

A Marianist Moment

By Bro. David Betz

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I recently attended a Micah 6:8 Marianist Lay Community gathering in Dayton, OH. Its annual summer picnic begins the new year for the community. The gathering started with a scavenger hunt as a community-building exercise, followed by dinner and then prayer. The topic for prayer was the Angels Among Us. Ann Hirt used a song by Alabama called Angels Among Us. When this song was playing, I teared up because I was thinking about family members who have died and how they impacted my life - my dad (Paul), mom (Mildred), and sister (Virginia). My mind then went to our Marianist Saints.

Our Marianist Saints: the Blesseds, the Venerables, and Servants of God and other individuals whose causes are being considered can be seen as angels among us. Their holy lives were examples of faith and determination in witnessing the reign of God in their times. They strove to live out the Marianist mission of bringing Jesus into our world. And because of their recognition as holy men and women, we are being called to invite them into our own lives and to ask them to assist us in experiencing the grace of God.

This is what praying with our Marianist Saints is about – to call upon them when we and other people we know need assistance from God.

Whether the need is physical, emotional or spiritual, asking our holy men and women to intercede for us with our God is a special way of communicating our desire for an outcome that would benefit one's life. If this outcome happens to be a miracle, then we need to praise and thank God that this special grace has occurred.

I now share an article that I found concerning praying with the saints. It is titled, "[In the 'saint method,' we talk to an older brother or sister in eternity.](#)" In the article we are invited to use our imagination, our senses, and thoughts (similarly to the Ignatian Prayer of Imagination with the scriptures) when having a conversation with a saint. I invite you to look at this method when praying with our Marianist Saints. See how they impact your life - physically, emotionally or spiritually, especially related to our Marianist Way of Life.

(Note: The title of the article uses the word "older," and we know that many of the saints were relatively young, including some of our Marianist Saints, when they died, but they lived in times before us, and this may also be the meaning of "older.")