



April 9, 2018

Dear Marianist friends:

It is my privilege to announce and invite you to our 2019 Marianist Mission Pilgrimage as we visit three wonderful countries: Holland, France, and Germany over the course of 11 days and take a fantastic cruise on the Rhine River.

Pope Francis recently prayed, *"Lord, teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You"*. As people of faith who support the Marianist Mission all over the world, I am reminded of our Holy Father's prayer as we seek to discover God in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands where we will see God's beauty in the tulips, the flowers, the windmills and the lush landscapes. We will meet God in the amazing churches and people, and in our visit to Anne Frank's home where we will reflect on some of her own words from her famous diary. We will cruise down the Rhine River leisurely with Germany on one side and France on the other: seeing castles, encountering multicultural places that invite us to encounter our God. We will celebrate daily Eucharist and open our eyes to **God's beauty** as we visit many historic cities, taste some delightful wine, participate in some exciting optional excursions, and enjoy some fabulous food.

There is an old Chinese proverb: *"The one who returns from a journey is not the same as the one who left!"* Our Marianist Mission pilgrimage is a journey that we will make together, experiencing the joy of community, laughter, discovery, and life!! It promises to be an experience that will touch your heart with a memory that you will always treasure. Making a pilgrimage is about an intentional awareness that God is truly present in each one of us, in creation and life, and in the quiet moments that we create for ourselves. I promise you that this will happen by land and by river as we travel together.

I invite you today to seize this moment and secure your space on this Marianist Mission Pilgrimage, **April 25 - May 4, 2019**. I look forward in spending time with you and sharing this once in a life time adventure, filled with God's grace and beauty!!

Gratefully in J.M.J.

Fr. Timothy M. Kenney, SM
Marianist Mission Pilgrimage Director