



MLC-NA National Assembly 2026

Building Community with Mary

LOUISVILLE, KY

JULY 23-26, 2026

mlcna.org/assembly

The National Assembly of the Marianist Lay Communities occurs once every three years. This assembly brings together members from all corners of the Marianist Family.

FEATURES

Keynote Speakers

Keynote discussions led by Prof. Natalia Imperatori-Lee (Fordham University) and master community builder, Graham McBain.

Workshops

Interactive workshops on Marianist spirituality, community animation, and living our mission in daily life.

Prayer

Communal prayer and liturgical celebrations including Mass and opportunities for shared spiritual reflection.

Networking

Connect with Marianists from across North America by sharing experiences, building relationships, breaking down silos, and strengthening our family.



With a Group?

Ask about group coordination!
Contact Rob to get started:
rob.brodrick@mlc-na.org



REGISTRATION OPEN

Early Bird Rates: Until March 31

mlcna.org/assembly



ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 7/23

3:00pm - Registration Opens

5:00pm - Welcome and Dinner

7:00pm - Opening Session & Evening Plenary

FRIDAY 7/24 - SATURDAY 7/25

Keynote Presentations: Natalia Imperatori-Lee & Graham McBain

Workshop Sessions: 12 Workshop Opportunities

Liturgies and Prayer: 2 Masses, 3 O'Clock Prayer, and More

MSJC Film Night

Social and Community Building Opportunities

Lunches and Dinners Included

SUNDAY 7/26

8:30-11:30am - Plenary Sessions

11:30am - Assembly Closes, Departures Begin

Childcare - with age-specific programming! - is available throughout the assembly.

Shuttle to/from Louisville International Airport available (5 minute trip)

For more info visit:
mlcna.org/assembly

HEADLINERS



Natalia Imperatori-Lee Keynote Speaker

Prof. Natalia Imperatori-Lee, PhD., is a theologian and author whose work explores how the stories we tell about the Church shape its future. A lifelong Catholic and professor at Fordham University in New York, she writes and speaks widely on women in the Church, community life, Mary, and the role of faith in today's world. Her books, including *Cuéntame: Narrative in the Ecclesial Present and Women and the Church* invite readers to see the Church through the lens of lived experience and storytelling. Natalia will be joining us from the Bronx, NYC where she lives with her husband and two children.

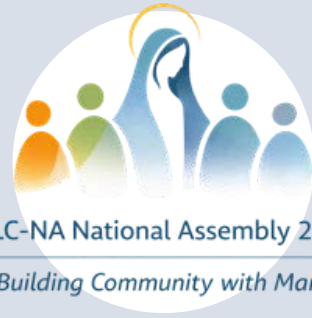
Graham McBain Plenary Speaker

Graham McBain is the founder of the Hey Neighbor Hub, an exciting movement to turn local neighborhoods into vibrant communities. By leveraging social media and a weekly call for community builders, Graham is working toward the incredible goal of helping to convert 10,000 neighborhoods into thriving communities where people build deep, meaningful relationships with their neighbors.

This July, Graham will be sharing his personal story and offering his simple playbook for community building.



WORKSHOPS



MLC-NA National Assembly 2026

Building Community with Mary



WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY MARIANIST... ESPECIALLY IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Bro. Tom Giardino

Unpack Marianist principles for building transformational communities rooted in Marian tradition, offering motivation, direction, and formation tools for today's challenges.



ACCOMPANIMENT AMONG LAY MARIANISTS

Sarah-Marie Chan, Allie Brizzi

Develop skills to walk alongside others' faith journeys through listening, prayer, and spiritual friendship, leaving with tools and an accountability partner.



QAC TO SPIRITUS - A JOURNEY FROM PARISH TO MLC

Matt Naveau, Meghann Naveau, Tom McCrate, Marilyn McCrate, Kelly Bohrer

How Queen of Apostles Community used synodality to transition into Spiritus, a thriving lay Marianist community now in its third year.

