Community Continuation Committee (CCC)

The CCC is continuing to research various options for our consideration that will help us plan for the future. They completed collecting information from you, our QAC members, about the aspects or characteristics YOU want/need in QAC’s future (Step 1) and made the data available for viewing in the vestibule on Sundays. The team then ranked your replies (Step 2) and again, made the information available on Sundays.

This information will help us evaluate and match up with the various options that we are researching. Once all the data and information has been combined, the CCC will present it to the community. Minutes from the CCC November meeting are posted on QAC’s website at https://qac-ohio.org/?page_id=3423.

Ministry of Consoling

Winter and its cold dark days are always hard, even more so if you have experienced the death of a relative or friend. The ministry is sponsoring a Grief Circle on the Death of a Loved One on Sunday January 19th at 1:30PM in Si Lounge. Grief, no matter how many times you deal with it, comes and goes. It could be a song or a photo that re-triggers your valid feelings. If you are experiencing grief, whether the deaths are recent or long ago, please consider participating in this two hour Circle. Our Circles may be experienced more than once since the richness comes from our participants. Please email Steve Guilfoos at sguilfoos@woh.rr.com to reserve your space.

Follow and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Queen-of-Apostles-Community-117192511632358/
Stewardship—New Year Resolutions—Better Disciples

It’s that time again where we make New Year’s resolutions. Some are easy, while others—like losing weight and trying to quit smoking—take a lot of discipline. So as I was writing my article for this month’s Spirit, I kept misspelling the word “discipline” and Microsoft Word kept changing the word to “disciple.” At first it seemed weird, but then I realized that it was probably the work of the Holy Spirit making that change. My original article included asking everyone to consider making a resolution to be better stewards, and now...I think its better to ask everyone to consider being better disciples. It’s awesome how the Spirit works in our lives.

In one of my first Stewardship articles, I referred to the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response” where they described a Christian steward as one who:

- Receives God’s gifts gratefully
- Cherishes and tends them responsibly
- Shares them in justice and love
- Returns them to God.

As we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, remember how the Magi opened their treasures before Jesus, our newborn King, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is an ideal time to remember all of the abundant gifts God has given us and our families, and to reflect on how we can use those gifts to serve our God during the year ahead, to be better disciples of Christ.

The scale shows our weekly offering (collections) against the commitment (pledges) we made when we approved our Budget in June 2019 (target). Please remember that it is through this budget that we are making a stewardship pledge, and that includes our Social Justice Ministry.

(QA) Spirit is online at: https://qac-ohio.org/?page_id=124
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

QAC, Social Justice and the Loaves and the Fishes Experience

One of the most wonderful aspects of belonging to the Queen of Apostles Community and being engaged with the Social Justice Ministry is the opportunity to live the “Loaves and Fishes” experience over and over again. While that experience is renewed each and every month, it is always so prevalent in December during the Advent and Christmas seasons in our community.

Following many years of serving as the “elves” behind the Advent Giving Tree, this year Dan and Carol Berridge passed this ministry to Tanya and Eric Groff and their team. The tree is filled with gifts donated by our Community members serving the underserved both in and around the greater Dayton area, but also through our Change and Be Changed commitment, sending Christmas cheer to Africa. We want to thank Dan and Carol for their many years of service and also thank Tanya and Eric for taking on the role this year.

We also share our gifts with our service at the Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Schneider House of Hope, Brigid’s Path, Elizabeth New Life Center, prison ministry, Dakota Center, Marianist Environmental Education Center, House of Bread, Homeful, the Marianist Institute of Rural Artisans for Christian Life Education (MIRACLE), Marianist Mission of Mary Farm, and the Morning Star School (India), as well as others. Monthly, our donations to St. Vincent De Paul and our gifts of fresh fruit and produce make a real and immediate difference in the lives of others. In February, we will once again repeat that miracle through our Day of Caring Pancake Breakfast.

Every month, ten percent of your donation to Queen of Apostles fuels these ministries and others to continue the work of being Christ to others – continuing the work of Christ in multiplying the loaves and fishes.

