



# Welcome to the Marianist Charism

*A formation program for new Marianist educators*

## *Prayer Booklet*

August 3 – 4, 2026

Opening Prayer (Midday)  
Monday, August 3, 2026

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there among them.  
(Matthew 18:20)*

Bro. Jack: Lord, as we prepare to begin our retreat/orientation,  
We recall your promise to be present -  
When two or three are gathered in your name.  
We know that without you here among us,  
And within each one of us, we will labor in vain.

**All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit!**

Reader 1: We rejoice that we are blessed and called together-  
to pray, work, and play in your name.  
We pray that we will respond generously to  
this opportunity to serve you.  
And that we will grow in our Christian and Marianist vocation.

**All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit!**

Reader 2: Inspire us with your Spirit of openness.  
Plant seeds of your vision in our hearts and minds.  
Please give us the eyes to see and ears to hear.  
Give us humor and give us humility,  
In our working with one another,  
So that we may know the privilege of participating  
In the coming of your kingdom.

**All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit!**

Reader 3: We ask that our time together,  
will increase the communion among us  
as members of your Body and our CMCP community.  
May the communion we experience these days,  
give us new courage in all that we do for you.

**All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit!**

Reader 4: May God, who is the source of all blessings  
And all that is blessed,  
Be a part of this gathering  
At its beginning and its end  
And during all the time in between.

**All: Unite us, Lord, in your Spirit!**

**ALL: Grant us the willingness to be open to each other,  
To respect each other,  
To listen to each other,  
To be honest with each other,  
To be supportive of each other,  
For the sake of your kingdom  
And our Marianist Mission here at CMCP**

**We pray this prayer  
In the name of our Creator God, our Redeemer God  
And our Wisdom and Spirit God. Amen.**

Evening Prayer  
Monday, August 3, 2026

Leader: God, come to our assistance.

**All: Lord, make haste to help us.**

Leader: Glory to God the Creator, to God the Redeemer, and to God the Sanctifier.

**All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Psalm 139:1-18,23-24

*ALL: Lord, how wonderful is your wisdom, so far beyond my understanding.*

**(Left Side)**

O Lord, you search me, and you know me,  
You know my resting and my rising,  
You discern my purpose from afar.  
You mark when I walk or lie down,  
All my ways lie open to you.

**(Right Side)**

Before ever a word is on my tongue  
You know it, O Lord, through and through.  
Behind and before you besiege me,  
Your hand ever laid upon me.  
Too wonderful for me this knowledge,  
Too high, beyond my reach.

**(Left Side)**

Oh, where can I go from your Spirit,  
Or where can I flee from your face?  
If I climb the heavens, you are there.  
If I lie in the grave, you are there.

### (Right Side)

If I take the wings of the dawn  
And dwell at the sea's furthest end,  
Even there your hand would lead me,  
Your right hand would hold me fast.

### (Left Side)

If I say: "Let the darkness hide me  
And the light around me is night,"  
Even darkness is not dark for you.  
And the night is as clear as the day.

**All: Glory to God the Creator, to God the Redeemer, and to God the Sanctifier.**

**All: Lord, *how wonderful is your wisdom, so far beyond my understanding.***

### Reading:

"A good education changes the life of a child, his family, and many other people who will encounter them. Because good education develops a child's potential, a quality education opens many doors throughout their lives. If one does not have this opportunity, one's range of opportunities will diminish. As a result, some will even be subject to a continual struggle for survival. Families who understand this make the greatest sacrifices to give their children the best education possible. Yet, how many children are still the innocent victims of a deficient or absent education? Like Pope Francis, we cannot accept this. We want all children to have opportunities, regardless of their socioeconomic status, gender, or location, whether urban or rural.

We aim to make our facilities accessible to a broader range of people. We respect every child as a whole person—relationally, intellectually, and spiritually. We teach them to respect our typical home. We also encourage those who have benefited from a good education to work toward building a more just and compassionate world. To achieve this is the sign of an education of such high quality that it provokes the desire to pass it on to new generations.

