

NACMS NEWSLETTER
May 2025

As the weather finally feels like spring here in Dayton, we have some wonderful spring updates for you. Keep reading to learn more about:

- The Feast of the Visitation: A Witness of Presence,
- Our *Stations of Easter Meditations*,
- Marian Resources for Mother's Day,
- Reflecting on Religious Brothers Day,
- Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month,
- Recent Happenings at NACMS, and
- Our Memorial Day Closure.



Feast of the Visitation: A Witness of Presence

By Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM

On May 31, we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation, when Mary goes to her cousin Elizabeth's home to aid her with her pregnancy. What does this have to do with Marianist spirituality, when we might grasp at different scriptural passages? The Visitation is a reminder that our quality of presence with others is more important than what we do with others.

In *A Manual of Marianist Spirituality*, Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, defines presence as "being with someone in a way that makes a difference." This difference may be seemingly insignificant, or it may be readily perceived. Still, our presence will be felt if it is of high quality.



Mary was pregnant with Jesus Christ when she went to visit her cousin. Their presence was felt not just by Elizabeth but also by Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist. When our presence is best felt, we allow Jesus Christ, who is within us, to come out and be noticed. Those whom we may not sense may also sense this same presence from us, that of Jesus Christ

within. Let us become great Christ-bearers so others may know Him from knowing us.

For further reflection on the Visitation and this notion of presence, we recommend the following resources:

- “[Feast of the Visitation \(May 31\): To Share the Secret](#),” a free e-publication on our website, originally published by New Melleray Abbey, a Cistercian Abbey in Dubuque, Iowa, offers a reflection and questions on the scriptural encounter of the Visitation.
- *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*, episode 23, “[The Quality of Our Presence](#),” with Rob Brodrick, encourages listeners to embody the Marianist Charism in a way that inspires others.
- *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*, episode 24, “[Our Marianist Presence](#),” with Fr. Quentin Hakenwerth, SM, expounds upon Fr. Chaminade’s notion that “the quality of our presence is more important than our work.”



Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM, professed first vows in the Society of Mary in 2006 and serves as NACMS’ lead librarian.

Image: Erspamer, Steven. *Sunday in the Octave of Christmas*, 1994. In Steve Erspamer, *Clip Art for Year C*, 9. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

Our *Stations of Easter Meditations*

Our Lenten Meditation series took listeners from the desert to the cross on Good Friday. Now, you may be wondering, where do I go from here? How do I continue to deepen my relationship with Jesus in the Easter season?

Our *Stations of Easter Meditations* series does just that. These seven meditations, each about five to eight minutes long, take listeners on a journey of encounter with the risen Christ. We hope these reflections will guide you deeper into the mystery of Jesus’ resurrection and relationship with him. Each station was developed and written by Bro. Tom Redmond, SM, with narration by Gabby Bibeau and Bro. Tom. These meditations are available under *Sharing Our Marianist Stories* on [all podcasting apps](#), [YouTube](#), and [our website](#).



Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



This May, we proudly recognize Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, honoring the rich cultures, histories, and invaluable contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities within our Marianist Family. Keep an eye out on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages as we highlight a few individuals in our Marianist Family.

Reflecting on Religious Brothers Day

Coinciding with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, Catholics worldwide celebrate the history and contributions of non-ordained brothers in our Church. Growing from the early movements of laymen serving religious communities through labor, education, and missionary work, brothers became important and equal partners in bringing Jesus and the Good News to the world. Today, we especially offer gratitude for our Marianist Brothers and their contributions to our Church.



Consider utilizing the following resources as we celebrate and reflect on the gift of our Marianist Brothers:

- [“Let the Brothers of Mary Call No Man ‘Father’”](#) by Fr. Bernard Lee, SM,
- [“History of the Gold Ring in the Society of Mary”](#) by Fr. Bertrand Clemens, SM.

