



# The Marianists

## Education Reflection

By **Joseph Nugent, SM**

Aloha! My name is **Brother Joseph Nugent, SM** and I have been teaching Religion at [Saint Louis School](#) in Honolulu, Hawai'i for the past year. My journey here has been full of meaningful encounters and rich cultural discoveries. I came to teach young people about the love that Jesus has for them, yet I have met a people who keep authentic love at the heart of their lives. The love of Jesus was already here, waiting to greet me in the hearts of all these wonderful people.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the first Marianist School. Chaminade saw that schools can be a dynamic place of community building. As such, they are a powerful way of inviting people to faith in Jesus Christ. Students, staff, and the outside community can experience the faith of the Marianists, and they have the time and relational support to grow in their own faith. In time, they can begin to share their own faith with others. Faith development is realistically sustainable!

So, now my challenge is to invite these people to experience even more deeply the love of Jesus, community, and how God calls us to share that love. Chaminade always had an eye for working with the grace already present in the areas and people to whom he sent the Marianist Family. He never initiated a ministry to compete with others, but to help draw people together in a deeper experience of their faith. This is the task I am faced with here at St. Louis. Recognizing my limited experience and all the good already flourishing here, how can I invite this community to fall more deeply in love with Jesus, and with each other? Putting full confidence in Jesus and Mary, I'll have to be patient with myself like Chaminade's brook to let faith develop deeply.

Hawai'i has many unique gifts and challenges, and I am so grateful I'm becoming a part of the lives of these loving people. The charism has much to offer us, helping direct us to understand how to be in communion with one another, and how to find more ways of bringing Christ's aloha to the world.