



SPIRITUS WEEKLY UPDATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 2ND, 2025

NEXT GATHERING SUNDAY 1/19

SPIRITUS COMMUNITY GATHERING

SUNDAY 1/19

MEETING BEGINS AT 3:00PM

MADELEINE ROOM

MEMORIAL FOR AL FIKE

Please join us tomorrow, Saturday January 11th for the
Memorial Service for Al Fike.

The service begins at 2 pm in the Queen of Apostles
Chapel.

If you are able to help with set-up or clean-up for the
reception after the service,
we would greatly appreciate your help.
Please reach out to Marti Quackenbush at
Marti.quackenbush@gmail.com

[HTTPS://SPIRITUS-MLC.ORG](https://spiritus-mlc.org)



PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For all those in our community, those that we love, those who are alone, those who are grieving, those in war torn areas, those without anyone to pray for them and anyone else in need of loving support, prayer, or comfort.

Please send prayers for Chris Bohmer Stewart. She has fractured a couple bones and is currently unable to drive. Currently surgery is not expected, but treatment plan has yet to be decided. Prayers requested for healing and for her family who depends on her as “chauffeur”.

Also, continued healing prayers Linda Skinner’s sister and her family, and all those who are dealing with an illness and for those who have cancer.

A WINTER PRAYER

Lord of ice and evergreens, just as nature continues its work beneath a blanket of snow, work your way beneath the surface of my life. Use this season to prepare me for flourishing. Help me find new ways to celebrate this season, and enjoy the activities it offers. Refining Fire, protect those who face the cold without shelter, and deliver us all from winter storms. Show me how to spread the warmth of your love to all I encounter. Amen.

from Reclaim Today



COMMUNITY INFO

Spiritus Gathering Setup...Please Sign Up: A scheduling tool that allows us to plan for volunteers who can help with the setup and/or serving as greeters for our Spiritus gatherings has been in place for quite a while, but is not being utilized. Knowing in advance who can help with the setup, alleviates any concern that we won't have enough volunteers to help. By clicking the link below or using the QR code provided, you can easily sign up for a future gathering, which will also send a reminder to you in advance of that gathering. If you need any help with the scheduling, please contact Linda Skinner at scheduling@spiritus-mlc.org. Thank you so much for your help!



We are scheduling people to help for meetings January through March. If you have not helped before, this is the perfect time to sign up.



UPCOMING SPIRITUS EVENTS

- January 11th - Memorial Service for Al Fike, 2 pm Queen of Apostles Chapel
- January 19th – Spiritus Prayer Gathering, 3PM, Madeline Room.
- January 25th – Dayton Area Marianist Founder’s Day Mass, 4PM, Queen of Apostles Chapel (Saturday), Reception to follow at the Bergamo Center

REMOTE VIEWING

Check the website (link at bottom of each page) for link to remote viewing for Sunday.

January 5th – Spiritus Prayer Gathering, 3PM, Madeline Room.

Live Stream: https://youtube.com/live/D_45X5a34MM?feature=share

If you are interested in being trained to stream meetings, please see Kevin Skinner or send inquiries to contact@spiritus-mlc.org
To rewatch all past meetings click on the link for our website at the bottom of the page.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

We are in need of volunteers to help deliver the donations to St. Vincents while Chris Bohmer Stewart is healing and unable to drive. You can let us know what dates you are able to help out via email or in person on Sunday. Please reach out to Chris with any questions. Thanks in advance for your time and help.

ST. VINCENT'S

Our Dayton-area St Vincent Needs:

FOOD: Cereal, items for sack lunches, and #10 cans of food
CLOTHING: As always they need new underwear and socks, hygiene items, and gently used clothing, shoes, and linens.

With the weather getting colder, warm clothing is always welcome.

Thank you!

SPIRITUS CONTACT UPDATES

If there is anyone who is seriously ill or facing a significant surgery or procedure the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is available.

You can call the Spiritus office and leave a message if it is something that can be scheduled in advance, or if more time sensitive, you can reach out to Fr. Tom. His telephone number is 937-903-0943.

Also if anyone needs to receive Eucharist at home please notify Linda Folmar at Linda _folmar@sbcglobal.net.

