



MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY
OF NORTH AMERICA



Annual Report

July 2020 – June 2021



Year in Review

Dear Lay Marianists,

This is a blessed time to be together with you and I am grateful for your presence!

As an association of the faithful, the mission of the MLC-NA is to energize Lay Marianists to be church in the modern world. We do this together in the Marianist Family, wherever and whenever we can! In his *Manual of Marianist Spirituality*, Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, reminds us that “All the members of the Marianist Family are missionaries, insofar as each one contributes in some way to the permanent mission of the Family as a whole. It is not only a question of how faithful we are to our personal call, but also what we contribute to making our community a permanent mission.”

Throughout this past year, you have called the MLC-NA Leadership Council to focus on formation, build connections, challenge the laity to take on greater responsibility, and strengthen our relationships among the Marianist Family. The ways we demonstrated who we are, where we are heading, what we offer, and how we support one another included:

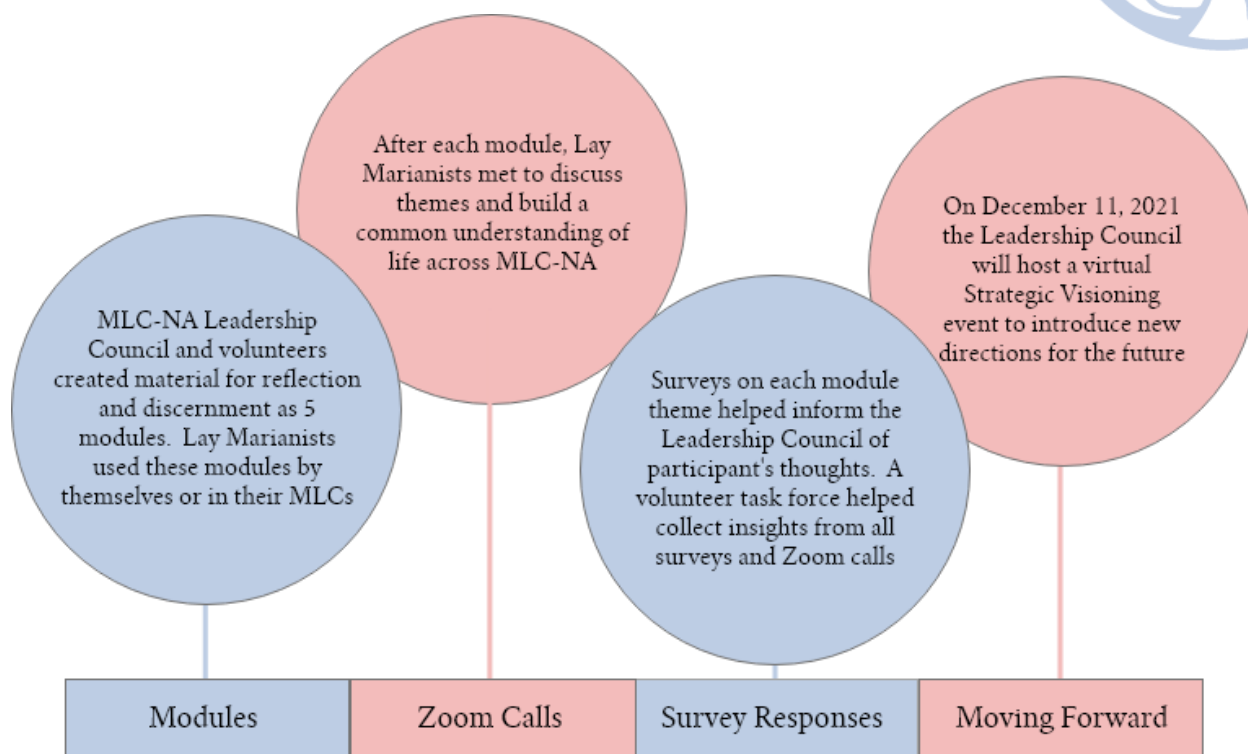
- Gathering with 404 participants at the 2020 Virtual Lay Assembly, as we heard our call to be missionaries and models for our Church from Fr. Greg Boyle and Dr. Hoffsman Espino.
- Undertaking the first discernment process among all Lay Marianists through the Year of Shared Discernment. Lay Marianists developed the modules used for the discernment process and the MLC-NA Area Reps hosted the monthly phone calls to dialogue and share our reflections. Over 253 individuals joined the MLC-NA Leadership Council in deepening their understanding of the Marianist charism and intentionally connecting with other Marianist Laity throughout North America.
- Successfully writing and submitting a proposal to fund and hire a full-time National Director for MLC-NA, who will focus on the growth, development, and sustainability of Lay Marianists, moving us into the future as a strong and stable lay branch.
- Forming new Lay Marianists from the East Coast to Maui and Cleveland to San Antonio through the MLC-NA Virtual Formation program. Twenty-one individuals from our schools, parishes, retreat centers, and communities joined together for an 8-session initial formation program guided by Marianist Lay and Religious presenters.
- Redesigning and rebranding the MLC-NA logo, website, and newsletter to highlight and creatively engage and serve our membership.
- Connecting across the city, across the country, and across our world, to pray and contemplate the blessings and challenges, as well as the joys and sorrows, of our broader Marianist Family.