Marian Resources for Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in our Marianist Family! In preparation for Mother's Day, we offer the following resources to aid your ongoing reflection and education:

- [“The Mother of Jesus Was There”](#), by Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, is not only to be read but also to be prayed and lived. It reflects on the mother of Jesus as a significant presence in the world and in our lives. When you arrive at the end of the booklet, may you discover that all along the way, “the Mother of Jesus was there.” This resource is available in our online bookstore.
- One of our newest [Community Meeting Kits](#), [“A Mother's Love,”](#) explores how the models of Mary (Mother of God),



Elisabeth de Vincens de Lamourous (mother of Marie-Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous), and Baroness Ursule de Peyronnencq (mother of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon) resonate with our lives today. This *Community Meeting Kit* is a free e-publication available on our website.

- ***Until Christ by Formed in You***, by Fr. Paul Landolfi, SM, facilitates conversation between Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the reader. Each chapter begins with a passage from scripture depicting an event or description of Jesus' life and then poses questions asking the reader to look at this passage through the eyes of Mary and Jesus. This publication is available in our online bookstore.

Recent Happenings at NACMS



Engaging in Lay Formation

NACMS staff members Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch and Mike Bennett joined University of Dayton students completing lay formation in late April. Caitlin and Mike reflected on their experiences of transitioning from formation to life as committed Lay Marianists, shared concepts for reflection on next steps in the journey with the Marianist Family, and pointed out helpful NACMS resources.

Can we facilitate a presentation for your community or colleagues? Contact Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch for more details.



Thanks for Your Google Reviews

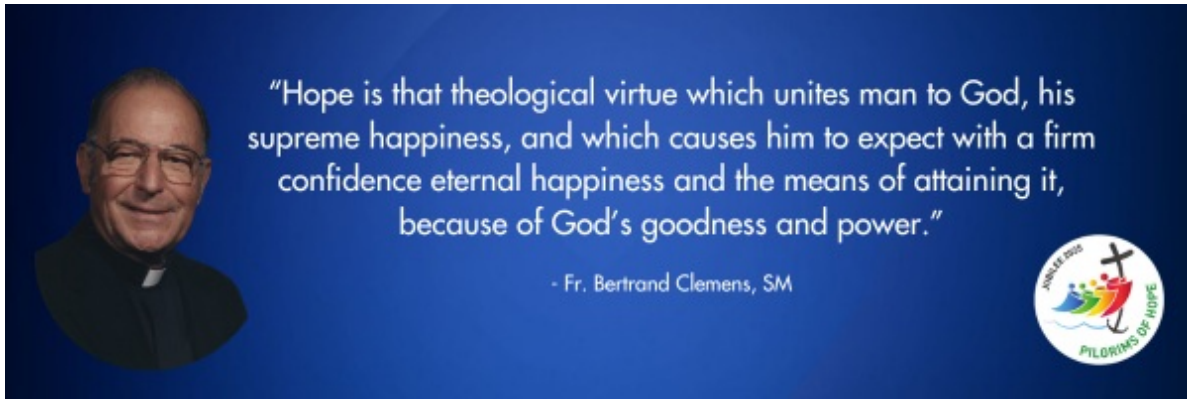
We offer a big thank you to everyone who posted a Google review for NACMS. If you missed the May 1 deadline for our drawing, you can still submit a review! Doing so helps increase our visibility and helps others understand how they can utilize our resources.

Celebrating National Poetry Month

In case you missed it, in celebration of April as National Poetry Month, we featured a reel of Bro. Steve Glodek, SM, sharing one of his poems on our YouTube Channel, which is also available on our Instagram and Facebook pages. Follow us on all our platforms to stay updated on all our content.

Recording with Jen Dalton

Thanks to Jen Dalton for visiting our Lawrence J. Cada, SM Recording Studio in April and sharing her experience of our [Spirit of Saragossa Retreat](#). Jen is a clinical professor and director of the Dietetics and Nutrition Programs at the University of Dayton and is a Marianist Educational Associate (MEA). We hope to utilize her interview on our [YouTube playlist](#) featuring interviews from retreat participants.



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.

Source: Bertrand Clemens, SM, *The System of Virtues of Father Chaminade* (Glencoe, MO: Institute of Marianist Studies, 1960), 12.

Memorial Day Closure

The NACMS office will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. We will reopen as scheduled on Tuesday, May 27.

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