



North American Center for Marianist Studies

NACMS NEWSLETTER March 2025

Spring is on the way, and we have several exciting things warming up this month. Keep reading to learn more about:

- Reflecting on the Annunciation with Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch, Ph.D,
- Celebrating Catholic Sisters' Week,
- Meditations for Your Lenten Journey,
- Browsing Our Updated Library Catalog,
- Browsing Our Website, and
- Our Newest Podcast Episode.



Nothing is Impossible with God: A Reflection on the Annunciation

By Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch, Ph.D.



“Do not be afraid ... for nothing will be impossible with God.” (Lk 1:30–37)

The Angel Gabriel’s Annunciation to Mary is particularly apt in these times. These excerpts from the Gospel of Luke are verses our Marianist Founders and early collaborators were familiar with and celebrated. They gathered as small sodalities, elaborately celebrating feast days. They upheld Mary as their model and participated in her mission of bringing Christ into the world with their “yes.”

Today, similar to the early 1800s, there seems to be much to fear and widespread chaos beyond our immediate control. Polarization in governments at home and abroad, the global climate crisis, and increased othering of members of the human family are just a few of the myriad concerns that fill our news feeds and occupy our dinner conversations. Yet, we have the example of Mary who, too, felt afraid of what appeared to her a crazy promise of an angel of God. When she probed, “How can this be?,” the angel assured her that nothing would be impossible with God.

Henry Ossawa Tanner’s depiction of the Annunciation, housed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and pictured here, captures the scene in a way that reminds us that Mary is human, like one of us. Some depictions of Mary portray her in a way that seems distant because she was both immaculately conceived and bore Christ as the first tabernacle in her womb. Though these things are true, Mary was also a Middle Eastern teenage woman who lived during the first century. In her humanity, we can relate with her, talk to her, and invite her to walk with us. Our Marianist Charism invites this sort of relationship with Mary. She had

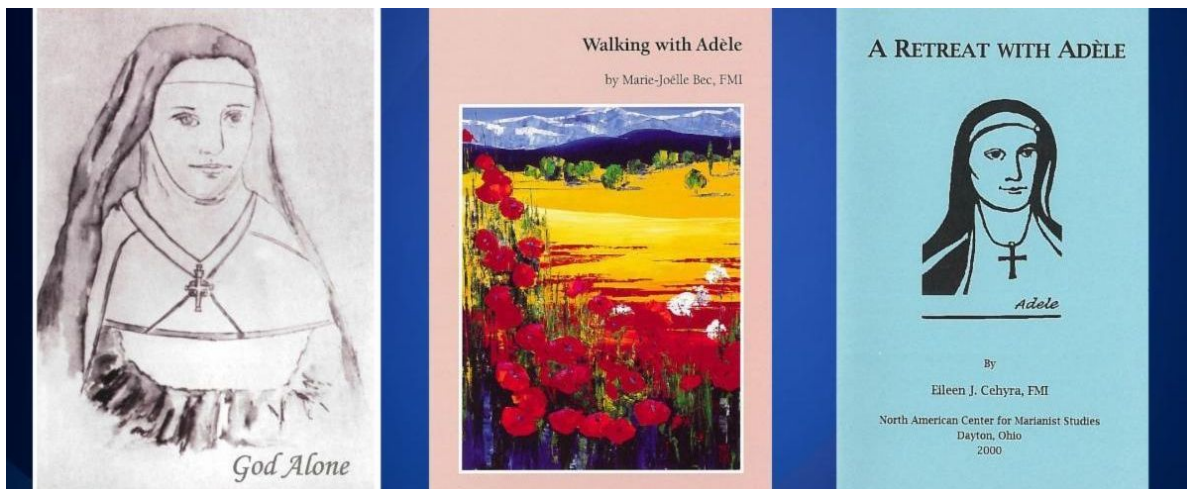
some fears and concerns in her time about God and God's promises. We might have some fears and concerns in our time. We, too, are called to offer our "yes" because we, like Mary, are assured that nothing will be impossible with God. As we prepare for and celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, let's consider how we might deepen our relationship with Mary.

- How might we invite Mary to walk with us amid our fears and concerns?
- How might we understand our relationship with her in a way that relates to how our Marianist forebears encountered her?

Looking to deepen your relationship with Mary? Here are a few resources we recommend:

- *Mary, Collaborator with the Holy Spirit*, by Fr. Paul Landolfi, SM, explores Mary's relationship with the Holy Spirit from the eyes of Chaminade and Marianists.
- "The Life of Mary," by Fr. Paul Landolfi, is a free and downloadable e-publication on our website that reflects on the life and witness of Mary, told through her joy, sorrow, and glory.
- "Mother Mary, the Juiciest Tomato of All," by Fr. Joseph Lacker, SM, a free and downloadable e-publication on our website, draws upon literature and Scripture to reflect on his relationship with Mary and invite readers to grow in relationship with Mary.

