

Best Practices for Marianist Lay Communities

Be an attractive community – what does it mean to be attractive?

- Genuine and authentic
- Welcoming, inviting – be flexible with membership
- Inclusive
- All are equal
- Non-judgmental
- Tap into traditional practices
- Be open to new ideas
- Celebrate together
- Celebrate Feast days, birthdays, anniversaries, etc
- Communicate! Embrace new technology to stay in touch!

Embody the Word/Good news in your community

- Pray/Reflect regularly with scripture
- Connect scripture to current lives and culture – (not just in your head, but in your heart)
- Discern a sense of apostolic mission – we are in alliance with Mary and her Mission
- Seek out Marianist formational opportunities – VLC, NACMS, MLFI, SM, FMI

Organize Wisely

- Learn about Chaminade's 3 Offices and how they may enhance your community life
- Start and end on time
- Schedule meetings in advance
- Who is leading next meeting? What is the topic? Who's bringing snack?

Meet regularly

- Weekly
- 2x per month
- 1x per month

Have regular evaluations (yearly)

- Is the community meeting our expectations – individually and communally?
- What needs to change – what needs to stay?

Have a mentor or spiritual companion

- Lay or religious person that understand community life and is willing to help guide decisions and the developing spirit of the community without 'taking over'

Stay connected to larger Marianist family - We are a community of communities!

- Marianist Lay Network of North America, MLNNA
- Our international laity, IO/MLC
- Marianist Sisters, FMI
- Marianist Priests and Brothers, SM
- Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC)
- Is there a regional Marianist Family Council in your area? To find out, contact MLNNA or IO/MLC

Note: This list of Best Practices was compiled from many resources and much wisdom in the Marianist family. Thank you to Bro Tom Giardino's book "The Promise and the Path" for much of this work, as well as lay & religious Marianists who offered their input.