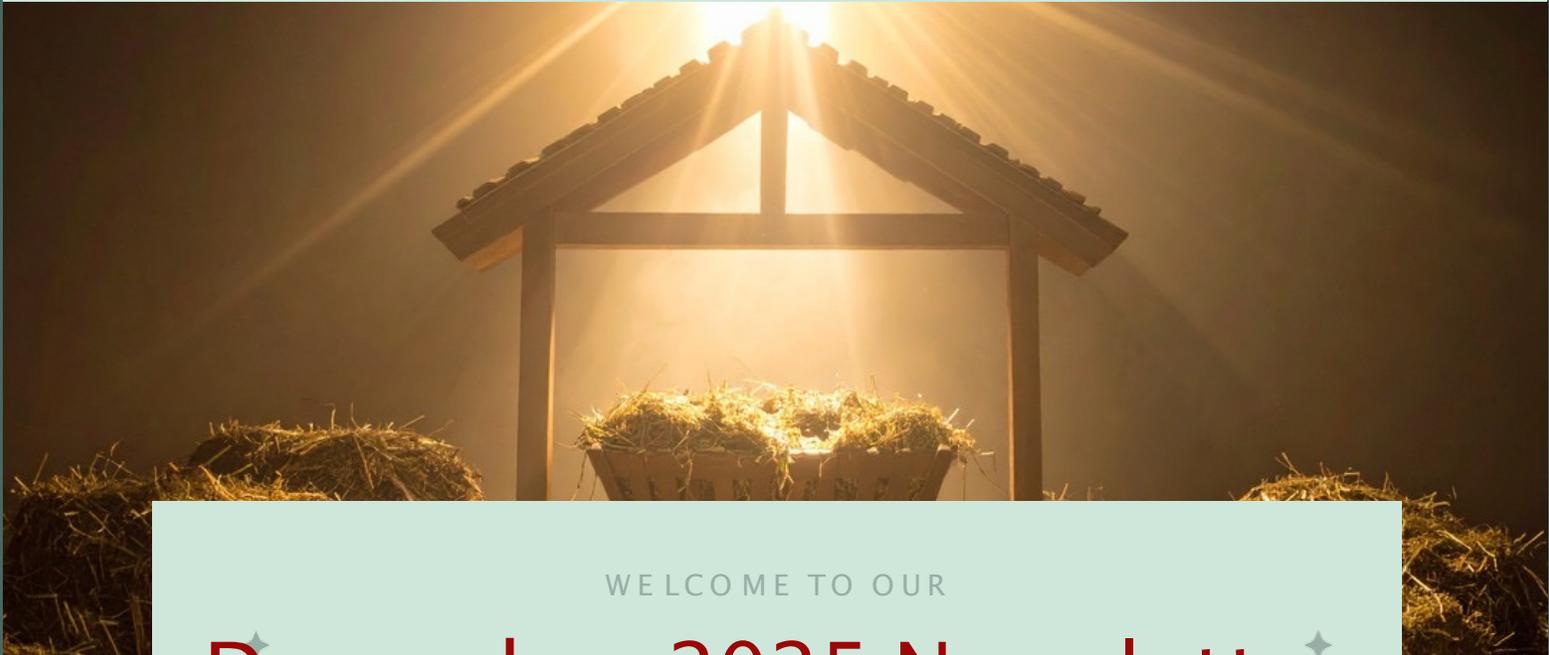


CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY



WELCOME TO OUR

December 2025 Newsletter



This December newsletter shares a vibrant tapestry of CLC life—from autumn retreats and regional gatherings to joyful celebrations and upcoming Epiphany events. Highlights include the Ignatian Silence Retreat in Morristown, the Mid Atlantic Fall Regional Gathering, and the South Florida Regional Assembly filled with hope and mission. We honor Fr. Jim O'Brien's lifetime of service recognized by Wheeling University, and we rejoice with Elaine and her family at the birth of Alba Leonor. Gratitude shines through our Thanksgiving Mass at the Ignatian Spirituality Center, while reflection invites us to prepare for Christmas with a special Incarnation program. Looking ahead, we anticipate the Epiphany Mass and Examen with Father Dave Godleski, SJ, and continued opportunities to deepen our shared mission of faith, service, and community.

↓ In this newsletter you will find:

Regional, National, Frontier News, Events & Happenings

UPCOMING *Events*



Globalization & Poverty Team

🙏 Monthly Virtual Prayer Gathering
We'll pray together and briefly share what's on our hearts, guided by our Frontier themes: Peace, Human Dignity, Race, Migration & Poverty

December

15

8:00 PM ET



Advent Worship Night

Experience a night of Taizé-style praise and worship, reflecting on the themes of Advent through prayer, music, and a heartfelt mini talk. Hosted by Ignis Ministries.

