



The Marianists

Celebrating 200 years of Marianist Education - An Amazing Story

By Bro. Ron Luksic

I was asked to give my reflections on our celebration of 200 years of Marianist education. I think about how so many things have changed since those first men went into a school in France 200 years ago. On the other hand, I sit in Cincinnati 200 years later, and even though so much has changed our mission remains the same.

Certainly, it is an amazing story! What were schools like in France in 1819? I am amazed at the courage it had to take for those men to follow Chaminade and head into a school. Then only about thirty years later men continued to answer the call and traveled to the United States, probably only speaking German and French. They then wrote another part of our history. What were those schools like in the heart of Cincinnati in the mid 1800's?

Now it is 2019 and I work in a school only about 25 minutes from where those first Brothers worked in the States. It leads me to reflect on my own journey. I was very influenced by the Brothers at St. Joseph in Cleveland. Now after 48 straight years working in high school, 40 at Moeller, I reflect back and think of how far things have come even in those years. I have trouble just keeping up with changes in technology here at school from year to year. There are so many changes, yet again our mission has stayed the same as those of the men in 1819.

The story is also universal. Here at Moeller we have a student exchange program with our school in Zaragoza. Our students go to Spain and then students come to Moeller. There are a number of differences between Spanish schools and American schools, but the original plan set forth by Chaminade continues to bring them together. In talking to the Spanish students, they understand the culture

and similarities of the Marianist schools, Pillar and Moeller. Different countries, languages, and cultures but the mission continues. It is a universal mission that stretches far beyond the U.S. and Spain.

Even with all the many changes that have occurred over the last 200 years in society the call from the vision of Chaminade to create Christian communities through education is a constant. Certainly, those that originally answered the call 200 years ago were far more courageous than I, but I feel fortunate that in a small way I have been able to be part of this history. It is the vision of Chaminade that started 200 years ago which continues today in our educational institutions with the collaboration of many men and women who continue to hear and live out the call. It is an amazing story.