



*Educate for Service, Justice, and Peace*

### **Promote a missionary spirit for the reign of God**



“We are all missionaries,” Blessed Chaminade said, “and we consider ourselves on a permanent mission” witnessing the Good News of Jesus Christ. We carry out this mission not only in the classroom, but equally in activities such as retreats, days of recollection, youth groups, social service, meetings with parents of students, and extracurricular formation programs. The entire school community – teachers, students, staff, parents, friends—is invited to take part. Drawing on every available educational resource, we work to transform our schools into living testimonies to the new evangelization. Jesus said he came to bring “good news to the poor”; it is for this reason that our missionary spirit leads us to give a certain priority to direct service to the poor, especially in new works and programs.

### **Educate for solidarity as well as justice and peace**

Committed to the common good, the Marianist school values human life in all its dignity from its beginning until natural death. The Marianist school lives its commitment to human dignity, and to a just and peaceful society, by establishing just internal institutional structures. Through clear organizational plans, manuals of operation and internal regulations, we insure that institutional processes are just and collaborative. Our mission statements and general educational policies articulate clear, fair criteria to guide matters such as student and teacher evaluation, salaries, and dismissals. Such actions promote solidarity, reconciliation, and cooperation in the educational community.

### **Attend to the poor and marginalized**

The Marianist school lives the Christian commitment to the poor both through establishing educational institutions directly serving the poor and by preparing people for genuine service to the economically disadvantaged, the disabled, and the marginalized. The school supports this general commitment through specific programs such as scholarships, disability-accessibility, community service, mission trips, and support for the integral development of people and groups. Teachers and students work with and for the poor, developing in the school and in the civic community programs of physical, economic, educational, and social assistance. In the Marianist school, the curriculum helps students understand the causes of poverty and the roots of injustice, and makes it possible to undertake thoughtful forms of action that truly respond to these social and moral problems.

### **Promote the dignity and rights of all people**

Created in the image and likeness of God, each person possesses the full dignity of the human person, with its corresponding rights and responsibilities. The Marianist school promotes the equality of all people and encourages the contributions of all people to the school's mission and to the larger culture. The school assures equal treatment in educational opportunities such as leadership, representation and salaries while helping to advance equality through programs of social awareness and development. Extending its commitment beyond its own borders, the Marianist educational community joins with people all over the world in their continuing struggle for equal human rights.

### **Promote programs of service, encouraging the formation of Christian service groups**

Faith inspires us to service, and the Marianist school helps its students hear and respond to that call. Because education itself is essentially communitarian, the school naturally aspires to serve its local community through educational as well as pastoral, liturgical, social, and recreational activities. Such service and reflection on the experience acquaints students with their local communities and creates the sensitivity and skills they need for future leadership. Occasions for service often arise spontaneously from fostering communities of faith, such as Marianist lay communities within or related to the school, in which apostolic service is integral.

### **Under the prophetic influence of Mary, announce the goodness and justice of God and denounce oppression**

The Marianist school community confronts society's problems with courage and seeks their solution with optimism and hope. As Christian and Marianist, the educational community announces the goodness and justice of God, while at the same time denouncing all that oppresses or degrades the human person. Students learn to recognize and to name both justice and oppression through prayerfully seeking the will of God, the thoughtful analysis of social conditions, and through personal and communal witness. In the prophetic spirit of Mary, teachers and students together read the signs of the times as constructive critics and agents of change with a "permanent mission" to witness to the message of the Gospel.