On December 11th, those who attended the QAC Advent Gathering were blessed with a presentation on racism, white privilege and how to change ourselves and our community by reaching out to someone who may be different than we are. QAC members, Kelly Bohrer and Bill Meers, inspired us with their insights, and helped us to embrace the true spirit of Advent, preparing to welcome the Christ Child in our lives. Kelly shared shocking mortality rate statistics in our community tied to neighborhoods we live in right here in our greater Dayton community.

Practical advice included engaging in a conversation with someone who is not the same as you, whether that be because of skin color, income level, national origin, religious background or other difference. A practical first step in changing our community is to reach out to someone you perceive as “different” in some way.

When I hear the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph, being turned away from a place to rest, despite her advanced stage of pregnancy, the Advent experience becomes real in the context of what Bill and Kelly shared. Are we willing to open our door to someone new – or do we close the door and say, “There is no room in the inn.” Advent is the perfect time to change that narrative.

Whether you read the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, the story of Christ being asked to give the people something to eat, and being offered five barley loaves and two fishes really does tell the story of our Queen of Apostles Community. We share what we have without expectation of return, whether it is our time, our talent, or our treasure. Whether you help someone through prayer, through a meal, through a donation, through your service in liturgy, in dance, in music, in silence, in solace, in written and spoken kindness, you live everyday the miracle of the loaves and fishes in and among our QAC Community.

For me, during this special season of Peace, that is what makes sharing the season with all of you so special. Thank you. Blessings of the season to all of you.
Warning Signs for Teen Drug or Alcohol Use ~ by Terri Blanken

I once heard that “God makes teenagers difficult so parents are relieved when they move out.” But if this transition into adulthood seems to go beyond the norm, one needs to consider that drugs or alcohol use may be an issue.

Having honest conversations with your adolescents and teens on a regular basis is the best preventative. Teens who consistently learn about the risks of drugs are less likely to use drugs than those who don’t. Conversation starters might be: Do any of your classmates or friends talk about using drugs or alcohol? Have they offered you any? Why do you think they use drugs or alcohol? How is this affecting their relationships with others or their progress in school? How do you feel about this? If the answer is “yes”, be prepared to keep the lines of communication open by remaining calm and withhold judgement.

The Partnership For Drug-Free Kids Center On Addiction has published the following warning signs for drug or alcohol use:

- Behavioral changes
- Mood and personality shifts
- Hygiene and appearance problems
- Health issues
- School and work concerns
- Disappearance of pills, money or valuables
- Appearances of homemade drug apparatuses
- Unusual odors in their car or house, use of air fresheners
- Evasive answers about where he/she spends time or with whom
- Locked bedroom doors
- Periods of hyperactivity and agitation
- Longer than usual periods of sleep or lethargy
- Eye redness and frequent use of eye drops

If substance use is a concern, it is best to err on the side of caution and seek advice or an evaluation by a mental health counselor. For more information go to drugfree.org. Open meetings are held each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 PM in Si Lounge to provide resources, offer support for those struggling with substance disorder, those in recovery, and their families and friends.
A Few Thoughts about Marianist Charism shared by one of our QAC Members

— Sharon DiLorenzo

1. People of Faith – As spiritual individuals, Marianists carry out God’s will in their service to others.

I am so proud of the work our Community has done concerning service. Our commitment to service begins with our pledge to take a portion of our giving right off the top. It doesn’t end there. We are involved in so many ministries both here and around the world. It doesn’t end there. As individuals, our “family” has ministered to each and every member in times of joy and sadness.

2. Followers of Mary – Marianists view Mary as the model of discipleship.

As Mary did, we have committed ourselves to the discipleship Mary has shown us. We profess this in our liturgies and through our acts of faith in our community life and our individual lives.

3. People of Community.

I know no other place where people have built such a caring community that reaches far, far beyond the walls of QAC. It has been my faith journey where I have been privileged to walk with and be attended to by followers of Christ who give more of themselves to others than even some biological families.


I have never felt that we don’t have a voice in the life of our community. I have never felt that the priest or anyone else had the complete and only say in the direction of our community. The most wonderful opportunity that has been afforded me and anyone who would like, is to plan a liturgy. To bear my soul and faith through my choice of music and intentions is such a gift!

5. Leaders in Mission.

Many people in our Community have been called to act beyond themselves and take on missions that they would never have if it weren’t for QAC. Our Community has gone far beyond Sunday to reach others just like the dandelion!