Celebrating Catholic Sisters' Week



From March 8–14, 2025, we are excited to celebrate Catholic Sisters' Week, in conjunction with the entire Catholic Church. Follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for posts highlighting the Marianist Sisters (the Daughters of Mary Immaculate) during this week.

To learn more about Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon (Blessed Marie of the Conception), who founded the Marianist Sisters, we recommend the following publications from our [bookstore](#):

- *God Alone* features quotes from the letters of Adèle that are

compiled in a daily calendar format, alongside blank space for journaling.

- Each chapter of *Walking with Adèle*, by Marie-Joëlle Bec, FMI, contains, in flowing narrative, excerpts from Adèle's letters summarizing Adèle's thoughts on a virtue, devotion, or attitude important to her.
- *Retreat with Adèle*, by Eileen J. Cehyra, FMI, is filled with scripture passages centering on Jesus and Mary, the words of Adèle, and reflection questions for personal or communal use. This booklet is designed for anyone making a personal retreat or seeking moments of quiet away from the "busyness" of life.

Meditations for Your Lenten Journey



Are you looking for resources to aid your Lenten journey from a Marianist perspective? NACMS has you covered. In line with the tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent, NACMS has published **four Lenten Meditations**. Each meditation reflects on a different moment in the Lenten season. These reflections will guide listeners on a journey into the mystery of Christ's Passion and their relationship with Him. Listen wherever you get your podcasts, including [our website](#).

Browsing Our Updated Library Catalog

During the past few months, Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM, NACMS head librarian, has worked hard to implement our new library catalog software. This new software supports non-Latin characters, which allows us to better catalog texts in Japanese, Korean, and other languages. It also allows us to embed the search functions for the library catalog within our website. The work of this transition is ongoing, and many works in non-Latin languages are still being added to our catalog. If you can't find something you're looking for or have a reference question, please contact [Bro. Andrew](#) or [Teresa Trimboli](#).

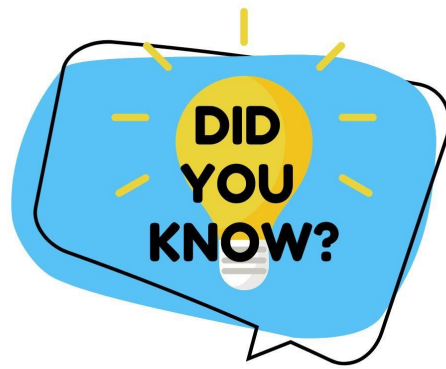
Visit [our website](#) to learn more about our library, which has the most extensive collection of Marianist works outside of the Society of Mary's General Administration in Rome.

Browsing Our Website

Did you know that our website has several ways to search for resources? Some of these search functions are exclusive to each other. If you're looking for a resource in our non-lending library, [check our library catalog](#). If you're looking for an item for purchase, [check our bookstore](#).

And if you're looking for a free article or digital media resource, [check our e-publications](#). Our bookstore items and e-publications are also classified as

"basic, intermediate, advance, reference, or resource" to aid you in your search.



Our Newest Podcast Episode: Bergamo – A Place to Come Home



Kelli Kinnear's connection with the Marianist Family dates back to her mom's employment at the University of Dayton. After attending UD and working at Chaminade Julianne High School in Dayton, Ohio, for 32 years, Kelli began her new role as Executive Director of Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning in late June 2024. In our latest episode of *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*, Kelli reflects on her professional journey within the Marianist Family, ways she has seen the Marianist Charism embodied, and her excitement in her new adventure

of working at Bergamo. [Listen to this episode](#) to learn more about Kelli and the ways you can engage with and support the work of Bergamo.

"We want to be a person imbued with hope... To counteract a loss of hope, we choose to be hopeful again, drawing on the fact that Jesus himself went to the desert when he was troubled, and came back hopeful as ever.

Let us continue in hope!"



- Carol Ramey, former Director of NACMS



Continue to keep an eye out on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts as we share quotes on hope from prominent Marianist scholars, including the

Marianist Founders, in celebration of the 2025 Jubilee.

Carol Ramey, "Summary of 'The De-Polarization of Pope Francis' by Fr. Jim Heft, SM," Lecture, Mercy Siena Community, Dayton, May 30, 2014.

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