

NACMS NEWSLETTER September 2024

Our September newsletter is filled with Marian days, remembering those who have paved our way, and new starts to enrich one's Marianist heart. Keep reading to learn about:

- The "Spectacle of Saints" *Community Meeting Kit*,
- Welcoming the Newest Cohort of Marianist PULSE,
- Participants in the New Employee Orientation Program,
- Celebrating the Marianist Feasts of September,
- And Recent Recordings.



"A Spectacle of Saints" *Community Meeting Kit*



Our newly released Community Meeting Kit, "A Spectacle of Saints" explores the Marianist candidates on the path to sainthood and how we are blessed with ordinary saints in our lives today. As we approach All Saints' and All Souls' Day, this meditative and prayerful resource is a wonderful way to engage your community with the themes of Christian sainthood.

Download this free [Community Meeting Kit](#) and others on our website.

Welcoming the Newest Cohort of Marianist PULSE



In early August we offered a warm welcome to the eighth cohort of Marianist PULSE (Partners in Urban Leadership, Service and Education). We hosted two sessions for Max Lawther, Leo Rodriguez, and Tesa Mayorga as part of their formation and orientation process. Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch facilitated a session on the origins of the Marianist Family, how the Marianists came to the US, and the evolution of the property of Mount St. John. The following day, Mike Bennett facilitated on boundaries for ministry with PULSE alums Felicity Nolder and Jack Dalton. We are excited to see the impact of PULSE on the Marianist Family and the Dayton area this year.

Can we **facilitate a presentation** for your community or colleagues? Contact George Lisjak at glisjak1@udayton.edu for more details.



Participants in the New Employee Orientation Program

NACMS has started another round of its **New Employee Orientation Program**. This new cohort includes three employees from the Society of Mary's US Province – Melissa Barreca (marketing coordinator), Dede Barth (coordinator at the Office of Sponsorship), and Terry Eversole (administrative assistant for the Office of Religious Life) – and Cynthia Sanford (administrative assistant for the University of Dayton's International Marian Research Institute).



This year-long program provides employees of the Marianist Province and Marianist-adjacent ministries with an understanding of the Marianist charism and an increased capacity for engagement with the Marianist Family. Participants meet monthly with NACMS staff and discuss readings and concepts of significant Marianist topics, such as the Marianist Founders, the Marianist Charism, the Marianist System of Virtues, prayer, and a Marianist approach to social justice. We are honored to journey with Melissa, Dede, Terry, and Cynthia throughout this experience. If you are interested in participating in the New Employee Orientation in the future, please contact [Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch](#) for more information.

Celebrating the Marianist Feasts of September

There are several Marian feasts in September. We invite you to explore a few of the feasts that are particularly significant for our Marianist Family:

September 5: Mary, Queen of Apostles

On September 5, at the conclusion of the Retreat of 1818, seven individuals became the first to profess vows with the Society of Mary. Soon after the first centenary of the Society of Mary, Pope Benedict XV granted the Society of Mary permission to celebrate the Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles as a commemoration of the anniversary of the first profession of vows.



September 8: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fr. Robert Backherms states, "Naturally we wish to celebrate Mary's Birthday for She is our heavenly Mother. The Church has another special reason for observing this feast: on that day was born the only person (except Jesus Christ, Mary's Divine Son) ever to be conceived absolutely free from all sin since our first parents. From Her was to come the Savior

of the World.... Mary was born for Jesus and Jesus was born to save us. Therefore, Mary was born to help in our salvation, which she did. She is the Co-redemptrix. Can we thank Her enough?"¹

September 12: The Most Holy Name of Mary

The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary holds special significance for the Marianist Family as it is the patronal feast of both the Society of Mary (SM) and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI). As Blessed William Joseph Chaminade wrote in his Letter to the Retreat Masters of 1839: "[W]e have taken the name and standard of Mary and are ready to go quickly wherever she calls us, in order to spread devotedness to her, and, thereby, extend the Kingdom of God in souls."²



September 14: Marie Thérèse de Lamourous

In conjunction with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Marianists remember and commemorate Venerable Marie Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous, who died on this day in 1836. While being a founding member of the Sodality of Bordeaux, de Lamourous also served as the matron of the Miséricorde, a house serving former prostitutes seeking to rebuild their lives. For more resources about Marie Thérèse, please visit the [“Explore Our Resources”](#) section of the NACMS website.

September 18: Memorial of Blesseds Carlos Eraña, Fidel Fuidio, and Jesús Hita, Martyrs

Today, we commemorate the courage and ultimate sacrifice of three Spanish Marianist martyrs: Brothers Carlos Eraña, Fidel Fuidio, and Jesús Hita, who were killed by radical militias amidst the religious persecution of the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s. They were beatified in 1995 by Pope John Paul II. May their examples of faith, perseverance, and sacrifice in the face of persecution inspire us as we celebrate their journey to sainthood. For more about the martyrs of Ciudad Real, consider reading *Blesseds Carlos, Jesús, Fidel, Marianists* by Emilio Ortega, SM.

**The Blesseds
Carlos, Jesús, Fidel
Marianists**

Emilio Ortega, SM



To utilize Marianist prayers for these feasts, see *The Marianist Family Prayer Book, (2nd Edition)*, available for purchase in our online bookstore.

1. "September 5: Mary, Queen of Apostles" in Robert Backherms, SM's *Sparks from a Marian Flame: Meditations on Mary's Principal Feasts* (Dayton: Marianist Publications, 1953), 39.

2. *Chaminade's Letter to the Retreat Masters of 1839* translated by Lawrence Cada, SM (Dayton: Cincinnati Province of the Society of Mary, 1989), 5.



Thanks to Bro. Stan Zubek, SM and Kelli Kinnear for visiting the Lawrence J. Cada Recording Studio in August. Following our summer hiatus, we hope to resume publishing podcast episodes of *Sharing Our Marianist Stories* in the coming month. Keep an eye out for those.

Is there an individual from the Marianist Family who would be a great guest on *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*? If so, send their name and contact information (if possible) to **Mike Bennett** so he can invite them for an interview.

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