If you need to change any contact information, please let us know by responding to this email



MARIANIST FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Check out the new edition of
Marianist Family Online!
<https://www.marianist.com/familyonline/>

STAY CONNECTED !

MARIANIST FAMILY - <https://www.marianist.com>

MARIANIST SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE - <https://marianistsjc.net>

MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY OF NORTH AMERICA - <https://www.mlcna.org>

MARIANIST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER - <https://meec.center>

NORTH AMERICAN CENTER FOR MARIANIST STUDIES - <https://www.nacms.org>

FIAT INITIATIVE

This Christmas the national director of the Marianist Lay Community of North America sent out an important letter about a new plan for the lay Marianists. Please read the letter below and follow the link to the website to get additional information.

This Christmas Season, we celebrate the time over two thousand years ago when Mary said "Yes" to God and brought Christ into the world.

As Marianists, we continue in alliance with this same mission of bringing Christ to the world as we live out this Marianist charism.

In honor of Mary's *fiat* - her "Yes" to God - as well as that same "Yes" made by each of our Lay Marianists, MLC-NA is proud to announce our new 3-year plan to build up the lay branch of the Marianist Family: the

Fiat Initiative. Through the Fiat Initiative, MLC-NA will build up the resources to:

- Welcome and form at least **100 new Lay Marianists** each year
- Provide **new resources for MLCs**, and help communities share best practices
- **Connect all Lay Marianists in search of an MLC** with a new or existing community
- So much more (see our website!)

By accomplishing these goals, MLC-NA will be a dynamic community of communities that will animate the Marianist Family of the future.

This is an exciting time to be Marianist! I hope you will take some time to learn more, get involved, and help support MLC-NA as we take this new step forward together!

United in Mission,

Rob Brodrick

National Director, MLC-NA

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Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

A VOICE OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dear Members of the Marianist Family,

The members of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Immigrant Justice Team, met on the weekend of December 7th and 8th, 2024 to discern how best to assist our Marianist Family in the United States in addressing the immigration issues currently facing us as Catholic Christians and citizens. We offer these thoughts for your consideration and prayer as we as a nation face a new administration in Washington which threatens to upend the lives of all undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S., regardless of how long they have been here or what status they have been granted. We believe there is a terrible injustice in the situation. Many immigrants and refugees are suffering, and the country is suffering because we do not have good immigration laws and procedures in place that help resolve this very painful situation.

Every immigrant and refugee has dignity as a human person. Christ taught that we are called to love our neighbor and recognize their gifts and that love for each other creates continual growth for all. The Scriptures of the Old Testament, which we accept as part of our legacy, very frequently remind the Hebrew People how foreigners were to be accepted among them. Catholic Social Teaching insists on the dignity of every person. Every human being has a gift to offer.

This is a pressing issue shared by our Catholic family. Our United States Catholic Bishops have recently come out very strongly reminding the American People of these realities and how immigrants must be treated with justice. Here is their November 14th statement, [We Stand Firm in Solidary with Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters](#).

They have repeatedly called for reform of the immigration and refugee laws to make them just. You can read more about the USCCB's Catholic Social Teaching [on Immigration at their website](#).

Blessed Chaminade so wisely said that we carefully seek for solutions in faith like a flowing stream to overcome obstacles in order to discern where the action of the Holy Spirit is leading.

We write to you, our Marianist Family, to ask, in the spirit of our blessed founder, and in faith and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to respectfully dialogue and listen and then act to bring about a just treatment to immigrants, their families and to encourage our lawmakers to reform our immigration system so that those seeking a safe haven may feel welcome and contribute to what makes America great.

We encourage all members of our Marianist Family - communities (lay and vowed religious), ministries, and groups - to join together and carefully consider how you can personally and collectively apply the teachings of Jesus, the Old Testament tradition and our Catholic Social Justice principles to the issue of immigration reform currently facing us as a country, a country built upon the backs of immigrants. Our educational and

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pastoral ministries including universities, schools, parishes and Marianist Lay Communities can have important impacts on this issue today.

What are some possibilities of actions you can pray about?

