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# LayUp

Lay Marists USA Update

## SEPTEMBER 2019

*“Our dream is to become a community where Marists are connected at local, national, and international levels, growing in communion and purpose through a wise leadership. We take care of our people, enhancing the formation processes that allow anyone who wants to be around the table to find his/her place.”*

[Dream Statement](#)

Lay Marist Assembly USA, July 2018

## NEWS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

**Where were we?** So, Adam and Matt and Maureen met with the Provincial Council at their June meeting. A few more details were hammered out, and a decision was made for the committee to continue to work together for the next few months.

**The committee’s first priority will be to distribute the Expression of Interest Form.** This form is a way for everyone to “sign up” for the first steps of

becoming a Lay Marist. It includes space for people to say who they are, what their connection to Marist is, what their formation experiences have been so far, and, of course, contact information. From there, each person will be contacted by a committee member to discuss further steps.

**Look for the form in the early weeks of September!** You are also encouraged to share it freely, to anyone you think might be interested.

Once again, the committee consists of:

Matt Fallon [mfallon03@gmail.com](mailto:mfallon03@gmail.com)

Maureen Hagan [mhagan8486@gmail.com](mailto:mhagan8486@gmail.com)

Lindsay Irwin [lirwin@sja.us](mailto:lirwin@sja.us)

Chris Sullivan [csullivan@centralcatholic.net](mailto:csullivan@centralcatholic.net)

Adam Wouk [adam.wouk@gmail.com](mailto:adam.wouk@gmail.com)

Share with us your thoughts, suggestions, comments, ideas...

## **A GLIMPSE AHEAD**

### **Discovering Our Call**

*(New Level 1 Program)*

October 4th - 6th, 2019

### **Embracing Our Call**

October 27th - 29th, 2019

### **Sharing Our Call 2**

January 19th - 21st, 2020

### **Sharing Our Call 1**

February 9th - 11th, 2020

## **CHECK OUT OUR NEW BROCHURE!**

Marist Life and Mission recently rolled out new brochures promoting Adult Formation Programs throughout the USA Province!

### **Further Reading**

[Gathered Around the Same Table](#)

[Being A Lay Marist](#)

# **BEING A LAY MARIST: The Time is Now!**

A new publication, "Being a Lay Marist", is now available. We hope to be

sending a copy to all those who attended the Assembly last summer. Once you receive your copy, read it and share it! If anyone was not at the assembly and would like a copy, please contact Matt or Maureen.

We encourage all interested parties to read it, reflect on it, and perhaps make some decisions about their commitment to the Marist mission of making Jesus known and loved. This is an important time for gatherings! We cannot emphasize enough that ALL are empowered, invited, and encouraged to gather folks together for prayer, discussion, and food. As most of us are still school connected, this is the 'Happy New Year' time. Resolutions and promises abound - Let's make things happen!

Although it's a busy time, it is also a good time for getting together for a simple prayer and social gathering. Maintaining connections is so important. Planning and actions can come a little later in the Fall, but try to organize something simple NOW! Send us photos – send your format – to inspire and help others to do the same. Don't get too crazy – ask a few people that you know are interested, ask one or two to bring some light snacks, keep it simple.

Some possible themes for meetings:

The Five Pillars – simplicity, presence, love of work, family spirit, in the way of Mary. How can these guide us in our day to day interactions?

The Three Violets– simplicity, humility, chastity. Again, are these touchstones for us on a daily basis?

The statement from New Marists in Mission, Nairobi– called to be mystics, prophets, in communion. Each of us may interpret these differently. What do they mean? How do we live it?

The Calls of the General Chapter– “As a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world, to be the face and hands of your tender mercy. Inspire our creativity to be bridge-builders, to journey with children and young people on the margins of life, and to respond boldly to emerging needs.” What can we do, from where we stand, to incorporate these calls into our lives and work?

# ADULT SERVICE TRIP

## IS A TRIP TO EL PASO IN YOUR FUTURE???

*“The “Encuentro Project”, in Ciudad Juárez (Mexico) and El Paso (United States), offers services for planning and lodging to deal with life experiences, in the area between the two countries, dedicated to migrants. The project includes direct work with applicants for asylum, migrants and refugees. Also, it offers social Catholic education about projects and the lives of migrants on the frontiers, through visits, meditation and spiritual accompaniment.”*

From the Marist Brothers USA website (maristbr.com)

In El Paso there is a huge community of volunteers who are helping the asylum seekers. They staff 29 centers under the umbrella of Annunciation House, which is the original refugee center started by Reuben Garcia in 1974. Br. Todd Patenaude and Marist Life and Mission are collaborating to bring groups down to El Paso to serve and to learn. The Encuentro Project provides housing, meals, and an opportunity to work in the shelters. More importantly, participants would have a chance to meet with border patrol agents, immigration lawyers, and others to provide a broader education on Catholic social teaching in this area.

Contact Maureen Hagan [mhagan8486@gmail.com](mailto:mhagan8486@gmail.com) to put your name on the list. Please note that a passport will be needed, as we will be crossing the border into Mexico at El Paso. We are also exploring the possibility of helping at Mass in the ICE detention center, but this requires background checks that need to be completed one month ahead of time. You will receive more information on this once you have signed up.

We are suggesting that flight arrangements be made through Hooker Travel: Mary – (845) 454-1600. Mary will be able to help us coordinate arrivals/departures as they pertain to transportation to/from the airport. If you wish to book your own flight, please plan to arrive in El Paso between noon and 3pm on November 7th.

Departures should be made for after 2pm.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**Fall 2019 at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus**

If interested, complete the registration form and email

to [mhagan8486@gmail.com](mailto:mhagan8486@gmail.com) or mail to

Maureen Hagan, 213 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Roselle, NJ 07203.

**DISCOVERING OUR CALL: *Exploring Marist Identity and Spirituality***

This is a new program, designed to meet the needs of those not in school ministry. It will be held this year on the weekend of **Oct 4-6, 2019**— a lovely time to be in Esopus. Join us for some time for learning more about Marist spirituality and about how to live the mission to “make Jesus known and loved”, wherever you may live or work. There will be time for prayer, quiet reflection, walks around the property, and community.

Come and meet your fellow Marists on the journey. Cost is \$150 and includes housing, meals, and program materials. Financial assistance is available, for those in need. [Complete the form ASAP](#) - space is limited.

**EMBRACING OUR CALL: *A Retreat***

This program came about after requests from folks around the province for a Marist retreat. The themes explore what it means to be a mystic, a prophet and in communion. Spiritual practices, prayer, and silence combine to make this a nourishing experience, in a place that people often say helps them feel closer to God. Held October 27-29, beginning Sunday afternoon with Mass and ending on Tuesday with brunch. [Download the registration form now!](#)

***Let Us Remember...***

For new beginnings, as the school year gets underway in our schools...

For the Class of 2019, as they begin a new phase of life, whether school, work, service...

For all who are sick, who are struggling in any way and for those who care for them...

For those suffering the effects of the hurricanes and other natural disasters...

For those at the border and all of us as we work for peace and justice...

***To Pray For Each Other!***



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