

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS IN A MARIST SCHOOL

Teachers have a responsibility and unique opportunity to guide their students in awareness of God and God's overwhelming love for each person. They nurture in youth that personal relationship with the Lord, through which a student will gradually come to hear the Lord's vocational invitation and be able to respond. Teachers and parents create the right conditions and God does the rest.

The following listing is an attempt to offer you some practical guides in helping to advance a culture of vocations in your particular school. Please also refer to the VOCATIONS RESOURCE page on the Marist Brothers' website, www.maristbr.com for more resources.

- 1) Provide opportunities for young people to work on service projects with the Marist Brothers. (Contact Vocation Co-Director.)
- 2) Build vocation education into each level of religion curriculum and acquaint students with the various types of Church ministries and apostolates.*
- 3) Encourage students to pray that they might discover and use the gifts that God has given them. (Vocation Resource page, Make A Difference! A Guide for Life Choice, NCCV pamphlet; Marist Senior Group.**)
- 4) Ask a local Marist community to sponsor a short evening program, e.g. prayer, discussion, meal, for an interested group of students. (i.e. Marist Senior Group.**)
- 5) Have students prepare and lead prayer services on call/vocation. (Vocation Resource page.)
- 6) Use bulletin boards, school media, and announcements to promote vocation awareness as well as USA Marist province and local diocesan events.(Vocation Resource page, Poster Bros.)
- 7) Help students to know and recognize and even interview the people who have already responded to religious life in your school.
- 8) Make available religious vocation materials in religion and study centers, guidance offices, libraries, etc. (Contact Vocation Coordinator or Vocation Resource page.)

- 9) Explore through Scripture different ways God calls people and their various responses to that call. (Vocation Resource page.)
- 10) Promote understanding of religious vocations through reading and projects about Founders of religious orders (Vocation Resource page, "A Heart That Knew No Bounds," Life of Champagnat.)
- 11) Celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, if not in January, anytime of the year. (Vocation Resource page.)
- 12) Sponsor contests with vocation awareness themes, e.g. creative writing, posters, photography, ppt presentations, etc.

From the Standards For A Marist Education

"We help young people to clarify their vocation in life, presenting the options of single, married, priestly, and religious life. We invite those who show signs of readiness to consider Marist religious life. We accompany them in their desire to respond to their vocational calling." *In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat: A Vision for Marist Education Today, # 90*

*** VOCATION EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

Assess current realities of vocation awareness content, including Marist Brothers life, charism and history, in the religion curriculum and campus ministry programs.

As written in the ***"Standards for a Marist Education: Marist Religious Education, #1: The Religious Studies curriculum is a full four-year program which places an emphasis on the faith formation of the students,***

- *includes a four-year vocation awareness program*
- *provides a four-year sequence in Marist Education Heritage*
- *is aware of the guidelines issued by the local diocese*
- *integrates opportunities for class-based prayer and worship*
- *is staffed by practicing Catholics credentialed in theology, religious studies, catechesis or are working towards it.*

****MARIST SENIOR GROUP** (or similar effort)

Establish Marist Senior Group, MSG, either by revisiting the “Called by Name” concept or other means. Called By Name involves a group of faculty recommending certain seniors to be invited to consider a religious vocation. Once established, the Marist Senior Group should meet monthly (regularly).

Topics for an MSG can include the Erbach Marist DVDs (and accompanying lesson plans) or additional materials related to the topic of vocations, many of which can be found on the MARIST VOCATIONS RESOURCE page of the website www.maristbr.com.

Some additional examples of topics can include: A local Brother might serve as a guest speaker with Q and A, etc. Another session could be devoted to the Marist Vocation Co-Directors meeting with MSG young men. At this session the ACCOMPANIMENT and INITIAL DISCERNMENT process will be presented. (This could also happen with a local Brother looking out for those young men who would be interested in Accompaniment.) Marist Senior Group in co-ed schools can be co-ed. Provisions should be made to have a priest and a sister visit with those interested in priesthood or sisterhood.