

In Alliance with Mary –Talking Points

Introduction

- How would you describe the presence of Mary in your own life? How would you describe the presence of Mary in the life of your community?
- What is your understanding that as Marianists we are called to “collaborate with Mary in her mission to make Christ present in our world”?

To Know

“To deepen our knowledge of Mary we need to get in touch with her through prayer, formation, and our personal living, by which we make her present in our lives.”

- Take several minutes and reflect on the scriptural references in this section, try to imagine yourself in one of the scenes standing next to Mary. Which one did you choose? Why?
- When you imagined yourself in the biblical scene standing next to Mary, what were you thinking or feeling? Describe the scene as you imagined it.

To Love

“We live a family spirit that is based on hospitality, acceptance, and care for one’s neighbor, discovering the presence of Jesus in others. As at Pentecost, Mary accompanies our communities and makes them open to all, fully accepting of each person.”

- In what ways are you and your Marianist Lay Community presently being called or challenged to reach out to others from different situations or backgrounds?



Opening Scripture

“When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19:26-27).

Closing Prayer

Robert Bouffier, SM, *The Marianist Family Prayer Book*, p. 55.

Mary, you pondered in your heart all the awesome, confusing, and marvelous events in your life. You considered carefully what God might want of you

And then abandoned yourself to God’s goodness and your vocation.

Teach us to treasure and ponder, to consider and surrender so that,

Living Marianist life in your name and for your honor,

We might come to that blessedness promised to all your sons and daughters.

The children of God. Amen

Suggested Song: “Sister in Faith” from *Gospel of Love* by James Maher.

To Serve

“Father Chaminade spoke of our common identity and mission in these words: “Ours is a great work, a magnificent work. If it is universal, it is because we are missionaries of Mary, who has said to us ‘Do whatever He tells you!’ Yes, all of us are missionaries; each of us has received from the Blessed Virgin a commission.”

- Take some time to reflect on how you participate in Mary’s mission of bringing Christ to the world in your daily life at work, in your family, and in your church and community. Describe your daily attempts to “Do whatever He tells you” in each of these places.
- In what ways do the characteristics of the Marian dimension of Church described in this section exist in your Marianist community? How might we bring these characteristics to your parish Church?

Your thoughts . . .

Acknowledgements

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