

The Mother of Jesus is Here: Building Today's Marian Church

MSP 2.0

SEPTEMBER 2018-AUGUST 2019

“A Marian Church remains standing by the Cross. It is exposed, and vulnerable to the ridicule of the executioners. But it remains upright beside the Cross.” - Sister Marie-Luce, FMI

We are all called to remain standing at the Cross in some manner. The challenges of our modern world make that a challenge. Knowing that we are not alone, that we are standing with Mary in a community of believers, we are filled with hope.

What is a Marian Church? How does the concept of a Marian Church resonate with the Marianist charism? How can we, as Marianists, contribute to the building of such a Church?

We invite you to participate in the 2018/19 Marianist Studies Program (MSP) 2.0 to grapple with these questions, to explore how the Marianist Charism offers hope to our Church and world, and to consider ways to meet the challenge of proclaiming “The Mother of Jesus is Here.”

Why MSP 2.0?

In the 1970s, the Marianist Studies Program brought together lay and religious Marianists for summers of study in a community context. NACMS has developed a 21st century update, MSP 2.0, which includes several of the key elements of the original Marianist Studies Program in a format more compatible with today's lifestyles.

What is MSP 2.0?

As a participant in MSP 2.0 you will engage in a year-long program of inquiry both as an individual and within a scholarly community. The topic for this year is *The Mother of Jesus Is Here: Building Today's Marian Church*. Background reading, video, and conversation will help prepare you for monthly virtual meetings where you will interact with experts and share your developing ideas. As you begin to focus on a particular aspect of the topic NACMS personnel will guide you to appropriate resources. A centerpiece of the program is a week at NACMS where you will finalize your research in our extensive library while continuing to build community with your colleagues. You will then have about six weeks to synthesize your learning into a final product, print or other media, to be published by NACMS.

This sounds serious. How much time is required?

It is serious. We are interested in developing an ever-widening circle of scholarship in Marianist Studies and in high quality, publishable products. That takes time. We have designed the program with an expected time commitment of approximately 10 hours per month, including the virtual meetings, plus the week of in-person time at NACMS, planned for July 2019.

I'm interested, but I'm not a scholar. Could I be a candidate for MSP 2.0?

You do not need to be a scholar, but you do need to be willing to engage in serious study under the guidance of NACMS personnel. You should have a basic knowledge of things Marianist (e.g. the Marianist Founders, the Marianist charism) would be helpful, but can be supplemented by the provided materials. Primary requirements are a desire to learn and the ability to participate fully in the program.

What does it cost?

The cost of the program is \$250. This includes transportation, food, and lodging for the week at NACMS, access to NACMS personnel throughout the program, and all materials, including shipping. The materials alone represent an over \$250 value. Financial aid is available.

How can I find out more about MSP 2.0?

Contact Patti Gehred, NACMS Program Coordinator, at gehredp1@udayton.edu for more information. The application and tentative schedule can be found on our webpage: www.nacms.org. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2018.