



The Marianists

BROTHER BILL SCHLOSSER

50 years of profession

I find that the prayer offered by Dag Hammarskjold expresses much of what is in my heart:

“For all that has been, Thanks.

To all that shall be, Yes!”

The “For all that has been” began while a student at Covington Catholic High. I met the brothers at CCH and felt attracted to them: to their community of life, to their community of prayer from faith of the heart and to their community in service. Aspirancy and novitiate set in motion a lifelong journey toward an ideal of loving compassionately, seeking justice and walking humbly with others in the presence of the Lord.

The journey has led to communities and ministries in San Antonio; Kalamazoo, Michigan; at University of Dayton; Benin City, Nigeria; Karonga, Malawi; Nairobi and Mombasa in Kenya; and Lusaka, Zambia. It led to people and places I would never have gone on my own initiative. Now, the path has led to our community at Governor's Island on Indian Lake in Ohio.

Over time, I see two companions:

- the desire to pray and to serve through Jesus — with him and in him;
- and the desire to cooperate in Mary's mission to bring Christ into the world, growing within to join the initial goal in saying, “Yes, to all that shall be.”

I feel more called than sent. Being, for me, implies that someone in a safe place orders, “Go and do such-and-such.” Being called feels more like someone in the thick of things calls out, “Come, join me in doing this.” It also brings into awareness my responsibility to answer by internalizing and acting on the invitation. Spiritual growth mixes together life-stuff from the Prayer of Faith, a sense of God's presence, and the daily Gospel readings. The mantra “Through him, with him and in him” leads to becoming a person in the whole Christ. In a similar way, several permutations of the refrain from “God is Love” by Clarence Rivers have supported my life. “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him,” has personalized into “God is love, and we who abide in love abide in God and God in us.”

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