We are called upon to love our neighbor. As Christ so vividly pointed out, our neighbor can be anyone. Even those who may speak with a different accent or language, persons born elsewhere, those with foreign sounding names, or friends or family that might include one of these.

These, our neighbors, are in terrible danger. The coming administration has promised to severely reduce immigration and to carry out mass detention and deportation of these, our neighbors.

We have done what we can to counter the myths about immigrants and to show the real ways our nation benefits from the immigrants who come here in our [Video Series](#) (Common Myths is Video 5). We need to continue this work, to confront the negative tropes wherever we find them and especially when they are used to drive harmful policies. But there are other, more concrete, and direct things we are obliged to do beginning right now, to protect and help our neighbors.

First of all, between now and Jan 20, we need to push the present administration to increase protections such as strengthening Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which allows people from certain countries to stay in the US if it's unsafe for them to return home, and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which is a policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children to live and work here without fear of deportation. Additionally, **we can push the present administration to reduce detention capacity while improving standards. And in our states, and local communities, we can advocate for privacy protections, legal services, and not permitting local resources and personnel to be misused for harmful policies.**

Beyond that, after January, we need to:

In terms of policy:

1. Promote positive legislation and humane policies, and protest negative policies such as the impending family separations (i.e. high percent of immigrant families have various members, mothers and/or children who are US born)
Eight changes to birthright citizenship and other un- or non-constitutional policies
3. Resist reductions or deterrence of asylum, a right of all persons under international law which the US was part of establishing
4. Locally work starting now on privacy protections and not providing short cuts or improper identification of immigrants and especially of people who 'look different'
5. Assure local and state programs providing legal assistance and other programs protecting or assisting people at the margins remain priorities in their budgets

In terms of mass deportations:

1. Resist and oppose any efforts, pressures, or campaigns to 'turn in neighbors who may be different.'
2. Use and promote locating local detention sites. Lists can be found at the [ICE website](#) and organizations in your area can be found at <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/visitation-network> to visit, write letters, provide support to families, assure standards and reporting mechanisms and complaints resolution

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3. Search for/Promote/volunteer with Know Your Rights programs in your areas and secure and distribute such information <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>. Learn critical rights information and inform others [Know Your Rights](#) | [Immigrants' Rights](#) | [ACLU](#). For example, ICE, or the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency which enforces federal laws related to immigration and border control, must accurately identify themselves and cannot enter or search private premises or vehicles without a Judicial Warrant that clearly has the letterhead of a court at the top AND is signed by a Judge. Unsigned warrants or ICE Administrative warrants even if signed by Immigration agent do not allow searching without consent. **ICE are not police, even if they say they are, and they do not have police powers** and everyone, immigrant or not, has a Fifth Amendment right to not answer any questions, especially about status or to turn over any papers, (except a driver showing their license and registration to a police officer) especially if they show country of origin; and everyone has a right to say “I want to speak to a lawyer” although immigration actions do not provide a right to a lawyer but an individual does have a right to make a call to arrange for one upon arrest.
 4. Promote being present at immigration enforcement actions, assure rights are respected, witness, record, and offer support to families and others left behind.
 5. Search for/volunteer/promote organizations in your area that aid and support or offer protections to immigrants or work to set up such service in your own church or community.

Conclusion

We encourage all members of the Marianist Family to discern how they can help our citizens understand the basic social justice principles and what they can do practically to help in this situation. We know that when a community comes together and discerns and tries to see the problem clearly that the Spirit guides us to act in some appropriate and helpful ways.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@marianistsjc.net if you have questions, to share what action you are taking, and to seek support in this work. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Immigrant Justice Team, or joining the team's efforts, you can reach out to us at the email above as well. Thank-you for reading this letter and pondering, how you will respond. In Mary's hope-filled spirit, we look forward to hearing from you.

With Hope,

The members of the Immigrant Justice Team of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

Co-Chairs Fr. Ted Cassidy, SM & Tiffany Hunsinger

Janet Hoben

Tony Mercogliano

Pamela Orlowicz

Chuck Orlowicz

Arlene Sroczynski

Richard Sroczynski

Erin Anderson-White Face

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