



Community Coordinators' Corner

Linda Folmar and Joan Ivory



Several years ago our women's prayer group read the book **PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS* by Neil Douglas Klotz. This book had a major impact on my prayer life that vibrates within me still. In his book he explores the meaning of Jesus' teachings on the Beatitudes and the Our Father when they are translated into the metaphoric richness and earthiness of his native Middle Eastern language, Aramaic. Unlike English, each word has many layers of meaning. I found this beautiful because it gives us so many ways to explore living as a follower of Jesus. It gives powerful new meaning to each line and repetition of the Prayer that Jesus taught us. I offer here only the first line of this prayer.

Our Father which art in heaven, in Aramaic becomes Abwoon d'bwashmaya.

Abwoon translated is God's name: "Father-Mother of the Cosmos", "The Breathing Life of all," "Respiration of all Worlds," "Source of Sound," "Radiant One," "Name of names," "Wordless Action, Silent Potency."

Shmaya indicates that the word by which we can recognize God's name is all of Creation:

"You create all that moves," "Creator of the Shimmering Sound that touches us," we hear you breathing – in and out – in silence," "in the roar and the whisper, the breeze and whirlwind, we hear your Name," "You shine within us, outside us, even darkness shines when we remember," "our small identity unravels in you, you give it back as a lesson," & "where ears and eyes awaken, there heaven comes." This was the Aramaic concept of heaven.

I believe Jesus wanted us to know that the Kingdom of Heaven is a *call* for our action, right here, right now, to be present, *ears and eyes awakened*, to discern and meet the immediate needs of our earth and her people and all created life. Richard Rohr refers to this as *Creating a Community of Compassion*. Over the past 50 years, we have strived to do this through our Social Justice and Community ministries. As we transition from a parish to a lay community, I look forward to finding new ways to live out this "Call to create heaven on earth" together.

**PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus*

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Marianist World Day of Prayer Celebration
October 14, 2023
5:00PM Mass, Queen of Apostles Chapel
More information on page 3

New Season Update

“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.” “Therefore consider carefully how you listen....”

Luke 8: 16, 18

During the community meeting on September 24, the New Gatherings and Branding Task Forces shared updates that included the time survey results and a proposed mission and vision for our new community. Both updates, which were a result of community input, provided an excellent opportunity for everyone to hear what is in the hearts of our community. The information shared allows us to prayerfully consider our love for one another, and to put our personal desires aside for the good of the community. The recording of the meeting can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/QacSeptRec>, and, can also be found on the QAC New Season web page along with the presentation slides and branding documentation. Included below is a short summary of the meeting.

Through a period of collective discernment and input, the Branding Task Force has drafted Mission, Vision and Values statements that will be used to introduce and ground our new community. These are available on the [New Season webpage](#). It is our hope and belief that these statements encapsulate the spirit of our new community and the way in which we live our faith together. Like many parts of our new community, we will establish a way to examine these statements in the coming months, and ensure they are true and relevant for us. We are asking our community to review the Mission, Vision and Values statements, and email your feedback by October 6 to gacnewseason@gmail.com. On October 8, the Branding Task Force will begin to seek inputs for naming our new community. A community naming board and Post-It notes will be available in the vestibule after Mass for everyone to post their ideas for our new community name.

The New Gatherings Task Force has since been discussing the frequency, day, and time for community gatherings in the new season. It was important to get the community’s input as a key part of this process. The results from the community survey were presented by Matt, which were very interesting in that they revealed: 1) that gathering less than weekly is okay; 2) enabling community members to attend Mass at a parish is very important; 3) having a consistent schedule is vital so that members can plan ahead; and 4) a majority of the community prefers to gather on Sunday, with about 10% indicating that we should consider meeting on a Wednesday evening. Matt also presented a list of Mass and Religious Education times for area parishes that revealed times that might not be optimal for our new community to meet. The areas where we do not yet have consensus include: 1) what does consistency of schedule really mean; 2) what time to gather; and 3) what our frequency should be. After additional discussion about the gathering frequency, day, and time, the New Gatherings Task Force distributed an input form to everyone asking them to answer three questions in consideration of the results presented and the needs of our community. For those who were not able to attend the community meeting, you can still provide your input electronically.

