

CHARISM:

GIFT



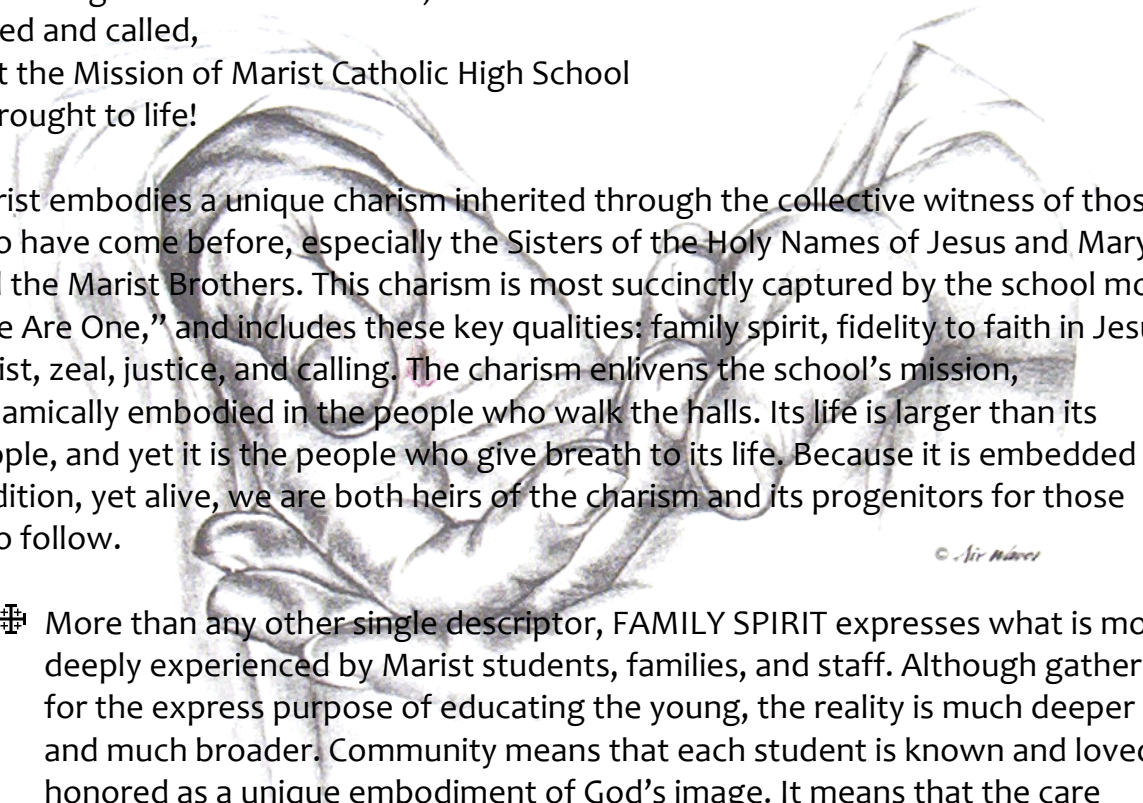
OF  
GRACE

A Statement of Charism

Marist Catholic High School  
is a Christ-centered,  
welcoming community committed to  
academic excellence  
and preparing students  
to lead and serve others.

It is through us and our charisms,  
gifted and called,  
that the Mission of Marist Catholic High School  
is brought to life!

Marist embodies a unique charism inherited through the collective witness of those who have come before, especially the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and the Marist Brothers. This charism is most succinctly captured by the school motto “We Are One,” and includes these key qualities: family spirit, fidelity to faith in Jesus Christ, zeal, justice, and calling. The charism enlivens the school’s mission, dynamically embodied in the people who walk the halls. Its life is larger than its people, and yet it is the people who give breath to its life. Because it is embedded in tradition, yet alive, we are both heirs of the charism and its progenitors for those who follow.

