.
- ❖ We seek to enable a deepening of faith, a growth in prayer, and a commitment to one's call or vocation in life, leading to the building of God's reign on earth.
- ❖ We serve the mission of the Church.

Characteristics Shaped by our Marianist Spirituality

- ❖ We bring the fullness of Christ to all in our institution or ministry within a family-like community—
 - one that is a caring yet challenging community.
 - one that reflects the faith of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
 - one that follows Christ through the example of Mary, the first disciple of Jesus.
 - one that is marked by a warmth of welcome.
- ❖ We develop a style of formation in faith and missionary spirit through integrated programming/curricula that considers the whole person and the community.
- ❖ We provide opportunities for spiritual development, leadership training, and skills in community building for both lay and religious, with an emphasis on young people.
- ❖ We strive to extend the reign of God to all by sharing the Marianist charism through ongoing formation in our spirituality.
- ❖ We embrace life-long learning by fostering dialogue between faith & culture.

Characteristics shaped by quality Christian/ Marianist Pedagogy/ Hospitality

- ❖ We help students understand the branches of human knowledge, educating them to critical thinking and stimulating their desire for truth, in theory and action.
- ❖ We maintain a community where all are involved in the student's formation. Grounded in the virtues of Jesus, we educate the whole

- person, attending to the moral, spiritual, and religious development of students, while emphasizing family spirit in a nurturing, caring environment.
- ❖ We promote Christian purpose and dynamism in our institutional pursuits so that people of varied traditions and experiences unite in commitment to an educational venture in a collaborative learning environment, preparing students for life, work, and service.
 - ❖ We collaborate to create a climate of cooperation, respect, openness, and trust that reflects the intercultural richness that comes from respecting individuals from diverse academic levels, faith traditions, and socioeconomic circumstances.
 - ❖ Within an environment of academic excellence, we develop the character of students and instill Gospel values.
 - ❖ We provide a challenging Catholic education in the Marianist tradition