



The Marianists

Bro. Dennis Schmitz

50 years of profession

Growing up in Los Angeles, California, I was first exposed to the Marianists when I attended Junipero Serra High School in Gardena. My favorable impression of the brothers was one major factor in my decision to join the Society of Mary. Over the next several years of my scholasticate in Hawaii, and my first years of ministry in Northern California, I finally grew up enough to make perpetual vows. Twelve years of missionary experience in Korea helped me to much better understand the Marianist charism.

Bro. Ed Gomez was instrumental in my return to Hawaii, where I have been working for most of the last 20 years as a type of “spiritual event planner.” While doing this ministry I’ve had the privilege of spending some of that time doing vocation ministry, provincial council ministry and, most recently, liaison with India. My life almost always has been an experience of multi-cultural living. This vast array of experiences has left little room for boredom. Fulfillment is an ongoing experience.

Although it might sound a little flowery, I have found that the Society of Mary has been Mary to me. The Society of Mary has been patient and understanding with my many weaknesses, failures and compulsions. At the same time, she’s provided me with many wonderful opportunities for stretching and growing. It’s hard for me to imagine making the spiritual journey without the Society of Mary.