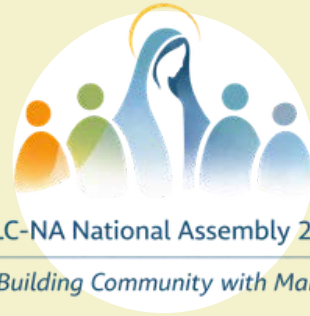


CONTINUING THE WALK: ANSWERING THE CALL TO BECOME AN ANTIRACIST MARIANIST FAMILY

Miranda Melone, Brian Reavey, Sarah Gray

Explore how Marianist spirituality calls us to antiracism as essential to authentic community, with updates on MSJC's equity journey and next steps.

WORKSHOPS



MARIANIST RESILIENCE: HOW FORMATION INTO MARIANIST SPIRITUALITY CAN FOSTER PSYCHOLOGICAL RESILIENCE AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

Tony Garascia, Bro. Tim Phillips

Drawing on founder wisdom and trauma-informed care, explore how Marianist formation builds resilience and hope amid anxiety, conflict, and a troubled world.



SHE WHO POINTS THE WAY: MARY AS SPIRITUAL WAYFINDER IN THE MARIANIST TRADITION

Jessica González Uhlig, Sr. Laura Leming,

Develop skills to walk alongside others' faith journeys through listening, prayer, and spiritual friendship, leaving with tools and an accountability partner.



FROM DISTANCE TO DEPTH: A PRACTICAL PLAYBOOK FOR THE TECH TOOLS TO BUILDING THRIVING MARIANIST COMMUNITIES

Stephen Pfau, Ho'ololi MLC

Virtual community Ho'ololi shares tools, tips, and lessons learned for building vibrant Marianist communities through Zoom, scheduling, prayer, and digital connection.

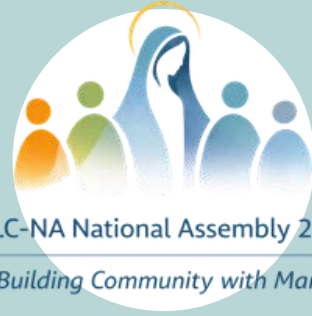


WELCOMING THE STRANGER - WHY & HOW WE CAN HELP OUR IMMIGRANT SISTERS & BROTHERS

Tony Mercogliano, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Sr. Grace Walle, Marty Procaccio

Address immigration myths and threats through video, panel discussion, and dialogue, equipping Lay Marianists to advocate, educate, and accompany immigrant neighbors.

WORKSHOPS



COMPASSIONATE TRANSFORMATION

Beth Garascia and the Visitation Compassion Reflection Group

The Visitation State community shares a decade of using the Charter for Compassion to grow in Christlike compassion, with resources for your community.



PROPHETIC WITNESS WITH MARY: ADVOCACY AS MARIANIST COMMUNITY BUILDING

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

Rooted in Mary's Magnificat, learn how MSJC discerns public stands on justice issues and how advocacy strengthens Marianist community in today's world.



MARIANIST FAMILY ENCOUNTERS PROJECT: THE JOURNEY THUS FAR AND THE PATH AHEAD

Marianist Family Encounters Project Team and Panel

Panel update on MFEP initiatives across Marianist ministries, advancing Pope Francis's Global Compact on Education and Laudato Si' Action Platform since 2022.



IMPROV & THEATER AS TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY, MINISTRY & EVERYDAY LIFE

Brian Reavey, Caitlin Bennett

A low-stress, playful workshop using improv and theater to build listening, humility, creativity, and collaboration —Marian qualities for stronger community life.



REGISTRATION



ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION

General Admission: \$425 (Early Bird at \$395 until March 31)

Kid's Admission (ages 3-12): \$110

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel rooms are booked separately from registration in order to provide the most flexibility for participants.

MLC-NA's special discounted rate in our block of rooms is \$159 per room, per night. We are happy to coordinate roommates for individuals looking to split room costs.



Get started at:
mlcna.org/assembly/registration

For more info visit:
mlcna.org/assembly