



Community Coordinators' Corner

Linda Folmar and Joan Ivory



Dennis and I listened to a homily last evening. The pastor was talking about how we find our way through life when things get rough. Some of us look to the Bible, or science, or reason, or tradition or compassion . . . Sometimes we discover the maps in our lives aren't written on paper, but in people. I thank God for people whose lives are a light unto our path.

Our son-in-law has an aunt who experienced a health crisis during the pandemic. She was in the hospital for months. Due to an infection, her intestines ruptured, she became septic, and she went through an extensive surgery. The doctors had to remove all of the muscle tissue on the right side of her abdomen and a good section of her bowel. They could not replace the muscle, but were able use skin grafting to cover the abdominal cavity. She was not expected to live.

Last Thanksgiving she was at table with us. As we expressed how sorry we are for all that she had endured and lost, she smiled and said, "I don't think about what I have lost or can no longer do, I focus on all that I

can do, all that I have." This past week she and our granddaughter Katherine enjoyed a 3 hour horseback ride through the woods. Amazing! Betty has taught me volumes about the power of gratitude and positive thinking.

As we prepare to begin our New Season as a Lay Marianist community, let's focus on all of the love that we share and our long history of being family. A new building, a different format or time cannot change that. Our love and commitment to each other will hold us together. God bless the people whose lives are a light unto our path.

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New Season Update: Kicking and Screaming

By Matt and Meghann Naveau

In late July, our family enjoyed spending a long weekend in St. Louis with 100 or so other Lay Marianists. We gathered for the national Lay Assembly, hosted by the Marianist Lay Communities of North America (MLC-NA) and the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC). Matt and I came away with hearts filled from connecting with old friends, making new ones, and feeling like our perspectives and views in the Church were known, seen and shared.



Fr. Bryan Massingale, a well-known author and Black, gay priest, presented the keynote sessions on racial justice in the Catholic Church. I attended a session entitled “Let’s talk about the T in LGBTQ+” that included hearing from a nonbinary person, a transgender woman, a mother of two gay children, and a mother of a transgender son; they shared their experiences and work for broader inclusion in the Church.

Matt joined his MSJC Integral Ecology Issue team members to present “Embracing the Challenge of Climate Change: A Marianist Call to Dialogue, Reflection and Action.” We celebrated the role of women in the church on Mary Magdalene’s Feast Day and remembered all those women who’ve spiritually mothered us.

(It was impossible to attend all the sessions I wanted to, and a full list is here, if you’re interested: <https://www.mlcna.org/workshops>)

Numerous times during the weekend, I reflected on how comfortable and at-home I was among the Marianist family gathered there. I felt embraced by people who shared my values and ideas, and it was incredible to not only worship alongside people who are often marginalized in the Church, but to have their stories and their complete, God-created selves wholeheartedly welcomed and celebrated.

Admittedly, I like to say I came to the Marianist family kicking and screaming. Yes, I’m a UD grad and had some familiarity of Marianist life from my time there. But it wasn’t until the last several years during a search for a more inclusive, authentic way to live my faith that I had to reconcile letting go of our former parish, being Spirit-moved to QAC, and being more and more drawn into Marianist spirituality and mission.

At quick glance, it’s probably easy to make a conclusion that “well, the Naveaus are lay Marianists, so of course that’s why they recommended QAC transition to a Marianist Lay Community.” Yes, that played a part, but I believe our discerned, community-affirmed recommendation is bigger than that simple correlation.

I believe the Holy Spirit brought Matt and I to QAC at a time that we needed this Marianist-formed community and way of living our faith. I believe we needed the welcome we received from all of you, as well as the deeply authentic way of living our faith that we’ve found in living as lay Marianists. I believe that in our discernment of what the Spirit wants for our community in its next phase, a lay Marianist community provides a way to stay together, to intentionally live our faith, to welcome others, and to go out to build a community of love.

At the Assembly, Fr. Massingale talked about metanoia moments – those times that we experience a complete overhaul of life. A complete overturning. Paschal moments where we experience the dying of what has been and the resurrection into something new. You have to die to your previous way of defining yourself to build something new.

Becoming a lay Marianist has been a metanoia moment for me, just as our community faces (many!) metanoia moments now. Together, let’s keep welcoming our sisters and brothers in from the margins. Let’s keep working to build a faith community that will hold. Let’s keep finding and embracing the metanoia moments that move us ever closer to fully becoming the holy people God calls us to be.

Parish Visits

When we become a lay community in January 2024, we will not celebrate weekly Mass together. All community members wishing to attend regular Mass and participate in regular Sacraments will need to discern registering at an area parish, as well as membership in our new lay community. You can find Catholic Mass times at <https://masstimes.org/>.

The New Season Committee will not recommend a single place of worship for all community members to attend; we realize and want to honor that each member and each family has discernment to do in this process. But, we are happy to share feedback from QAC members who've visited other local parishes for your consideration and discernment.

