



BROTHER DAVID QUIGLEY

Celebrating 60 years of profession

To reflect on 60 years of service and growth as a Marianist can be summed up as “adaptation and change.” At the time I entered the Marianists, the picture was very traditional. Shortly, the Second Vatican Council called for an updating and changes in the Church; the changes were many, and there were many meetings and proposals for change in dress, in styles of prayer, in approaches to personal education and in personal accountability. In education, there were changes and mergers, all of which forced us to adapt to the times and look to the future, and yet, maintain a strong prayer life.

Then, going overseas to Australia was a change of cultures, sun and surf, the Outback, a different approach to education, a new school and not many individuals to do all the different activities. Those included getting a new school going, bringing the Marianist approach to the school and making an impact in collaboration with the local Church. Being called to leave there was difficult, but we are at the service of the Society.

The next change was adaptation to Ireland, the cool and damp weather, a different system of education and working with many who were poor. Again, there were few to do many tasks in both the school and the house and in developing Family of Mary groups. You needed to help where you could and where you were needed. I also, was tasked with learning about Celtic Spirituality and Irish history and traditions.

The next change was a return to the classroom and a community in San Antonio, Texas. Going from a relatively new school in an old country to one of our oldest schools was a bit of a shock, as was the change in the weather: very hot. This was one of my biggest challenges coming back to teach and work in the U.S. system. Also, I found the change in community difficult, going from everyone trying to work on the same project to brothers going to various works. It was a challenge to meet and adapt to another place and approach.

The move to Maui, Hawaii, was an immersion into another culture. Adapting to parish life took some time as it is a very different rhythm from a school. The tropical weather was enjoyable. The beauty of the island, even during the long lockdown, offered opportunities to reflect on God's creative way. This recent cultural change was most challenging, as Hawaii is not one, but a mix of many cultures.

Each assignment has allowed me a look at our Lord's creativity in landscape, climates, peoples and their cultures. At the base of everything are individuals, families and communities of people, each with their own story to tell. They are all God's people.