

## Year of Shared Discernment An Invitation for Reflection and Conversation

Within the lay branch of the Marianist family in North America, laity express their Marianist identity in a variety of ways. Each expression is welcomed and respected as a response to our baptismal call. First and foremost, as a response to our baptismal call, being a Marianist is a vocational choice. More concretely, the International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities (IO-MLC), said in its 2016 document, *What It Means to be a Lay Marianist within a Marianist Lay Community*, that a Lay Marianist is one who KNOWS, COMMITS TO, and LIVES the Marianist charism ([Guide to Life in the Marianist Family](#)).

*The Marianist Lay Community of North America (MLC-NA) Leadership Council invites Lay Marianists and Marianist Lay Communities to participate in a Year of Shared Discernment to deepen our understanding of the Marianist charism and to intentionally connect with other Lay Marianists throughout North America.*

Marianists, both as individuals and communities, are called into continual discernment. This active process of discernment enables us to interpret the signs of the times, so that we may best determine how to live our charism and missionary calling in the world. This Year of Shared Discernment designed by the MLC-NA is special because it provides intentional time for Lay Marianists to continue their ongoing discernment, not only in individual Marianist Lay communities, but also collectively as a regional, national, and world-wide community.

We invite you to enter into this Year of Shared Discernment, as individuals and as communities, with a commitment to intentionally spend the time needed for a full year of discernment. A series of five modules to guide us through the discernment process together as a shared experience among all Lay Marianists in the region have been created. To provide ample time for deeper reflections and conversations for each module, we envision the following timeline, with the official start date of September 8, the Feast Day of the Nativity of Mary:

Module Name	Discussion Months	Materials will be distributed
Module 1: We are Called	September - October	August
Module 2: To Know the Charism	November - December	October
Module 3: To Commit to the Charism	January - February	December
Module 4: To Live the Charism	March - April	February
Module 5: Living as a Charismatic Family Today	May - June	March



The five modules have been developed with guiding questions and actions. As you proceed through each module, there will be opportunities to share your insights and growth with the larger Marianist Family. These opportunities include responding to surveys, attending Zoom or in-person meetings hosted by your region's MLC-NA Area Representative, and interacting with other Marianist laypersons or communities through a pairing coordinated with the help of the MLC-NA Leadership Council.

To assist you in your reflections, a list of resources that correlate with each module has been developed. You will find the full annotated bibliography list on the next page of this introduction and on our [website](#). Please feel free to use any of the resources that you find helpful to deepen your personal and community reflections and conversations. Please also feel free to use and suggest additional resources.

Our hope is that Lay Marianists and MLCs learn from one another through this process as we come together as an association of the faithful, with a national and international presence! The MLC-NA Leadership Council is committed to listening carefully and intentionally to your experiences, needs and hopes for the future of the Marianist Family. Your reflections throughout this process will help guide the Marianist Family forward as we identify collective goals and offer more opportunities for Lay Marianists to support one another in recommitting to the Marianist Family and living lives of action inspired by the Marianist charism.

Together in mission,

*Matt Dunn, Chair*

*Margy Lisjak, Chair-Elect*

*LeeAnn Meyer, Head of Spirituality*

*Abbey Saurine, Head of Education*

*Paul Combest, Head of Temporalities*

*Marceta Reilly, IO-MLC Representative for North America*

*Kerryanne Bollman, Treasurer*

*Kelly Welling, Secretary*

*Corinne Woodruff, At-Large Member for Lay Marianist Engagement*

*Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch, At-Large Member for Area Reps*

*Rob Brodrick, At-Large Member*

*Fr. Ted Cassidy, Spiritual Advisor*

*Sarah Gray, Staff Administrator*



MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY  
OF NORTH AMERICA

## Year of Shared Discernment Resources List

The MLC-NA Leadership Council has identified this list of resources that correlate with each module to assist you in your reflections. For each module, cornerstone resource(s) are highlighted. A cornerstone resource is a resource the MLC-NA Leadership Council has denoted as holding deep meaning and truth for the topic at hand.

We realize you may have already spent time with one or more suggested resources. This is to be expected. Our formation is an ongoing process that does not end, but rather changes as we are changed by interactions with the people and events of our time. We invite you to revisit the resource with a fresh perspective impacted by your own personal and communal growth and through the new conversations with the individuals you are gathered with at this time. You may want to reflect about your experience with a particular resource and how your perspective has changed over time. You may want to use a resource not listed but has particular meaning for you on the module topic. The key is to continue the conversation at this time and in this place.



