



# SPIRITUS

A MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY

UPCOMING GATHERING: TOMORROW! APRIL 19TH AT 3 PM IN THE MADELEINE ROOM

## 2026 SPIRITUS DISCERNMENT FORMS

These are due back tomorrow. Please fill out and email back or get a copy at the meeting and hand in.

### **Spiritus Annual Discernment 2026**

I am interested in further discerning my role as:

#### **Community Volunteer Opportunities**

- Planning Spiritus Gatherings
- Helping with Temporalities (setup, last one out, hospitality, etc.)
- Finance Team
- Operating Streaming Equipment
- Community Outreach Ministry
- Social Justice Team
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Leadership team roles**

- Community Coordinator
- Formation Coordinator
- Temporalities Coordinator
- Community Rep (3 needed)
- Social Justice Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Spiritual Advisor

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Matt or Maggie or email it to [contact@spiritus-mlc.org](mailto:contact@spiritus-mlc.org). Forms due by April 19.

Please take a moment to read about the weekend and to say a prayer for all attending.

**The Event:** The Marianist Family Council of North America (MFC-NA), which consists of 2 unit leaders from each of the three branches in North America (SM, FMI, and MLC-NA), is hosting the first-ever Marianist Family Congress. This historic gathering brings together leadership and representatives from all three branches (SM, FMI, and Lay) across the U.S. and Canada to collaborate, imagine, and deepen our shared mission.

**The Participants:** Forty-six Congress participants were chosen by the planning team after seeking nominations from the Marianist Family. These individuals, most of whom participated in a listening session, make up a group that represents the diverse geographic, ministerial, and demographic backgrounds of our Marianist Family. In addition to these representatives, members of the MFC-NA and the planning team will also attend as listeners and supportive voices. View the full attendee list [here](#).

**The Objective:** Participants will engage in a facilitated visioning process to:

- Envision what it means to be family within the context of the Marianist Family.
- Explore new or adapted methods for living out the Marianist charism.
- Produce a final report and strategic outcomes for the MFC-NA to consider for future implementation.

**The Journey So Far:** In 2021, MFC-NA commissioned one Brother and one Sister (Bro. Jack Ventura and Sr. Gretchen Trautman) to Co-Chair a task force to write a National Marianist Family Council Charter. MFC-NA approved the final version of the Charter as a trial in 2022, an "ad experimentum", for a three-year period. After three years, the task force recommended a national meeting be held to gather members of the regional councils to share best practices for implementing the National Charter. In March 2024, the MFC-NA approved a proposal for this Congress and commissioned a planning team. To ensure a broad perspective, the team held open listening sessions for all members of the Marianist Family. Twenty-seven listening sessions were facilitated by the planning team, providing 139 members of the Marianist Family with the opportunity to participate in that portion of the Congress process. The results of the listening sessions are compiled in the pre-Congress report, which will serve as the foundation for the representatives' work in Indianapolis. A summary of the Congress will be provided to the Marianist Family after the event concludes.

**Planning Team Members:** The planning team consists of the following individuals: Erin Anderson-White Face, Mike Bennett, Fr. Tim Eden, SM, Sr. Laura Leming, FMI, Margy Lisjak, Eric Rodriguez, and Bro. Dennis Schmitz, SM

**Contact:** For questions, please contact the co-chairs:

- Mike Bennett: [mikejamb@gmail.com](mailto:mikejamb@gmail.com)
- Fr. Tim Eden, SM: [teden@stmarytx.edu](mailto:teden@stmarytx.edu)

Join us in praying for this gathering:

Gracious and loving God,

We thank you for our vocations in this charismatic family dedicated to carrying on Mary's mission to bring Jesus to our world today.

We entrust the process and outcomes of our Marianist Family Congress to your Spirit's loving guidance.

Give us the wisdom and energy of our Founders.

Like them, may we work together to be the Spectacle of Saints.

Help us live the virtues of Jesus and Mary

so that many others may be drawn to you

and that we may collaborate more deeply and effectively.

May this time set aside to vision how to meet the needs of our time inspire, energize, and empower our Marianist Family.