We are grateful for the many ways we have joined together this past year. As we continue to grow the capacity of the Marianist Laity, it is your presence and your gifts of time, talent, and resources that will help us to make the difference we seek to be as vibrant animators of the Marianist charism in our daily encounters.

Together in our commitment as Missionaries of Mary,

Margy Lisjak
Chair

MLC-NA Programs



Year of Shared Discernment

The Year of Shared Discernment was the first time MLC-NA collaborated together as a community of communities to collectively discern a shared future. This effort provided time and resources for Lay Marianists to deepen their understanding of the Marianist charism, intentionally connect with others throughout North America, and discern the future of our community of communities. Over the course of five modules, Lay Marianists could pray and reflect individually, discuss recommended books and articles within a community, and share their learning and insights with other Lay Marianists. Participation in monthly Zoom calls led by MLC-NA Area Reps and participating in surveys helped Lay Marianists connect and share their insights.

Over 253 Lay Marianists participated in the Year of Shared Discernment. Of these participants, 200 joined from one of 19 Marianist Lay Communities, while another 53 joined as individuals. They reflected on the gifts that the Marianist charism provides for the church, described ways they live as Marianists in the world, and expressed their needs, desires, and hopes for the future of the Marianist Family. A task force is currently analyzing all of the survey responses and zoom call conversations and making recommendations for next steps in creating our shared vision. The Leadership Council will host a virtual Strategic Visioning event on December 11, 2021 to present findings, incorporate feedback, and discuss volunteer opportunities.

Participation in the Year of Shared Discernment

253 Lay
Marianists

19
Communities



Formation

The most notable success for the Office of Education in 2021 has been the start of our virtual formation program. Using a framework developed by Bro. Steve Glodek, with the help of nine different Marianist presenters across the country, and the help of NACMS, we have been able to provide educational resources and a formation opportunity for over 20 participants.

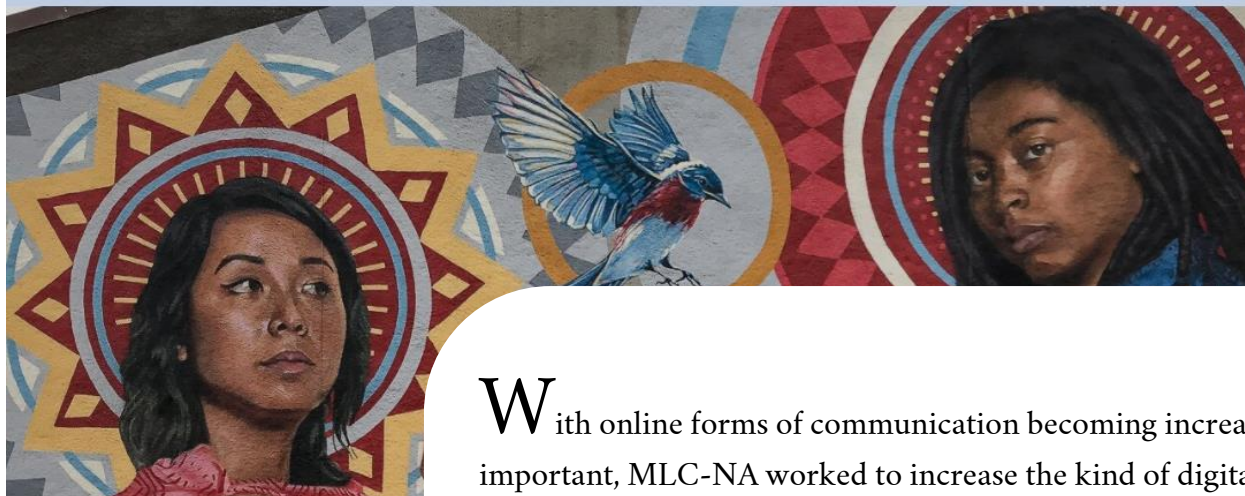
Additionally, from this program, a small group has continued meeting with the hope of forming a community. We plan on offering this program again with the hope that it can connect people to the Family and provide accessibility to resources and learning opportunities for anyone who wants them.