## Module 1: We are Called

### Cornerstone resources:

1. [The Promise and the Path: Starting and Sustaining Marianist Communities](#), Thomas F. Giardino, SM, chapter 1, pp. 1-18 – Bro. Tom offers a variety of resources to Marianists of all branches and ministries of the Marianist Family, beginning with a fresh interpretation on understanding and speaking about the Marianist charism. Available from NACMS, [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)
2. “[Guide to Life in the Marianist Family](#),” pp. 1-4 – Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)
3. “[To Be a Lay Marianist within a MLC, Guide to Life as a Lay Marianist](#)” - a practical supplement, International Team, January 2017 - Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

### Additional resources for consideration:

#### Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

- [International Lay Marianist documents](#)
  - [Being in Community](#), Philadelphia, USA, 2001

#### Available through NACMS (North American Center for Marianist Studies) – [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)

- Things Marianist – full set of 12 issues available from NACMS
  - [Things Marianist: What Do You Mean, I'm a Missionary?](#)
    - Our Marianist Founders have told us that "we are all missionaries" and are to continue Christ's mission in today's world. What did they mean by the term "missionary," and how can members of the Marianist Family live out a missionary life in modern society?
- [Things Marianist: Whose Wine Is It? Reflections on the Discipleship of Equals in Marianist Communities](#)
  - Examines the gift of equal partnership within our Marianist Family and explores areas for collaboration between the lay and religious branches of Marianist life.
- [A Manual of Marianist Spirituality](#), by Quentin Hakenewerth, SM - “The Experience of being Called” pp 13-17



## Module 2: To Know the Charism

### Cornerstone resources:

1. [Our Marianist Heritage](#), by Joseph Stefanelli, SM. Fr. Stefanelli discusses Father Chaminade's spirituality, its scriptural and historical underpinnings, Mary and some of her titles, and the concept of community within the institute and within the Church as a whole. -Available from NACMS, [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)
2. [International Lay Marianist documents](#) - Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)
  - [The Identity of Marianist Lay Communities](#), Santiago, Chile, 1993
  - [The Mission of Marianist Lay Communities](#), Liria, Spain, 1997
  - [Being in Community](#), Philadelphia, USA, 2001

### Additional resources for consideration:

Many of the resources in Module 1 could be studied in Module 2 as well, especially *The Promise and the Path & Things Marianist*.

### Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

- MLC-NA documents
  - [Guide to Life in the Marianist Family](#)
- [International Lay Marianist documents](#)
  - [Being Marianist, Being Family](#), circular #1, Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, June 2010
  - [In Alliance with Mary](#), Bordeaux, France, 2005

### Available through NACMS - [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)

- Focus on the Founders - emphasizing unity not individual founders.
  - [Chaminade, Pragmatist with a Vision](#) - This short, highly-popular biography highlights the key moments in Blessed Chaminade's life.
  - [Adèle, Aristocrat for the Poor](#) - A brief-yet-encompassing story of the intriguing life of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon.
  - [Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, Firm of Hand, Loving of Heart](#) - The title succinctly captures the life of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous.
- Things Marianist - full set of 12 issues available from NACMS
  - [Things Marianist: Who Started All of This, Anyhow?](#)
    - The lives and contributions of William Joseph Chaminade, Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, and Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon are highlighted.
- Talking Points - full set of 15 issues available from NACMS
  - [Talking Points: Who Started All This Anyhow?](#)
    - Program material on the founding of Marianist life and the three Founders who began our beautiful charism . . . companion piece to Things Marianist "Who Started All of This Anyhow?"



## Module 3: To Commit to the Charism

### Cornerstone resources:

1. [A Manual of Marianist Spirituality](#), by Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, Available from NACMS - [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)
2. [International Lay Marianist documents](#) - Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)
  - [Being in Community](#), Philadelphia, USA, 2001
  - [Being Marianist, Being Family](#), circular #1, Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, June 2010

### Additional resources for consideration:

#### Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

- MLC-NA documents
  - [Guide to Life in the Marianist Family](#)
- [International Lay Marianist documents](#)
  - [The Mission of Marianist Lay Communities](#), Liria, Spain, 1997
  - [To Be a Lay Marianist within a MLC](#), "Guide to Life as a Lay Marianist-a practical supplement, International Team, January 2017
  - [Faith of the Heart in the Heart of the World](#), circular #4, Isabella R. Moyer, Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, May 2013

#### Available through NACMS - [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)

- [Chaminade's Message Today](#), by Eduardo Benlloch, SM. Father Chaminade's unfailing faith, devotion to Mary and dedication to prayer life are timeless qualities that are inspiring, and Benlloch suggests even necessary, for today's Marianists.
- [Grain of Wheat](#), Quentin Hakenewerth, SM. "The Grain of Wheat" is meant for anyone who wants to grow in virtue and develop an effective personality for dealing with the daily challenges of life. It begins with what is within the scope of everyone and moves gradually to what is totally within the power of the Holy Spirit.



