



North American Center for Marianist Studies

NACMS NEWSLETTER August 2025

Just like an air conditioner at this time of year, we are working hard during the summer months. Keep reading to learn more about:

- Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI's Independent Studies at NACMS,
- Our Newest E-Publication from Fr. Renny Markose, SM, on Marianist Spirituality,
- Remembering Fr. Jakob Gapp, SM, and
- Welcoming the Newest Cohort of Marianist PULSE.



Learning from Marie Thérèse de Lamourous

This summer, Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI, completed an independent study at NACMS. Working with Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch, NACMS program administrator, Sr. Rose delved into the life of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous and also explored the Characteristics of Marianist Education. Her study involved a close reading of the biography *Mlle de Lamourous* and the *Characteristics of Marianist Education*. To culminate her research, Sr. Rose crafted a compelling reflection about Marie Thérèse, which will be e-published on the NACMS website in the near future.



A Touchstone of Faith:

Fr. Renny Markose, SM on Marianist Spirituality

According to Fr. Renny, who recently completed the Marianist Specialist Training Program provided by NACMS, “we have numerous Christian spiritualities known by different names, and Marianist spirituality is one among them. What is distinctive about Marianist spirituality? Or what does Marianist spirituality offer that other



Christian spiritualities do not have?"

In our latest e-publication, Fr. Renny shares a brief yet powerful examination of these questions, and his article, **Marianist Spirituality**, provides the reader (and prayer) with the touchstone elements of our faith tradition. Fr. Renny's words can serve as a source of enrichment for seasoned Marianists and an excellent starting point for those newer to Marianist spirituality.

The Enduring Faith of Fr. Jakob Gapp, SM

On August 13, 1943, Fr. Jakob Gapp, SM, was executed for his outspoken opposition to Nazi ideology. He was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned on charges of treason against the Third Reich. He was a martyr for his unwavering defense of the faith.

In honor of his life and dedication, NACMS is pleased to add a new publication, *Everything Passes, Only Heaven Remains: Writings of the Martyr Jakob Gapp, SM*, to our library collection. This book is a collection of Fr. Gapp's letters and writings that provide a powerful glimpse into his spiritual journey. In his second request for admission to perpetual vows, Fr. Gapp wrote:

"My ardent desire to be able to devote myself entirely forever to the service of our Heavenly Mother has grown. It has been almost five years since I became acquainted with our beloved society. It has brought me the happiness of religious life, the happiness of living contentedly in the love of God. It saved me from the abyss formed by unresolved passions. After having been so far from Heaven, one values all the more the grace of knowing how to do the will of God and to remain in the shadow of the sanctuary.



Sometimes I was attacked by the discouragement evoked by the difficulties in my work. But when I consider the happiness of being especially a child of our Heavenly Mother and when I contemplate the sufferings of our Lord for all of us, I take up the cross of the life of an educator with courage and devotion to God. I therefore pray you, venerable Good Father, to satisfy my desire, to grant me the grace of being forever in the following of our Mother."¹

As we remember and celebrate Fr. Gapp's prophetic life, let us pray that his dedication inspires us to embody the Marianist charism in all we do. You can learn more about Fr. Jakob Gapp by [exploring the resources on our website](#) or by utilizing in person our library's copy of *Everything Passes, Only Heaven Remains*. (Note: The [NACMS Library](#) is a non-circulating reference collection. To schedule a visit, please email nacms1@gmail.com.)

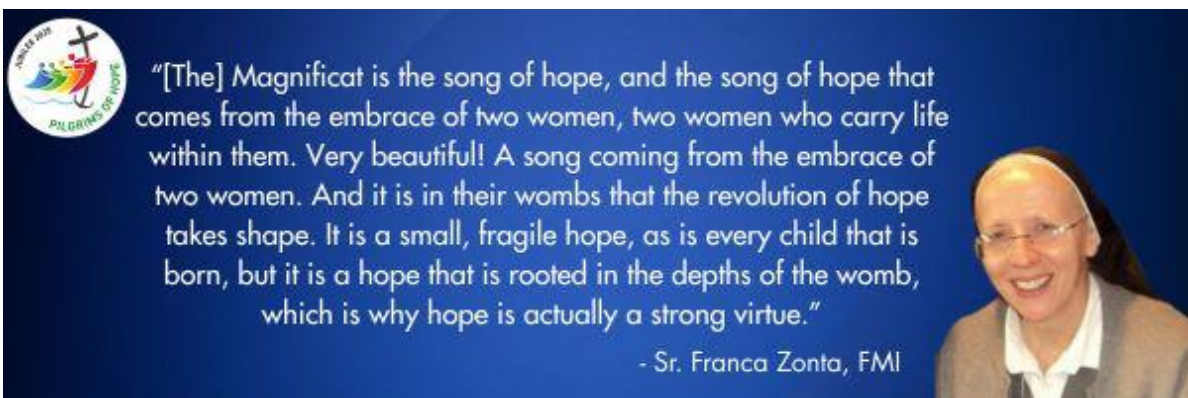
¹ Emilio Cardenas, SM, ed. *Everything Passes, Only Heaven Remains: Writings of the Martyr Jakob Gapp, SM* (Madrid: Society of Mary, 2024), 63–64.

NACMS Connects with Marianist PULSE



The Marianist Family recently welcomed its newest cohort of Marianist PULSE (Partners in Urban Leadership and Service): Ajá McMichel, Samaria Brown, Paula Ferradas Hiraoka, and José Gabriel Cornejo. As part of their orientation, Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch, NACMS program administrator, gave a presentation on Marianist history.

Caitlin's presentation engaged the group in a lively conversation, in both English and Spanish, about the foundation of the Marianist Family and its expansion into the United States and Peru. We are excited for our continued collaboration with Marianist PULSE in the year ahead!



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 of Hope.

Source: Franca Zonta, FMI, "The Magnificat's Importance for Marianists," January 28, 2023, Zoom, MP4, 0:16:17 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ8LFqmVjHA&list=PLIPj-HX2VN4cS59y_p7a90luc_mF7idtT&index=1&t=11s

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