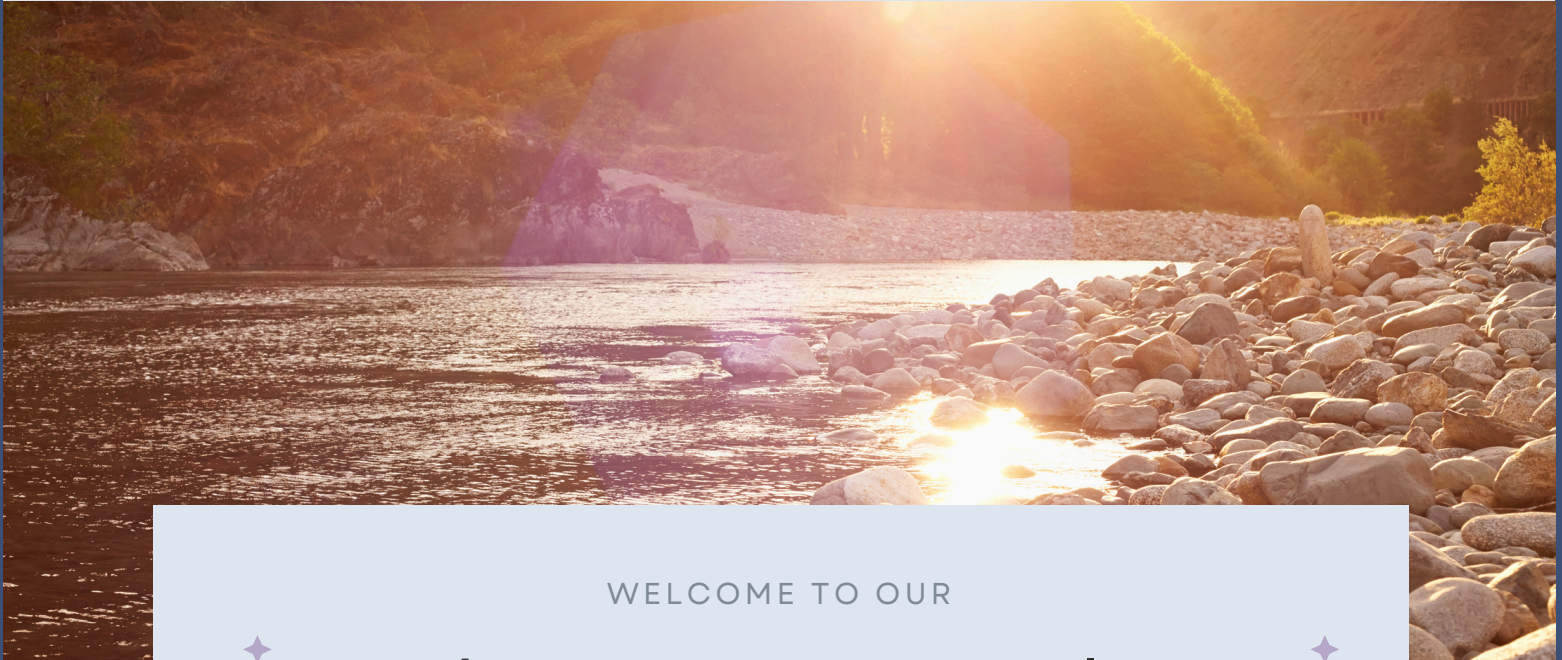


CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY



WELCOME TO OUR

October 2025 Newsletter



This October newsletter shares a rich tapestry of CLC life—from September’s retreats, commitments, and Laudato Si celebrations to upcoming events and formation opportunities. Highlights include Joanne Carey’s SEEL journey, the Korean CLC men’s retreat, and the Pilgrimage of Hope online workshop with World CVX-CLC. We celebrate members’ service, writing, and ministry, and look ahead to regional assemblies and prayer gatherings that continue to deepen our shared mission.

We warmly encourage all members to read through each page to stay informed, inspired, and connected. Let us continue to pray for one another as we walk together in faith, hope, and apostolic love.



In this newsletter you will find:

Regional, National, Frontier News, Events & Happenings

UPCOMING *Events*



Pilgrimage of Hope Online Workshop

An online workshop by the Global Formation Team exploring our identity as a pilgrim people and deepening our mission of hope through Ignatian spirituality.

