



St. Susanna's parish "Active LIFE" program takes a break and poses at their local community center in Mason, OH. Moderator Greg Steffens (sitting, second from right) gathers with the group of high school students and adult volunteers prior to their evening reflection. "Active LIFE" is a gender specific program formed out of Marianist LIFE that incorporates social activities, reflection, shared prayer, and faith sharing in the context of same gender groupings. For more information, contact St. Susanna moderator Chip Williamson (chameleon@cinci.rr.com).

From the National Coordinator

Dear Marianist LIFE moderators,

The Easter mystery of death and resurrection was made real a few short weeks ago. The LIFE community lost a dear friend and brother on April 16, 2006. Charles Walusimbi (pictured below) died at the young age of twenty-five. He was a graduate of Nolan Catholic HS and attended Marianist LIFE South in 1998.



Over the past few weeks former LIFers have been sharing wonderful memories of Charles and the inspiring life he led. "Faith-filled," "amazing" and "compassionate" have been some of the attributes that described Charles. For a more detailed witness, please read Jane Rombach's reflection on page 4. May we continue to keep Charles and his family in our prayers the remainder of this Easter season.

I wish you, your families, and your Marianist LIFE Communities a blessed end to another academic year.

Enjoying LIFE,

Brian
✕

Summer Program Registration Reminders

We are happy to announce that all three summer programs are almost at their maximum capacity. There are a few spaces available for our summer programs; therefore, if you know of anyone still interested, please have them contact Brian in the national office.



Administrative Assistant Marie Wyman (left), and data entry specialist Lee Ann Etzold (right), take a break from inputting registration information to show off their color-coded system of organization.

Registration Timeline

April 15 All registration forms due

* If you and/or your institutional contact have not yet mailed your student and moderator information forms, please do so immediately.

May 15 All final payments due

* You and/or your institutional contact will receive an invoice reminder via email, in addition to a list of any missing information.

Summer 2006 Dates

Marianist LIFE Pacific (Mission Springs, CA)

July 6-14 [adult moderators]

July 9-14 [students]

Marianist LIFE Central (Dayton, OH)

July 14-22 [adult moderators]

July 17-22 [students]

Marianist LIFE South (Ingram, TX)

July 22-August 1 [adult moderators]

July 25-August 1 [students]



Courtesy of spiritandsong.com®

2006 Theme Song "Just Like You" by Matt Maher

Lyrics and Song:

<http://www.spiritandsong.com/jukebox/songs/65155>

After a few months of submissions, votes, and email polls, we finally reached a theme song for our 2006 summer programs. "Just Like You" by Catholic musician Matt Maher was the song that received the most number of votes. Many students, moderators, coordinating team members, young adults, and administrators from all three regions took an active role in the selection process. We thank Don McNally (Marianist LIFE Central) in a special way for sharing his time and talent serving as the Theme Song Coordinator!

2006 Lay Assembly
sponsored by MLNNA
(Marianist Lay Network of North America)

**Come to Cana: Many Stories,
One Table, One Family**

St. Mary's University
San Antonio, Texas
Thursday, July 27 –
Sunday, July 30, 2006

**Please contact Brian if you are
interested in attending or for more
information about the event. Limited
financial assistance is available.**



Reunions – Summer 2006

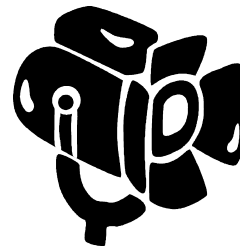
In addition to supporting young adult presence at the Lay Assembly in San Antonio this July, the national office is sponsoring “Marianist LIFE Reunions” in all three regions this summer and during the 2006-07 school year. They are open to all students who participated in a Marianist LIFE summer program, or were involved in a Marianist LIFE Community at their high school or parish.

University of Dayton – Dayton, OH
Friday, July 21 @ 6pm –
Saturday, July 22 @ 6pm

St. Mary’s University – San Antonio, TX
Saturday, July 29 @ 10am –
Sunday, July 30 @ 10am

California – to be determined
Hawai’i – to be determined

Publicity will be emailed and mailed to the students within the next two weeks. For more information, contact Brian in the national office for Marianist LIFE.



Marianist LIFE Community Spotlight:

**Daniel J. Gross Catholic HS
Bellevue, Nebraska**

Mikaela VanMoorleghem reports that their Marianist LIFE Communities are ending their year with a social gathering. The group is going bowling this month to release stress around final exams. The students attending this summer’s program will meet in July for community building, faith sharing, Mass, and dinner. Mikaela also hosts a meeting for parents to answer any last-minute questions they might have prior to the summer program. She looks forward to attending Marianist LIFE Central this summer, in addition to spending lots of free time at her favorite hang out, the Guadalupe River Club.



Marianist LIFE moderator Mikaela Van Moorleghem (center) from Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School poses with Bro. Tom Heinle, SM and Fr. Kip Stander, SM at Mid-LIFE in January, 2006.

Remembering LIFE: In Memory of Charles Walusimbi

A reflection by Jane Rombach, Marianist LIFE South (1998)



Over the past fifteen years that I have been affiliated with the Marianists, I have often heard the question asked, "What is Marianist?" I have heard many good answers about the charism of the Marianists, the small faith communities that have been formed around the world, the discipleship of equals, the devotion of the laity, brothers, sisters and priests. It is also common to support a definition with the names of Adele, Chaminade, and Marie Therese, who were clear and present examples of people who devoted their entire existence to Mary and the foundation of the Marianists. I challenge you to understand my definition of Marianist.

I met Charles Walusimbi in 1998 at the Marianist LIFE South summer program. I was blessed to have him as my dyad (journey partner) for our nine days at TECABOCA. Charles was always the first person to smile, the first to offer comfort and love, the first to foster community – qualities which are sometimes rare among seventeen year old boys. We spoke about everything from friends to faith to sports in those nine days and quickly built a very strong bond. On our last day at TECABOCA, as moderators were struggling to push us onto buses and we were holding onto our new friends for dear life, everyone swore that we would visit and remain as close as we had become. The difference was that Charles and I actually did remain very close. He came up to visit me in St. Louis and I began making annual trips down to Texas to visit with Charles and go back to LIFE. My last trip to Texas this past August, I was a member of the Coordinating Team and could not spend any additional days in Texas. Charles talked about coming down to visitor's night at TECABOCA, but could not make the drive from Arlington due to work conflicts. But despite our missed visit this year, we emailed and called every couple of months to keep up on each other's lives.

Charles died in a very tragic death on Easter Sunday. He was twenty-five years old. I miss Charles terribly, however I find his death on the resurrection of Christ to be something of a reminder that Charles is always with us. Charles attended both Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth and St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and was always an active and committed member of his church. However, his Marianist education was only a small part of why he is my definition of Marianist. Charles was a true disciple of Mary, through his love and commitment to family, friends and community.