Here's what to do:

1. FIRST - Watch the recording and listen to the discussion - <https://bit.ly/QacSeptRec>
2. SECOND - Fill out the input form on what the COMMUNITY needs - <https://bit.ly/QacSeptInput> (but don’t fill it out until you have watched the recording! This is important!!)
3. Continue to pray and be open to what the Spirit is inspiring us all to do as we discern this together.

The electronic input form will remain open through October 7.

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

MARIANIST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for our local celebration of the World Day of Prayer, which will begin with Mass on Saturday, October 14 at 5:00pm in Queen of Apostles Chapel, followed by a Eucharistic procession to the grotto and a reception in the Chaminade Center.

Every year, the entire Marianist Family around the world unites in prayer on a Sunday near the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar. A different Marian shrine is chosen each year as the focus for our prayer. This year, we are honored that the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto on Mount St. John was chosen as the Marian site for the World Day of Prayer.

We would love to have a great turnout of Marianist Family members at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto on Mount St. John!



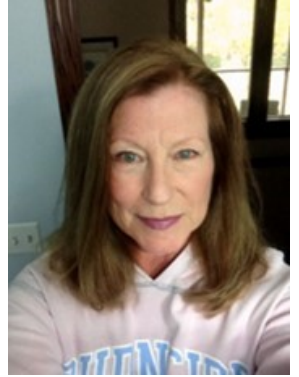
Women's Choir - September 17



Inclusivity...We are the Children of God

By Terri Blanken

Our New Season is something that I have been excitedly anticipating, as we will be able to continue to be a community of love. Many of us have shared our joys and our sorrows for decades. We have been there for each other at every turn. As our new mission statement declares that we are 'radically inclusive', I pray that, we will strive to recognize that inclusivity should include those with differing opinions about political issues that are tied into social justice issues.



Every morning, I have prayed for knowledge of my purpose and to carry it out in Jesus' name. I read something that made me take pause. Our purpose is not about the end goal; it's about the moments that we sat with those who needed comfort, when we prepared a meal for someone who is struggling, or when we sent a card of encouragement, we fulfilled our purpose in God's eyes. Supporting charities that help our veterans, hospitals that serve children with diseases and handing out gift cards randomly to those in need - is social justice. Contributing items requested from those in need for abused women, drug addiction, homeless pantries, etc., are all forms of living our purpose aligned with Jesus on a daily basis.

Irregardless, if we identify as a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent, let us honor each other as children of God, who are seeking His guidance and truly be "inclusive."

Mats for the Homeless Made from Old Plastic Grocery Bags

By Mary Jo Pfander

This photo was taken at Kettering's EcoFest, their 2nd annual event to celebrate what folks are doing to care for Mother Earth (my definition of Ecology). At first, Tom Zawodny was going to set up their tent for us, but at the last moment, the leaders of the event said I could use their 10x10 tent! They had hoped to find at least one other group that does what they call "upcycling" which means making something new out of recyclables, but they didn't find another group so we were able to spread out!

I learned about this project from an article in the daily newspaper, studied the YouTube links they provided, saved grocery bags for a few years, and then in the summer of 2021, I introduced the idea to my neighbors at The Terraces senior housing near St Albert's parish. A half dozen or so showed up and did the prep work: folding old grocery bags the long way, cutting them across to produce "loops" that were then linked to form a "string" which some call Plarn (plastic yarn), and this was crocheted into a mat about 6 feet long and 30 inches wide. Another dozen residents have been giving me their plastic shopping bags ever since. We never ran out (a benefit of living with 100 people!) The photo above shows Mat #14. We delivered the finished Mats to Miami Valley Housing Opportunities (MVHO) along with items their clients probably need: personal care items, snacks, etc. About 15 women have been working on this project from the beginning - two have since died and one is now in a nursing home. The Pandemic slowed us down just a bit, and we worked at home instead of in the Community Room, but in the end, we were able to complete this project for those in need.



The people at EcoFest who came to our booth were fascinated and asked many questions. A few said *Thank You* for doing this! My Italian grandmother is smiling from heaven; she taught me to crochet when I was about 10 years old!

BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS: HOW WE CAN HONOR THE SEASON OF CREATION IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

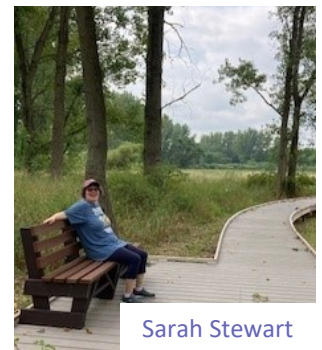


In the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation held on September 1, Pope Francis called us to “right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and creatures.” Unfortunately, this “stream of pure water,” already running dry in some areas, flooding in others, and polluted almost everywhere, was further endangered by the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on Sackett v. US EPA. This ruling found that only wetlands with direct surface water connection to navigable waterways were protected by the Clean Water Act, removing millions of acres from protection, in addition to the estimated 90% of wetlands in Ohio that have already been lost as a result of various commercial and agricultural developments. The Natural Resources Defense Council stated that “...wetlands are a vital part of the watersheds that provide drinking water to tens of millions of Americans. They dramatically lessen the impact of floods and droughts..., are among the productive ecosystems on earth...and store massive amounts of carbon.”



Ken Moran

Some of you may remember the fascinating presentation made by David Goldstein, President of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association (BCWA), last fall. He presented photos of the wetland corridor in our own backyard (literally, if you live in Beavercreek!), photos lush with birds, native plants, blooming fens, and ever-growing miles of boardwalk that inclusively opens this natural wonderland to strollers, active hikers, and those needing walkers. Recently the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Phase 2 of the Spotted Turtle Trail at the Dave Nolin Wetland Reserve in Xenia included honoring QAC’s Ken Moran as the project leader for the Beaver Creek



Sarah Stewart

Wetlands and for bringing the Spotted Turtle Trail project to fruition. Numerous other QAC members were in attendance, including Tom McCrate, assisting with parking for the numerous attendees who can now explore these previously inaccessible but environmentally rich habitats. BCWA wetland trails have been hailed by hiking publications and featured in the Dayton Daily News for their ecological and recreational importance. However, what will happen to this wetland corridor under the recent Sackett ruling? As Pope Francis states in his *Season of Creation* prayer,



Stephanie Seibert & Son

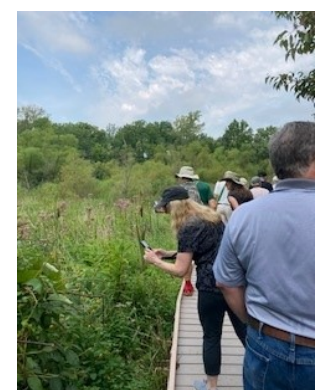
“Consumerist greed, fueled by selfish hearts, is disrupting the planet’s water cycle.”



The Seibert's & Grandparents

What can WE do about this disruption? In the same Creation prayer, Pope Francis calls us to “transform the public policies that govern our societies.” In the Summer issue of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association newsletter, Dr. Goldstein makes an impassioned plea for advocacy to clarify and encode

protections for all wetlands on the state and national level, which we have been given permission to reprint, complete with addresses and critical points. Such advocacy is not only relevant to our local area, but to many areas across our country that are experiencing increased flooding, pollution, and soil instability as wetlands are drained and developed.



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

You can also assist our local wetlands with your time, talent, and treasure by volunteering or donating to the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. Additional details are included in *The Spotted Turtle* Newsletter, <https://beavercreekwetlands.org/the-spotted-turtle-fall-2023/> or call 937-320-9042. Visit the BCWA website at www.beavercreekwetlands.org.

The Season of Creation ends on Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis, but that doesn't mean we end our care for and appreciation of creation. To bring the wonder of the wetlands' peace, beauty, and healing powers alive for you, we invite you to join a short, informative QAC "changing seasons" hike on Tuesday, October 24 in the late morning, exact time and meeting area TBD, followed by lunch at the nearby Old Scratch Pizza. Let us walk and pray together in a chapel of trees and rushes and skies, with a choir of birds and rustling leaves.