A visit to St. Leonard Faith Community: On July 23, the Skinners and Zawodnys celebrated liturgy with the St. Leonard Faith Community. Mass started at 10:30AM, lasted about 70 minutes, and they had Bill's donuts afterwards...and they do every week!

If there was one word that would describe the morning, it's "comfortable." The minute the couples arrived, people greeted them and introduced themselves. Even Fr. Larry Mick and Deacon Ray Lyons welcomed them before Mass started.

The music was upbeat and similar to what we sing at QAC. The service music was from Mass of

Glory that had everyone clapping. Something unique about their liturgy was that the entire congregation was invited on the altar after the gifts were brought up for the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion. Fr. Larry Mick gave a very insightful and challenging homily; he was quite personable and 'connected' to the Community.



A visit to St. Charles: Sharie McKenny attended 5:00PM Saturday evening Mass at St. Charles a couple of times, and provided the following: Yes, it was Mass and I received communion; there was even one song that I knew. Going to a large parish will

have drawbacks, such as getting to know other parishioners. Because we are small and have only one liturgy, we are family in a way that a large community cannot be. The Mass and music were pretty traditional, something we are not; also, at the kiss of peace, the people mostly smile, give the peace sign, but there was no touching that I could see. St. Charles is convenient, and I even know about 4-5 people that go there. It is not QAC and I guess we can't expect it to be. I still want to check out St. Leonard and maybe St. Benedict.



We look forward to sharing more experiences in the future.

We ask for your prayers as we continue planning our new season!

COMMUNITY PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Companioning God, we call upon the Spirit to move through us with power and with grace as we work to transition our beloved community to something new, and vital that will inspire others to join us. Open our hearts and minds to Your call to create with courage the community that You desire - trusting in Christ our Light who goes, beside us, behind and before us always calling us forward and attending our way. We pray this through Jesus our Brother and Teacher and the loving heart of Mary. Amen

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Emulating the Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang

By Cathy Adler



Sister Dorothy Stang, a native of Dayton and a sister of Notre Dame de Namur, died at the hands of a hired gunman in the Amazon Forest of Brazil. Sr. Dorothy and four other sisters went to Brazil in 1966 to establish a convent and work among the oppressed farmers of the region. They developed sustainable ways to farm the land and taught the people about their rights as human beings. But even though the Brazilian government gave them some land in the interior of the Amazon Forest, others like wealthy loggers and cattle farmers, destroyed their farms and logged the forests. Sr. Dorothy chose to accompany a group of these poor farmers into the Amazon to help them establish the land they had been promised, even though being threatened by these powerful and illegal business groups. Sr. Dorothy never thought of leaving these oppressed farmers on their journey to their land! But on that February day, while only carrying important papers and her bible, she came face to face with her assassins, their guns aimed at her head. Sr. Dorothy stopped, got out her bible, and began reading the Beatitudes'; blessed are the poor, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice.... while six shots took her life that day. Her life ended tragically, but her mission and legacy lives on, with the people that she lived with and lived for, calling her "Saint Dorothy".

In remembrance and in honor of Sister Dorothy Stang, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, have established awards to honor those groups and individuals who embody her spirit of serving others, especially the poor. This year's award for parishioners focuses on Sr. Dorothy's core values, a) Christ-like solidarity with people who are poor/marginalized, and b) care for the Earth and environment, and c) applying the Catholic Social Teachings in either mission, cross-cultural service, or teaching ministry.

If you know a community member who demonstrates ONE of these three values in their lives', please consider nominating them for this award. The application for this honored award can be found on the QAC website (qac-ohio.org) on the home page or under social justice. All applications need to be turned in on or before August 11; you can give them to me or send them to my email, cathy.adler@att.net. A final choice for the award will be made at the Social Justice committee meeting on Sunday, August 13, and submitted by September 1 to the Archdiocese. By the way, all are welcome to attend the Social Justice Meeting on August 13!

Thank you, Cathy Adler

ANOTHER THANK YOU FROM THE EASTER SEASON NEW LIFE COLLECTION

By Chris Bohmer Stewart



Last month Martie Holda shared gratitude for donations to the Stork Nest Baby Pantry. We have also received numerous heartfelt thank you notes from BRIGID'S PATH, one after each delivery of your generous contributions. Brigid's Path is Ohio's first newborn recovery center and only the second in the country to welcome families to a home-like environment where babies can get 24/7 care from specially trained doctors and nurses. You provided the following essential gifts to this important mission:

7 bottle brushes, 17 packs of water wipes, 32 rolls of paper towels, 48 bottles of water, 5 Aveeno Sensitive Baby Lotion, 2 Desitin Maximum ointment, 154 granola bars/peanut butter cracker packs, 5 packs of paper plates, 3 baby grooming sets, 6 toilet bowl cleaners, 4 packs of copy paper, 6 teethingers, 1 Dreft, 5 disinfectant wipes, 5 baby snacks, 4 plastic bibs, play yard sheets, band-aids, bathroom cleaner, and \$25 cash.