December

18

2025
9:00 PM ET



Epiphany Mass

Join us on Saturday, January 3, for a special celebration of the Epiphany. The Mass will be offered in Washington, D.C., presided by Father Dave Godleski, SJ. This gathering is hosted by Family Frontier.

/anuary

3

2026

CO-RESPONSIBILITY CONTRIBUTIONS REMINDER

Dear CLC Members,

If you have not done so already, please submit your co-responsibility contributions to your regional representatives for this year.

We currently have approximately 80% of this year's contributions received, but we are striving for 100% participation to support our community fully.

Action for NCC Representatives

NCC Representatives, please send a reminder to your regions to encourage timely contributions.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity in sustaining our shared mission.





GLOBALIZATION & POVERTY TEAM

Monthly Virtual Prayer Gathering

Join us for a 30-minute national prayer time each month.

We'll pray together and briefly share what's on our hearts, guided by our Frontier themes: Peace, Human Dignity, Race, Migration & Poverty

When: Third Monday of the month at 8:00 PM (Eastern)

Upcoming Date: December 15th, 2025



Zoom links posted at: clc-usa.com/globalization-poverty

All are welcome!



National Support Project: The Samaritan.City

An invitation to serve our housing-insecure brothers and sisters.

This simple, powerful initiative lets us pray for, affirm, and support those facing homelessness.  Learn more: Watch the founder's story



Interested in helping? Contact Murray Dalziel (Mid-Atlantic Region, Baltimore):



murray.dalziel@gmail.com



Regional NCC Members

Please share these opportunities widely —small steps can make a big impact.





Epiphany Mass and Examen

You are warmly invited to join the **CLC-USA Epiphany Mass and Program** on **Saturday, January 3** in the evening.

✦ Event Details

- ◆ **President:** Father Dave Godleski, SJ
- ◆ **Program:** Mass followed by a short program on the Examen
- ◆ **Location:** Washington, DC (in-person option)
- ◆ **Virtual Option:** All members may join via Zoom
- ◆ **Coordinators:** The Family Frontier

This gathering offers a sacred opportunity to celebrate Epiphany together and deepen our practice of Ignatian spirituality through the Examen.

📌 More details will be shared soon.





KCLC NY: IGNATIAN SILENCE RETREAT REFLECTION

From **October 1-5**, members and guests gathered at the **Loyola Retreat Center** in **Morristown, NJ** for a silence retreat rooted in Ignatian tradition. The theme, "Living as a Christian in today's world," invited participants into deep spiritual reflection and renewal.

✨ Retreat Highlights

- ◆ **Participants:** 24 retreatants (members and non-members)
- ◆ **Spiritual Director:** Nam Jeong-soo Thomas Aquinas SJ, currently studying at Boston College
- ◆ **Retreat Format:** Silent reflection guided by the Spiritual Exercises

📖 Lecture Themes

The retreat unfolded through a series of spiritually rich lectures:

- ◆ The laying of disordered attachment
- ◆ Human's original existence
- ◆ Holiness in daily life
- ◆ Jesus' suffering
- ◆ Resurrection

Each theme invited retreatants to examine their lives in light of God's presence and the structure of the Spiritual Exercises.

🙏 Closing Mass

On the final day, participants gathered around the altar, held hands, offered the Lord's Prayer, and shared bread in communion.

"It was a time to stay in the Lord's gaze and call his name with heart."

—Lee Soo-young, Cherry Hill Korean Cathedral





MID ATLANTIC FALL REGIONAL GATHERING

From **October 24–26**, CLC members from across the **Mid Atlantic Region** gathered at the **Claggett Center in Adamsville, MD** for our annual Fall Regional Gathering.



Theme

Sensing the Spirit: Deepening Our Connection

This year's gathering was a graced time of inspiration and joy. Through shared prayer, reflection, and fellowship, we opened ourselves to the movement of the Spirit among us—deepening our sense of connection and communal discernment.

The weekend offered sacred space to listen, grow, and celebrate the Spirit's presence in our lives and in our community.





MAR: WHEELING UNIVERSITY HONORS FR. JIM O'BRIEN

We are deeply grateful that Fr. Jim O'Brien's influence has extended far beyond our CLC community, touching countless lives through his ministry, teaching, and service.

Recently, Wheeling University announced the dedication of its Center for Service in his honor, a tribute to his decades of commitment to education, faith, and community engagement. This recognition celebrates Fr. Jim's enduring legacy as a Jesuit who has inspired generations of students and colleagues with his compassion, wisdom, and dedication to justice.