October
18
2025



Vocation Panel

Ignis Ministries invite you to a Vocation Panel on Sunday, October 19, featuring Fr. Martin Ngo, SJ and Mary Middeke as they share personal journeys of faith, discernment, and God's call in everyday life. Join us for stories, prayer, and inspiration across vocations.

October
19
2025
7:00 PM EST



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

October
20
2025
8:00 PM ET



PRAYERS FOR KIM PHAM

Please join us in lifting up **Kim Pham**, our **NCC representative for the Missouri region**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Kim lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and has asked for our prayers as he begins treatment.

A **GiveInKind** page has been created to share messages of support and prayer:

[!\[\]\(cbe80b694ebd74fcfe136a095b608235_img.jpg\) Together with Kim in Christ](#)

With Kim and his family's blessing, we hope to share updates on his health journey in the future. For now, this space is open for members to offer their thoughts, prayers, and encouragement.

From Kitty Gray's recent visit with Kim on August 25th:

"Though physically weakened, Kim welcomed me with grace and warmth. We sat together at the kitchen table—his sacred space of reflection and faith."

"Kim spoke with deep conviction about Jesus' suffering, repeating with quiet strength, 'May His will be done.' He shared a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary during his PET scan, appearing in blue and extending her hands toward him—a moment he received as a sign of divine accompaniment."

"His faith was not shaken by the diagnosis. Instead, it was illuminated. Kim expressed complete trust in God's plan, saying that whatever comes, he knows he is held in love."

Let us pray...

Creator God, our Savior Jesus, and most Holy Spirit, grant us we pray, that our brother and servant leader Kim feel your loving presence as he battles cancer. Show us, his friends, how to support and accompany him as you would have us do. Bring compassionate wisdom and ideas to his doctors.

Most Blessed Mother Mary, hold Kim in your loving embrace and bring him and his family comfort in these days.

Together we pray in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. 



PRAYERS FOR FR. DAVE & ANN MARIE BRENNAN

We ask the CLC-USA community to keep Fr. Dave in your prayers as he recovers from emergency eye surgery. He will need time to rest and heal for it to be successful.

Fr. Dave has been a faithful companion to our community, and we hold him in prayer as he navigates this time of recovery.

We ask you to also hold Ann Marie Brennan in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. May Fr. Dave and Ann Marie feel surrounded by God's grace, comfort, and healing.





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)

Date: October 20

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.

THE FACES OF THE CROSS

GLOBALIZATION AND POVERTY FRONTIER
INVITES CLC AROUND THE WORLD TO A
COMMUNITY PRAYER MOMENT (30 MINUTES)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
OCTOBER 20, 2025
8:00 PM ET (USA)

Zoom Meeting ID: 813 7101 3736
Passcode: 856864

OCTOBER WORKSHOPS: REVIEWING THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND NORMS

The CVX-CLC World Secretariat invites all interested members to participate in upcoming October workshops focused on reviewing the General Principles and Norms of our global community. These sessions are designed for those who are already familiar with the working document and preparatory materials, and who are immersed in the process of discernment and reflection.

Workshop Dates and Times Participants may choose from the following sessions:

- **Saturday, October 11**
 - English
 - 11:00 AM EDT / 10:00 AM CDT / 9:00 AM MDT / 8:00 AM PDT
- **Saturday, October 25 A**
 - French
 - 2:00 AM EDT / 1:00 AM CDT / 12:00 AM MDT / 11:00 PM PDT (Oct 24)
- **Saturday, October 25 B**
 - English
 - 8:00 AM EDT / 7:00 AM CDT / 6:00 AM MDT / 5:00 AM PDT
- **Saturday, October 25 C**
 - English
 - 12:00 PM EDT / 11:00 AM CDT / 10:00 AM MDT / 9:00 AM PDT

There is no limit to the number of participants per country. Those who attend are encouraged to share insights and outcomes with their local communities.

Registration Form

To register and select your preferred date and language, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/e/pr5f29yMsY>

Preparatory materials are available in English, Spanish, and French.

Warm blessings to all from the CVX-CLC World Secretariat.

CLC-USA and the United Nations: A Call to Mission

Do you feel called to be part of a CLC UN Working Group?



CLC is part of the larger Catholic presence at the United Nations, which affords us the opportunity to collaborate with other Catholic and faith-based groups on four issues of mutual importance.