**The Social Justice Committee
will meet
Sunday, October 8,
immediately following Mass**

**All are welcome to join us in
Si Lounge - snacks will be
provided.**

**We will begin discussing the
recommendations from the
Social Justice task force for
our new Lay Marianist
community.**

ECO-TIP from Social Justice:

Stop your idling! No, we are not urging you to further increase the busyness of your lives, but to decrease idling in your car. Sites like Energy.gov and the Sierra Club cite staggering statistics like 4 lbs. of carbon dioxide being emitted in an hour of idling. Up to 30 million tons of CO2 are estimated to be discharged yearly from the unnecessary idling of cars and that eliminating that idling would be the equivalent saving of eliminating 5 million cars from the road. Various sites urge us to turn off engines and restart if you expect to be idling for more than 10-30 seconds.

So the next time you see a drive-thru line at Starbucks, or your bank, or McDonald's, or your pharmacy, or the school pickup line that seems to stretch into another state, turn off your engine. Better yet, park your car, get in some healthy steps, and walk on in!

Family Promise of Greene County Announcements on Upcoming Fund Raising Events

Family Promise of Greene County (formerly Interfaith Hospitality/Schneider House) is a shelter for unhoused families that QAC has supported for many years through monthly financial allocation and meal support ministry. Being a non-profit, FPGC relies on donations and special fundraising events to generate funds for their operating expenses. Upcoming fund raising events are:



Got Chocolate? 5K/10K Walk, Run and Roll will be on October 22 at Xenia Station, 150 South Miami Avenue, Xenia. Registration is at 1:00PM and the race starts at 2:00PM. To sign up, please visit: [Got Chocolate 5k/10k \(runsignup.com\)](https://www.gotchocolate.com)

The 6th Annual Empty Bowl will be on Thursday, November 16 from 5:00-8:00PM at the Hope Hotel, 10823 Chidlaw Road, Dayton. Cost is \$25.00 for a handmade ceramic bowl and dinner.



Please email Nimfa Simpson at nimfa.simpson@gmail.com for questions.

THE SUN SETS ON QAC DAY

By Chris Bohmer Stewart



The sun has set on QAC Day and we heard music in the air – the sounds of the choir swelling with the grand piano and the Great Amen, while the picnic rang with jam bands and songs about country roads, and laughing children banging out a tune about pizza toppings - all the sounds filled with Living and Loving the Lord

The sun has set on a celebration in a chapel with sunlight streaming thru stained glass Marianist windows and under tents and under clear blue skies with waving trees

In that chapel, we raised our arms and stomped our feet and shouted, as Linda and Joan got all of us dancing out the QAC in our soul

The sun has set on that QAC Day when we broke bread together and shared our desserts

The sun has set on a QAC Day when we welcomed guests from Africa and Arkansas, friends for decades or friends just made – reminiscing about Breakfast Club and Naz Farm, about Thanksgiving dinners and Polish Spaghetti dinners, about L.I.F.E. and about life

We shared memories and hopes and laughter – some memories trivial, many anything but trivial, and all for which we are grateful

The sun set on QAC Day as those of us still there gathered in a circle, clasping hands and offering praise and gratitude. Our 50 years is ending, but has our celebration just begun?

The sun is setting on QAC, but a January sunrise has its own kind of beauty

And in the spring, it will once again be time for dandelions



Religious Education News

Classes will meet October 1, 8, 15 and 22

We are excited to share that we have three boys preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year!

*Luke Naveau
Joseph Hibbard
Ben Seibert*

*Please keep them in your thoughts
and prayers throughout their
preparation.*

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

*Mary
Marianist Doxology*

QAC STEWARDSHIP

A Way of Life

Starting New.

We have all gone through changes during our lifetime, like starting a new job, moving to a new city, meeting new people and/or learning a new hobby. Some of us have also gone through joining a new parish after each move, and some have converted to Catholicism. Even Stewardship can bring about new ways where we can use our Time, Talent, and Treasure.