Highlights of the Dedication

- ◆ Lifetime of Service: Fr. Jim's ministry and teaching at Wheeling University shaped the spiritual and academic lives of countless students.
- ◆ Center for Service: The newly named center embodies his vision of faith in action, encouraging students to serve with love and purpose.
- ◆ Community Impact: His influence continues to ripple outward, reminding us that Ignatian values of discernment, service, and hope remain vital in today's world.

Why This Matters for CLC

Fr. Jim's recognition is not only a celebration of his work at Wheeling University but also a reminder of the shared mission we hold in CLC—to live as contemplatives in action, serving others with hope and faith. His example strengthens our resolve to continue building communities rooted in Ignatian spirituality.

📖 You can read the full announcement on [Wheeling University's website](#).





South Florida Regional Gathering Pt. 1

On Saturday, **October 18**, 45 members from the **South Florida Region** gathered at the **Center of Ignatian Spirituality in Miami**. Special guests included three from a pre-CLC group and a young adult leader, the director of Loyola Elementary School.



Messages of Hope and Unity

- ◆ Chris Micallef, World President of CLC, sent a heartfelt video filled with kind words, love, hope, and prayer.
- ◆ The Exco of CLC-USA also shared a video that enlightened hearts, bringing joy and a renewed sense of unity.



Community Missions

- ◆ Each local community reviewed its mission.
- ◆ Members actively supported the Electronic Equipment and Parts Collection Day, ensuring safe recycling and disposal of obsolete electronics.





South Florida Regional Gathering Pt.2

🌟 **Activities and Reflections**

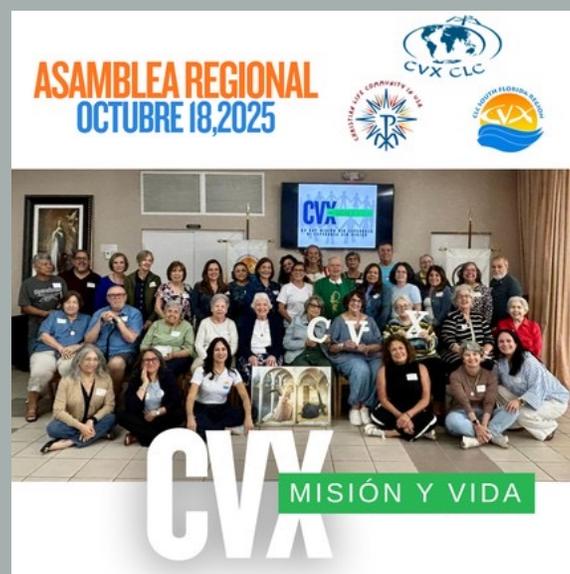
- ◆ Pop quiz with prizes
- ◆ Body prayer
- ◆ Video from José de Pablo, SJ, on CLC, hope, and mission
- ◆ Small group spiritual conversations guided by three questions:
 - Where has hope sustained us in mission, especially in uncertain or difficult times?
 - How do we discern today, as a CLC community, the concrete calls to mission in a wounded world, through Ignatian spirituality and the Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope?
 - What signs of hope do we discover in our community, and how can we bear witness to that hope in daily mission?



Closing Mass

The gathering concluded with Mass presided over by Father Marcelino García SJ, regional ecclesiastic assistant. Members shared heartfelt testimonies of hope and belonging:

- ◆ “Feeling that we belong to something renews our hope.”
- ◆ “A desire to serve others”
- ◆ “One fire ignites other fires”
- ◆ “Availability for our community”
- ◆ “Hope in service”
- ◆ “The community helps us live in faith.”
- ◆ “Without community, there is no Church”
- ◆ “We are a reflection of the Trinity”
- ◆ “We find hope in our community”
- ◆ “There is no mission without hope, and no hope without mission”





South Florida Regional: JOY, GRATEFUL, and REFLECT



JOY

We joyfully celebrate a beautiful milestone in our community: **Elaine**, a cherished member of the Young Adults International and National CLC groups, has welcomed her first child, **Alba Leonor**, born on November 3rd. This new life is a profound blessing, and we hold both Elaine and little Alba Leonor in our heartfelt prayers as they begin this extraordinary journey together.

GRATEFUL

On **Wednesday, November 19**, members of CLC came together for a heartfelt Thanksgiving celebration at the **Ignatian Spirituality Center**. **Gathered** under the shelter of a great tree and surrounded by the beauty of the outdoors, our ecclesiastical assistant, **Marcelino García, SJ**, concelebrated a deeply moving Mass alongside the center's director, **Jorge Rojas, SJ**. It was a moment filled with gratitude, community, and spiritual warmth.