A question on the survey we were all asked to complete was how important the Marianist charism was to me. I really don’t know how to answer this question since it has been the total focus of my faith involvement, and the way we have always functioned in the years I have attended QAC.

Finally, I don’t see what some of the proposed changes have to do with Marianist charism. Does our choice of creed that we feel expresses our commitment more fully have anything to do with these charisms? Is being the same as other liturgies more important than carrying out our mission? We have, I feel, been accused of not being reverent enough. I don’t believe this for a minute. We express our reverence every time we fulfill our mission to love God and others as we would love ourselves.

I attend different parishes in different cities and states, and I can assure you that they are not the same. In my parish in Florida, people talk to each other in church before and after Mass. They are older and often alone and need the human contact that feeds their spirit. The Hail Mary is spoken at every Mass. In Cleveland, there are no kneelers and people also talk before and after Mass.

Should sameness be more important than our commitment to our Marianist charisms?

Forever grateful for the love I have received from my Community.
Marianist Community Insight — Founders Day

The annual Marianist Founders Day Mass and Celebration is an opportunity for the local Marianist Family to gather and celebrate our common mission, history, and to give thanks for the ways God has been working in the local Marianist Family. This year, this Mass will be held on Saturday, January 18th at 4:00 PM at the QAC Chapel at Mount St. John with a reception to follow in the Bergamo Center. More information can be found at: https://www.daytonmarianistfamily.com/founders-day-mass-january-2020.

In preparation for the Dayton Area Marianist Founders’ Day celebration, we are reaching out to all Marianist Communities to encourage your participation on that day and through sharing about your community initiatives. There are several aspects of this day that we are requesting your participation so this may truly be a "family" celebration!

- We ask each community to designate one representative to carry a candle in the opening procession.
- We are also seeking a “sentence” or two about how your community has been of service in the past year or how you bring light to the world.

Communities may also submit a slide with pictures to include in a slideshow that will be played during the reception after Mass. We already have slides from some communities (see what we have already by clicking here) but we would love to have more from others!

We want the Founders’ celebration to have representation and participation from all of our Marianist communities and institutions. We welcome musicians and singers to join the music ministry. We also need gift bearers, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, greeters, and readers of the intercessory prayers.

Please send your images, your community's sentence, and interest in volunteering for any roles to either Brent Devitt brentd@bergamocenter.org or Sr. Leanne Jablonski leanne.jablonski@gmail.com with “Marianist Founders Day” in the subject line by January 10th! Thanks so much!

Hey QAC...Did you know?

- When its time to receive Eucharist, as we exit the pew, we can form two lines, only forming a single line to allow our brothers and sisters who use a mobility device room to walk.
- That there are “busy” bags available in the vestibule for children that can be used during Mass and returned after.
- That there are lost and found items located in a box on the shelf of the coat rack in the vestibule. Be sure to check to see if any of these items belong to you.
- During inclement weather, be sure to watch the “school and business closings” on our local TV channels or an email from Deacon Greg before coming to Mass.
Share Your Light
by Steve Guilfoos

Every candle illuminates our way
In the light, the candle dimly glows
And is rarely necessary
In the dark, the candle glows brightly
And is greatly needed

The sound of a shining candle in the light
Is lost in the noises of the day
The sound of a shining candle in the dark
Is the music of love and hope

If you light just one candle
Be that candle
For someone in their darkness
Share your light

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

Get those creative juices flowing...
We would love to feature your artwork or writing creativity in an upcoming Spirit.
Send your writing or drawing to qacspirit@att.net by the 18th of each month.
It seems like December 31, 1999 was only yesterday, when so many people were predicting chaos on all computers on January 1, 2000 since most programs only saved the year date by the last two digits. Many predicted the computers would interpret 00 to mean 1900, which would then send many calculations into chaos, and many bank accounts would be frozen. To my memory nothing happened. January 1st came and went and the banks reopened on January 2nd with no problem. Looking ahead twenty years from now, let’s hope that it is the same with global warming — nothing will happen. The only problem is we will have to wait twenty years for the answer, not the next day. Within reason, let’s see what can be done to help stop this.

