



CME Reflections

Educate in Family Spirit

~ Meeting aid ~



Opening Prayer

Adapted from section headers in the CME handbook

Your Response will be: **Gracious and loving God, inspire us to educate in family spirit.**

- ❖ Come Holy Spirit, help us to demonstrate Marian traits of hospitality, graciousness, and community building.
Your response . . .
- ❖ Come Holy Spirit, help us to cultivate a nurturing educational culture.
- ❖ Come Holy Spirit, help us to cultivate interpersonal relationships characterized by openness, respect, integrity, acceptance, and dialogue.
- ❖ Come Holy Spirit, help us to form an educational family with collaborative structures and processes.
- ❖ Come Holy Spirit, help us to model leadership as loving and dedicated service.

We lift up our hearts to you, our gracious God, and thank you for choosing us to serve as stewards and nurturers of the Catholic and Marianist mission.

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

Reading

A Marian reflection introducing the third CME, "Educate in Family Spirit."

Demonstrate the Marian traits of hospitality, graciousness and community-building.

Father Chaminade believed the Holy Family of Nazareth was the model for Marianist communities. Marianist educational communities draw from Mary, the soul of the family of Nazareth, as our inspiration for family spirit. Mary, who pondered things in her heart, spoke prophetically with words chosen wisely and was receptive at every moment of her life. She noticed at the wedding feast at Cana that there was an embarrassing lack of wine, acted boldly to approach Jesus and then engaged the servants to "do whatever he tells you." Modeling Mary's solidarity with those in need, we give and receive freely each day with gratitude and openness to the action of God. Our welcoming spirit signifies our trust in other people and our faith in God's loving acceptance of us.

Silent Introspection

Adapted from the Marianist Mission Integration Materials Binder for Governing Boards

Let us spend a few minutes in silence, introspecting personally on the following descriptors.

Education in Family Spirit requires:

a) Board members who . . .

- ✓ create a favorable environment for meetings.
- ✓ cultivate interpersonal relationships characterized by openness, respect, integrity, and dialogue.
- ✓ appreciate the importance of community with collaborative structures and processes.
- ✓ express their role as board members as loving and dedicated service.
- ✓ influence others by exhibiting the Marian traits of openness, hospitality, graciousness, and faith.

b) A Board that . . .

- ✓ nurtures the development of trustees as a group, attends to the board's collective welfare, and fosters a sense of cohesiveness.
- ✓ creates a sense of inclusiveness among trustees.
- ✓ develops group goals and recognizes group achievements.
- ✓ identifies and cultivates leadership within the board.

Group Sharing

- ❖ Meditating on the nativity scene, the shepherds, and wise men, in which God gave us an icon of family spirit, tell us about a time in your life wherein you experienced or observed "educating in family spirit" at its best.
- ❖ How might the Holy Spirit be inviting us to grow as a board that exemplifies and promotes family spirit?