Thank you for your generosity to this worthy ministry seeking to provide a better start to babies and mothers impacted by addiction.

ECO-TIP from Social Justice:

In these hot days, it is environmentally sound to keep your cool!!! Become aware of wasted energy browsing in your refrigerator. It is estimated that families spend 10 hours a year looking at an open refrigerator or freezer, which accounts for 7% of the energy use for that appliance! Wash your clothes on cold. Almost 90% of a washing machine's energy expenditure is spent heating water. You don't need a constant 72 degree indoor temperature. Many countries don't even have air-conditioning. You will save on utility bills and, more importantly, help Mother Earth keep her cool as the world heats up.



**Bergamo Grounds,
Easter 2023
by Terri Blanken**

Our History and Our Future as a Faith Community

~ Terri Blanken

My first visit to QAC, about 45 years ago, was unique. This was a community where I was welcomed at the door and everyone seemed to know everyone else by name! They didn't simply attend ~ they *celebrated* the Mass. The music selections, with the congregation singing along, spoke to my heart. It was almost as though their JOY couldn't be contained! On our **50th anniversary**, let's acknowledge the many ways that this faith community has embraced Marianist charism within and outside of our community. Listed below are just a few of the organizations that our community supported over the years; most of which we still support today! I look forward to opening our hearts even wider as we move into our New Season.

Greene County, Montgomery County and Malawi Outreach

"Change and Be Changed"

Malawi Ministry: donations for hospital equipment, sewing drapes and comforters for the hospital, providing computers for schools and students and annual fundraisers.

Dakota House

School supplies, hygiene products, clothing, donations for seniors and after school programs

St. Vincent's Shelter and Food Pantry

Weekly collection of food and clothing. Special requests for linens/pillows, hygiene products and cookware

Family Promise Shelter

Provide and serve meals quarterly to homeless individuals and families

Stork Nest Baby Pantry

Clothing and infant supplies

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Prepared and served Thanksgiving dinner for group home residents for 30+ years

Advent Giving Tree

Christmas gifts for children in need, clothing, office supplies

Substance Disorder Support Ministry

Support group for families and friends

Special collections

Hurricane/tornado/flooding disaster relief

Bridget's Path

Supplies for newborns and mothers affected by addiction

Hannah's Treasure Chest

Helping Dayton's children

Good Shepherd Ministry

Assistance for those in recovery

(Continued on page 6)

University of Dayton

PULSE student mentors, QAC Lay Marianist communities visit with UD students as a presence of the Marianist charism

ESL Program

Mentors

Dayton Public Schools

School supplies and snacks for students

Making blankets

For nursing home residents and children

Habitat for Humanity

Construction work on our designated QAC sponsored room at the Xenia shelter and fence construction for the Women's Shelter

Environment

Volunteers and financial support for the Mission of Mary Farm, educational programs to advocate for Gem City Market, programs which support Laudato Si (care for the earth), hands-on work and presentations about the Beavercreek Wetlands, MEEC hands-on work and volunteers for the annual plant sale

Fair Trade Sale

Volunteers

Be The Church

Annual environmental cleanup, housekeeping and serving at the House of Bread

Nazareth Farm

High school groups travel to Nazareth Farm in West Virginia where they do repairs at work sites within the community

Within our QAC Community

Community Ministry

Make and sends cards of sympathy, get well wishes and encouragement, transportation, housekeeping, errands, meals, living wills and POA's, make referrals, take Eucharist to those who are unable to attend, provided emergency funds during COVID, and funding for other emergencies

Ministry of Consoling

Circle gatherings for 'grief', send cards of remembrance on special dates

Music Ministry

Musicians and vocalists for weekly Masses, funerals, weddings and community outreach

Spiritual Care Ministry

Address special needs of members, hospital, home and nursing home visits, prison visits

Religious Education Ministry

Volunteer teachers and assistants for weekly classes and sacramental preparation, vacation bible school

Eucharistic Ministry

Eucharist for Mass and for those who are unable to attend

~ There are many more not listed here

QAC STEWARDSHIP

A Way of Life

Treasure as instruments in spreading the Gospel. Although they are all considered equal and many Churches focus on Treasure, I believe Time is the most valuable especially when you are sharing it with the ones you love.

We pray that as we transition from a parish to a Marianist Lay Community, that we do not lose our commitment to Stewardship, especially the gift of Time. Of course, Time is a Sacrifice.

Value of Time. QAC has always been committed to being Disciples of Christ. We allow the work of the Spirit in our lives which allows us to use our gifts of Time, Talent, and



Kevin Skinner

"A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, must empty ourselves" -- Mother Teresa

Parents sacrifice time and sleep to take care of their children, while kids might sacrifice screen time to hang out with mom and dad. So, what can we do to help our new Marianist Lay Community and ensure it is here to stay in the future?