May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Amen

## **SPIRITUS UPCOMING EVENTS**



# *Spiritus* *Upcoming* *events*

MAY/JUNE 2026

SUN  
**APRIL 19TH**

***Spiritus Gathering***

3:00 PM

Mt. Saint John, Madeleine Room

SUN  
**MAY 3RD**

***Spiritus Gathering***

3:00 PM

Mt. Saint John, Madeleine Room

SUN  
**MAY 17TH**

***Spiritus Gathering***

3:00 PM

Roncalli Chapel Bergamo Center

SUN  
**JUNE 7TH**

***Spiritus Gathering***

3:00 PM

Roncalli Chapel Bergamo Center

SUN  
**JUNE 14TH**

***Spiritus and Marianist Family Council Gathering***



3:00 PM

Mt. Saint John, Madeleine Room

SUN  
**JUNE 21ST**

***Spiritus Gathering***

3:00 PM

Mt. Saint John, Madeleine Room

[www.spiritus-mlc.org](http://www.spiritus-mlc.org)

## **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Please lift up all in our communities who are in need of prayers at this time.

Pray for the Hamilton family. For the safety of Captain Joe Hamilton, USAF, pilot of a 105 Cargo Plane who has been deployed for 3 months. Joe is the son of Joe and Katrina Hamilton and grandson of Phyllis Hamilton. He and his wife Kayla are parents to 3 year old Daniel and have another son expected in July.

Pray for the ongoing healing of all those who are fighting cancer. That they may have strength, support, and care throughout their treatment.

For all those who are grieving, especially the Miller family, may they feel the love and support from all those around them.

**Please register for our April 25<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting from 1-3pm!** Our speaker will be Imam Ayman Soliman. We will meet at Christ Episcopal Church.

You're Invited To  
**Miami Valley Immigration  
Coalition's  
Community  
Mobilization**  
April 25th, 2026



REGISTER by 4/23 at  
[www.mvicdayton.org/events](http://www.mvicdayton.org/events)  
Connect, Learn, and Take Action  
Together!



**SATURDAY**  
April 25th, 2026



**Time**  
1-3 PM



**Christ Episcopal Church**  
20 W. First St.  
Dayton, OH 45402

Join us to learn more about conditions for immigrants detained in Butler County Jail and ways to take action.

If you have accessibility or interpretation needs, please indicate that in your registration!

¿Necesitas interpretación? Por favor indíquelo en su inscripción.



**More Information:**  
[ImmigrationDayton@gmail.com](mailto:ImmigrationDayton@gmail.com)



# Day of Dialogue

## How Do We Sustain our Commitments and Maintain Hope in Fearful Times?

**Keynote speaker: Daniel P. Horan PhD**

Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology at St. Mary's College Notre Dame IN  
Author of *Fear and Faith: Hope and Wholeness in a Fractured World*



**Saturday April 25, 2026**

**9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Chaminade Center**

**Mount St. John**

**4435 E Patterson Road**

**Dayton OH 45430**

What is it that I fear and how do I deal with my fear?  
Faith/encouragement in the face of fear – what is mine to do?

**Registration Required:** \$35 for the day - includes lunch



Scan QR code to register or click  
[Register here](#)

**Sponsored by:**

- Visitation Marianist State Community
- Spiritus Marianist Lay Community
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Marianist Lay Communities-NA
- Marianist Social Justice Collaborative



- Department of Theology, Xavier University
- Marianist Province of the United States
- Our Sacred Edge
- Catholic Ministry, Kettering Health Network
- Dayton Marianist Family Council
- Marianist Environmental Education Center
- Marianist Sisters USA

For additional information contact:  
[jimvogt2@yahoo.com](mailto:jimvogt2@yahoo.com)

### Join Us for A Day of Dialogue – Sat. Apr. 25, 9:00-5:00

How Do We Sustain our Commitments & Maintain a Sense of Hope in Fearful Times? This interactive gathering, sponsored by the Visitation Marianist State Community, will feature presentations by Daniel Horan – educator, author and speaker – as well as small group discussions and opportunities for personal reflection. Discover new sources of strength, support, and guidance as together we explore ways to overcome fear and nurture resilience. The goal is to help participants identify “what is mine to do” and what do I need to do it.

Where: Chaminade Ctr. on the Mt. St. John campus, 4435 E. Patterson Rd., Dayton OH

Cost: \$35, which includes lunch

Registration: Use this link or the QR code

More information: Contact Jim Vogt – [jimvogt2@yahoo.com](mailto:jimvogt2@yahoo.com)

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