

Morning Prayer

Honoring the Places & Peoples of our Marianist Family Common Home

Notes: *This morning prayer was shared at the MLCNA Assembly on Saturday, July 25, 2026 in Louisville, Ky by the MSJC Integral Ecology Team. To adapt it for your geographical place, make substitutions, being aware of the native peoples of the region, and what lies in each direction from where you are. Invite all to enter into the gestures of turning to face each direction, and the hand gestures. – Prayer compiled, and written/adapted by Sr. Leanne Jablonski FMI, <https://meec.center>*

Good morning. Let us stand and sing with gratitude.

Song: *All You Works of God – Marty Haugen (or Creation song of your choosing)*

We gather in gratitude for all the native peoples who cared for ancestral lands where we each live, and particularly the land of this Assembly in the Ohio River Valley which encompasses lands that include the Adena, Hopewell, Kaskaskia, Myaamia, Osage and Shawnee.

We are grateful for the gifts of their teachings, acknowledge the pain of colonialism and displacement and pray for courage to bring reconciliation.

We adapt the beautiful indigenous tradition of honoring the four directions, praying for unity among all peoples and earth elements in our common home.

Let us stand, open to this new day.

Let us Turn to the East

The place of sunrise, morning dawn, fire and new beginnings

We are grateful for the Season of Spring and new growth

We honor our children & youth, grateful for their smiles and playful spirits that keep us young.

We extend our cupped hands before us - to welcome the light of new learning, wisdom and understanding. We ask for the grace to live Mary's Annunciation YES.

We remember our Marianist Founders, and lay communities, and all Marianists who journeyed over the ocean from the east to begin Marianist Life on this continent.

We extend our hands outward - offering our prayers for Christ's light and peace to bless our Marianist Family in the East - East Coast, all bordering the Atlantic, Europe, Asia, India, and all peoples in the East.

We bring our hands over our hearts - receiving all the gifts of the east.

Let us turn to the South

The direction of midday, of warm winds, maturation and healing.

We are grateful for the gift of Summer and all flowering.

We honor our young adults, grateful for their energies, and creative contributions.

We extend our cupped hands before us - to welcome the gifts of the south.

We ask Mary to companion us as we bring to birth all growing within our Marianist Family.

We remember our sisters and brothers in the far south who are now in the season of winter.

We extend our hands outward in blessing - offering our prayers for Christ's compassion and peace to bless our Marianist Family in the South - including Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, Mexico, South America, Australia and all peoples in the South, praying especially for those impacted by severe storms.

We bring our hands over our hearts - receiving all the gifts of the south.

Let us turn to the West

The direction of evening sunset and endings. We honor the gift of living water, of streams, rivers, lakes and the oceans and pledge to protect waterways and clean drinking water for all. We celebrate the season of Autumn's beauty, and all ripening and bearing fruit. We honor those in midlife, grateful for their leadership energies, vision and work to sustain us.

We extend our cupped hands before us - in welcome of all these gifts of the west.

We stand with Mary and John at the foot of the cross, asking them to companion us in our endings and letting-gos and at the hour of our deaths, ever trusting in the gift of new life.

We extend our hands outward in blessing - offering our prayers for Christ's love and peace to bless our Marianist Family in the west - including those in the states of the Midwest and mountains, Pacific Coast, Hawaii and all Islands, Korea, Japan, Vietnam and all peoples in the west.

We bring our hands over our hearts - receiving all the gifts of the west.

Let us Turn to the North

The direction of nighttime, frozen stillness and quiet waiting.

We are grateful for the resting season of winter, and times of reflection and contemplation

We honor our elders with us on earth, and all gone before us, their gifts of practical experience and wisdom. We ask for the graces to live out their legacy in our day and time.

We celebrate the gifts of all life on earth – every rock, plant, creature and all within the soil we do not see

We extend our cupped hands before us - to welcome all these gifts of the north

We gather with Mary in the upper room, awaiting the Spirit coming anew

And ask that she forms us as disciples for her mission today.

We extend our hands outward in blessing - offering our prayers for Christ's hope and peace to bless our Marianist Family in the north - the northern States and Canada, and all peoples of northern lands, especially the Inuit enjoying the midnight sun. We pray especially for all those impacted by wildfires and the warming Arctic.

We place our hands over our hearts - receiving all the gifts of the north.

We raise our arms upwards gathering all our prayers - O Great Spirit of all Creation, receive our prayer, and open us to your movement among us. Transform us to be your community of love and unity, now and forever, AMEN.

A Reading from Blessed Adele (*Letter # 3, to her friend Agathe Diché*)

We are in a season when everything should help us raise our hearts to God and provide us with topics for reflection. First: the plants, the trees, everything is reborn. Should we alone remain unchanged! Let us be reborn in Jesus Christ!

Secondly: should nature not draw our attention to the wisdom of the Creator? Look at the smallest blade of grass. Is there a human being skillful enough to make its like? Is there anyone else endowed with the power and authority to cause a grain of seed to multiply, as God does? Everything in nature sings of the grandeur of God!

Response – My Heart is Too Small (song by Nick Cardilino) or Antiphon of your choice

O God, my heart is too small to love you. So I will make you loved
by so many other hearts that their love will make up for the littleness of mine.

– Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, May 4, 1818

Closing Prayer - A Marianist Family Prayer for Ecological Conversion

(Can be prayed in choirs – alternating sides with all joining in the last stanza)

O God, Creator of all, we praise you for the beauty of our common home.
You have entrusted us, your children, with the care of this sacred gift.

In the spirit of Blesseds William Joseph Chaminade, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon
(Mother Marie of the Conception), and Venerable Marie Therese de Lamorous,
we turn to you as a family, united in Mary's mission,
to build a global community where no one is left out.

We ask for the grace of ecological conversion.
Help us to hear the cries of the Earth, the poor, and our youth.
Free us from a throwaway culture and a mentality of indifference.
Guide our hearts to a new way of living justly, sustainability, and with respect for all Creation.

Empower us, like the servants at Cana, to "do whatever You tell us"
from the smallest daily acts to our collective actions.

Mary, walk with us and embolden us with courage and hope
as we advocate for the protection of our common home and all who depend on it.

In each encounter, may we, your Marianist Family, be instruments of your peace and
healing as together we build a resilient future for generations to come.

**We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, and with the intercession of Mary,
the mother of all Creation, and our Marianist Founders, Amen.**

- Prayer by Laura Koonce, MSJC/MEEC Integral Ecology Team

In: *A Call to Courageous Action on the Climate Crisis Statement*,

<https://marianistsjc.net/integral-ecology>