

SAMPLE COMMITMENT PRAYERS

Commitment Prayer

(Embers Community, Dayton, OH)

Called by the Spirit, the breath of God, to be a member of the Embers community, I, _____, commit to saying yes like Mary did. Like Mary, we say yes to bringing Christ into the world as a community that builds community responding to our Gospel call to promote peace and justice. As members of the global Marianist Family, we will strive to be men and women living intentionally, strong in faith, firm in hope and constant in love. We as Embers, pledge to maintain a family spirit, characterized by hospitality, compassion, service, joy, simplicity, and respect for all people. We are grateful for this gift and willingly accept the task of living the Marianist charism.

Act of Dedication

(by Robert Bouffier, SM, from The Marianist Family Prayer Book)

Mary,

You pondered in your heart

All the awesome, confusing, and marvelous events of your life.

You considered carefully what God might want of you

And then abandoned yourself to God's goodness and your vocation.

Teach us to treasure and ponder, to consider and surrender so that,

Living Marianist life in your name, and for your honor,

We might come to that blessedness

Promised to all your sons and daughters, the children of God.

Amen.

Hawaiian Commitment Ceremony

Oli Kahea

‘Auhea wale ‘oe, E tu’u aloha lae

Eia au i loto I ta ua lae

I ta ua hu’i hu’I

I ta ua to’e to’e

I ta ua anu anu

I ta ua tirihune

I ta ua ta’arina

I ta ua ho’eha iri

I ta ua ‘ino’ino

Hea atu no wau

Ho’opakele mai ‘oe ia’u ae

Eia au, Eia ra, e

Where are you my beloved

For I am standing in the rain

In the cool rain

In the invigorating rain

In the chilly rain

In the fine rain

In the moving rain

In the pinching rain

In the storming rain

I call out to you

Come and rescue me

Here I am, I am here

‘Oli Aloha

Onaona ka hala me ka lehua

He hale lehua no ia na ka noe

O ka’u no ia ano’i nei

E li’a nei ho’i o kahiki mai

Fragrant are the Hala & Lehua

The mist makes a house around the Lehua

My love goes out to you

This love from a far off land

A hiki mai no 'oe
A hiki pu no me ke aloha

You may come
And when you come you bring love with you

Aloha E Aloha E

Kay Stone and Lisa Vega, as the representatives for the Marianist Lay Network of North America assisted by Liaisons from several of the Lay Communities, will lead the commitment ceremony itself which will take place after the homily.

Kay: Today we have gathered to witness our brothers and sisters who wish to formally commit themselves to the Marianist Family founded by Blessed Chaminade, Mother Adele and Marie Therese. They will be committing themselves to share faith this year in small Christian communities dedicated to living out the Marianist charism. As we witness their commitment today, we also pray for the grace for them to carry out this commitment.

Lisa: Will those who wish to make their initial commitment today please rise and while remaining at your seats answer the following question.....
“What is it that you seek?”

New MLCers: We come seeking membership in the Marianist Family. We wish to live out our Christian values as Marianists who share in Mary's mission to bring Jesus to the world. We wish to do this through faithful participation in our respective communities.

Kay & Lisa: Thanks be to God. May God bring the seed planted in your heart to fruition.

Lisa: We invite you now to step forward and face the congregation as a sign of your desire to make this commitment.

Kay: We invite members of other branches of our Marianist Family, the members of the Society of Mary and the Lay Marianists who made their initial commitment last year, to please stand.

Marianist Family: How might we help you to live out your vocation?

New MLCers: We ask that you help us to grow in our understanding of the Marianist charism by sharing your example and your wisdom with us. We seek your prayerful support and the warmth of your family spirit.

Marianist Family: As the Marianist Family we promise to use all of our strength to support you in your great venture. Please remember that we are weak and we ask for your patience with our failings. We welcome you now with great joy into our family.

Lisa: (Marianist Family in the congregation, please be seated) (To the New MLCers): We now invite you to come forward, gather behind the altar and make your commitment.

New MLCers: In the name of the loving God, I (after *each has said their name in succession, then continue*), commit myself for one year to live the Marianist Charism as a member of my Marianist Lay Community. As a Lay Marianist, this charism calls me, like Mary, to be a disciple of Christ in mission to an ongoing conversion of heart through community.

Blessing of crosses by Father Tim

God of all time, all people, all places, You called us to witness the depth of your love through the shared vision of Blessed Chaminade, Adele, and Marie Therese. Through the grace of God and inspiration of Mary, they understood the profound role of small church community in creating a more compassionate and just society.

Like our predecessors, we ask you to bless our efforts in building community, the essential context of all things Marianist, so that the gospel may be lived fully in the most ordinary and extraordinary circumstances.

May these crosses which we now bless (+) always be a reminder to those who wear them of their desire to be faithful to one another in community, to the Marianist Family and to you.

Community Liaisons: (*saying to each person as they receive their cross*) May this cross be a constant reminder to you of your commitment to the Marianist charism and of the Marianist Family who loves you.

Each new Lay Marianist will sign the register as a record of their commitment and then return to their seat but remain standing

Recommitment of Previously Committed MLCers: (please stand where you are seated and say together) In the name of the loving God, I (say your name) commit myself for one year to live the Marianist Charism as a member of my Marianist Lay Community. As a Lay Marianist, this charism calls me, like Mary, to be a disciple of Christ in mission to an ongoing conversion of heart through community.

Kay:

Brothers and Sisters, let us extend our hands in blessing; as we expand our family to include these newest members along with continuing members, we pray that they may grow in the image of the holy family, who God has so wisely sent as model human beings.. May the true spirit of the holy family guide all of them in their journey.

Lisa: As members of the Marianist family may you be bearers of a dream, a dream inspired by the spirit of God.

Kay: Born in a time of crisis, received from our founders Father Chaminade, Mother Adele and Marie Therese.

Lisa: May you realize this Marianist dream of becoming one family in faith, Mary's family, religious and lay, women and men, young and old.

Kay: May you all be united, with the mother of Jesus, in a common mission of giving birth to Christ in our world.

Lisa: May you be faithful to your call to follow Jesus, child of God, become child of Mary,

for the salvation of all.

Kay: Thus may you always seek to be transformed into his likeness, and to work for the coming of the reign of God; reign of justice where the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the oppressed go free.

Lisa: May you always pray for the grace to be men and women of one mind and one heart, of hope, of paschal joy, of Christian love.

Kay and Lisa: May God bring to fulfillment the good things begun in you. Amen

Congregation, please welcome our newly committed and recommitted Lay Marianists with applause as members of the Society of Mary present them with a lei.