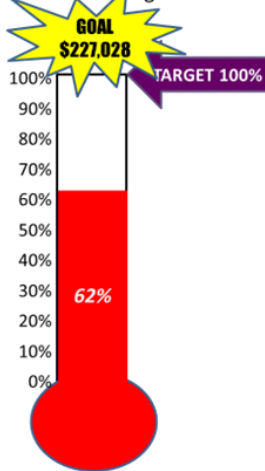


I RECENTLY BECAME AN ATHEIST AND THE OTHERS INSISTED THAT I CHANGE MY NAME
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First be we need to be involved and active in the transition. Second, we need to adopt a “we, not me” mentality. This mindset goes against our nature and requires us to really work at it. The Facilities Task Force reminded us of the ‘Golden Thread’ that runs through QAC that consists of our Catholic faith tradition as lived out through the Marianist Charism. I would also add that we were founded on creating an atmosphere of openness and Christian hospitality (QAC Constitution II, 5.) A hospitality based on service where we are more concerned about others.

It is very difficult to change, but this community over the years embraced it through the sacrifice of time. As we move to a Marianist Lay Community, be open to something new, something that the Holy Spirit is calling us be.

QAC Stewardship
Treasure Pledges



QAC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - JUNE 2023

	Monthly	Year to Date	Year to Date (Budget)
Collections	\$ 9,355	\$140,951	\$227,031
Other Income	\$ 270	\$ 5,658	
Total Operating Income	\$ 9,625	\$146,609	
Operating Expense	\$ 23,278	\$208,866	
Income Expense	\$ (13,653)	\$(62,257)	
Report EXCLUDES the following YTD non-operating items:			
Income loss due to investment losses		\$(12,337)	
Closure Grant		\$ 10,000	

Note: Excluded income and expenses are one-time items, not expected to repeat.

Thank you for your generosity!

This scale shows our weekly offering (Sunday collections) and our planned budget (target) for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which started July 1, 2022. Please remember that 10% our weekly offering goes to our Social Justice Ministry. Thank you for your support!

For those unable to attend Sunday Liturgy, please don't forget that we still need your financial support. Please mail in your weekly donations (address on front cover) or better yet, set up Online giving.

View the instructions to setting up online giving at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRMfgKncvM&feature=youtu.be>

CORRECTION IN VIDEO—QAC Zip Code was changed, so please disregard the last four of the zip code



Follow us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Queen-of-Apostles-Community-117192511632358/



Seniors' Corner

by Chuck Bauer

It's August already! Looking forward, several of the parks have wrapped up their summer concerts. Beaver Creek Lofino Park had a rain/storm cancellation, rescheduled to August 6 featuring Ludlow Creek. On August 12-13, Caesar Creek State Park is celebrating the best of the Meteor Shower Displays with the **Caesar Creek State Park Beach Perseid Meteor Shower Campout** ([Bing/Google](#)). (August 12, 4:00PM to August 13, 9:00AM). Camping is optional, stay all night if you choose. The late afternoon and evening will be filled with family activities. The Cincinnati

Astronomical Society will lead stargazing in addition to other naturalist programming, activities and entertainment. **For the Seniors, borrow your grandkids and have an enjoyable free outing with them;** that's what I did 10-12 years ago.

Check the boards in the vestibule or QAC-Ohio.org for entertainment at Stubbs Park, RiverScape, The Greene, Levitt, and others.

Festival Season has already started. Late August and Labor Day weekend brings several of the best. An easy to navigate website with all of Ohio Festivals can be found at <https://ohiofestivals.net/ohio-festivals/>.

- **Clifton Gorge Music & Arts Festival** - August 25 & 26, <https://www.villageofclifton.com/festival-information/>, go to *Festival* then *Schedule* for details.
- **Kettering Holiday at Home** – September 4 & 5. <https://www.holidayathome.org/>, go to *Events* then *Activities*. There are two stages - Fraze Pavilion Archway and The Woods with very good groups playing from 12Noon to 6:00PM both days, go to *events/entertainment* for details and exact times.
- **Fort Rowdy Gathering** - September 2-4, Covington Community Park (OH 41/48 west on 36) <https://www.facebook.com/fortrowdygathering/>. The parking lot is handicapped and permit only parking, and a shuttle from the Covington school is available. Truly a small-town festival but excellent main stage entertainment; and across the foot bridge over the Stillwater River to the 1790s encampment stage. Ruby and I have gone to this entertaining festival since 2017. Entertainment details not yet published.

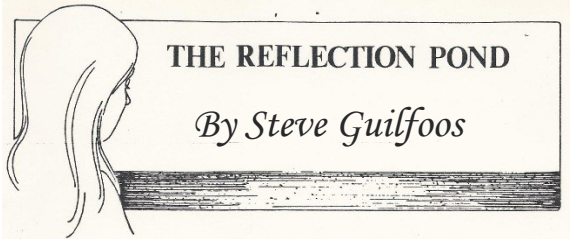
Remember keep Happy, Healthy and Safe

Thinking of You - Chuck

Liturgy Planning News

The Liturgy Committee will meet on Sunday, August 6 immediately following Mass to plan the 5 Sundays in October. Everyone is welcome to help plan a liturgy....no experience is needed, and help is always provided if needed.

