

Report About BILAC to SM Communities

First of all, I can't thank you enough for all of your support and sacrifice for BILAC. I know that although the chaos was probably a bit much at times, the positive results for this year's program far exceeded everyone's expectations.

This report will probably sound biased and that's probably true. Nevertheless, it's based on the feedback that I received during and after BILAC.

Artists, presenters and participants couldn't stop praising and thanking the Marianist religious. These are but a few examples of what the artists said to me:

“This works because there is a praying Marianist Community here. Just knowing that the Brothers are here praying every morning and evening is so inspirational.”

“For us lay people, the witness of a religious community gathered regularly in prayer is a powerful statement. Many of us haven't had the opportunity to experience and see religious community from the inside.”

“The Marianist hospitality is amazing.”

“I've been to a lot of religious communities where no one likes one another. You wonder why they even bother staying together. Your community shows that you really care about one another. I appreciated it so much the other night when they said to me, “We're having a social and dinner at 5 p.m. – Do you want to join us?”

One said to his workshop, “If you see a Marianist, be sure to thank him for allowing all of this to happen.”

David Haas emphasized the 125th anniversary at the concert and dedicated the performance of the Magnificat to the Marianists.

Fr. George spoke about the influence of the Marianists in his life from the fifth grade. He expounded at the conference on the Marianist insight on a Marian Model of Church.

Joe Camacho and Fr. George brought Brad over because they see him as a vocation prospect for us.

Another artist talked about the experience being life transforming and is thinking about starting a Marianist Lay Community in her city.

Participants came up to me non-stop talking about the Marianists and how wonderful it was that we co-sponsored such a wonderful event.

Some participants showed interest in Marianist Lay Communities.

They were extremely impressed by the Saint Louis LIFE students who were their guides to the workshops. They liked what the program was about and greatly appreciated the help from the students.

Chaminade's Hawaiian Club participation in the concert went over very well as did the Luau and Pacific Island Review.

The Diocese is very happy with what is happening with BILAC's move to Oahu and has given its blessing.

As a result, I have to thank you all because there were many inconveniences—especially in this, our first year, when we are new at doing it here. All of the artists, presenters and participants are hoping that it can continue here because they deeply feel that this is the right place for the program now. They mentioned that to me non-stop.

As you can see , the Marianist religious, the MLC, the Marianist Center, Saint Louis School and Chaminade University are well seen locally and nationally as a result.

Peace,

Dennis

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