Kevin Skinner

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YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM ... HE'S NEW TO THE FAITH AND THIS IS HIS FIRST EASTER

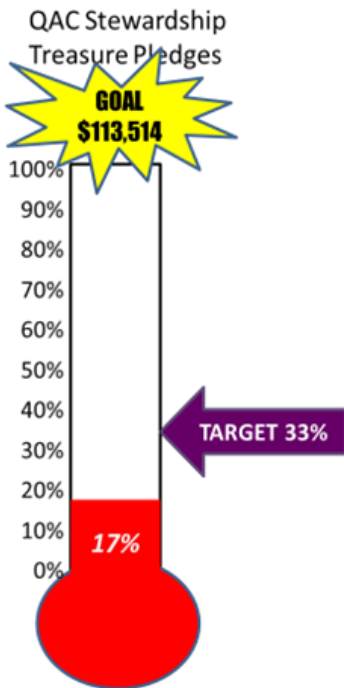
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Have you ever done the same thing for years, only to change because of a spiritual conversion? For 20 years, at every parish we belonged to, I was involved in some way – serving on parish councils, teaching Religious Education and leading Youth Groups, but something changed when we came to QAC. Music became a new way to use my gifts. I'm sure many at QAC started in one ministry, and over the years, heard the call and accepted the challenge to further God's plan to try something new.

As we transition to a Marianist Lay Community, we need to look to the Spirit's call to see how we can fit within the vision of Blessed Chaminade - **"New times call for new methods."** What new gifts can you bring that can build a new laity-led community of faith?

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17



QAC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - AUGUST 2023

| | Monthly | Year to Date | Year to Date (Budget) |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Collections | \$ 9,638 | \$ 18,788 | \$ 37,839 |
| Other Income | \$ 6,852 | \$ 7,962 | |
| Total Operating Income | \$ 16,490 | \$ 26,750 | |
| Operating Expense | \$ 27,233 | \$ 36,046 | |
| Income Expense | \$(10,743) | \$(9,296) | |

Notes:

Funds invested with Marianist Province have recouped almost all earlier losses! To date we spent \$11,127 on our QAC Day celebration and other transition items, these cost were largely offset by a Marianist \$10,000 grant received last fiscal year.

Thank you for your generosity!

This scale shows our weekly offering (Sunday collections) and our planned budget (target) to the end of 2023, which started July 1, 2023. 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.

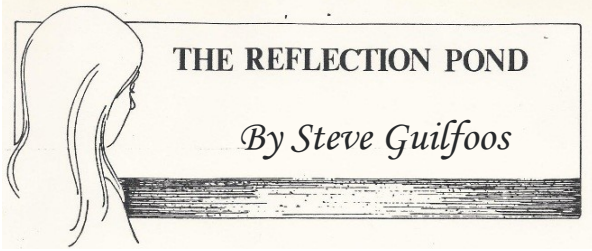
View the instructions to setting up online giving at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRMfgKncvhM&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/

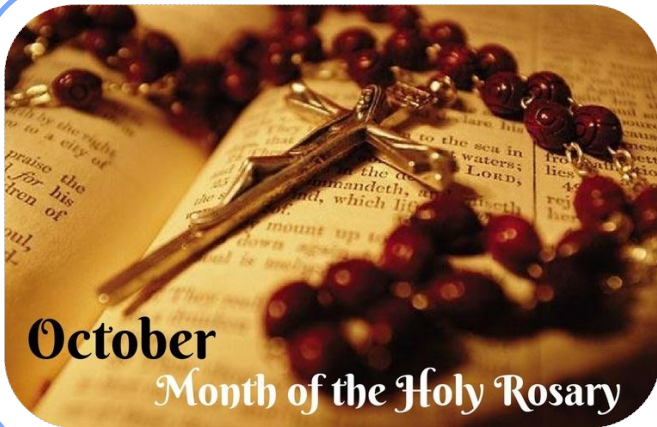


An Author's Lament

Midnight has passed me by
Like ships pass on the ocean
The sun left hours ago
Silently letting the darkness in

A scotch in one hand
And a pen in the other
Thoughts flowing so easily
Like millions of twinkling stars
But the words . . . not so much

Was it a memory
Or a lost dream ...
My mind races
from one to the other
And yet the paper on my desk
remains as blank . . . as . . .
. . . as a painters unused canvas



Every day, the Holy Rosary is prayed throughout the world! At QAC, the Rosary is prayed before each Sunday Mass beginning at 10:00AM in the vestibule. All are welcome!