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- ✠ More than any other single descriptor, FAMILY SPIRIT expresses what is most deeply experienced by Marist students, families, and staff. Although gathered for the express purpose of educating the young, the reality is much deeper and much broader. Community means that each student is known and loved, honored as a unique embodiment of God’s image. It means that the care offered goes beyond academics to life circumstances, to interest in the person, to investment in a life well-grounded and filled with hope and direction. It means that teaching and learning are reciprocal activities, especially when engaged as people united on a common journey through life. It means that we who work here are to live and work in such a way that there can be no doubt who and whose we are, beloved children of God. This is the treasure we share with all who enter these doors. In some ways even more profoundly, the students themselves create the family spirit with each other by taking to heart a “we are one” mentality that permeates most of their activity. Over time, by witnessing this mentality in practice through the staff and through other students, especially upperclassmen, they come to understand and appreciate its power, and take on for themselves the challenges and responsibilities of being agents of “We Are One.”

- ⊕ Family spirit is impacting in direct proportion to the faith that is at its center. FIDELITY TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST is an expression of holy audacity, situated as we are in a place and in a time where religious faith is often considered a personal and private option – one among many – and usually not the most popular. This faith and our willingness to call it our center change the entire enterprise of both our work and our family spirit. Academic excellence takes on deeper significance when it is placed in a context of greater meaning; athletic achievement takes on a spiritual overtone left unarticulated by most of the world; and community is safeguarded by a climate of respect for the dignity of all who are created in God’s image. These elements collaborate together to create a school culture where faith is experienced as the source and the summit of all our human activity. In this way, graduates depart challenged to make something of their lives as an act of service on behalf of the Kingdom of God. Our ministry arms these graduates both with the tools to address the world as young Christians, and to take responsibility for their own destiny as people called to God.
- ⊕ Family spirit acted upon by fidelity to faith pushes the boundaries beyond this insular “Marist” family to the larger human family. And so we take on a conviction for working for JUSTICE and offering ourselves in service and charity. This quality is such a constant in our culture that it almost escapes notice. Yet we find it reflected in graduation requirements; opportunities for service cross disciplinary lines; we have an extra-curricular club whose vision encompasses the needs of the local community; we have a second club whose purview is justice on behalf of the unborn; our staff participate in service to community and in working for justice both professionally and as volunteers... A family life that is enlivened by faith must, of necessity, reach beyond itself.
- ⊕ Family spirit, fidelity, and action on behalf of justice come to life through a ZEAL that animates our daily work and play, our prayer and conversations, our struggles, failures, and our successes. In ways that are unique to each individual, we engage with each other and with our charges with a passion that communicates love of learning, love of people, love of God, and faith in a future guided by that God. This zeal is marked by excitement and energy, joyfulness and hope, through which to teach the mind and touch the hearts of our students. Zeal changes the experience of this place from a location housing a school to a home where exciting things happen and where lives are changed for good – a place of salvation for those who attend; a place where we, by asking “is this who you really are?” call them to something more.

✠ Finally, because we are seized by a conviction borne of God’s CALLING: the family spirit of which we are part, the faith that lies at the center, our work for justice, and the zeal that animates our work are all sustained and guided by something larger than ourselves. It is with a profound sense that this is the right time, the right place, and the right people that we enter into our work together. We are chosen as much or more than we choose, and that reality elevates our interpretation of mission from something to which we are obligated, to something to which we aspire.

And so, vocation brings us back to Mission:

By virtue of our calling we come to know this as a Christ-centered place, for it is He who calls.

Our calling signifies that our unique gifts are needed for a service greater than us, and so we engage zealously in our welcome of others, inviting them to become one with us.

This calling is to a specific ministry of education, and so we commit ourselves to excellence.

Finally, because the calling is to God’s vision rather than to ours, it is a preparation utilizing knowledge as a foundation for lifetime leadership and service.

But let us not forget that it is not only we who are called. Our students likewise are called to be here; called individually, in this time, and in this place, to both receive and to give back, so that what they experience at Marist Catholic High School may be an invitation to a lifetime of “yesses” to God’s calling.

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“grace was given to each of us  
according to the measure of Christ's gift” – Ephesians 4:7

“...it is a great gift from God this grace he has given you  
to be entrusted with the instruction of children...” – St. John Baptist de la Salle

“For grace is given not because we have done good works,  
but in order that we may be able to do them.” – St. Augustine

