



Ladies of Charity National Assembly September 5-7, 2024

*Committed to the Eucharist,
Committed to Those in Need*



Guest Speakers



Robert Joseph (Bob) Schumer, Keynote Speaker

Bob was born in Perryville, MO on November 24, 1954 to Norbert and Alma Schumer, the 6th child of a family of 9. He's a lifelong member of St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Perryville and a 1973 graduate of St. Vincent High School. He is the 49-year husband to Jackie (Buerck) Schumer, the father of 4 and grandfather of 7. Bob has been an active member of the parish including Parish Council and a Catechist in the RCIA program for 30 years, Extraordinary Minister and Lector. Bob and Jackie have been active in the Cursillo Movement for 40 years including participating in weekends and past Lay Director of the St. Louis Cursillo. Bob has a deep love for the Eucharist and an appreciation for the Body of Christ in its fullness and a way of explaining it that is understandable and enjoyable. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, hunting, fishing and camping. Bob particularly enjoys sharing The Body of Christ!



Noel Barrett and Cathy Griner

Immigration Simulation - Led by Faith and Justice Ministry at St. Catherine Laboure and St. Justin Martyr

Immigration Simulation is a section of Just Faith's Faith and Immigration Justice program that Noel Barrett and Cathy Griner presented three times in 2022 and 2023. Noel works with I-Help which stands for Immigrant Home English Language Program that teaches English to immigrants. Cathy has been a Lady of Charity for 40+ years and leads the Faith and Justice Ministry at St. Catherine Laboure. Both of them bring many years of teaching experience in Catholic schools and their passion for social justice.



Fr. Jim Cormack, C.M.

Rev. Jim Cormack, C.M. is a Vincentian priest, member of the Western Province. He was ordained in 1976. He has served most of his priestly life as a parish priest, 34 years as a pastor. "I worked at an urban parish with the poor and a suburban parish, a parish for the poor. I have learned over the years the power of the works of mercy and justice, the goodness of so many people concerned for the poor, learning to love and serve Christ in one another."

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Guest Speakers (continued)



Marie Kenyon

Marie Kenyon has had a long career in advancing the social justice mission of the Catholic Church. She is currently the director of the Office of Peace and Justice and founder of the inaugural Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. She also chairs the Archdiocese Immigration Task Force and is the Diocesan Director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services. From 1987 to 2015, Marie was the founder and managing attorney of the Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry where she and her staff provided civil legal assistance to low-income clients focusing primarily on victims of domestic violence and their children, immigrants with and without status, veterans and those needing to obtain guardianship of children or the disabled. Marie received her undergraduate degree from Bradley University in 1981 and her JD from St. Louis University School of Law in 1986. She was a member of the United States Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa from 1981 to 1983. Marie sits on several non-profit boards in the St. Louis region including St. Mary's Southside Catholic High School and was previously the President of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the St. Louis Bar Foundation.



Dr. Marty Schmidt, MD

Dr. Marty Schmidt MD is a pediatrician and Director of Global Health Education at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, MO. In 2012 he founded the non-profit organization OKS Inc to address the problem of chronic, endemic malnutrition in western Kenya. OKS Inc provides funding for Kenyan operations to manufacture and distribute peanut-butter-based ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for severely and moderately malnourished children. Twelve years of experience has led to a proposal for a new strategy to reach the almost 10 million children worldwide who need this lifesaving food.



Ginny Schrappen

Ginny Schrappen is a native of St. Louis and has been involved with the Catholic Church her entire life. She has lived on only two streets in 81 years. She grew up in her family home on Keokuk Street in the City, married and moved with her husband to Mehlville in South St. Louis County. A former schoolteacher, she has lived in her current home 56 years raising her 3 children and black lab there. Ginny became active around social justice within the Church when she was in college during Vatican II. She has served on many committees both in her former parish of Mary Mother of the Church and her current parish, St. Francis Xavier "College" Church, as well as numerous community organizations.



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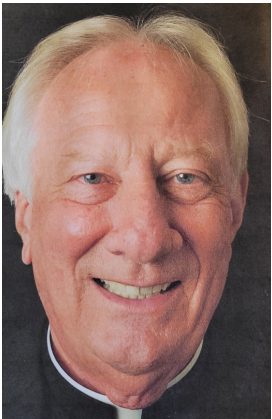


Guest Speakers (continued)



Sister Mary Ruth Wand, SSND

Sister grew up on a farm outside of Quincy, Illinois; one of seven children who had loving, faith-filled parents and a large extended family. She answered God's call to religious life and professed vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame on July 31, 1965. Her community's charism is education, so she was a teacher and principal in numerous Catholic elementary schools for years and is now pastoral minister at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Sedalia, MO, where she is blessed to be involved in many ways in the parish and school.



Fr. Richard Gielow, CM

Father Richard Gielow, CM is a member of the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers Religious community. Currently he is director of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center. He is National Spiritual Advisor to Ladies of Charity USA as well as National Spiritual Advisor to KSKJ, a Catholic fraternal insurance organization. He is also listed in the Midwest and Religious Section of Who's Who in America as a well-known preacher and retreat Director. His twin brother Robert Gielow, CM, also a Vincentian, is a member of the parish mission team. Sometimes they conduct missions together. They have a sister Mary Ann who lives in Tucson, AZ.



Fr. Perry Henry, CM

Born in Beaumont, TX, Fr. Perry Henry, CM serves as the Provincial Director of the Daughters of Charity, St. Louise Province. Ordained 40 years, he's a priest of the Congregation of the Mission, Western Province. He served as Provincial Visitor of the Western Province from 2010-2013. Prior to moving to St. Louis this past September he was Superior of the Vincentian Community in Montebello, CA and served as Spiritual Advisor for both the Ladies of Charity and St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He continues to serve as a board member of the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation in Los Angeles.