## Module 4: To Live the Charism

### Cornerstone resources:

1. [Growing in the Virtues of Jesus](#), by Quentin Hakenwerth, SM - guides us on a journey of inner-peace and a union with Jesus, enabling us to face life in a Christ-oriented manner. Available from NACMS - [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)
2. [Mary Was a Lay Woman Who Lived in Community](#), Carol P. Ramey- available from NACMS - [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)
3. “[Guide to Life in the Marianist Family](#),” pp. 7-9 – Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)
4. [International Lay Marianist documents](#) – Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)
  - o [Faith of the Heart in the Heart of the World](#), circular #4, Isabella R. Moyer, Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, May 2013 - Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

### Additional resources for consideration:

Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

- [International Lay Marianist documents](#)
  - o [The Identity of Marianist Lay Communities](#), Santiago, Chile, 1993
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  - o [Being in Community](#), Philadelphia, USA, 2001
  - o [Being Marianist, Being Family](#), circular #1, Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, June 2010

Available through NACMS – [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)

- [A New Fulcrum: Marianist Horizons Today](#), David Fleming, SM, former Superior General of the Society of Mary, muses and expounds on key questions of contemporary Marianist life, but always through the magnifying lens of Blessed Chaminade’s quest for a “new fulcrum.” Father Fleming’s work contains 10 essays covering topics pertaining to Marianist education, spirituality, leadership, mixed composition, and identity.
- [A Manual of Marianist Spirituality](#), by Quentin Hakenwerth, SM
- Hakenwerth, S.M., Quentin, [Mary in Modern Spirituality](#), St. Louis, MO: Maryhurst Press
- [Do Whatever He Tells You: Revisiting Communities for the New Millennium](#), Jack Ventura, SM. If you are looking for a connection between the foundation of the Marianist Family and Marianist ways of responding to today’s world in building community, this is a great source.
- [“Mary, A Woman with a Mission](#),” Sebastian Abalodo, SM
- [“Reimagining the Marianist Family in the United States: Continuing the Conversation on the Marianist Movement](#),” Raymond Fitz, SM





## Module 5: Living as a Charismatic Family Today

### Cornerstone resources:

1. [“Longing for a New Pentecost,” circular #8](#), David Fleming, SM, October 12, 2001, p. 80-87
2. [“After the General chapter: Some Reflections of the Future of the Marianist Charism,” circular #1](#), David Fleming, SM, Rome, November 24, 1996, pp. 10-11
3. [Marianist Lay Communities and the New Evangelization, circular #2](#), Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, July 2011 - International Lay Marianist documents

### Additional resources for consideration:

#### Available on the [MLC-NA website](#)

- MLC-NA documents
  - [Guide to Life in the Marianist Family](#)
- [International Lay Marianist documents](#)
  - [Being Marianist, Being Family](#), circular #1, Isabella R. Moyer, President, International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, June 2010
  - [Marianist Lay Communities an International Community of Communities](#), circular #3, Isabella R. Moyer, Isabella R. Moyer, President International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, June 2012
  - [Faith of the Heart in the Heart of the World](#), circular #4, Isabella R. Moyer, Isabella R. Moyer, President International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, May 2013

#### Available through NACMS (North American Center for Marianist Studies) – [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org)

- [A Manual of Marianist Spirituality](#), by Quentin Hackenwerth, SM
- [Mary in Modern Spirituality](#), Quentin Hackenwerth, SM. This booklet contains a clear explanation of how Mary was called to bring the whole world to Christ. The two themes of “seeing” and “listening” are instructional to modern-day Christians in their call to do likewise.
- [Longing for a New Pentecost, circular #8](#), David Fleming, SM, October 12, 2001, p. 80-87
- [After the General chapter: Some Reflections of the Future of the Marianist Charism, circular #1](#) David Fleming, SM, Rome, November 24, 1996, pp. 10-11
- [“Reimagining the Marianist Family in the United States: Continuing the Conversation on the Marianist Movement,”](#) Raymond Fitz, SM