Be sure to contact either Cathy Dempsey 937-671-0404), demp61@yahoo.com or Sharie McKenny (937-436-4721), sharon.mckenny@gmail.com if you have any questions!



THE REFLECTION POND

By Steve Guilfoos

From What Was ... To What Will Be



The Announcement

It was a day like every other day
Then came the news
Shocking to our core
One day soon, we would be no more

The Denial

One day soon, we would be no more
It simply cannot be
For we've been as one for ever so long
It will not be true if we sing our song

The Anger

It will not be true if we sing our song
We are mad and upset
That they could simply implore
And poof ... we would be no more

The Bargaining

And poof ... we would be no more
Perhaps if we plead our case
Change their minds as we discuss
Then we could remain as us

The Depression

Then we could remain as us
But no ... the end is near
For they did a clean sweep
Our feelings of loss so deep

The Acceptance

Our feelings of loss so deep
All our work and tears no help
Conclude in our sad exodus
As we bid farewell to what was us

The Growth

As we bid farewell to what was us
A glimmer of hope shines anew
Our minds meld with hopeful reason
As we rebirth into a new season

The Future

As we rebirth into a new season
Growing our legacy saving what's special
For we are the holy people
Our God calls us to be

*May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places
through the Immaculate Virgin Mary*

Marianist Doxology

Share your creative works with QAC!

*We would love to feature your artwork, writing, photo or other
creativity in an upcoming Spirit.*

Send your inspiration to gacspirit06@att.net by the 24th of each month.

August

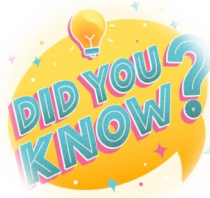
Happy Birthday

- 1 Bob Brookey
- 1 Brittany Nanda
- 4 William (Bill) Arnold
- 4 Tom McCrate
- 4 Mary Rice
- 4 Daisy Stieger
- 8 Jacqueline Andrews (Assoc)
- 8 Gavin Bohrer
- 9 Thomas Hangartner
- 9 Beth Paul
- 13 Connie Pollock
- 15 Charles (Chuck) Bauer
- 16 Ann Hurley (Assoc)
- 16 Kevin Skinner
- 18 Mary Clark
- 21 Greg Zeitler (Assoc)
- 22 David Chesar
- 24 Shari Ulring
- 30 Carol Ann Cannon
- 30 David Neer

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Ray & Yvonne Carranza (Assoc)
- 6 Mary & Charlie Hallinan (Assoc)
- 9 Pat & Barry Chmiel
- 11 Valerie & Jerry Weisbecker (50 Years!)
- 14 Mary & Gerry Ehret
- 15 Linda & Dennis Folmar
- 16 Lindsey & Paul Weisbecker
- 22 Charlette & Bob Buescher
- 23 Jean & Bob Brookey
- 24 Marilyn & Tom McCrate
- 26 Arlene & Mark Bottenfield
- 29 Josette & Arvin Nanda
- 30 Cathy & Gary Adler

May the
Lord Bless
You and
Protect You



- ◆ A new altar was blessed during a Eucharistic Liturgy presided over by Fr. Tom (pictured far right) and celebrated with the Marianist community at St. Leonard in Centerville.



Safe travels
Bro. Tom
Redmond, SM

- ◆ Brother Tom Redmond, SM will be leaving Dayton in mid-August to help with Marianist formation in the Marianist Region of Eastern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya). Blessings to you Bro. Tom as you embark on your new journey! Safe travels and God Speed!



Spirit Archive—September 2008 by Chris Bohmer Stewart

The picture below, which is an archive taken from the September 2008 The Spirit of QAC, includes two articles written by community members about their experiences of the QAC Art Exhibit. This is the time of year when, for many years, the community would be preparing for the QAC Art Show that coincided with QAC Day. The committee would often meet at our dear recently departed Pat Hale's house to plan. Marianne Bachman would enthusiastically say things like, "Oh, I'm so glad you're all going to be able to make it to the hanging!", which became an annual joke. So much creativity. So much fun. There was the year the MSJ grounds crew needed to haul in Mary Lou Meers huge sculpture and the year several of us sheltered in the gallery office waiting for the gallery to close and for the fury of Hurricane Ike to pass. Pat Hale's beautiful Cezanne-like painting shown on the next page, conveyed the QAC Art Show spirit, actually the overall QAC spirit - **All Are Welcome**. Let's reach back into that gift of creativity and can-do spirit as we move forward into our New Season. Creativity isn't limited to quilts and poems and paintings - it's in our souls.

The following two articles were written by community members who wanted to share their experiences of the QAC Art Exhibit. They, and the other participating members, would like to encourage you to view this year's exhibit. The Art Exhibit runs from September 10 through September 21.

