

Bro. Edward Brink
25 years of profession



My 25 years as a professed Marianist have provided me with many opportunities for growth that I don't think I would have had otherwise. I had just graduated from college when I moved into a community to begin my formation. At that time I never would have been able to predict what opportunities I would be presented with. I spent 12 years teaching and ministering at Chaminade-Julienne Catholic High School and nine years at the University of Dayton.

I've lived in seven different communities with numerous individuals. I've had the opportunity to walk with many people on their faith journey. What I didn't realize was that walking with them would provide me with so many opportunities to grow in my own faith. As I continue on this path, I am confident that, no matter what I will be doing, God will provide me with many people who will invite me and challenge me to grow in faithfulness.

I cannot point to any one thing and say that it was the most rewarding part of my first 25 years of life as a Marianist. Community living has certainly been a highlight for me. I have lived with some incredibly generous and holy men who, by their example, have inspired me, both while I was living with them and as I recall their witness years later. I've enjoyed my ministry experiences. My brothers have encouraged me to follow my dreams and prodded me to do many other things that I never would have thought of doing and had it not been for our corporate ministry. I've been inspired by members of the Marianist Family who help me to remember that there are numerous ways to make contributions to the Church—and until all of those ways are recognized and accepted, we fall short of grasping a part of God's real plan.

If there is one "surprise" for me from the last 25 years, it has to do with how the image of Mary as the first disciple has captured my attention. Her part in God's plan of salvation is much more complicated than what I am asked to do. But I do receive inspiration from her life. I'm not going to give birth to Jesus, but I am called to make him present in this world. I won't be the one to prod Jesus to perform his first miracle, but I am called to pay attention to what is going on in this world and to plead with Jesus to intercede. I am not going to have to stand

at the foot of a cross and watch as my son is nailed to it, but I am called to stand, firm in faith, as I and others experience difficulties of life. I may not be the one that gathers the disciples together in the upper room to pray, but I am asked to assist others to see the importance of prayer in their lives and to make it a part of my own life. Like other things that Chaminade handed on to us (e.g., mixed composition, and emphasis on both community life and apostolate) there is a richness to Mary's life that cannot ever be fully understood and is certainly lost during a quick glance. These 25 years of living Marianist life have helped me to appreciate the complexity of being a disciple of Christ and how Mary's experiences mirror many of my own.