



Marianist Lay Community of North America (MLC-NA)

The Marianist Center

1341 N. Delaware Ave., Suite 301, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125

(215) 634-4116 • www.mlc-na.org

Being Church in the Modern World

Statement on the Release of Names by the Society of Mary

The Leadership Council of the Marianist Lay Community of North America expresses its sadness, gratitude, prayers and support in response to the Society of Mary's release of names of priests and brothers who have credibly been accused of abuse of the vulnerable, most notably, children.

We are angered at and condemn institutional, Church, and societal systems and structures that have allowed such travesties to take place, often without consequences. While the past cannot be undone or forgotten, we commend the Society of Mary for this bold step, its transparency, its current child protection policy, and its Praesidium accreditation. We offer our prayers for healing and support for victims and their loved ones, for the Society of Mary, for the accused, and for all who share in the pain of this news.

We believe in accountability, not just for priests and brothers, but for all members of the Marianist Family and the Church. We, as laity, also have a responsibility to protect children and the vulnerable. Let us commit to our own safe practices, and hold one another accountable, just as we ask our brothers to do the same.

As a charismatic family and Marian face of the Church, may we be models of prayer, forgiveness, and support as well as advocates for justice and accountability. Let us continue to also demonstrate leadership that challenges the status quo, promotes interdependence over dependence, and disrupts the systems of unjust power and authority that foster misconduct, dishonesty and deception.

Above all, we ask for God's grace in all things.

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

United in Mary's Mission,

Matt Dunn, Chair
Kerryanne Bollman
Rob Brodrick
Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch
Paul Combest
Sarah Gray, Administrator
Margy Lisjak

LeeAnn Meyer
Marceta Reilly
Abbey Saurine
Kelly Welling
Corinne Woodruff
Fr. Ted Cassidy, SM, Advisor