

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

A VOICE OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Video Resource Guide

Living Our Marianist Charism: Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community

Opening Prayer:

Coming together as the family of God, we unite to realize the unconditional love God has for all God's children, equally. We gather to hear stories of our LGBTQ+ community and to embrace their experiences. Guide our dialogue so that we grow in our understanding of one another, for it is only in understanding our community that true solidarity is achieved.

Introduction:

The LGBT Initiative, an issue team of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC), responds to the Church's call to be welcoming and compassionate by offering effective pastoral care and spiritual support for LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and other identities) Catholics and their families. We foster dialogue, education, and understanding among the diverse communities and institutions affiliated with the Marianist Family. Our goal is to fully welcome our Marianist LGBTQ+ members into all aspects of our communities. Through our work, we hope the Marianist family becomes a prophetic witness to the Church and the world on how to welcome and embrace LGBTQ+ people and their gifts.

The video *Living our Marianist Charism: Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community* is a collection of stories and perspectives from LGBTQ+ persons, family members, and allies in the Marianist world. The purpose of this video is to raise awareness of the presence and role of LGBTQ+ people in the Catholic Church and in the Marianist Family.



Video Objectives:

As a Marianist Family, we hope to:

- To discover our call of inclusivity towards LGBTQ+ persons
- To better understand how LGBTQ+ Catholics experience God's call to remain in the Church and in the Marianist Family
- To raise awareness and appreciation of the presence and gifts of LGBTQ+ persons in the Church and in the Marianist Family
- To challenge the Church and our Marianist Family to consider ways of being a prophetic voice on matters pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community

The intended audience is in the first instance the Marianist Family but ultimately includes the larger Church.

Note: We hope that many people in the Marianist family and the larger Church have an opportunity to watch the video and enter into dialogue with their community. We wish to engage in communal dialogue and discernment with the Church and our Marianist family through the sharing of personal stories and experiences. We believe it is crucial, when discussing these teachings, to take into consideration findings in biology, anthropology, and psychology. Most importantly, we believe we are called to be prophetic on the profundity of God's love toward everyone and our call to be witnesses who embody God's love toward LGBTQ+ people.

Please find the link to our video, *Living our Marianist Charism: Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community* here: https://youtu.be/_ItQVlyXjd4

Discussion:

After watching the video, you are encouraged to enter into dialogue with your community.

Here are some questions to consider:

- After watching the video, what is one word that summarizes your reaction?
- Did hearing peoples' experiences in the video affect the way you see LGBTQ+ people in the church? If so, how?
- What is my call as a Marianist regarding inclusivity toward LGBTQ+ people?
- In your role as prophet, how would you share Catholic teaching on sexuality and human dignity?
 - Do you feel this is important? How am I prophetic? How am I called to be prophetic?
- How can the Church and/or Marianist family welcome transgender people? (Think of specific examples.)



- How do you think Jesus, Chaminade, Adele, or Marie-Therese would be inclusive with LGBTQ+ people in the church?
- Give one example of what social justice toward LGBTQ+ people looks like.
- How do you think Mary, as a mother, would respond to an LGBTQ+ person?
- As Christians with a Marianist Spirituality, what action(s) might we commit to take (individually or as a community) to respond to this issue?*

***This question is a call to action. You are encouraged, in spite of time, to end with this question to engage your community in a “go-forth” mindset. Perhaps write down these responses in a place where they can be promulgated and participants can be reminded of their commitments.*

Closing Prayer: Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church’s mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the masterbuilder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.



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Additional Resources for Further Dialogue:

- For information on the LGBT Initiative of the MSJC as well as useful resources to continue this conversation, email us at marianistsocialjustice@gmail.com or visit: <https://msjc.net/lgbt-initiative>.
- [Addressing LGBT Issues with Youth: A Resource for Educators](#)
- [Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers](#)
- Closing Prayer Source: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prophets-of-a-future-not-our-own.cfm>