Looking forward into the New Year for my Free and Nearly Free:

I have posted the Winter/Spring Concerts and Recitals of the Wright State Music Department on the boards in the vestibule. Last year I went to three concerts and I enjoyed them very much. One in particular was the Wind Symphony, as the music selections were very reminiscent of The Grand Canyon Suite. The Sinclair 2019-2020 Music and Performing Arts information is also posted on the boards.

As for the Dayton amateur theater, the Dayton Playhouse will present “Man of LaMancha” Jan 17-Feb 2. Email www.daytonplayhouse.com or call (937) 424-8477 for ticket information.

I rate Wright State as number one and the Dayton Playhouse as number two for area amateur theater. Both do a great job.

ENJOY!
QAC Youthzine

Welcome to our monthly section of The SPIRIT devoted to our youth

If you would like to write for it, just send Erica Rudemiller an email (lerudemiller@gmail.com) with your article by the 10th day of the month!

Religious Education Classes meet the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sunday of each month, with LIFE meeting on just the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Please refer to the schedule printed to the right for specific dates.

High School and Middle School—Murder Mystery Party will be held in February….more details to come!

Other Information

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION.** Adults gathering to share faith and grow in community, discussions are typically guided by a book or shared reading. The group meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:00-10:15 AM in the Family Room in Si Lounge.

**CROSSROADS/LIFE.** High School group for students in grades 9-12. Teens plan the topics as related to the Catholic faith to be discussed and explored with the direction and guidance of moderators. Meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:00-10:15 AM. Parents are invited to the first meeting to learn more about this transition and how to aide their child in their faith formation.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP.** Group for grades 4-8 to learn about their faith and grow in community through hands-on learning and faith sharing. The group meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:00-10:15 AM.

**NURSERY/PRESCHOOL.** Available during Mass for children birth-6 years old. Lessons, games, crafts, and activities are flexible depending on those who attend. Offered during Mass throughout the RE year. Volunteers are needed to teach Pre-School occasionally. We have a few children and families who would like a class offered during Mass time…the schedule is flexible.

**First Reconciliation News**

Congratulations to

**Johanna Schwaab** and **Aidan Tchorz**

who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 19th for the first time!
QAC Bethlehem Star

Senior Brunch Bunch

WE PRAY THAT PEACE
AND JOY BE YOURS
THIS BLESSED SEASON

Celebrating Advent

Celebrating Christmas
THE EPHIPPANY

At the beginning of the new year we celebrate both Mary, the Mother of God and the Epiphany, which is when the wise men came from far away to worship baby Jesus.

Imagine that you are living a long time ago in Bethlehem and your parents have invited a poor family to stay at your house: a mother, a father, and a new baby.

One day something amazing happens. Some rich men from a far away country come to see the baby and bring expensive treasures for him! Do you know who the family is now? Who is the baby?

The baby is Jesus, of course, and the mother is Mary. She holds Jesus on her lap so the wise men can bow down to Him and worship Him. Mary co-operated with God to bring Jesus into the world so that we could all see and love and worship Him.
# January 2020

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| 09:00AM Religious Ed  
10:30AM Mass |   | 10:30AM Women’s Faith Sharing | 6:30PM Substance Abuse Disorder Support Meeting  
7:00PM Community Continuity Committee Meeting | 7:30PM Choir Practice |   | 9:00AM Blanket Making Project |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 09:00AM Religious Ed  
10:30AM Mass |   |   | 6:30PM Substance Abuse Disorder Support Meeting | 7:30PM Choir Practice |   | 4:00PM Marianist Founders Day Celebration |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 09:00AM Religious Ed  
10:30AM Mass  
1:30PM Ministry of Consoling | 6:00PM Young Families Potluck Committee Mtg | 10:30AM Women’s Faith Sharing  
7:00PM Steering Committee | 6:30PM Substance Abuse Disorder Support Meeting | 7:30PM Choir Practice |   |   |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |   |
| 10:30AM Mass  
12:00Noon Donuts & Bagels, Community Mtg |   |   | 6:30PM Substance Abuse Disorder Support Meeting | 7:30PM Choir Practice |   |   |

**January Eucharistic Bread Bakers**

5th Peggy Cashero  
12th Bob Buescher  
19th Mary Rice  
26th Marie Restivo/Gina Greet

If you'd like to make the Eucharistic Bread, recipes are furnished.  
For information call Ruby Bauer, 426-7260.