

KINO BORDER INITIATIVE TO ATTEND 24th ANNUAL IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE

The 2021 event brings together 1200+ attendees to examine issues including racial justice, immigration, and environmental justice through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching

WASHINGTON, D.C.—From **November 6-8, 2021**, Kino Border Initiative will join more than 1,200 individuals who will gather for the 24th annual **Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice** in Washington, D.C.

Initiated in 1997, the Teach-In commences yearly to commemorate the lives of the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. The six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her teenage daughter were murdered on November 16, 1989, for speaking out against the country's tumultuous civil war. Through work with the poor and marginalized, the Catholic Church and its leaders, including the Jesuits and now-Saint Óscar Romero, sought to address the long history of inequality and injustice in the country.

Each year, the Teach-In connects Catholic faith and justice, addressing timely issues through two days of dynamic speakers, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities. Known as the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the U.S., the gathering this year attracts attendees from nearly 100 Jesuit and other Catholic universities, high schools, parishes, and organizations in the U.S. and El Salvador. While all ages are represented at the event, the majority of attendees are ages 16-22.

The weekend will include two public actions: **a vigil on Sunday, November 7 in Lafayette Square outside of the White House**, praying for an end to Title 42, the policy being used to unjustly turn away asylum seekers at the U.S. border during the pandemic; and **a public witness on Monday, November 8 at the Capitol Reflecting Pool**, showing a commitment to advocating for more just and humane immigration and environmental policies during the upcoming virtual advocacy day on Tuesday, November 16, the anniversary of the deaths of the Jesuit martyrs and their companions.

2021 keynote presenters include **Fr. Bryan Massingale**, racial justice scholar and professor of theology at Fordham University, **Keya Chatterjee**, executive director of the U.S. Climate Action Network, and **Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J.**, founder of Homeboy Industries.

Additional featured speakers include **Sharon Levigne**, founder of **RISE St. James**, an organization advocating for those living in Louisiana's Cancer Alley, **Maka Black Elk**, executive director for truth and healing at **Red Cloud Indian School**, and **Marisa Limón Garza**, deputy director for **Hope Border Institute**. A lineup of breakout presenters will also present on topics including racial justice and policing, civil dialogue, self-care in justice work, labor and worker rights, restorative justice, economic justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion, climate justice, criminal justice reform, and more.

The 2021 gathering will mark a return to in-person programming for the Ignatian Solidarity Network, with reduced attendance and ample COVID-19 safety measures in place. "For more than twenty years, the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice has brought people together to honor the legacy of the Jesuit martyrs

and their companions through learning, prayer, and action,” says Christopher Kerr, executive director of the Ignatian Solidarity Network. “This year, we gather attendees once again in person in this spirit, and to continue our shared work for justice in light of the ways in which the pandemic has made injustice more evident.”

The 2021 theme, *Imagining a Path Forward: Reflection. Reckoning. Kinship*, invites attendees to “imagine together a path forward that better reflects the values of God’s Kingdom. A path not confined by the way things have always been and which exclaims the common good as central to all that we do, promoting the flourishing of all people.”

The Ignatian Solidarity Network additionally hosted a [virtual IFTJ](#) in October 2021 for those not yet comfortable with in-person gatherings, featuring Sr. Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, and Fr. James Martin, S.J., best-selling author and editor-at-large for America Magazine.

The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice is generously sponsored by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Augsburg University Center for Global Education and Experience, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Bread for the World, Catholic Climate Covenant, Catholic Theological Union, Catholic Women Preach, Equal Exchange, Ethix Merch, Franciscan School of Theology, the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, Jesuit Schools Network, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, Maggie’s Place, Magis Americas, National Catholic Reporter, Sojourners, St. Joseph Worker Program, U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, the University of San Francisco McGrath Institute for Jesuit Catholic Education, Villanova University Campus Ministry, and Xavier University.

Join the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice via free livestream: igsol.net/iftj-21-live

Media event registration (required for all members of the media, including school reporters and photographers): igsol.net/media-21

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