Sharing the Joy

At Bro. John Lemker's "Spirituality and Photography" AFF presentation a couple days ago, Bill Meers asked me to do a piece for The Spirit on why the QAC Art Exhibit is important to me. Inspired by Bro. John's incredible photographs and concepts essential to good photography, I tried to briefly put into words the spirit of the QAC Art Show.



SUPPORT. QAC's Exhibit at Gallery St. John offers a professional exhibit while totally lacking in pretense. Anxious about exhibiting for the first time about ten years ago, I was amazed when a talented photographer like Dan Nagle sought me out to offer compliments or fellow parishioners whose names I barely knew would stop me in the parking lot to comment on how a photograph spoke to them. And last year, Renee Geiger, who was selling her own art cards, made a point to tell me that I should bring in more of my cards "with the horses and the turtles." In a

fast-paced and competitive world, QAC'S generosity of appreciation is truly to be valued. I'm not sure I would have risked exhibiting in a different atmosphere.

GROWTH. For an "emerging artist" (i.e. hasn't shown outside her own home) to have her work on the same wall as an established and award-winning professional like Marianne Bachman provides a leap of confidence. Listening to Mary Lou Meers talk enthusiastically about her solution to a sculpture that shattered offers a life lesson in turning lemons into lemonade.

FUN. QAC artists may seriously enjoy art, but never take themselves too seriously. Where else can you find Judy Potter's Sheepwicks or my own personal favorite title, Don Potter's St. John and Port-a-John? Creating is play.

INSPIRATION. I often think of QAC as the Santa Fe of Southwest Ohio's spiritual communities. It's hard to imagine another community this size with as many professional and emerging artists.

Is QAC a magnet for creative people, coming from a Marianist tradition that actively supports the arts and enjoys the privilege of contact with the nationally recognized resident artists at Gallery St. John? Perhaps the openness of the QAC community and spending each Sunday in a chapel designed and decorated by Marianist artists evokes the creativity in all of us.

SHARING. What more needs to be said? Pay it forward. Share the joy with others.

This year's exhibit opens September 10 and runs through September 21. Details on exhibiting and gallery hours are in the bulletin and on the website, or call Bill and Mary Lou Meers at 294-7585. We hope that all community artists and art lovers will come and show your support, have fun, grow a bit, and share in our community's artistic spirit.

written by:

Chris Bohmer-Stewart

Bringing Out & Sharing QAC's Creative Spirit

The 2008 edition of the Queen of Apostles Community Art Exhibit in Gallery St. John is set for September 10 to September 21— Wednesdays through Sundays only from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. As well as a showcase for QAC's creative spirit, he exhibit is a major attraction for QAC Day, September 14.

While there are other faith communities in the Dayton area that promote the arts and have many talented and creative members, QAC is unique in many ways. Our community has access to a wonderful, intimate art gallery, Gallery St. John. And we enjoy the wonderful presence of the Marianist artists on campus who inspire us and support us in developing our artistic "eyes" and spirits. Brothers Joe Barrish, John Lemker and the other Gallery St. John artists generously share their artistic gifts with us and make us at home in the Gallery. And the

Marianist focus on the natural environment and ecology calls us to enjoy and share the beauty around us.

There are many creative "souls" in our community who have hidden talents. We hope they will "come out" and join the nearly twenty QAC members who have participated in the show in the last several exhibits.

Most of us are amateur artists who are still "emerging." And several are well-known professionals who continue to inspire us year after year. So regardless of where we are in our "journey" as artists, the QAC Art Exhibit is a wonderful opportunity to let out the artist inside and to share the beauty and wonder we see.

And the exhibit is also a great opportunity for the non-artists in our community to enjoy and purchase art. Part of the proceeds from sales go to Gallery St. John operations and maintain

it's wonderful exhibits throughout the year. So please support the QAC artists and the Gallery by purchasing some art.

The 2008 exhibit will feature a wide range of art media and subjects by both our professional and amateur artists. Previous QAC exhibits have included ceramics, drawings, fabric art, graphics, inks, jewelry, painting, photography, quilting and sculpture.

Visit the exhibit website at www.qac-ohio.org/qac_arts/ for more information, or contact Mary Lou or Bill Meers at 937-294-7585 or Judy Potter at 937-426-7688.

written by:

Bill Meers



(continued from page 11 - Spirit Archives)



Peace Museum Poster

"Making art. Making peace."



Pat Hale's beautiful Cezanne-like painting



From the Murnane's

Saturday, July 22, Linda and I attended an event in Delap – one of the neighborhoods in the “downtown area” of Majuro. It was held in the park area where, for hundreds of years, canoes would arrive from the outer islands and feasts were held. We were there at the invitation of a young woman named Jasmine. We had recently attended Jasmine’s wedding as she is the daughter of a Judge who serves on the Traditional Rights Court for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).



