BEARING WITNESS INSTITUTE
at MARIST SCHOOL



Marist School senior, Amelia R., at Auschwitz-Birkenau

A PROGRAM OF THE BEARING WITNESS INSTITUTE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS AND ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE AT MARIST SCHOOL

Bearing Witness Educator Fellowship

Preparing Catholic school educators to bring the work of remembrance, dialogue, and moral responsibility to their own school communities.

A nationally competitive, substantially funded fellowship in Holocaust education and Catholic-Jewish relations that includes intensive professional formation, an immersive study experience in Europe, individualized mentorship, and financial assistance to launch a new initiative at the Fellow's school.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Catholic school teachers of history, theology/religion, English, social studies, ethics and humanities, as well as campus ministers and school administrators.

PURPOSE

Each Fellow, working with their school’s leadership and with the mentorship of the Bearing Witness Institute, will develop and implement a sustainable initiative that advances the moral responsibilities of remembrance.

FORMATION • IMMERSION • MENTORSHIP • IMPLEMENTATION

THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

The European Immersion

The Bearing Witness Educator Fellowship prepares educators working in Catholic schools to develop programs in their own schools and communities that draw upon Holocaust education, the study of prejudice and discrimination, and interreligious encounter to deepen understanding across differences, strengthen relationships among communities, and form young people to recognize their moral responsibility in the face of hatred and indifference. A central part of that preparation is the European Immersion, through which Fellows experience the Institute's student program from within.

JUNE 4-12, 2027 **MUNICH • PRAGUE • KRAKOW**

Major sites: Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial • Prague's medieval Jewish quarter • Auschwitz-Birkenau





Mr. Brendan Murphy, Founder and Director of the Bearing Witness Institute, Munich, Germany

PURPOSE FOR STUDENTS

The journey asks students to study history where it unfolded, remember lives and communities destroyed, encounter the complexity of human choices, and consider what moral responsibility requires of them today.

EDUCATORS AND APPRENTICES

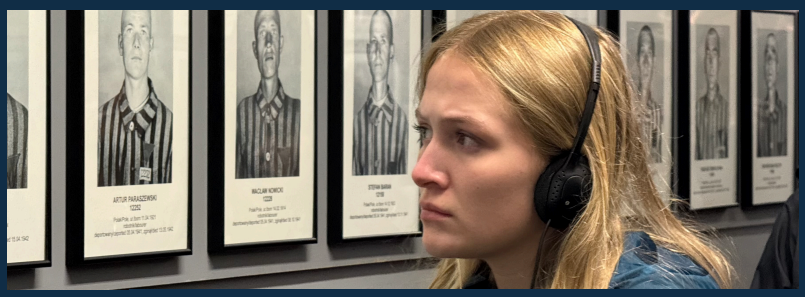
Fellows accompany the student journey as educators and apprentices - not as tourists or chaperones.

FELLOWS WILL

- Participate in the complete itinerary.
- Attend student presentations and reflections.
- Observe how students are prepared to encounter difficult historical sites.
- Study how history, theology, remembrance, and moral reflection are integrated.
- Meet privately with the Fellowship director at several points during the journey.
- Keep a structured Fellowship journal.
- Identify practices that could be adapted for their own institution.

THREE GUIDED CONVERSATIONS

BEGINNING	What should I observe?
MIDWAY	What am I learning about the model?
CONCLUSION	What might I carry home?



THE FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY

From Immersion to Implementation

The European journey is a defining experience, but the Fellowship is designed to carry its learning home. Each Fellow moves through a supported process of formation, observation, design, implementation, and continued connection.

1. **PREPARE** — Formation in the Institute's mission and approach.
2. **IMMERSE** — Experience the student journey from within.
3. **DESIGN** — Shape an initiative with school leadership.
4. **IMPLEMENT** — Launch or pilot the work at home.
5. **CONNECT** — Receive mentorship and join the network.

