

## NACMS NEWSLETTER November 2024

Happy All Saints' Day! We're excited to share about recent developments at NACMS and helpful resources for the upcoming holiday season. Keep reading to learn more about:

- "A Spectacle of Saints," *Community Meeting Kit*,
- Program Highlight: Spirit of Saragossa Retreat in Daily Life,
- Podcast Series Highlight: *Advent Marian Meditations*,
- Marianist Christmas Gift Ideas,
- Recent Happenings,
- Recent Publications and Recordings, and
- Our Bookstore and Holiday Closure.



### "A Spectacle of Saints" *Community Meeting Kit*

Our newly released *Community Meeting Kit*, "A Spectacle of Saints" explores the Marianist candidates on the path to sainthood and how we are blessed with ordinary saints in our lives today. This meditative and prayerful resource is a wonderful way to engage your community with the themes of Christian sainthood as we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.



View this free and downloadable [Community Meeting Kit](#) and others on [our website](#).

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**Program Highlight: Spirit of Saragossa  
Retreat in Daily Life**



Sandra Yocum recently stopped by our Lawrence J. Cada, SM Recording Studio to reflect on her experience of the **Spirit of Saragossa Retreat**. Adapted from the 30-day retreat for vowed religious, NACMS' Spirit of Saragossa Retreat allows busy individuals to experience the richness of prayer and spiritual direction over several months. This retreat, which provides space for prayer and reflection for an extended period, is an opportunity for deepening one's Marianist vocation and spirituality. Retreatants are accompanied by a spiritual companion with whom they meet regularly, either virtually or in person.

**Watch our latest YouTube publication** to learn how this experience nourished Sandra's relationship with Mary, her understanding of the Marianist charism, and aided her discernment as she steps into her next stage of life. We hope you'll consider participating in our Spirit of Saragossa Retreat.

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### Podcast Highlight: *Advent Marian Meditations*



NACMS has produced a special podcast series called *Advent Marian Meditations*, a resource to guide you through the upcoming Advent season. Created in 2017 by Gabby Bibeau and Bro. Tom Redmond, SM, *Advent Marian Meditations* invites listeners to incorporate weekly prayer and reflection during the busy holiday season. Each of

the four 10-minute episodes includes scripture, reflections, prayer, and music to highlight the Annunciation, the Immaculate Conception, the Visitation, and the Nativity. Find these meditations wherever you listen to podcasts, including [our website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#) under *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*. We hope these reflections will guide you on your journey into the mystery of Jesus' birth and your relationship with him.

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## Marianist Christmas Gift Ideas

Are you looking for Marianist stocking stuffers this Christmas season? NACMS has you covered! [Our bookstore](#) contains more than 100 titles related to Marianist spirituality, history, and charism tailored to everyone, from the newly acquainted to lifelong Marianists. Two special items of interest include *The Marianist Family Prayer Book*, an essential resource for those inspired by the Marianist approach to spirituality, and Marianist Father Quentin Hakenewerth's *Growing in the Virtues of Jesus*, which takes readers on a journey of inner peace and union with Jesus. Both books are excellent resources for individuals and communities to utilize.



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## Recent Happenings

Our staff has engaged in many exciting opportunities with the Marianist Family during the last month.



### Marianist Encounters Conference at Mount St. John

In the first weekend of October, we had a display at the Marianist Encounters Conference at Mount St. John. The conference discussed the Marianist “creative and collaborative response to Pope Francis’ proposals in the Global Compact on Education.” [Learn more about Marianist Encounters.](#)

### Presentation on Mental Prayer for the Spiritus Lay Marianist Community

Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch, the NACMS program administrator, met

with the Spiritus Community on October 6 in Dayton, Ohio, and presented on Emile Neubert, SM, and the concept of *Oraison* (Chaminade's method of Mental Prayer), and living texts. Following the presentation, there was a time for sharing and asking questions.



**Dan Jordan Celebrates 30 Years at NACMS**  
On October 9, the NACMS staff celebrated our colleague Dan Jordan's thirtieth anniversary of ministry at NACMS. Dan is the coordinator of publications, and his thirty years of experience and dedication make him the longest-serving NACMS employee in our institution's history. Congratulations, and thanks, Dan!



### **FMI General Administration Visited NACMS**

The General Administration for the Marianist Sisters (Daughters of Mary Immaculate, FMI) visited the NACMS office on October 18. The NACMS staff shared about its services to the Marianist Family and explored areas of future collaboration with the Marianist Sisters.

**USA Province Office of Sponsorship Marianist Administrators' Conference**  
George Lisjak, the NACMS director, attended the Marianist Administrators' Conference on October 21 in St. Louis and provided a brief update on NACMS' recent work and areas for collaboration. George's participation in the conference resulted from NACMS' growing partnership with the United States Marianist Province's Office of Sponsorship.

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## **Recent Publications and Recordings**

## Podcast Episode 45: Inspiration in Exile (with Carol Ramey):

Our newest episode of *Sharing Our Marianist Stories* features a recording by the late Carol Ramey, former NACMS director. In this short recording, Carol reflects on the inspiration Father Chaminade received while in exile in Saragossa, Spain, how this inspiration shaped the Founder's vision of the Marianist Family, and how we can be inspired by this same vision today. Find this episode wherever you listen to podcasts, including [our website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).



Thanks to Bro. Steve O'Neil, SM, Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, and José Julián Matos-Auffant for visiting the Lawrence J. Cada Recording Studio in September and to John Moder, who joined us for a virtual recording.



## Bookstore and Holiday Closure



Due to staff schedules, any bookstore orders placed after Thursday, November 7, will not be processed until after Monday, December 2. If you need further assistance, please contact us via email at [nacms1@gmail.com](mailto:nacms1@gmail.com) or phone (937) 429-2521.

The NACMS Office will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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