Area Representatives

Area Reps are Lay Marianist leaders spread across the United States and French speaking Canada. Over the past year, the primary work of the Area Reps has focused on the Year of Shared Discernment. Their facilitation of module zoom calls has engaged a number of Lay Marianists from across the US. Their main role of supporting community development in their respective regions as well as helping keep their local communities apprised of information from the national Leadership Council of MLC-NA has been invaluable in the development of our Lay Marianist database and expanding connections beyond our local communities.

The Area Reps have also engaged in their own development in the charism, studying and reflecting upon *The Guide to Life in the MLC-NA* and engaging with various members of the Marianist Family during conference calls. The team has been built out to provide leadership to 8 of the 9 regions across the US and French speaking Canada. For the names and contact information for our Area Reps, please visit www.mlcna.org.



With online forms of communication becoming increasingly important, MLC-NA worked to increase the kind of digital resources that will help Lay Marianists connect with one another. Three achievements are particularly noteworthy:

- **New Website:** MLC-NA launched a new website at www.mlcna.org. This website will serve as a key resource to find information about Lay Marianist life in North America. Go here to learn more information about our communities, find documents, and learn about activities such as the Year of Shared Discernment.
- **Lay Marianist Database:** Although you can't see it – yet! – MLC-NA has been working hard behind the scenes to gather up-to-date information about all Lay Marianists and Marianist Lay Communities. In the future, this information will be used to help Lay Marianists connect with one another in new and exciting ways.
- **Support for “Gathering in the Spirit”:** The Embers Community launched a creative online experience called “Gathering in the Spirit.” Through video calls, this program helps make space for the Marianist Family to regularly pray, build stronger relationships with one another, and grow deeper in the Marianist Charism. If you haven't joined one yet, look for email announcements, or contact info@mlcna.org for more information.



Support for Marianist Family Ministries



Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC)



In partnership with the Society of Mary and Marianist Sisters, MLC-NA provides financial support to the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC). MLC-NA has promised to continue increasing financial support of MSJC by growing our donation by 10% each year so that this organization can continue to make a powerful impact on the Marianist Family and beyond.

Some highlights from MSJC this past year include:

1. MSJC ran 4 successful iterations of a Racial Equity Podcast Discussion Series called Seeing White with over 45 participants in the Marianist Family.
2. The LGBT Initiatives' [*Living Our Marianist Charism - Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community*](#) video was published and received an outpouring of support.
3. In light of the global pandemic, MSJC moved many of its events, including a Juneteenth celebration, other podcast discussion groups, and a series highlighting women in the Church, successfully to online platforms.

To learn more or get involved with an MSJC issue team, please visit www.msjc.net.

International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities

MLC-NA is a financial contributor to the International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities, which is responsible for coordinating activity of Lay Marianists across the globe. In addition to publishing the bi-monthly *Marianist Magnificat*, the international team worked hard this year to:

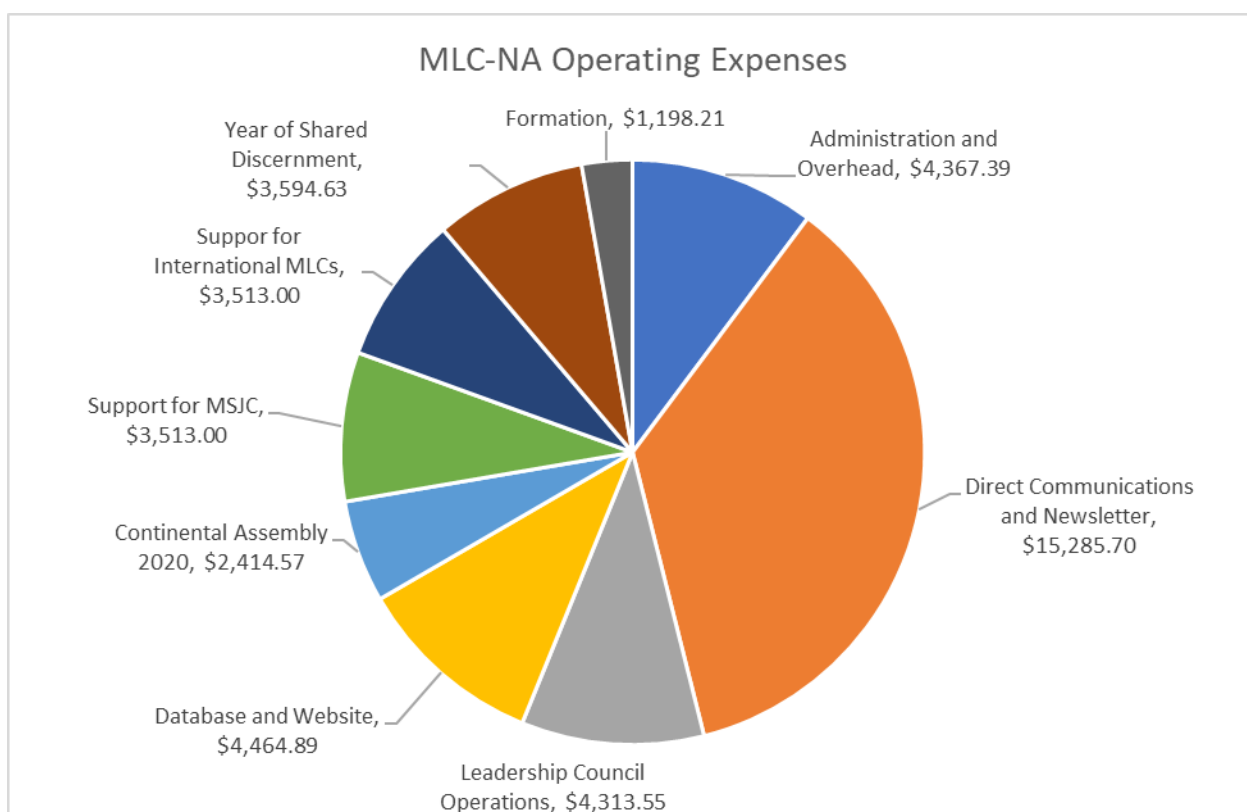
- Draft a comprehensive Sexual Abuse Policy for MLCs using Vatican guidelines. MLC-NA has been the first region to approve it!
- Organize a prayer service for the Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family (Annunciation Day) on March 25.
- Prepare a prayer service for the World Day of Prayer on October 10 at the Subukia Shrine in Kenya.
- Distribute the first circular, [*Transformed and Transformers: Formation in the Marianist Lay Communities*](#) by our president, Beatrice le Blanc, about Lay Formation.
- Begin planning the 8th quadrennial International Lay Assembly in Madrid, Spain in 2022. The theme will be about dreaming together our future as a Marianist Family.



Finances

In the last fiscal year, MLC-NA's revenue was \$31,473.68. This revenue is entirely from donations from vowed and Lay Marianists, as well as other Marianist collaborators. This past year, MLC-NA's operating expenses came to \$42,644.93 and therefore the organization ran a deficit of -\$11,191.25. This deficit was incurred in part because MLC-NA hired its first-ever employee, Sarah Gray. Sarah's position is shared evenly between MLC-NA and MSJC, thus allowing both organizations to expand their activities. The Leadership Council is entering a process of forming a new development plan that will help cover all expenses in future years.

If you are not yet a regular financial contributor to MLC-NA and would like to learn more, please email info@mlc-na.org or go to www.mlcna.org.



"These are exciting times for the Lay branch of the Marianist Family! With the addition of a half-time administrator last year, and the soon to be full-time national director this year, we are poised to make great strides in furthering this 'Magnificent work.'"

- Paul Combest,
Head of Temporalities



Sarah Gray, MLC-NA's new
Administrator

Marianist Lay Communities

MLC-NA is made up of all Marianist Laity and MLCs in the United States and Canada. At the present time, we have verified 54 active communities and over 1,014 active members. 714 of those individuals are members of a Marianist Lay Community, while another 300 members are active Lay Marianists but not currently members of an MLC.

California

West Hills Community
Wrightwood Sodality

Colorado

Marianist Affiliates of Southern CO

Florida

Chaminade-Madonna

Hawaii

Faith of the Heart
Ohana 'O Malia
Ohana Kaminaka

Illinois

Misericorde
Springfield Affiliate Community

Indiana

Shekan Community

Kansas

Harvest Prayer MLC
Harvest Women

Maryland

Hearts on Fire
Singletons of Saragossa

Missouri

Canan Companions
Chaminade College Prep MLC
Magnificat MO
St Mary's HS

Nebraska

Marianist Affiliates Omaha

New Jersey

Hands of Mary
Marianist Associates of Cape May
NYC Metro Lay Community

New York

Sodality of Our Lady of the Pillar

Ohio

Ahava
Anawim
Cleveland MLC
Fiat
L'Esperance
Marianist Flame
Micah 6:8
Micah Theotokos
Roots
Well Community

Pennsylvania

Heart of Mary
Maranatha

Texas

Coppell Texas Affiliate Community
Denton Texas Maria
Emmaus of Ft. Worth
Magnificat of San Antonio
Nova Bella
Stella Maris
Tehotokos

Wisconsin

Capernaum
Marynook Lay Marianist Affiliates

Virtual Communities

Embers
Ephphatha
Eudokeo
Hearth
Morning Star
Our Lady of the Round Table
Phoenix
Visitation Marianist State Community
Vessels

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