

The Mission of Marianist Lay Communities –Talking Points

We Are All Missionaries

- What does being a missionary mean to you?
- Like Mary, we are called from within the Church to make Christ present in the world. How do you answer the call to share Christ in your everyday life?

Present in the World

- “For us, being present in the world means attempting to know, love, and transform with the heart and the strength of Christ Jesus.” How do you live this out? How does your Marianist community live this out? (Jn 15:18-20, Jn 17:13-18, Rom 12:2)
- How can Marianist laity be present in the world while remaining focused on mission?
- What is happening in our world today that urges us to respond? What specific actions can we take as Marianist laity that can bring Christ’s love and Mary’s strength to the situation?

In Union with Christ

- Many humanitarian efforts take place in the world to aid the poor and suffering. Jesus is the source and foundation of our work.
 - 1 Pt 2-6). Recall a mission you were part of that was “strong in faith, firm in hope, and constant in love.” How were those qualities sustained throughout the mission?
- Our communities are signs of the love of Christ in the world. Faith communities, such as our parishes and our MLCs, help form us to carry the Gospel to the world. How do these faith communities equip and encourage you? What is lacking?
- What organization (parish, ministry, charity) have you observed that impressed you as being most in union with Christ? What can you learn from it to bring *you* more into union with Christ.



Opening Scripture

“And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and He was giving them authority over the unclean spirits” (Mk: 6-7).

Suggested Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 3:10-23, 1 Peter 2:1-12, Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 12:1-21

Closing Prayer

Let us commend ourselves and all people to the love and protection of the Mother of God. Holy Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, intercede for us with the Lord our God.

(Prayers for Marianists)

“May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable us to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus so that with one heart and voice we may glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

(Rom 15:5-6)

In Alliance with Mary

- Mary was present in the world but remained open and obedient to the will of God. What characteristic do you most admire in Mary? Which characteristic poses the greatest challenge for you?
- United with Mary in her Magnificat, “we want to be witnesses in the world to God’s preferential love for the poor.” How does Mary’s life model for us replacing the desire for worldly goods with a greater desire to help the poor?

Witnesses of the Gospel

- In order to give testimony to a lived Gospel faith we must be familiar with Sacred Scripture. How do you incorporate Scripture into your daily life?
- What does permanent mission mean to you?
- The community helps its members to discern and evaluate their personal mission. Do we as community discuss current issues our members encounter as they live out their missionary call? How could your MLC be more effective in sustaining missionary efforts of its members?

Sent to Proclaim the Gospel

- How do we as individuals and as community dedicate our “time, skill, energy, and resources” to actions that promote justice and peace?”
- What actions are we taking to “hand on the faith to young persons and those who are most needy?” What steps are necessary for each member to take to assure that the young and those most in need are growing in the Marianist mission and charism?
- How could we increase collaboration with the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Society of Mary to model our message of unity to the Church and to the world?

Suggested Songs

“Here I Am Lord” by Robert Kochis, from *May Angels Welcome You*.

“The Summons” by Robert Kochis, from *You Are Near*.

Your thoughts . . .

Acknowledgements

These "Talking Points" have been created by the North American Center for Marianist Studies as a resource for individuals and communities to accompany the IO/MLC documents. These documents can be found at <http://www.clm-mlc.org/english/documents>.

Special thanks to Diane Browne and Linda Zappacosta.