

The LGBT Initiative Team “visited” the Colegio Marianista de Buenos Aires in Argentina



On August 6, the LGBT Initiative Team made its first presentation via Zoom outside of the US (and in Spanish!) to the Colegio

Marianista de Buenos Aires! The audience was made up of 120 seniors, plus some school administrators, teachers and psychologists. The main presenter was Ish Ruiz, lay Marianist and team member, who introduced us to the need for and importance of INCLUSION of LGBTQ+ people in the Catholic Church in general, and in the Marianist Family in particular. José Luis Pérez, team member, lay Marianist from Buenos Aires and alumnus of Colegio Marianista, organized the event, and shared about his life's journey as a gay Catholic. Another young lay Marianist and lawyer, Antonio Nucera from Rome, also participated, and highlighted the importance of these exchanges, adding that in some countries in Europe today, this kind of presentation is unthinkable, and in others, such as Poland and Hungary, it can even lead to imprisonment!

It was a very emotional moment of international and multicultural Marianist exchange, and of awareness of the importance of including LGBTQ+ people in the Church. Ish brought his solid theological background and also shared his testimony as a gay Catholic in the Marianist Family.

We believe that change only happens when people, even if just a few, start moving the wheel. We may not see radical changes in the Catholic Church soon, but the Marianist charism, which prophetically started with the full inclusion of lay members in its origins by our founder, William Joseph Chaminade, is now again prophetically voicing the need for inclusion of all baptized in the Church, regardless of their sexual orientation. A big GRACIAS to the Colegio Marianista for their openness and willingness to be a part of this change.