The invitation said that we would be attending an event addressing human trafficking. Linda had been involved with addressing human trafficking issues in Dayton through the Women’s Club of Dayton and also through her work in the National Association of Women Judges and the American Bar Association. In 2019, Linda organized and participated in a program addressing human trafficking in the casino industry, with a focus on victimization of Native Americans. The program was presented at Caesar’s Casino in Las Vegas, and Caesar’s Foundation paid to record it. The video can be seen at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/events_cle/program-library/trafficking-in-the-world-of-chance/. There is speculation that human trafficking exists throughout the RMI. That may be expected where jobs other than those in the government, includes a large portion of the population making \$1.50 per hour or less, even though the price of a pound of butter is \$8.79.

A 2022 annual report by the U.S. Department of State (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/marshall-islands/>) notes that, *“The (Marshallese) government continued an investigation into a government official allegedly complicit in trafficking crimes and conducted awareness campaigns for school-aged children and the public. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. For the fourth consecutive year, the government did not identify any confirmed trafficking victims and did not utilize proactive procedures to identify trafficking victims. The government did not conduct timely victim assessments or provide protective services to potential trafficking victims while their cases were under investigation. The government did not prosecute any traffickers and has not convicted any traffickers since 2011.”*

Jasmine, a young lawyer in the RMI, organized this event through the agency with which she works. The Attorney General of the Marshall Islands, and all of the High Court judges were in attendance. Funding for the event was provided by USAID and other sponsors. The purpose was to educate people about human trafficking. While the crowd was subdued by the rainstorm that had just passed by and the assembled crowd was less than 100, it was also livestreamed on Facebook and broadcast live by the local radio/TV station.

There was a formal portion, with judges sitting on the stage as other officials spoke about the problem. There were knowledgeable people among the crowd engaging people in conversation and offering the chance to expand knowledge and awareness. There were fundraising “vendor tables” where you could purchase food, drink or crafts. Linda purchased this unique handmade bouquet, which was made by the women of the Wotje Weto.



After the formal portion of the event was over, the stage was home to a large screen which showed video by a roving videographer to entice home audiences to come out. It also showed a series of videos addressing human trafficking.

Linda and I often say that we know God moves in strange ways. I have to tell you that I was caught off guard when the first video started playing with pictures of Dayton, Ohio. It was a YouTube of a TEDx Dayton talk by a young man who identified himself Muhamed Elijah. The video included a sponsorship logo by the Wright Patt Federal Credit Union – God caught my attention.

Mr. Elijah spoke of how his parents had joined a faith community when he and his brother were very young. When he turned 12, the religious leader came to his parents and told them it was time that their two sons start their transition to adulthood by serving God. At the appointed time and place, the parents presented their 12 and 10-year-old sons and were not surprised that there were several other families doing likewise. At some point the organizers started separating parents from children in preparation for the program.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Mr. Elijah spoke of being loaded into the back of a crowded semi-trailer and transported 600 miles to Kansas City where he, his brother, and lots of others were beaten, abused, and forced to labor for no wages—all the while their parents thought they were serving God. It is a very powerful story, so I hope you will spend 10 minutes and watch it yourselves – here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fovsme5Ljt4>.

Fortunately, Mr. Elijah was eventually freed and, in an apparent attempt to make lemonade of lemons, is now an aspiring motivational speaker. Even more fortunately, the “religious leaders” who abused him have been prosecuted. Here are links to two stories regarding that:

<https://www.kcur.org/news/2018-11-05/judge-orders-arrest-of-kansas-city-kansas-cult-leader-who-claimed-to-be-allah>; <https://www.kcur.org/news/2021-07-21/members-of-kansas-city-kansas-sect-that-engaged-in-human-trafficking-lose-defamation-claims>

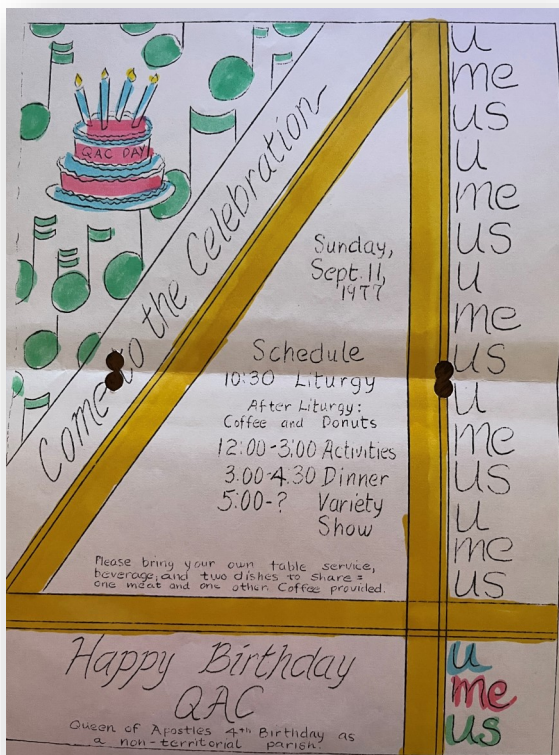
Human trafficking and human slavery is a key social justice issue. From the Old Testament story of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:18-36) to today where investigations around major sport events like the NCAA tournament and the Super Bowl discuss human trafficking, the issue persists (<https://www.wvxu.org/local-news/2019-03-19/with-dayton-a-hotbed-for-human-trafficking-police-are-on-alert-during-first-four>.)

