

The Sunday Encore



More News and Announcements from St. Francis de Sales Parish

Sunday, May 1, 2022
The Third Sunday Of Easter

Sunday May 1: Religious Brothers Day on the Feast Of St. Joseph The Worker

Today, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati celebrates Religious Brothers Day on the Feast of St. Joseph The Worker. As a parish staffed and in the Marianist Tradition, it is a day to celebrate and be thankful for the Marianists brothers and priests who have served and witnessed at this parish for nearly forty years.

Yet, many do not have a clear understanding who a religious brother is. Most everyone can name and define a priest, deacon and sister, but the brother is often in the shadows of the unknown. The following hopefully is a helpful definition to describe a religious brother:

“A religious brother is a member of a Roman Catholic religious order who commits himself to following Christ in consecrated life of the church by the vows of poverty, celibacy (chastity), and obedience. Not ordained, he usually lives in a religious community and works in a ministry that suits his talents and gifts. A brother might be a teacher, electrician, cook, technician, parish minister, artist etc.”

In the Marianist tradition, which is different from many other religious orders, there is the belief and practice of *Mixed Composition*. Simply stated, this is a way of life in the Marianist tradition where brothers and priests are equals in their life and service to the church. Marianists often refer to their priests as “ordained brothers.” In the Marianist Rule of Life it states”

“There is only one Marianists vocation, but we welcome as our members men of varied background and training. All have the same rights and duties as religious. The one Spirit is manifest in a variety of complementary gifts and ministries.

Thus the Marianist community seeks to portray a more faithful image of the Church; it rejoices in the mutual enrichment this mixed composition brings to its community of life and mission.”

(Articles 12-13)

In 2015, Megan Mustain of Trinity University spoke at of The University of Dayton regarding Marianist Mixed Composition”:

“Our first Marianist resource is ‘mixed composition,’ the full and equal inclusion of laypersons, Sisters, Brothers, and Priests in the Marianist family. William Joseph Chaminade modeled the composition of the Marianist community on that of the Church, the Body of Christ, properly

conceived. The church was not its priests, though they were essential. Nor was it its non-clerical religious, though they too were essential. Nor was it its committed laity, though we similarly cannot conceive of the Church without them. Chaminade looked to Jesus' own community, those he gathered and sent, and saw a group whose mixed membership was not to be dismissed as a mere historical accident. Its composition, and that of the early Christian community, was decidedly mixed-including men, women, poor, rich, tax collectors, and fisherman. For Chaminade, the fact of mix composition was meaningful, prophetic and thus ideal, and aspirational."

As we celebrate this unique gift of Marianist Mixed Composition regarding the Society of Mary today, we also celebrate it as a parish because one of the characteristics of a Marianist parish is a *community of equals*. So, on this day, it is a celebration not of the Marianist religious, it is a celebration of who we are as a parish. We thank God for the inspiration and vision of Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade!

Marriage Moments And Parenting Pointers: Food For Thought And Actions

Marriage Moments-Many religions have times of fasting (Christians-Lent, Jews-Yom Kippur, Hindus-Navratis). Perhaps less known is that May 2 is Eid al Fitre, the day that Muslims break their Ramadan fast. Whether or not you are religious, fasting can awaken your appreciation for food. Today awaken your affection for your beloved. Maybe have a special "break-fast" together.

Parenting Pointers-It's not too late to celebrate by taking a break from TV, video games, or phone apps. Check out these resources for families. Go outside. Make your own fun. (<https://www.screemfree.org/resources-for-families-individuals/>)

Retreat Experience At The Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford

The Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford is offering this summer 8-day Personally Directed Retreats. This is an opportunity to help one grow in their relationship with Jesus through the great treasures in the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*.

Follow the path away for a few days. At nearby Milford. Spend a week in silence and meet with a spiritual director each day, as you rest and pray and walk, enjoying the river and trails, the trees. Come to understand your own story more deeply, to connect it to the Big Story we're all living. It's beyond "being better," it's being truly yourself now, deeply alive, connected to the Way of Christ, loving more.

A time at Milford, June 3-10, July 8-15, August 5-12. Call our office at 513/248-3500 Ext. 10 for reservation or more information or visit www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com

Living Laudato Si' Eco-Tip Of The Week From The SFdS Parish "Green Team"

Our responsible use of energy:

The Easy One: Calculate your carbon footprint, Two free ways are available:
*<https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
*<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

The Challenging One: Reduce you carbon footprint by 5%.

This Week From U.S. Catholic Magazine

Please visit *U.S. Catholic Magazine* at www.uscatholic.org for this week's read and other informative and inspiring articles:

Jesus Let His Mind Wander. Why Can't We?:Quiet External Noise And Focus On Inner Musing-It's what Jesus Would Do. By Jessie Bazan

Another interesting and timely read can be found on *The National Catholic Reporter* website (www.ncronline.org) entitled:

State Sen. McMorrow On Reclaiming Faith From Being Used As 'A Weapon To Hate People.'
By Jack Jenkins of the Religion News Service

Vocation Ministry Thought For The Week

How can we show that religious life is understandable and desirable? What concrete projects can we carry out, and with whom? And what kind of collaboration can be envisioned with the Marianist Family and Church vocations as a whole?

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"Although the winds be mighty, and high waves in the sea, yet wisdom is the pilot-The powerful Lord is he; despite transgression's deluge, corruptions foul and dark, we'll yet escape the drowning because God is our ark."

Ann Griffiths-Eighteenth Century
Sunday Of The Third Week Of Easter
May 1