CLC belongs to four Non-Governmental Committees:

1. NGO Migration Committee / Climate-Induced Migration Subcommittee
2. NGO Committee on the Status of Women / Indigenous Women Subcommittee
3. NGO Mining Working Group / Indigenous Subcommittee
4. NGO Indigenous Committee

Currently, we have a small but very active CLC team based in New York, where the UN headquarters is located. We hope to incorporate more CLC members working in these areas, as it is vital to provide meaningful two-way communication between grassroots communities and our representatives at the UN.

World CVX-CLC and CLC-USA are currently seeking and missioning a few members in Metro NY to join our UN working group, specifically in the New York office.

While a sensibility for social justice and compassion for the poor are essential, the profile of members in the working group includes:

- Availability to attend virtual and/or in-person monthly NGO subcommittee meetings (about 2 per month)
- Participation in monthly online working group meetings (about 1.5 hours)
- Ability to interpret information relevant to both the UN and CLC grassroots communities
- Support for communications within our international community (e.g., articles in Progressio, social media, website postings)

If you are interested in learning more or joining this important mission, please contact Chris Cichello at chriskampcichello@gmail.com.

Wheeling University to Name Center for Service in Honor of Father James A. O'Brien, S.J.

Fr. Jim was a member of CLC, EA for the MAR Region, and received the Development of People's award at the 2004 national assembly. He was a great friend to all!

Wheeling University will name its Center for Service in honor of Father James A. O'Brien, S.J., who spent more than 50 years at the University teaching and serving others.

Dr. Dianna Vargo, University President, said, "Naming the Center for Service in honor of Father O'Brien is most appropriate. Living the very essence of our Catholic mission, Father O'Brien inspired students to serve others.

The Father James A. O'Brien Center for Service will develop and organize projects with campus partners to undertake service projects at the University, in the city of Wheeling, and in the state of West Virginia.

Father O'Brien's niece, Pat (O'Brien) Keys, class of 1980, said "We are all so proud of his quiet, humble accomplishments, his beautiful connections with everyone, his acceptance of all whose paths crossed his, and the life long lasting impact he had on all of us who were blessed to go to Wheeling College, Wheeling Jesuit College, Wheeling Jesuit University, and Wheeling University. The Father James A. O'Brien Center for Service is a wonderful way to honor his legacy of service to the University, the Wheeling community, and the state of West Virginia," Keys said.

Father O'Brien hoped people would remember him as a person of faith. He once said, "There is a line in an old verse that said one should 'live by the side of the road and be a friend to those who pass by.' That's what I have tried to do - be a faithful person to God and others."





Progressio: Celebrating 50 Years of CLC at the UN



CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA

The latest issue of Progressio, the CLC World Magazine, is now available! This special edition honors fifty years of CLC's service as a recognized NGO at the United Nations—a milestone in our shared history of grace and global mission.



progressio

Publicación de la Comunidad de Vida Cristiana

**CVX como ONG
ante las Naciones Unidas**

[LEER EN ESPAÑOL \(PDF\)](#)

[READ IN ENGLISH \(PDF\)](#)



progressio

Publication of the World Christian Life Community

CLC as an NGO at the United Nations

KCLC NY: MEN'S RETREAT AT BENEDICT ABBEY: A JOURNEY OF HEALING AND HOPE

On September 20–21, the Korean Christian Life Community in New York hosted a two-day men's retreat at Benedict Abbey in Newton, New Jersey, welcoming 15 participants—including 7 non-CLC members.

Guided by Fr. Benedict (Sung-Ho) Kim, the retreat offered deep spiritual renewal through lectures, Eucharistic celebrations, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Participants were invited to face their past and present selves with honesty and grace, and to embrace the Ignatian way of life: living with prayerful awareness, discerning God's will, and preparing for the later stages of life.

Small group sharing and plenary conversations created a space of vulnerability, joy, and holy desire. Many described the retreat as a profound encounter with God's grace—quenching spiritual thirst and renewing strength for the journey ahead. The men left Benedict Abbey encouraged to walk more faithfully with Christ, strengthened in companionship and mission.





