



January's Insight is from Marist Youth Intern Marissa Berrios



She talks about her first year as an intern!

In this month's edition of intern insights I will be talking about my first year of being a part of the Marist Youth Ministry Internship team.

January-March 2021

I started my internship in the beginning of January 2021. We started off with various virtual projects as for the most part things were still virtual. We had to find creative ways to reach out to the Marist Youth and Young Adult communities.

I started to work on the social media side of things creating the email blasts and social media posts so that the Marist community still felt connected. I worked on promotion posts for virtual Marist YA events and helped create the Lenten Reflection that went out daily to those who participated.

April 2021

I was very fortunate to attend the Marist Brothers Provincial Chapter. The Provincial Chapter is the time when a new council, who is elected by the chapter delegates. The chapter also helps to set the agenda for the Marist Brothers. During the chapter I was able to witness parts of the chapter in action and get to know many of the brothers throughout the Province. I was able to help photograph the chapter and aid with the technology side of the chapter as this was the first chapter that was held in a hybrid model of in person and on zoom!



May 2021

In May, the intern team went to Lawrence, Massachusetts to visit the Marist community at Central Catholic. Matt, Mrs. Hagan, Billy and I took our first trip as a team to visit Central Catholic and speak with some of the seniors who were interested in staying connected to the Marist community. Billy and I also got to meet with the President of the School, Chris Sullivan, who talked about his experiences with trying to keep the Marist mission present in the decisions that we make. Billy and I were very thankful to hear his perspective and while we visited Central Catholic we could tell that the decisions made for the school connected with the Marist Mission in some way!

During Memorial Day weekend the intern team went up to Esopus to help with the Marist Youth Gathering weekend! MYG'21 was going to be held virtually but the Marist Young Adult team was able to gather in Esopus to help make the virtual gathering the best it could be. That weekend was our first retreat back after a year and a half of not being able to gather together and emotions were high. It was one of the most memorable weekends to be a part of. Everyone was so thankful to be home in Esopus and able to gather together once again.

August 2021

Throughout the summer months the internship team planned for our newest program yet, the Marist Youth Leadership Camp. It was a week-long program held in Crown Point, Indiana. The goal of this camp was to help train incoming high school juniors how to run a freshman day retreat. They learned various different skills like how to lead a small group, how to lead icebreakers, how to plan prayer and more! I was very fortunate to have been one of the rectors for the week and it was so cool to see all the students from the Marist schools come together and be so willing to learn how to lead! I have a lot of memories from the week - from the road trip to leading with the other Marist Young Adults. It was one of my favorite experiences this summer!

September 2021

In September we welcomed a new member to our internship team. I am very lucky to intern with Erin Stapleton, who graduated from Marist Chicago, and a Marist Young Adult from Chicago! It has been absolutely amazing to work with her on the various intern projects. I cannot wait to see what this year brings for the both of us!



October 2021

In October we were able to have LaValla weekend. The theme of the weekend was care for our common home. Students from the Marist Schools gathered in Esopus to learn more about the environment and worked on various service projects around the Esopus property. It was a very memorable weekend - and my first LaValla weekend!

November 2021

In November we finally welcomed back the Encounter program! After about 20 months of being unable to have the encounters run due to the pandemic we were able to welcome back students from the different Marist schools to participate in the Encounter weekend. I was very lucky to have been the rector of the weekend and being able to be the person who started the weekend with the first "God is Good" in 20 months. The weekend was filled with a lot of smiles, laughter and with lots of hope for the future!

My first year as a Marist Youth Ministry Intern has been filled with a lot of amazing experiences. I am very fortunate to be able to experience them and with such an amazing team! I have learned a lot during this year as an intern, but I think what sticks with me the most is the love and willingness of the Marist community. It has been so inspiring to see the students embrace the love that is Marist. It inspires me to continue the work that I do within the Marist Community. I am forever grateful for my first year as an intern and I cannot wait to see what 2022 brings!