South Florida Regional: JOY, GRATEFUL, and REFLECT

REFLECT

On **December 1st** at 7:30 PM ET, our community gathered via Zoom (Spanish) for a special reflection on the Incarnation as we prepared for the Christmas season.

In a spirit of closeness and contemplation, members came together to reflect on the true meaning of this sacred time. We were blessed to be accompanied by **Father David Pantaleon, SJ**, whose presence and guidance enriched the gathering.

This moment of reflection deepened our sense of unity and helped us enter Advent with renewed faith and gratitude.



👊 Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice

Several Ignis members, together with Boston young adults, journeyed to Washington, DC to participate in the **Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ)**.

Reflection from John Tran

John Tran shared how the weekend became a journey of unexpected transformation. Arriving with curiosity and uncertainty, he quickly found himself deeply moved:

- ♦ Voices from El Salvador and Fr. Greg Boyle's reminder that "*systems change when people change*" grounded him in new awareness.
- ♦ Keynotes, conversations, and moments of stillness revealed how hope is born through encounter—in the cold walks to and from the conference, in the call to ecological conversion, and in stories that invite tenderness and care.
- ♦ By Sunday night, uncertainty had transformed into gratitude, wonder, and a renewed desire to stay close to the work of justice.

Advocacy Day

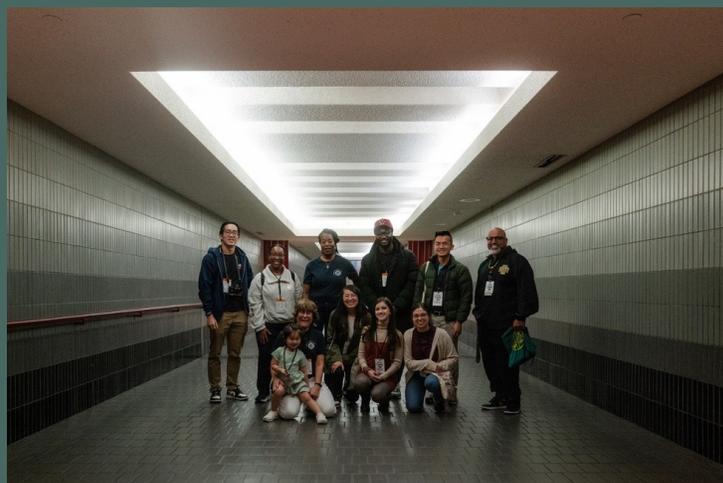
On Monday, John joined hundreds gathered at Union Square for advocacy day. Though not entering congressional offices himself, he realized he was part of the collective witness.

He reflected that advocacy is not only about activism but also about:

- ♦ Compassion in small circles
- ♦ Raising children with dignity and solidarity
- ♦ Spreading awareness through stories and images

Closing Insight

John left IFTJ **humbled, hopeful, and charged with purpose**—committed to pressing on in the places where God invites him, one intentional step at a time.



✨ IGNIS MINISTRIES ADVENT REFLECTIONS AND WORSHIP

This Advent Season, **Ignis Ministries** continues its annual reflection series, where young adults and the young at heart share how the themes of Advent resonate within them.

📖 Reflection Series

- ◆ Read full reflections: [Ignis Ministries Advent 2025](#)
- ◆ Follow for snippets:
 - Instagram: [@ignis.ministries](#)
 - Facebook: [YA Ignis Ministries](#)

🎵 Advent Worship Night

Save the date for the annual Advent worship night:

- ◆ Date: Thursday, December 18
- ◆ Time: 6 PM PT | 8 PM CT | 9 PM ET
- ◆ Theme: *Called to Shine: Advent for a Generation of Light*

Experience a night of **Taizé-style praise and worship**, reflecting on the themes of Advent through prayer, music, and a heartfelt mini talk. Together, let us prepare our hearts to become the manger where Christ's light can dwell.



ADVENT PRAYER

Pastor Steve from Unfolding Light

To repent is no arduous labor,
no pious accomplishment,
but simply to let go.

Let go of resentments,
the conviction that it won't work,
my will to do it my way....

Let go of having to please this world,
to appease the Emperor,
to go along....



Let go of the lie
that I won't be happy unless...
and dare instead to trust it can be given.

Let go like a sleeping child
and know I am loved, carried,
borne somewhere new.

I am given
(and the whole world with me)
the grace to begin anew



Advent Blessing from ExCo

As we journey through this holy season of Advent, may the grace of letting go open space for Christ's light to dwell more deeply within us. May each release become an act of trust, each silence a doorway to hope, and each step a witness to God's love at work in our world.

We, your ExCo, hold you in prayer and gratitude. Together, let us prepare our hearts to welcome Emmanuel—God with us—who renews all things and calls us to shine as bearers of joy, peace, and compassion.