

Reflection from Jaret Criss



Reflection on my time at the Marist Community of Welcome in Austin, TX:

Since meeting Brother Rob at our University Catholic Center, I've been drawn to the Marist way of serving young people, and also have been curious as to what the hell a brother is in the first place. I still haven't figured out an answer to the second part; but I've become increasingly drawn to the Marist way of living in the world. Over the last few years, I've attended three vocation pilgrimages, getting the chance to share life with Brothers in St Barnabas, Esopus, Forest Hills, and the novitiate. These experiences, coupled with my friendship with Rob, made the decision to join the Marist community in Austin an easy one.

The community formed on Greenway Street imperfectly attempts to live out Marcellin's vision of Brothers serving one another in love. Brotherhood with the 7 men in the community was not what I expected when I entered my college experience, but I feel that it is what I needed. Similar to Marist communities across the country, we concluded every community prayer with, "Let us remember to pray for each other," I feel this statement sums up my time in the house well. No matter where I am in the world now, I'm confident that I have a family back in Austin that would welcome me back with loving arms. Thank you to all the brothers that made this community possible.