Furthermore, we want to multiply the opportunities for collaboration with all those who are thus in the service of education. We draw on the richness of our Marianist tradition and experience to serve this project. May the good of the child bring us all together. (André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General of the Society of Mary)

**Silent Reflection:**

*As we pause to reflect on our day, what blessings has God bestowed on you?*

**INTERCESSIONS**

We thank you for calling us into this time and space:

- Bless us with constant faith and make it a source of life for others.

We pray for and ask blessings on Pope Leo and all Church leaders:

- We ask you to instill in them hearts of justice, peace, and equality.

We pray for our world and for all the places in the world that are suffering because of natural disasters, sickness, injustices, and war:

- We especially remember this evening the people of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. May we all know the power and peacefulness of Christ.

We pray for ourselves, all our faculty, staff, and administrators at Chaminade-Madonna:

- May they become more aware of their ministry and their vocation.

We pray and ask blessings on your tables this evening

- Bless our food, the many people who have brought this food to our table, and the people who serve us.

We now pause as we pray for the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts.

**Lord's Prayer**

**All: May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.**

Morning Prayer  
Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Leader: Lord, open my lips  
**All: And my mouth shall declare your praise**  
Leader: To you be glory in the Church, the Blessed Trinity, and all our ancestors in faith.  
**All: From generation to generation evermore. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of Wisdom and Compassion, You gather us this morning as one Marianist community, united in mission and entrusted with the formation of young hearts and minds. Look with favor upon our new employees who join this ministry of education. Pour out Your Spirit upon them, that they may serve with integrity, patience, and joy. We pray this prayer in confidence. Amen.

*Psalm 67*

**Side 1:** Favor and bless us, Lord  
Let your face shine on us.  
Revealing your ways to all people,  
Declaring salvation the world over.

**Side 2:** Let the nations sing your praise,  
Every nation on earth.  
The world will shout for joy,  
For you rule the planet with justice.

**Side 1:** In fairness, you govern the nations  
And guide all the peoples of the earth.  
Let the nations sing your praise,  
Every nation on earth.

**Side 2:** The land delivers its harvest,  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
O God, continue your blessing,  
May the world worship you.

**Reading:**     *Global Compact on Education. Together to Look Beyond.*  
                  *Pontifical Lateran University, October 15 2020*  
                  *Excerpt from Pope Francis's opening remarks*

"Attempts have been made everywhere to offer a rapid response to the COVID epidemic through online educational platforms. These have brought to light a marked disparity in educational and technological opportunities. Still, they have also made us realize that a large number of children and adolescents have fallen behind in the natural process of schooling. Education, as we know, is meant to be transformative. To educate is to take a risk and to hold out to the present a hope that can shatter determinism and fatalism. To educate is always an act of hope, one that calls for cooperation in turning a barren and paralyzing indifference into another way of thinking that recognizes our interdependence."

***Reflection Question:***

*In thinking about joining the CMCP Educational Community, what are some of your hopes?*

***Litany in Honor of Mary***

Reader 1:   Holy Mother, **pray for us**  
                  Mother of God, **pray for us**  
                  Mother of our redemption, **pray for us**  
                  Mother of a lost child, **pray for us**

Reader 2:   Mother of comfort and understanding, **pray for us**  
                  Mother who shares our joys, **pray for us**  
                  Mother who endures our sorrows, **pray for us**  
                  Mother whose heart was pierced with a sword, **pray for us**  
                  Mother most merciful, **pray for us.**

Reader 3:   Woman responsive to God's Word, **hear us**  
                  Woman willing to believe the impossible, **hear us**  
                  Woman who rejoices in her lowliness, **hear us**  
                  Woman with an undivided heart, **hear us**

Reader 4: Woman of perfect freedom, **hear us**  
Woman wrapped in mystery, **hear us**  
Woman moved by the Spirit, **hear us**  
Woman champion of the poor and lowly, **hear us**  
Woman at the cross, **hear us**  
Woman patient and waiting, **hear us**  
Woman clothed with the sun, **hear us**

