



Marianist Moments



Principles of Good Practice for
the Board Member of a Marianist-Sponsored Institution

~ Meeting aid ~

Opening Prayer:

Prayers for Marianist Boards, www.marianist.com/board-resources

Almighty God, you inspired Blessed Chaminade to found groups of people dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We ask you to grant us the grace of fidelity to his vision. Strengthen our alliance with Mary our Mother, so that we might be formed in the image of her son.

Grant us a clear vision of the needs of our community. Grant us the courage to be leaders for our community.

We pray that our ministry as board members under the leadership of Mary will enrich our Catholic Marianist Mission.

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

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 7: 13 - 20, NRSV-CE

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.”

Silent Introspection:

Mission Integration Resources for Governing Boards, www.marianist.com/board-resources

In this present moment, which of the following ***Marianist Board Descriptors*** seem particularly striking in the context of your Marianist Board?



THE BOARD MEMBER OF A MARIANIST-SPONSORED INSTITUTION:

1. **Actively supports and promotes the institution's mission, vision, strategic goals and policies** – an outgrowth of the Mission Integration program, which provides ongoing formation for all board members, invites hands-on participation and reduces the “mystique” surrounding the mission.
2. **Is knowledgeable about the Marianist Mission as well as the mission and goals of the institution**, including its commitment to each Characteristic of Marianist Education. Common behaviors include governing in a collaborative fashion, developing consensus in a hospitable atmosphere.
3. **Strives to stay fully informed about current operations and issues by attending meetings** of the Board and its committees regularly, preparing for meetings in advance, and participating fully to permit the institution to reach a true consensus.
4. **Does not become involved directly in specific management, personnel, or curricular issues.** S/he must resist the temptation to cross over the line from an oversight and policy-making role into the realm of the institution's administration. When consulted by the CEO or other officers, the board member must only provide advice and collaborative support to the administrators.
5. **Must take care to separate the interests of the institution from the specific needs of the individuals or constituencies** served by the institution. Consensus does not mean that the institution must compromise or distort its mission in a manner that satisfies all constituencies on every issue.
6. **Accepts and supports Board decisions.** Once a decision is made, the Board speaks with one voice.
7. **Keeps all Board deliberations and discussions confidential**, including those that occur at the committee level.
8. **Is diligent in avoiding situations that may lead to any conflict of interest**, whether business or personal.
9. **Has the responsibility to support the institution and its CEO**, and to demonstrate that support within the community served by the institution.
10. **Upon learning of any issue of importance to the institution has an obligation to bring that issue to the Board Chair**, and must refrain from responding to the situation as an individual board member. Authority is vested in the Board as a whole.
11. **Contributes to overall Development of the institution** in a number of ways, including planning for development, financial support, and donor involvement in annual and capital giving campaigns.
12. **Has fiduciary responsibility to the institution for sound financial management** (and not just the Treasurer and the Finance Committee of the Board).

Group Sharing:

How might the Holy Spirit be leading me to apply these principles of good practice as a Board Member of Marianist-sponsored institution?

