

## Easter 2024

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!!

Indeed, He is risen! As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the significance of community and support in our life as disciples of Jesus. The Lord never leaves us alone! This year at MACC, we see signs of the Risen Christ in the first cohort of certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers, you have helped us form.

Yes! We did it! On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 11 women and men were certified by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., of San Antonio to be coworkers in the vineyard of 11 parishes throughout a vast region of South Texas. These 11 lay ministers will help lead thousands of parishioners through their service as directors of religious education, youth ministers, in liturgical, and in pastoral ministries. And we are proud to say these ministers are just an example of how we see the life of our risen Lord in our midst! Last fall we welcomed 17 new candidates for diaconate formation, 16 new lay ministry leaders, and 6 religious' sisters into our programs. Please pray for them.

And so, we are reaching out seeking your contribution to what can help change much in our church. Your help has a big impact in the education of so many people who are stepping up to the plate to lead the church where the Spirit of the Risen Lord is leading it. This is what a graduate of our Lay Ecclesial Ministry program says:

As a wife and a mother with three small children, I was worried that the Lay Ecclesial Ministry program would take too much away from my work or my family, but the biggest surprise hasn't been what it's taken away, it is what it has given to my marriage, my children, and my ministry in our parish. The encouragement that I have received from my husband, my priest, my friends and catechists, and fellow classmates has been so beautiful and unexpected.

If you wish to donate by phone, please call Kendra Rodriguez at 210-731-3142 or send her an email at <a href="mailto:krodriguez@maccsa.org">krodriguez@maccsa.org</a> so she can process your donation. You can also make a donation online through our website (maccsa.org) or at: <a href="https://maccsa.regfox.com/crowd/easter-appeal-2024">https://maccsa.regfox.com/crowd/easter-appeal-2024</a>.

Thank you for your support and may you and your family have a blessed Easter season!

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

Rev. Juan J. Molina, PhD President and CEO