

Characteristics of Marianist Education - Education for Formation in Faith

My first experience of the Marianists was in the late 1970's on the island of Maui when my three sons began attending Saint Anthony Schools. I immediately felt welcome and was invited to participate in various parent projects. What made this experience different from other institutions that depend upon volunteer assistance, the Marianists on campus were right there working alongside us and the words "thank you" were said frequently. Since my family and I were not Catholic our participation was only on a school level. However, one Sunday we decided to attend mass at Saint Anthony parish. Again, the welcome was genuine. There was never any pressure but within a few months as a family we asked about the process to become Catholic. Again, the response was encouraging and affirming. In 1979 as a family we made a profession of faith and became members of the Catholic faith.

The Marianist spirit continued as I was invited to be involved in the parish and school, the mentoring was always present as I asked questions about Catholicism and received challenging answers. The many amazing role models and close friendships I have made over the past 30 years are what has formed my strong and every growing faith.

Through my Marianist connections I have been encouraged to stretch, venture beyond the comfort zone of my life and job at Saint Anthony Church and Schools to obtaining a Master's Degree in Pastoral Leadership from Chaminade University. This led to my move from Maui to a part time lecturer position in Chaminade's Religious Studies department. Soon thereafter working in Campus Ministry coordinating liturgical programming opened up and again, through the encouragement of Marianists on campus I applied and was hired. When I was invited to join a formation cohort to be trained as a MEA, I again knew this was a Marianist moment of opportunity to further both my service to our university and to grow in my faith.

So here we are 30 years after that first invitation to join the Catholic faith. As I look back over the years it is with a deep gratitude for the many experiences and relationships I have been blessed with. And as I look forward to the coming years it is with expectant hope in all that lies ahead in my Marianist journey.

Kay Stone
Chaminade University
Director, Campus Ministry