



MARIST EDUCATORS WORKSHOP

Our Marist Educators Workshop was held at Ignatius House, Atlanta, Georgia June 18-20, 2018. The Jesuit retreat house is in the quiet suburbs of Atlanta and was conducive to our presentations and sharing. There were 42 participants: 8 from Mexico including David Sanchez sm who is recently ordained, 4 from New Zealand including Mark Walls sm and three young adults who work in the schools with Marist Charism, Frank Bird sm from Thailand, 14 from Atlanta, including Bill Rowland sm and Mike Coveny, 12 from Pontiac including Jim Strasz sm and Ron Nikodem sm and 2 from San Francisco. We welcomed Sarah Currier (new Principal for NDV grammar school in San Francisco), Marc Nava (Vice-Principal for NDV grammar school), and Kevin Mullally, new Principal of Marist School Atlanta, replacing Joel Konzen sm.

This was my first Marist Educators workshop and I must say I was duly impressed! It was obvious that there was good planning by Marists Bill Rowland, Joe Hindelang, and Jim Strasz and the secretarial staff of Bill Rowland on the scene.

New Zealand Marist Justin Taylor joined the others making presentations:

I. **Justin Taylor sm:**

1. The Society of Mary, Constitutions, Structure, Charism
2. Introduction to Mary and the Marists
3. Jean Claude Colin and the Marists

II. **Mike Coveny:** Marist Laity

III. **Jim Strasz sm:**

1. Marist Education Today
2. Marist History in Education internationally

IV. **Bill Rowland sm:** What can we do at my school to add to our Marist identity?

V. **Frank Bird sm:** Thailand, Director of Education project with the Burmese refugees.

The group visited Marist School in Atlanta where Tom Ellerman sm presented some early history of Marist School which began in downtown Atlanta. We also went to the Martin Luther King Center at Ebenezer Church. For many of us, this was the first time to visit this Center dedicated to Martin Luther King (50th anniversary of his murder this year, 1968). Many were quite moved to see how still relevant his message is today: against Racism and promoting the Nonviolence of the Gospel.

by Paul Frechette sm

Participants gathered for Marist Educators Workshop