The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force report that was published in May 2023 can be found at <https://ocjs.ohio.gov/static/humantrafficking/links/OhioHumanTraffickingTaskForceReport0523.pdf>. Ohio’s human trafficking statistics can be found here: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/ohio>.

One of the key messages from the event we attended in Delap is one that applies globally as well. **“If you see something, say something.”** The National Human Trafficking Hotline number is 888-373-7888.

Happy 50th QAC!!

From a Marianist Community of student brothers open to visitors for Sunday Eucharist, Queen of Apostles Community emerged as a non-territorial parish on August 28, 1973. Continuing in the tradition of the Marianist Charism, we come together each week as a family of Catholic, Christian believers, to worship our God in the Eucharist with song & praise and to share in the breaking of the Bread. In so doing, we proclaim our willingness to build a community of love and to be the holy people God calls us to be.



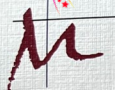
QAC Archive - 4th Birthday Celebration 1977

In the late 1960s, a growing number of people came to share the Sunday Liturgy with the Marianists on Mount St. John. With the support of the Marianists, the idea of forming a non-territorial community started growing. There was a desire to be more than the traditional parish - the founders envisioned a community that would celebrate a single liturgy every Sunday. They foresaw a community where the laity would take an active role in the day-to-day activities of running a community. All coordinators were chosen through elections of the members, a tradition we followed for many years.

Most Reverend Joseph L. Bernardin, Archbishop of Cincinnati, formally approved the new community on August 28, 1973. On Sept 9, 1973, Queen of Apostles held their founding liturgy which has been celebrated annually as QAC Day ever since.

The founders wrote a constitution and operating procedures with, "We, a Catholic Community within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, desiring to grow in our spiritual life and responsibility as members of the people of God, declare ourselves open to the spirit of renewal and mission of Christ as proposed through Vatican II."

Happy 50th QAC!



Congratulation from the Marianist Province

The Marianists
PROVINCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Office of the Provincial

April 26, 2023

The Community of Queen Apostles
Attn: Fr. Thomas Schroer, SM
4400 Shakertown Road
Dayton, OH 45430-1075

Dear Fr. Schroer,

At the conclusion of the recent Provincial Chapter, the delegates voted on a list of commendations, recognizing individuals and ministries that have been important to the life and mission of the Marianist Province of the United States.

The Provincial Chapter of the Marianist Province of the United States would like to commend the Community of Queen of Apostles in gratitude for your 50 years of fidelity to the Marianist Spirit.

Please accept our sincere congratulations and gratitude for your witness to the many people that have been members of the Community these 50 years.

United in the Marianist Charism,

Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM, Provincial
(For the Provincial Chapter)

Happy 50th QAC!

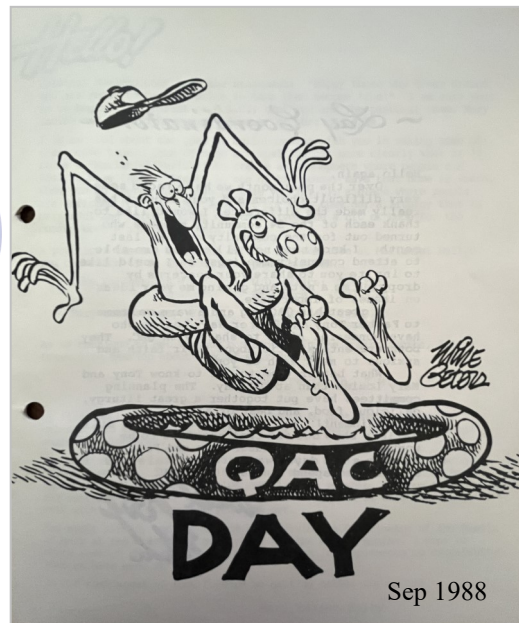
We have been part of the QAC community for 28 years. The people, weekly gatherings and special celebrations are what have made this community a family for us. We so look forward to continuing on the journey and making more memories in our new season with you all!

God Bless!

Linda & Kevin S.

Spirit of QAC Archives

Cartoonist Mike Peters created many drawings for *The Spirit of QAC* over the years... these two QAC Day covers are from September 1987 and September 1988.



August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Remember to bring fresh produce on Sunday, August 6 for St. Vincent de Paul		1	2	3 7:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting	4	5 Marianist Family Picnic at Governor's Island
6 Transfiguration of the Lord Feast Day 8:45AM QAC Adult Formation (via Zoom) 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass Liturgy Planning will be held immediately Mass	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass (Healing Service) Social Justice Meeting immediately following Mass	14	15 Solemnity of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary	16	17	18	19
20 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:45AM QAC Adult Formation (via Zoom) 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass 12:00 - QAC 50 th Celebration Picnic	28	29	30	31		