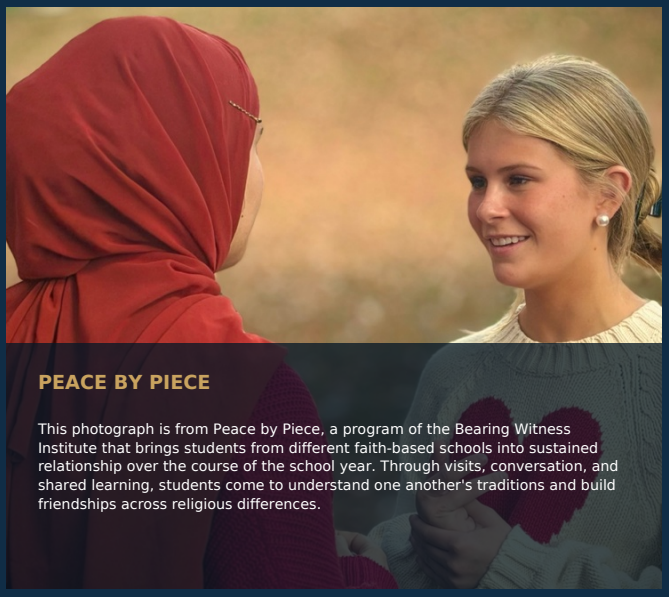
WHAT FELLOWS RECEIVE

- Substantial financial support for the European Immersion.
- Professional formation before and after the journey.
- Individualized mentorship from the Bearing Witness Institute.
- Access to curricular materials, program models, and planning resources.
- Consultation throughout the implementation year.
- Financial assistance to help launch a new initiative.
- Membership in a growing national community of Fellows.

WHAT FELLOWS COMMIT TO

- Participate fully in formation and the European Immersion.
- Maintain a Fellowship journal and implementation portfolio.
- Work collaboratively with their school's leadership.
- Develop a realistic and sustainable implementation plan.
- Launch or pilot an initiative during the following academic year.
- Share outcomes, challenges, and lessons with the Institute.
- Remain connected to the Fellowship network.

The Fellow's school provides administrative support, planning time, and a genuine opportunity for the initiative to take root.



PEACE BY PIECE

This photograph is from Peace by Piece, a program of the Bearing Witness Institute that brings students from different faith-based schools into sustained relationship over the course of the school year. Through visits, conversation, and shared learning, students come to understand one another's traditions and build friendships across religious differences.

WHAT MIGHT A FELLOW CREATE?

- A Holocaust or human-rights seminar.
- A European study program.
- A student study or remembrance program.
- A Peace by Piece interfaith partnership.
- A Catholic-Jewish or multifaith school partnership.
- A school or community lecture series.
- A school or community art project.
- Curriculum addressing prejudice, discrimination, antisemitism, and moral responsibility.
- Professional development for faculty or the wider community.

Fellows are not expected to reproduce the Bearing Witness program exactly. They are invited to learn from its principles, adapt them thoughtfully, and create something their own school and community genuinely need.

THE NEXT STEP

Apply to Become a Fellow

BEARING WITNESS INSTITUTE at MARIST SCHOOL



BRENDAN MURPHY
Founder and Director

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Bearing Witness Institute for Interreligious and Ecumenical Dialogue at Marist School creates educational programs that use remembrance, historical study, interreligious encounter, and sustained dialogue to confront prejudice and discrimination, strengthen relationships across differences, and form young people to act with courage and moral responsibility. Its work is grounded in the conviction that education should move beyond knowledge toward conscience, relationship, and action. Its initiatives include Holocaust education, European study programs, Peace by Piece, educator formation, public lectures, community events, and national partnerships.

ABOUT BRENDAN MURPHY

Brendan Murphy is the founder and director of the Bearing Witness Institute and a longtime educator at Marist School in Atlanta. Since 1994, he has taught courses on history, religion, Holocaust education, antisemitism, and Christian-Jewish relations. He created the Bearing Witness student study program and Peace by Piece, has led generations of students through immersive study in Europe, and has presented at schools, universities, churches, synagogues, and community organizations across the United States. His work has helped Catholic educators and communities examine the history of Christian anti-Judaism, the legacy of Nostra Aetate, and the moral responsibilities of remembrance. His work has been recognized by the Anti-Defamation League, the Anne Frank Center, and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

A SUBSTANTIALLY FUNDED FELLOWSHIP

EUROPEAN IMMERSION | JUNE 4-12, 2027

TOTAL PROGRAM COST	INSTITUTE SUPPORT	REMAINING BALANCE
$5,888	$5,000	$888

Through the generosity of the Bearing Witness Institute's supporters, most of each Fellow's participation in the European immersion program will be underwritten. The remaining $888 may be paid by the Fellow, their school, or another sponsoring organization.

HOW TO APPLY

The online application asks candidates to demonstrate both personal commitment and the potential for institutional impact.

- A professional profile or resume.
- Short responses about the applicant's interest, experience, and school community.
- A preliminary idea for a possible initiative.
- An administrator endorsement affirming the school's support for participation and implementation.
- A finalist interview with the Bearing Witness Institute.

ADMINISTRATOR ENDORSEMENT

This is an affirmation of institutional interest and support, not simply a letter of recommendation.

IMPORTANT DATES

OCT. 1, 2026	Application opens
NOV. 16, 2026	Optional information session: Monday, 6:00 p.m. EST
Jan. 10, 2027	Application deadline
Jan. 11, 2027	Finalist interviews begin
JAN. 19, 2027	Fellows notified

Pre-travel formation schedule forthcoming.

BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION
bearingwitness.marist.com

QUESTIONS
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