MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY
OF NORTH AMERICA

Building Community

Life as a Lay Marianist

As Lay Marianists, we work alongside Marianist sisters, brothers, and priests to carry out Mary's mission of bringing Christ to the world through building up inclusive, life-giving communities in the Church and world. We believe that every sector of human life can be improved and drawn closer to the God of Love by deepening the spirit of community that all people feel. But community building is difficult, so to prepare ourselves, we cultivate a more robust spiritual life and rely on the support of our Marianist Lay Communities (MLCs).



A WHOLE-LIFE CALLING

Our vocation is a commitment of the whole person. We are Marianists in the public life of our careers and our service to others, but we are also Marianists at home with family, at the grocery store, and in the all-too-few silent moments when we are alone with our God.

What makes the Lay Marianist vocation distinct is how it is lived: primarily through the family, professional, and social life of a layperson, rather than the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience that order religious life. As a discipleship of equals, all branches of the Marianist Family collaborate together to carry our shared mission in the world.

Faith
Mission
Mary
Community
Inclusivity

OUR SPIRITUALITY: FOLLOWING MARY'S LEAD

The heart of Marianist spirituality is following Mary's lead on how to be more like Jesus. Like Mary, we focus on increasing the quality of our presence to God and to neighbor. To do this well, we spend time in formation and community, where we learn practices of meditation and prayer that support our life of mission.

Our Communities

MLCs come in all shapes and sizes, each suited to the people in it. Every one prays together and looks after each of its members. And each one discerns its own part in the Marianist mission in one or more ways:

GROWING THE CIRCLE

MLCs animate our Church through the multiplication of our small faith communities. That can mean welcoming newcomers, walking with someone who's discerning, or helping a new community take root somewhere else.

A JOYFUL WITNESS

Marianists are known for hospitality and family spirit. Through a joyful life in community and service, MLCs radiate outward and provide a witness of how faith can be lived authentically by the laity.

ANSWERING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Each community pays attention to what its corner of the world needs right now, and responds. Sometimes that means supporting a Marianist school or ministry. Sometimes it means partnering with others or starting something new. And sometimes it's closer to home: a hand with the kids, or helping someone get back up and go out for another day.



PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

Laypeople have been at the heart of the Marianist Family from the start. The Marianists began in the aftermath of the French Revolution, when the Church in France was in crisis and small communities of laypeople helped keep the faith alive. Today the Family is active in 34 countries, and we come together for retreats and for national and international assemblies.

START THE CONVERSATION

mlcna.org · info@mlc-na.org