DONG-HANH SOUTHWEST REGION - SUMMER CAMPING & ST. IGNATIUS DAY + REGIONAL GATHERING – HỌP MẶT VÙNG (HMOV)

This summer, we celebrated St. Ignatius Day with a joyful outdoor Mass and picnic at a local campground. For many, it became a weekend of camping—blending prayer, nature, and fellowship in a spirit of gratitude and renewal.

Later in the season, over 130 members gathered for our annual Regional Assembly, *Họp Mặt Vùng* (HMOV). A special highlight this year was the presence of many young families, bringing children and toddlers into the heart of our community. Their joyful energy reminded us that our mission is shared across generations.





KCLC-BOSTON: DAY RETREAT & COMMITMENT CEREMONY

September 2025 | Celebration of Apostolic Life

KCLC-Boston gathered for a one-day retreat and annual Commitment Ceremony, celebrating the CLC way of life and our call to apostolic community. Held during Mass, the ceremony welcomed four members making their Temporary Commitment and five members renewing their journey with CLC. It was a grace-filled day of prayer, reflection, and shared mission.





South Florida Region Prepares for Annual Assembly

On October 18th, the South Florida Region will gather for its annual assembly: CLC, Life and Mission. Members will reflect on personal and shared missions, deepen connections, and explore ways to accompany one another in faith and service. Please keep us in prayer, that the Holy Spirit may guide each heart with love and clarity.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY IN USA

CVX CLC

CLC SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

ASAMBLEA REGIONAL
MIAMI, OCTUBRE 18, 2025

CVX

MISIÓN Y VIDA



MANRESA CLC - METRO NY REGION

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS & MEMBER MILESTONES

We joyfully celebrate the gifts and contributions of our members:

- **Joanne Carey**, our newest member, has been accepted into a two-year formation program in Spiritual Direction—may her journey be filled with grace and growth.
- **Jane Morrone Costagiola's** book, *Mysteries of the Holy Rosary*, has now been translated into Spanish, expanding its reach and spiritual impact.
- **Linda Orber's** reflections—some new, some drawn from her book *In Stillness Jesus Whispers (2020)*—are now featured in her parish's weekly bulletin.
- **Dolores Celentano** was recently honored by the *Staten Island Respect Life Deanery* for her many years of dedicated service and leadership in Respect Life activities.
- **Pat Derespino** continues to lovingly care for our *Take One, Leave One Library* outside the meeting place, keeping it welcoming and well-stocked.
- **Victoria and John Gostel** send warm greetings to the community. John serves as an usher at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen, NJ and volunteers at Life Choices Resource Center. Victoria is a member and officer of the Rosary Altar Society and also volunteers at Life Choices. Together, they celebrate a growing legacy of faith with 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild—their eldest grandchild is a Benedictine Brother currently studying to become a priest.

Let us give thanks for each member's unique vocation and the ways they help build up our community in love and service.



METRO MEMBER BEGINS FORMATION IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

METRO MEMBER CLC STATEN ISLAND ST SYLVESTER CHURCH



This September, **Joanne Carey** of Metro CLC (Staten Island) began a two-year formation program in Spiritual Direction through SEEL (Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life), offered jointly by St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and Loyola Jesuit Retreat House in Morristown, NJ. Rooted in the Ignatian tradition, the program prepares individuals to guide others through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Joanne will begin directing in Fall 2026 and complete the program in May 2027.

Her journey began with the 19th Annotation retreat at her parish in 2012–2013, followed by discernment into CLC with Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick. She made her formal commitment to CLC in May 2025.

Beyond CLC, Joanne serves as a volunteer in the baths at the Sanctuary in Lourdes, France, and is a member of L'Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes—the original group of volunteers serving pilgrims since the apparitions to St. Bernadette.

[!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\) Learn more about Lourdes](#)

Joanne is also the author of *The Other End of the Barrel: One Woman's Journey Back to a Life Filled with Joy, Laughter and Love After the Tragic Loss of a Child*, which rose to #2 in its category and was nominated for a Readers Choice Award.

[!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\) View the book on Amazon](#)

We celebrate Joanne's deep commitment to spiritual accompaniment and her witness of healing, hope, and service.



COMMEMORATING LAUDATO SI: A TREE OF HOPE IN GLEN ROCK



To honor the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si*, the St. Catharine's and Simply Blessed groups in Glen Rock, NJ planted a Crepe Maple tree on parish grounds. This living symbol reflects their commitment to care for creation and deepen ecological awareness in the spirit of Pope Francis's call.



