

## **LGBT Initiative Team – Lots Happening in the Last Month**

The members of the LGBT Initiative have been involved in a variety of outreach activities and events during the past few weeks.

- Brian Halderman, along with a representative from each of MSJC's issue teams, led a conversation with the Marianist Leadership Program at St. Mary's University. Brian gave a brief presentation about the work of our team and offered reflection questions for small group discussions. About seventy students attended this Zoom gathering.
- Amanda Tran, the Coordinator of Academic and Cultural Events at St. Mary's University, organized a virtual panel on being an LGBTQ+ ally. Ish Ruiz gave the keynote talk, and Brian Halderman, Amy Pollicino, Beth Garascia, Dominic Garascia, and Brad Leger from the team, as well as Bro. Brian Zampier and three employees from St. Mary's, were members of the panel. Over thirty persons participated. Participants shared many stories and posed thoughtful questions. The discussion was spirited and helpful to all participants.
- Ish Ruiz and Brian Halderman gave a keynote talk to over forty students at the University of Dayton followed by a showing of our new video, "Living Our Marianist Charism: Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community." This was part of a series in which UD honors underrepresented groups. The participants expressed appreciation for the Marianist charism of inclusivity.
- Amy Pollicino, Brad Leger, and Beth Garascia led the second "Trans in the Eyes of God" podcast series conversation via Zoom that focused on "Discussing Trans Inclusion with Faith Communities." There were nine participants in this lively conversation about the gift of encountering God in someone else's experience.
- Ish Ruiz participated in a conversation with UD Chaminade Scholars.

If your community would like to schedule a panel presentation or a conversation via Zoom with several team members about our video, please contact one of our co-chairs, Ish Ruiz or Brian Halderman at [msjclgbt@gmail.com](mailto:msjclgbt@gmail.com). We'd be glad to schedule such an event.