Learn more about the devotion to the Holy Rosary by visiting the Catholic Culture website at:

https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/10_1.cfm

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.



Seniors' Corner

by Chuck Bauer

In October the parks, trails and bike paths turn from tunnels of green to tunnels of gold. This is a great time of the year to get out and enjoy the pleasant weather. The best bike path is along the Little Miami River. Start at Corwin just south east of Waynesville off OH-42. This general route is also an excellent motor trip that Ruby and I travel several times during the year. The road will eventually turn east and go up a steep hill from the river valley. From here go north to tour Caesar Creek State Park and Spring Valley

Wildlife Area. Have a great time this fall. Take an afternoon drive.

During the last week I have been collecting schedules for the armature playhouses in the Dayton area. The Clifton Opera House has also assembled a good selection of fall entertainment. <https://www.villageofclifton.com/full-coh-calendar/>. This information is posted on the vestibule boards. Wright State has not yet published their fall Music Dept Concerts and Recitals. When available this will also be posted.

October is part of the festival months:

- **Spring Valley Potato Festival.** October 7- 8, 6:00-9:00PM, (<https://www.springvalleyoh.com/events/>). Small town local family fun festival at Thompson Pavilion - Bledsoe Park. Entertainment "No Refunds Band" - 60's to today's popular.
- **Waynesville Sauerkraut Festival.** October 14 – 15, (<https://sauerkrautfestival.waynesvilleohio.com/>). One of Ohio's largest festivals - full length of Main Street. Check the website for details.
- **Fairborn Downtown Halloween Festival.** Friday, October 20, 4:00-11:00PM, Saturday, October 21, 12:00-11:00PM, and Sunday, October 22, 12:00-6:00PM. (<https://www.daytonlocal.com/things-to-do/fairborn-halloween-festival.asp>). Miami Valley's largest Halloween Festival with rides, live music, great food, drinks, vendors, zombie walk/costume contest and more. It's all happening in Downtown Fairborn!
- **Young's Jersey Dairy Fall Farm Family Fun.** Now through October 29, (<https://youngsdairy.com/fall-farm-festival/>). OH 68, 2 miles north of Yellow Springs. Always a good time for the family, also good food and ice cream at their restaurant.

Remember, keep Happy, Healthy and Safe

Thinking of You

Chuck

Liturgy Planning News

The Liturgy Committee will hold our last liturgy planning meeting for QAC on Sunday, October 3 immediately following Mass to plan for Advent, Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary. in 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!

October

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 <i>Phillis Hamilton</i> | 13 <i>Kathy Zadaín</i> |
| 5 <i>Dcn Gregory Cecere</i> | 15 <i>Steven Wilkinson</i> |
| 5 <i>Sierra Groff</i> | 16 <i>Carolyn Breining</i> |
| 5 <i>Sara Repasy *</i> | 19 <i>Sian Hernit</i> |
| 6 <i>Teesie Lupp</i> | 19 <i>Matt Naveau</i> |
| 7 <i>Carmen Perry</i> | 22 <i>Sharie McKenny</i> |
| 8 <i>Kelley Cox</i> | 24 <i>Owen Seibert</i> |
| 8 <i>Cathy Dempsey</i> | 26 <i>David Jennings</i> |
| 8 <i>Mary Lou Young</i> | 27 <i>Jean Brookey</i> |
| 10 <i>Danielle Renee Brode</i> | 29 <i>Cathy Adler</i> |
| 10 <i>Joseph Cox</i> | 30 <i>Marie Restivo</i> |
| 10 <i>Arvin Nanda</i> | |
| 10 <i>Don Rammel</i> | |
| 12 <i>Dennis Brode</i> | |
| 13 <i>Dan Berridge</i> | |

- 4 *Linda & Kevin Skinner*
 11 *Kelly & Jeff Bohrer*
 16 *Tanya & Eric Groff*
 16 *Sharon & Mike Herbert*
 16 *Elisabeth & Thomas Hangartner*
 17 *Maggie & Nick Atkinson*

*May the
 Lord Bless
 you and
 protect you*



St. Francis of Assisi

On October 4 we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis developed a deep love of nature and animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
 where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Update from the Murnane's

On Friday morning, as we drove to Linda's office, we experienced this scene about a half mile into our trip. From our experience in the US, we might have been tempted to think that we were approaching construction or a wreck or... Well, let's just say it wasn't any of those. Unfortunately, we've come to learn that this is a sign of a family's loss – that an "ilomej" is being held for the deceased.



