

SOCIETY OF MARY

Marists in the United States

Justice & Peace Alert

February 19, 2021



Investing in For a Better Community by Phil Isacco, Comptroller, Society of Mary USA Province

The USA Province of the Marist Fathers and Brothers embraces the notion that we can positively affect the world around us through the management of our portfolio. The primary objective of our investment policy is to achieve the long-term sustainable growth of our portfolio in support of our mission, but we also consider producing a benefit for society through our investments to be of critical importance. We can bring about positive benefits by investing in businesses and industries that we believe will lead to a more equitable and sustainable future. Additionally, we choose to divest our portfolio of specific industries or companies that may contradict our core Catholic beliefs. Beyond this traditional investment model, there are other options for making active investments that can generate an immediate and tangible difference in your local community.



For over 30 years, the USA Province of the Marist Fathers and Brothers have invested in local community development funds, community investment funds and local faith-based co-operatives. These local and regional community investment funds cater to underserved and primarily minority populations in urban settings who do not have access to traditional finance and investment structures. Our investments in these funds allow them to make targeted micro-loans, investments and grants in businesses and individuals who many not otherwise qualify through existing means.

The Marist Fathers and Brothers have made investments in a variety of community investment funds that serve populations near our communities and ministries throughout the country. The funds offer a diverse assortment of offerings and services to under

served populations. Jubilee Housing is a faith-based co-operative that works to build or acquire affordable housing for economically disadvantaged residents of the Washington, DC area. Community Vision Capital & Consulting is an Oakland, CA based collaborative that provides lending services, business consulting and even tax advice with the aim of revitalizing underserved communities in Northern and Central California. We also have investments in Washington Area Community Investment Fund, the Institute for Community Economics and the New Community Corporation, which provide similar benefits in other localities.

Community investment funds and faith-based co-operatives can be found throughout the United States. Our investments are generally in the form of a promissory notes that earn a nominal interest rate with payments made at regular intervals. The loans are then reinvested in the community. They can be renewed at expiration and, in fact, we have had some investments in place for over 30 years. Promissory notes are not FDIC insured and do incur some investment risk. It is important to perform due diligence before making an investment. Information can be found using third party charity clearing houses like Guidestar.com as well as each individual organization's website. We also ask for annual audits each year from the organizations that we work with so as to ascertain their continuing financial health and to verify the community benefits.

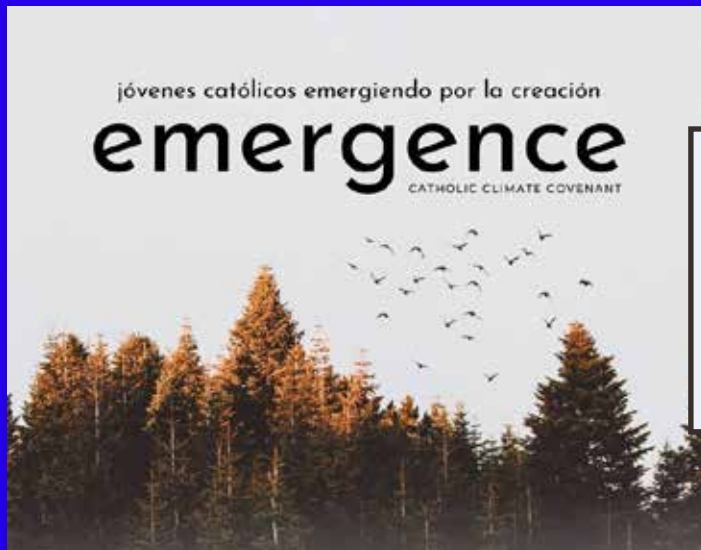
There may be other flashy and exciting investing products available but the concrete and tangible benefits that these institutions provide to local communities make investment in community loans a worthwhile pursuit for any conscientious investor.



Laudato Si' in the Marist World

On February 11, 2021 an important web conference took place with participants from all branches of the Marist Family, on possible scenarios of the implementation of the 7-year roll-out plan of Laudato Si' in the Marist world.

The key speaker was Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam SDB, Coordinator of the Sector of "Ecology and Creation" at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. In his impressive speech he emphasized the urgency of an ecological conversion, while the cry of the earth and of the poor have become even louder and more painful in recent years.



Are you a young Catholic in the USA between ages 18 and 39? Do you want to take an active role in creating a favorable future for the planet and all those who call it our common home? The Catholic Climate Covenant invites you to "Emergence: A Creation Care Gathering for Young Catholics" on Tuesday, 23 February at 4:30-6 pm Pacific / 7:30-9 pm Eastern.

Unused parcel of mission church property helps feed the hungry



On 'Today' show, Cardinal Gregory reflects on his faith journey, racism



The Civil Rights Movement inspires Catholic activism today

To understand our current fight for racial justice, look to Catholic protests of the 1960s.



Former Atlanta Student Recalls Catholic Church's Role In Civil Rights



Honorary Super Bowl captains, nurse Suzie Dorner, educator Trimaine Davis, and veteran James Martin



*"Chorus of the Captains" by Amanda Gorman
(Poem written and delivered by Amanda Gorman at Super Bowl LV to honor COVID-19 heroes.)*

Today we honor our three captains
For their actions and impact in a time of uncertainty
and need.

They've taken the lead,
Exceeding all expectations and limitations,
Uplifting their communities and neighbors
As leaders, healers, and educators.

James has felt the wounds of warfare,
But this warrior still shares his home with at-risk
kids.

During COVID, he's even lent a hand,
Livestreaming football for family and fans.
Trimaine is an educator who works nonstop,
Providing his communities with hot spots, laptops,
and tech workshops

So his students have all the tools they need to suc-
ceed in life and in school.

Suzie is the ICU nurse manager at a Tampa hospital.

Her chronicles prove that even in tragedy, hope is
possible.

She lost her grandmothers to the pandemic
And fights to save other lives in the ICU battle
zone,

Defining the frontline heroes risking their lives for
our own.

Let us walk with these warriors,
Charge on with these champions,

And carry forth the call of our captains.

We celebrate them by acting with courage and
compassion,

By doing what is right and just,

For while we honor them today,

It is they who every day honor us.

Virginia General Assembly votes to ban death penalty; governor supports move



Pray, Study, Act: Nuclear Ban Treaty Goes Into Effect

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons went into effect on Jan. 22. Join as we celebrate this achievement and pray, study, and act to bring about a nuclear-free world.

St. Josephine Bakhita: A Saint for Victims of Human Trafficking | One-Minute Saints



NCR



Michael Leach



Daniel Horan, OFM

Soul Seeing

Soul Seeing contributor Michael Leach hosts this biweekly series of conversations on Lenten spirituality, beginning with guest Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan.

www.ncronline.org

Scenes from a recent Galilee retreat, which always begins with a service project. This year, juniors built dressers for the Furniture Bank.

Marist Campus Ministry offers multiple opportunities for students to participate in retreats at each grade level. All retreats are led by students who are chosen and trained by faculty members to provide a meaningful, fun experience for students to grow in their relationship with God. Retreats are voluntary and more than 90% of Marist students participate in a retreat during their time here.



NOTRE DAME

Pontiac, Michigan

Recently members of the NDP Champions For Life club prepared 80 “blessing bags” for Detroit’s homeless. The blessing bag contents were funded with proceeds from the Car Wash for Life they hosted in September. Each bag contained a hat, socks, gloves, washcloth, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, comb, lip balm and tissues.

