

Marianist LIFE (Living In Faith Experience) is a national faith formation program for high school students rooted in Catholic and Marianist tradition. Based on the vision of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade who collaborated with Venerable Adele de Batz de Trenquelleon and Venerable Marie Therese de Lamourous during the French Revolution to build a community of communities to change the world, Marianist LIFE provides Marianist and non-Marianist institutions opportunities for communities of faith to form, grow, and flourish. Starting in 1970 in San Antonio, Texas, and serving Marianist institution in the Southwest, Marianist LIFE expanded to San Jose, California, to serve Marianist programs in Hawaii and California, and to Dayton, Ohio, to serve Marianist institutions in the eastern part of the United States, Puerto Rico, and Ireland. North Catholic has been an active member of the Marianist LIFE movement since 1976, and has sent hundreds of students to Dayton for the five-day community building and faith sharing experience, which they bring back to Pittsburgh and share with their North Catholic peers.

Moderated by Greg Evans, current Religion department chair for North Catholic, Marianist LIFE is student led. With student who have extensive activity, academic, and athletic commitments, as well as work schedules and other personal responsibilities, finding a regular time to meet has been a challenge. It has demanded that NC students meet briefly once a week before school for discussion, prayer, and breakfast. Longing for more time together to have deeper faith discussions, the student leaders decided to plan and run overnight LIFE retreats every other month during the school year. Senior Sean Berger has been a driving force in the growing interest in the Marianist LIFE program at North Catholic, in which more than ten percent of the student body participate. North Catholic's LIFE community also presented a skit at our school's very first Faith Rally, which promoted diocesan programs and gave an opportunity for Fr. Joe Freedy to speak to the whole school about listening to God's call.

Currently, five North Catholic Juniors are fundraising and preparing to attend the five-day summer faith formation program in Dayton, Ohio. There, they will meet scores of high school teens with similar faith commitment, learn how to lead their peers in prayer, faith sharing, and community building that will help them grow as disciples of Christ called to live Mary's mission of bringing Jesus Christ to the world.