There are no funeral directors or private morticians available in the Marshall Islands. All preparation of remains is done by the Ministry of Health. The quality of post-mortem care is a culturally acceptable standard in the Marshall Islands, but isn't what you would see in the United States. Like most things we've experienced during our time here, the expectations are driven by the differential in wealth between here and the United States.

Marshallese funerals include a wake, called an "ilomej," burial in a family grave, and a memorial ceremony. During the wake, the embalmed body usually remains in the custody of the family for one week, during which time extended family and friends pay their respects and celebrate the life of the deceased. Before entering the home to pay one's respects, one removes their shoes. The memorial period lasts longer than is customary in the United States as it may involve family traveling in from the outer islands as well as from places to which they may have migrated. Mourners traditionally bring condolence money (a contribution based on local means which is often quite modest) and surviving family members prepare a large quantity of food for those who pay their respects during the week.



The *ilomej* is frequently the most expensive part of a funeral and can cost more than \$5,000.

The burial ceremony usually occurs about one week after death. As the body is laid in the grave, remarks are given by the *Iroij* (paramount chief) and *Alap* (chief) who own the land where the dead is buried, and the parents or immediate relatives of the deceased.



Three days after the burial, a memorial service known as the *Eorak*, is conducted at the burial site. Family members place white pebbles or coral around the grave site signifying that tensions among family members have been removed and the dead may rest in peace.

The burial sites appear to be on family land and gravesites are tended by the family members.

The Marshallese are a deeply religious people. *Ilomej* include prayers offered by the religious representative of the faith practice of the deceased. There may also be a time set aside for specific religious groups to pay their respects to the family.

It is sadly the case that we have been asked to attend *ilomej* on many occasions while on Majuro. Whether due to disease or accident, or other cause, there seems a steady pattern of notices that there will be a service on a given day.

There is also, however, a common thread in these ceremonies that is common to services in the U.S. Regularly we will hear at the ceremonies here, as we do in the U.S., "Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

As we move into the season of fall, and closer to All Saints and All Souls Day, the ritual of honoring deceased loved ones in the Marshall Islands is a reminder that our Church is universal.

WORD SEARCH


Are you a word sleuth? See if you can find the words listed below.

Words may appear horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Action | Belonging | Catholic | Change | Charism |
| Community | Disciples | Education | Faith | God |
| Grace | Holy Spirit | Hospitality | Inclusive | Jesus |
| Listening | Love | Marianist | Martha | Mary |
| New Gathering | New Season | Passionate | Seeing | Social Justice |

October 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:45AM QAC Adult Formation (via Zoom) 9:00AM Religious Education (Si Lounge) 10:00AM Praying the Rosary 10:30AM Mass | 2 | 3 | 4 Feast day of St Francis | 5 7:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting 7:30PM Choir Practice | 6 | 7 Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary |
| 8 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00 AM Religious Education (Si Lounge) 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass <u>Occurring After Mass</u> Liturgy Planning (Vestibule) Social Justice Meeting (Si Lounge) | 9 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day | 10 | 11 | 12 7:30PM Choir Practice | 13 | 14 5:00PM Marianist World Day of Prayer Mass, Queen of Apostles Chapel |
| 15 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:45AM QAC Adult Formation (via Zoom) 9:00 AM Religious Education (Si Lounge) 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 7:30PM Choir Practice | 20 | 21 |
| 22 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time 9:00 AM Religious Education (Si Lounge) 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass (Dorothy Stang Award Presentation) | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 7:30PM Choir Practice | 27 | 28 |
| 29 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time 10:00 AM Praying the Rosary 10:30 AM Mass | 30 | 31 <i>All Hallows Eve</i> |  | | | |