



A desire to make a difference led a young man to become a Marianist



BY BROTHER BOB JONES, SM
SOCIETY OF MARY

A few weeks ago during a student faith-sharing group I moderate at Central Catholic High School, the participants were asked, "Where do you see yourself in 10 or 15 years?" After each student had shared, I decided to answer the question from their perspective.

I told them that as a high school student, my response would have been similar to their answers — working and starting a family near my hometown in Indiana. Never would I have thought I would be a Marianist brother, living in community and teaching in Texas. At the time, I didn't know what plans God had in store for me.

I first met the Society of Mary (Marianists) when I attended the University of Dayton in Ohio. While there, I had Marianist brothers and priests as professors but never really considered a vocation.

It wasn't until a few years later when I was living on my own that the idea of a religious vocation came to the forefront of my life.

It came quietly as a growing desire to do something different in my life. I often say that it wasn't a call to do something more, but rather a yearning for my life to take a different direction, one dedicated to serving God's people while being grounded in community and prayer.

After all, I was very content with my life. But there was something gnawing at my heart to look into religious life.

After exploring several religious orders and the diocesan priesthood, I felt that God was calling me to Marianist religious life, and the more I learned about it, the more I felt at home.

The pillars of the Marianist charism — prayer, community, mission, Mary — deeply resonated with the desires of my heart and continue to inspire

me in this life. The Marianist emphasis on community, the commitment to prayer and apostolic action and the dedication to social justice energize me. Taking Mary as a model of faith and working to bring Christ into the world as she did challenges and sustains me each day.

Looking back, I shouldn't be surprised that I ended up where I am now. Growing up, my family laid a firm foundation by creating a nurturing home where faith was important. It was my parents who first taught me to pray, and this has continued to impact me.

God has placed many people — friends, relatives, extended family, work colleagues, fellow parishioners and Marianists — on my journey who have offered support and encouragement along the way. God continues to take me places and down paths I would have never imagined. Through it all, though, I know that God is doing the leading and Mary is walking beside me.

Brother Bob Jones, SM, advises Central Catholic senior Alec Acuña.

Photo provided



Texas' oldest high school for boys ...

Seated (l-r): Br. Richard Thompson, S.M., Director of Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP); Br. Tim Pieprzyca, S.M., Chemistry Teacher; Fr. Don Cowie, S.M., Religion Teacher / Chaplain; Br. Al Gillis, S.M., Advancement Staff Member; Br. Norman Capinpin, A.S.M., Marianist Aspirant. **Standing (l-r):** Br. Bob Jones, S.M., Algebra/Pre Calculus Teacher; Br. Peter A. Pontolillo, S.M., President; Br. Jim Burkholder, S.M. '62, Physics Teacher / CCHS Marianist Community Director; Br. Harry Cornell, S.M. '58, AP Calculus Teacher; Fr. Patrick McDaid, S.M., Director of Campus Ministry / Government Teacher; Br. David Quigley, S.M., Religion Teacher.

Making a difference!

The Marianist Priests and Brothers who serve on the faculty and staff at Central Catholic High School teach and inspire ... encourage and empower ... motivate and, most of all, believe in our young men. They know that within each student lies marvelous God-given potential just waiting to be released.

Thank You for all you do!



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Giving Young Men The Advantage.

Poor Clares promote eucharistic adoration among the laity

For over 150 years, the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration have raised a hymn of thanksgiving and praise to Jesus Christ, truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament. Mother Marie Claire Bouillevaux, inspired by the Gospel account of the ten lepers, of whom only one returned to thank Jesus, founded our order on Dec. 8, 1854, with the desire that "Christ's eucharistic love be glorified by unremitting thanksgiving."

From its beginnings in Paris, the order spread to Poland, Austria, America, Bangladesh, India and Japan. The first American monastery was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 1921.

Today there are three monasteries in Ohio, one in Washington, DC, and one in Hanceville, Alabama. From Alabama two new foundations have begun, one in Phoenix and one in San Antonio. In 2008 five sisters arrived in San Antonio from Hanceville with the hope of building a monastery where every person could encounter the healing love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

As Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration we live an enclosed life of prayer and work. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the sun around which our universe revolves. It is his presence that has brought us together in community. Just as Christ's eucharistic presence is the heart of the church, so too He is the heart of our vocation as PCPAs.

We model our lives of prayer on the life of Mary, the perfect



Photo provided

disciple and preeminent adorer. In the final years of his pontificate John Paul II wrote much about "contemplating the face of Christ with Mary." With Mary, we gaze in loving adoration upon the face of Jesus, veiled beneath the appearance of bread.

As a reminder of how we are called to model our lives after the mother of Jesus, each sister receives a new name at her investiture ceremony, which contains some form of the name Mary. Our Lady was the first to adore Christ's real presence, when at the Annunciation Christ was conceived in her virginal womb. She was in a sense, the first Corpus Christi procession, as she "went in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth." Mary was the first evangelizer, bringing the joy of the incarnation to Elizabeth, who recognized his presence and worshipped him.

Our lives of adoration are not for ourselves alone. Each vocation is a unique gift to the Church and the world, obtaining grace and mercy for all by the value of a consecrated life. At her profession, each sister

publicly makes vows to God of poverty, chastity and obedience, which are received by the church. She is thus consecrated to God, a soul belonging completely to God and set apart for his service. Our constitutions, the guiding principles for our particular way of life, state that we are to promote eucharistic adoration among the laity. All are invited to discover the welcoming love of Jesus, Who waits lovingly in the tabernacle. He longs to give his peace to all.

Our enclosed contemplative life, rather than cutting us off from the world, enables us to devote ourselves fully to adoration and prayer. Mass and adoration are the central part of each day. Praying the liturgy of the hours in common, a variety of work within the monastery, and times for community and personal recreation make up our day.

Young women under the age of 35 who feel God may be calling them to religious life may contact us by E-mail: nuns@texasnuns.com or by writing to the following address: 17503 La Cantera Parkway; Suite 104-505; San Antonio, TX 78257.