Reader 5: Queen of the fullness of times, **bless us**  
Queen of integrity, **bless us**  
Queen of meetings and gatherings, **bless us**  
Queen of all our hearts' desires, **bless us**  
Queen of our destiny, **bless us**

Reader 6: Queen of peace, **bless us**  
Queen of the earth, **bless us**  
Queen of heaven, **bless us**  
Queen of the universe, **bless us**  
Queen of all time, all space, and all things, **bless us**

**All: Mary, you are mother and virgin, wife and widow, peasant, and queen –  
blessed for all time. As we gather this morning, may we be inspired by your  
life as the first disciple of your Son. As the Holy Spirit enflamed your heart,  
may we also feel the power of the Spirit. And may the Father and Son and the  
Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.  
Amen.**



Closing Prayer  
Our Call as Marianist Educators  
Tuesday, August 4, 2026

*Gathering & Welcome*

Welcome to this moment of blessing and mission. Today, we gather as you embark on a new chapter in your life, becoming a member of a larger community. Dr. Mucheck and I stand in gratitude for your "yes" to serve, teach, mentor, and accompany our students in faith, scholarship, and community. Let us pray:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Heavenly Creator, you have lavished us with gifts and call each of us to use them in the service of love and justice. As we end our time together, give us an openness of heart as we pray, listen, and reflect on our role as Marianist Educators. May we ever be mindful of our work as missionaries as we continue Mary's mission in bringing Christ to the world. We ask all these through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Readings:*

- Reader 1: Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you. (Jeremiah 1.5)
- Reader 2: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28.18-19)
- Reader 3: Catholic Education – inspired by the Christian vision of reality in all its expressions – aims at the integral formation of human persons who are called to live a specific vocation responsibly in solidarity with other people. In a world where everything is closely interrelated, we feel united in finding new educational paths – in line with Christian anthropology – that allow us to grow together using the relational tools that are offered by current technology, but above all by opening ourselves to listening to the voice of others. (Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Prefect of Education, Congregation for Catholic Education (Circular Letter), Vatican City September 10, 2020.)

Reader 4: "If we want to grow as teachers -- we must do something alien to academic culture: we must talk to each other about our inner lives -- risky stuff in a profession that fears the personal and seeks safety in the technical, the distant, the abstract." (Parker J. Palmer, *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*)

Reader 5: "Those who are dedicated directly to teaching make a mistake if they limit their efforts to instructing in the human disciplines and only worry about producing scholars or gaining fame. Do not forget that you are Mary's missionaries. Do not reduce yourselves to running learning factories." (Blessed William Joseph Chaminade)

### *Reflection Questions*

- What would you like to walk away from after our time together?
- What are some things you are apprehensive about as you begin this new chapter in your life?

### *Prayer of the Community*

Response: **Lord, Hear our Prayer**

For the Church, that all who share a common call might work together to bring the light and the Good News to a world hungering for God's peace. We pray...

For the world, that leaders of all nations will look for ways to build peace for all citizens of the world. We pray...

For those who suffer in our communities and home; for those who are discriminated against and not welcomed; that we be agents of change and compassion in caring for your needs. We pray...

For those who are ill and sick, especially the many people who are suffering, that God's healing hand touches them and all their caregivers. We pray...

For our students, that as they start a new academic year, they may enter this experience with an open heart, excitement, and wonderment. We pray ...

For all of us here, that we might be open to God's Spirit and find ways to support each other in our vocation as Marianist Educators. We pray ...

For our personal intentions (pause). We pray ...

*Closing Prayer*

Creator God, you inspire us through a heritage that is rich in blessings and challenge us to grow. You have called us as partners in our Catholic-Marianist educational community – to be inclusive of all we meet along the way.

Grant that your Holy Spirit might continue to guide us. Bless our work and instill in us the desire to learn and generously serve the young people who have entrusted to our care. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

