

REFLECTIONS AS I RETIRE

by Jim Vogt

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Today marks the end of my employment with MSJC. I've been director for over 18 years. It's been one of the best jobs a person could have. A big part of my satisfaction stems from working with people who care deeply about the social justice issues we've tackled. I will definitely miss connecting on a regular basis with them.



Jim Vogt

As I leave, I have a few hopes for MSJC that I'd like to share.

- It's critical that MSJC be a **visionary** part of the Marianist Family. While I believe MSJC has always been a forward-looking organization, we have to guard against being satisfied with what we're doing. What new battles for justice is God calling us to consider? We must be willing to stretch, or to be stretched.
- MSJC needs to be a place **where younger people can find a home**, so we can help them organize to be more effective in achieving their hopes for a better world. I've been heartened by the increasing number of young adults taking leadership in MSJC. Let's keep expanding our outreach to them.
- **Listening**, especially **to those who are marginalized**, must be a central part of discerning future directions. Most of us live in a world that is too white, too middle class, too comfortable. We have to reach beyond that world, sometimes beyond our comfort zone, to hear the cries of those who are the victims of injustice.
- We in MSJC must continue to call the Marianist Family **to be bold in confronting injustice**. Calling out injustice can be risky and might even jeopardize other good things we as a Family are doing. We must guard against becoming too protective of what is, lest we become fearful of what could be. Boldness often involves tension and disagreement, but we need to be confident that Mary, the one who said, "Do whatever he tells you", will be our spiritual guide and support.

As I end my tenure as director, I leave MSJC in good hands with Sarah Gray as the incoming director. She is energetic, well-organized and creative. I'm confident that Sarah, along with our volunteer leaders on the MSJC Steering Committee, will continue to move MSJC forward together.

Thanks to all of you who have been a part of MSJC, been a part of my life, over the past 18 years. I'm excited to enter the next phase of my life, whatever shape that might take. Stay tuned...