



The Marianists

Bro. Robert Metzger

50 years of profession

*O Lord, you have probed me and you know me;
You know when I sit and when I stand;
You understand my thoughts from afar.
My journeys and my rest you scrutinize,
With all my ways you are familiar.*

Psalm 139 v. 1-3

I like to pray Psalm 139 whenever I think of my vocation story, as God knows and understands me better than I do. Looking back to my younger days, I did not understand this, but God was always there to guide me. When I was in seventh grade at St. Agnes grade school in Dayton, Ohio, my parents and I signed the papers for me to enter the seminary high school for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This would have been in 1962, but the following year, the Archdiocese decided that all students should spend the first two years of high school education in their local Catholic high schools.

In 1963, I entered Chaminade High School in Dayton. I decided I was enjoying my high school life at Chaminade so much that I wanted to finish my education there rather than going to Cincinnati and completing my studies at the seminary high school. It was during those final two years at Chaminade that I got to know the Marianists, and they asked me if I was interested in joining them. I said “yes” and signed another set of papers in my junior year. During my senior year of high school, I spent a lot of time with the brothers trying to better understand this commitment. I entered the Marianist Novitiate in Marcy, New York, about six weeks after graduating from high school.

My life as a Marianist has not gone as I planned, and I really feel that it has been the hand of God guiding me in this life. I originally wanted to work in one of our high schools teaching business courses. During my time at the scholasticate, I was assigned to work in the business office. I enjoyed this type of work so much that I soon asked to make this my ministry rather than teaching. Little did I know where this decision would lead.

I have spent most of my first 40 years of Marianist ministry in finance and accounting work for the provinces. My life experiences have led me to my current ministry with the National Religious Retirement Office and working with all religious congregations in the United States.

During high school, I ended up changing from diocesan priesthood to religious life because I was attracted to the community life as lived by the Marianists. Community always has been one of the elements that has kept me in this life throughout these many years.