IGNIS MINISTRIES

OUR YOUNG ADULTS SERVING CLC IN USA

Vocation Panel: Listening for God's Call

Ignis Ministries and CLC-USA warmly invite you to a special online Vocation Panel on Sunday, October 19. Fr. Martin Ngo, SJ and Mary Middeke will share their personal journeys of faith and discernment—offering stories, prayer, and inspiration across vocations. Come be encouraged to listen for God's call in your own life and walk with others on the path of love and service.

 Time: 5 PM PST · 6 PM CST · 7 PM EST

 RSVP to join the conversation and receive the Zoom link

VOCATION PANEL

SUNDAY OCT. 19TH

5PM PST 6PM CST 7PM EST

HOSTED BY IGNIS MINISTRIES, CLC-USA

FR. MARTIN SHARES HIS PRIESTLY JOURNEY WITH WARMTH AND JOY. THROUGH HIS STORIES, GUIDANCE, AND PRAYER, HE HELPS OTHERS SEE GOD'S PRESENCE IN DAILY LIFE AND INSPIRES A FAITH THAT'S BOTH REAL AND ALIVE.



FR. MARTIN NGO, SJ



MARY MIDDEKE

MARY, A WIFE AND MOTHER, SHARES HER JOURNEY OF ONCE EXPLORING RELIGIOUS LIFE WITH THE SISTERS. HER STORY OF DISCERNMENT, LOVE, AND FAITH SHOWS HOW GOD'S CALL UNFOLDS UNIQUELY, INSPIRING OTHERS TO EMBRACE THEIR OWN PATH WITH TRUST AND JOY.



RSVP HERE





EXIST

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT 2025

For ages 18-40

NOVEMBER 14 -16, 2025

CAMP CAPILANO, NORTH VANCOUVER, BC



SCAN TO REGISTER
& LEARN MORE



YEARNING for:
Purpose
Self-Awareness
Community
God in All Things?

Come join us!

Based on St Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises.





CLC-USA AT THE IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2025 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Please join us in prayer for members of the Ignis team—Tami, John & Jolie Tran, Jason Vu—and Boston CLC Young Adults: Angelique Jean-Noel, Carmela Feoli, Michel Adjibodou, and Stefania Bonanni, as well as Katharine Winslow and Chris Cichello, who will represent CLC-USA at this year's Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice.

Held in Washington, D.C., the Teach-In gathers thousands of young people, educators, and faith leaders to reflect, connect, and act for justice. This year's theme, Press On, invites us to persevere in hope and solidarity. Featured speakers include Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., founder of Homeboy Industries, and Christine Leano of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, with more voices to be announced.

Our young adults will be praying together to discern how they are being called to engage with the Ignatian Solidarity Network and to build deeper connections with peers from across the country. May the Spirit guide their steps and open new paths of mission, courage, and community.



**IGNATIAN FAMILY
TEACH-IN FOR
JUSTICE 2025**

**NOV 15-17
WASH D.C.**

From our Integral Ecology Team

We just finished celebrating season of creation and continue as a World CLC family to Pope Francis' invitation to Laudato Si, we are inspired by CLC in Australia and this video they put together. It illustrates their national discernment and response to Laudato Si.





Pray With Us: NCC In-Person Gathering

Scottsdale, AZ

October 30 – November 2, 2025

Franciscan Renewal Center

As our ExCo prepares for this year's NCC In-Person Gathering, we invite you to join us in prayer for all who will be in attendance.

This gathering will be a sacred time of **discernment, community, and grace**—a space to be together, share stories, and grow as one body. Inspired by the Parable of the Sower, our theme calls us to reflect on the seeds God is planting in our lives and in our collective mission.

Let us pray:

- That each participant may feel welcomed, guided, and inspired
- That the Spirit may move freely among us, opening hearts and deepening bonds
- That our time together may bear fruit for our communities and the world

 *May we be good soil for the seeds of grace.*



All Souls Day Remembrance

As our gathering coincides with **All Souls Days**, we invite you to help us honor the lives of loved ones and past members from your community who have passed.

These names will be lifted in prayer throughout our time together, and photos will be placed at the altar in remembrance.



Submit Names Here: [Form](#) 

We hope to continue this list year after year, praying together in communion as a living **community of saints**.