

Last December I turned 55 years old and my Marianist story goes back to when I was 6 years old, so it's been going on for a while now....

It began when I started elementary school at the Marianist School. Why did my parents enroll me at the Marianist School: because of its proximity, because of its educational level, because it was a Catholic school, because of...? Anyway, since March 1973 I "am" in the Marianist School and with the Marianist.

I am one of the last generations that had several Marianist religious as teachers and professors. In them, without realizing it, I discovered a particular way of being and, together with the sacramental life and the active ecclesial participation of my family, they formed in me my way of being. A way of being in which being attentive to others, seeing what is needed and trying to contribute, participation and involvement... are constitutive attitudes of everyday life.

Let's go back to the "Marianist biographical data"...

After some attempts to participate in the Argentine Catholic Action and in some parish groups, at the age of 12 I was invited to join what would become my first Marianist youth group. As a teenager I was part of the Scout Group Nuestra Señora del Pilar, which functioned in the Marianist School, and from there and until today, without stops or interruptions, Marianist Youth Groups, Marianist Missionary Groups and, later, communities of the Marianist Movement and Marianist Lay Communities.

In the Marianist Youth Groups began the stage of "services": visits to hospitals, solidarity campaigns, construction of houses in poor neighborhoods and, fundamentally, the adventure of discovering the treasure of community, ecclesial and Marianist life.

At the age of 16, the first mission in Catriel (province of Río Negro) and from there, more than 15 years going to Pampa del Mallín Ahogado (Río Negro), Los Tábanos (province of Santa Fe) and Cerro Policía (Río Negro). Those were times of trying to accompany the people of those places, to bring the Word of God, to form communities and cooperatives, to form new missionaries, to animate liturgical times, to work with children, to pray with the people....

In parallel to the missionary activity, I accompanied and advised Marianist Youth Groups for many years. Together with a fantastic group of Marianist people, we designed and implemented "the youth files", a formative and experiential journey for young people between 15 and 17 years old, structured in three axes (human, Christian and Marianist), which was also replicated and a source of inspiration for working with young people in other countries of Latin America.

As a member of the communities of the Marianist Movement (previous name - in Argentina - of what we know today as Marianist Lay Communities) I was in charge of coordinating and animating the life of the communities in the city of Buenos Aires (a mission that I carried out for several years) and, as such, I participated in the [first International Meeting of Marianist Laity](#), foundational event of the CLM, held in Chile in 1993.

I also worked for many years, within the Marianist Movement, in the Publications Team, designing María de Nazareth (a monthly publication dedicated to Marianist spirituality and the life of the communities of the Movement) and being its director and editor. From those years dates the creation of the famous [Willy, the first caricature of our founder](#), William Joseph Chaminade, which saw the light of day in the pages of that publication.

With the impulse of the new MLCs at the international level, in my country - more precisely in my city - the two Marianist lay organizations that had existed for more than 25 years merged and I was in charge of coordinating and animating this process, which was carried out by a "liaison team".

Already with the MLCs functioning as such and associated to the international organization, I organized the first national meeting of the MLCs, in which we gathered representatives of

communities from various cities of the country and we gave ourselves an organization at national level with a "National Team" that I was asked to coordinate and animate with the task of visiting the various cities and their communities, a service that I developed for several years.

With this same spirit and looking for closer ties with those who share the same spirituality in our Patria Grande, in 1996 the CLM of Argentina took charge of organizing the first Latin American meeting of CLM and I was asked to take charge of the coordination service of the organizing team and of the meeting. Thus it was that, with much enthusiasm, we met in Buenos Aires representatives from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico, giving rise to friendships and a unity of spirit that lasts until today.

At that same time I was called to work in the cause of beatification of our founder in the stage of investigation that took place in the Archbishopric of Buenos Aires, being the Notary of this stage of the process. My friendship with Elena Otero (the person in whom the miracle that led to the beatification of Chaminade occurred) and being present when the miraculous healing took place were gifts in my life.

Years later, I was also a member of the international commission of the Marianist Family that collaborated in [the beatification of Fr. Chaminade](#), organizing the triduum of celebrations that took place in Rome, Italy, on September 2, 3 and 4, 2000.

My particular task in that commission was linked -as it could not be otherwise- to the image; the work with the logo of the beatification, publications that were made, the design of the scarf/foulard that identified us Marianists in Rome. I also designed and edited different [materials related to the beatification that were produced in Argentina](#).

In 2001, in a new international meeting of the MLCs, I was elected as Representative of the Latin American MLCs in the International Team, a service that I carried out for 8 years and that took me to visit all the countries of our Region where there are MLCs, sharing our charism, our way of being Church, with lay and religious communities of Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Also during those years I was part of the World Council of the Marianist Family and was present at the General Chapters of the Company of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, as well as the International Meetings/Assemblies of the Marianist Lay Communities.

Regarding my design and communication tasks, I designed the third edition of the Family Album (World Council publication) and the international newsletters published by the [International Team](#) of the MLCs and the [World Council](#), in addition to being in charge of the design of [the publications of the Marianist International Volunteering](#).

Besides trying to animate our communities in Latin America, I represented our MLCs in the V General Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopate (better known as "Aparecida" because of the Brazilian city where all the Latin American bishops and some other members of the particular churches of our region met), I was in charge of creating and establishing a real and effective link with the Pontifical Council for the Laity ("ministry" of the government of the Church dedicated to the lay movements, today within the orbit of action of the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life) both in the process of approval of the ecclesial recognition of the CLM and during the following years, convinced that, beyond being and feeling Marianist, we are first of all Church and our being Marianist in our way of being Church.

I also collaborated with the International Marianist Formation Center, being in charge of the first Marianist formation courses offered online in Spanish about our founders, adapting the materials and facilitating the courses of the Virtual Faith Formation Learning Community of the University of Dayton. I continue this task today through the Latin American Center for Marianist Formation, as a content writer and tutor/facilitator of Marianist courses.

In terms of work, I have been working for many years at the [Marianist College of Buenos Aires](#), being responsible for the institutional image and communication, managing the school's [social](#)

[networks](#), [designing the yearbooks](#) and collaborating in the same areas of the [Marianist Mission Foundation](#), the [Alumni Association](#) and the [Company of Mary of Argentina](#).

Beyond all the "biographical data" and dates and events, the great treasure I have are my family and my community, both very intertwined in their histories and very Marianist.

With Alejandra we met during the time of the Marianist Youth Groups, sharing services, celebrations and outings. Some time later we had to coordinate and animate different activities together. And we have shared community since we were 20 years old, a whole life together! So it was that in August 1996 we got married. And with time and patience - life is never without trials and surprises - God gave us Catalina and Mateo to care for and raise.

And with the community, which has now been in existence for more than 30 years, we have all our lives intertwined: we have shared and lived together dating, marriage, parenthood, exile and return, health and illness, work and fun, we are godfathers and godmothers of our children, we have advised other communities, we have traveled together, we live our faith together in [a small chapel](#) animating the life of this ecclesial community.... In short, we live our lives together.

And this community life (in marriage, in the family and in the community) is our Marianist DNA, it is marked with fire in our deepest interior: we "are community" and "we are in community"¹.

This treasure that was given to us as a gift, we have to take care of it, foster it; that is our task. And we have to make it grow, show it to others, show that this is how we are happy, because, like the disciples, we cannot keep silent about what we have seen and heard².

> (automatic translation DeepL Translate - deepl.com)

¹ (cf. Being in Community; document approved by the General Assembly of the Third International Meeting of Marianist Lay Communities held in August 2001 in Philadelphia, USA).

² (cf. Book of the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 4, verse 20).