

## **Queen of Apostles Parish to Lay Community Transition – Working Overview**

As the Queen of Apostles Community moves into a new season and ceases to be a parish, we are full of hope born from building something new while retaining the core spirit of our community: radical hospitality and the pursuit of social justice.

The people of the Queen of Apostles Community parish will create a new Catholic, Marianist Lay Community to be formally established and operational in January 2024. Fr. Chaminade taught that “new methods for new times” are needed, and the signs of our times point to the need for this new way of living our commitment to each other and the common good. There is no other community in the Marianist family just like ours, and we are excited to evolve our mission-centered way of living our faith!

### **Community Structure**

Our new, to-be-named lay community of believers will be open to all who feel a connection with Catholic and/or Marianist spiritualities and ways of life. We will build an inclusive community where all identities feel welcomed, included, and valued. We will take special care to invite people who are not well represented among us, as well as make intentional efforts to go out beyond ourselves into the Dayton community.

We will gather weekly with activities focused on both the interior and exterior elements of our faith. Content and structure for the gatherings will embrace diversity and will be determined and led by our community. Our gatherings may include prayer, music, presenters, social justice work, education in the Marianist charism, dialogue, and more. Our gatherings will be held at a time that allows for community members to also attend Mass at a local parish.

Monthly, our community would like to collaboratively coordinate Mass with the Dayton Marianist family. Expanding upon the existing quarterly gatherings organized by the Dayton Marianist Family Council, our hope is that these events can advance solidarity efforts among all Dayton-area Marianists. Experienced QAC liturgy planners will be a tremendous asset for this work.

With the closure of QAC as a parish, our new community will not provide regular access to sacraments and weekly Mass. And, our missionary call sends us out to meet, serve and “be church” with others. We have the opportunity to join other local parishes in a variety of ways and will actively, continuously explore and discern partnerships with existing parish families.

Our new community will form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to support our activities.

### **Community Presence at MSJ**

It is our hope that our new community will remain grounded at Mt. St. John. As the demographics and ages of our Marianist family shift, there is a need and opportunity for lay family members to take on increasing responsibilities. Our new lay community can help create and maintain a space at Mt. St. John for Marianist family activities. We envision a lively community space where all Marianists in the Dayton area – especially lay Marianists and those without an existing community or gathering space – can connect and collaborate. This Marianist hub can support existing and new activities for all three branches of the Marianist family (Marianist brothers, Marianist sisters, and lay Marianists) in the Dayton area and beyond, helping us to continue the work our Marianist brothers began here nearly 200 years ago.

### **New Season Leadership**

The New Season Committee, including Tom Zawodny, Kelly Bohrer, Linda and Kevin Skinner, Marilyn and Tom McCrate, and Meghann and Matt Naveau, will lead the establishment of the new lay community, in conjunction with the current QAC community, its leadership, and the Marianist family. The New Season Committee can be reached at [qacnewseason@gmail.com](mailto:qacnewseason@gmail.com).

### **Timeframe**

This new lay community is forming throughout 2023. The new community will begin its missionary activities through this year and will be fully operational by January 1, 2024, which coincides with the date when QAC is no longer a parish.

February 21, 2023