

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Season of Faithful Witness – Catholics in Communion

Parish Communities of the Camden and Trenton Dioceses, - Join Nationwide Call to Prayerful Public Witness

Marlton, NJ — April 2026. St. Joan of Arc Parish in Marlton, NJ will host a Prayerful Public Witness for all Catholics of our parish communities in the Camden and Trenton Dioceses to participate in a communal walking of the *Stations of the Cross for Social Justice*.

The event will take place **Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 2:00–4:00 p.m.** Participants will gather on the grounds of St. Joan of Arc Church and proceed to designated Stations on the parish campus.

This gathering is part of the national initiative **Season of Faithful Witness – Catholics in Communion**, a collaborative movement of Catholic social justice ministries responding to urgent pastoral challenges facing communities today. Rooted in diocesan ministries, religious communities, parish life, and Catholic apostolates, this effort reflects what many describe as a “*pastoral emergency of hope.*”

Terrence Thompson, Coordinator of the Laudato Si’ Movement, New Jersey Chapter, states clearly Why this moment and Why now. “Our gathering at St. Joan of Arc parish unites us with Catholics across the country who are standing together in events like ours to affirm the dignity of every person as a Child of God. We see human dignity under assault these days in so many ways. Immigrants are being met with hostility, family life is under threat, and we feel unsafe in our homes, schools, workplaces, and places of worship. Artificial Intelligence replaces human connections, the air we breathe and water we drink is being polluted, healthcare has become a privilege for some instead of a right for all, and hunger and homelessness are increasing. Our gathering is an act of prayerful public witness, standing in solidarity with all those who are being harmed by these affronts to human dignity.” In this moment, the Church is called not only to charitable outreach but also to moral clarity, visible solidarity, and a response to the cries of our common home.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” — Proverbs 31:8

Grounded in Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching, the Season of Faithful Witness calls Catholics to unite in prayer, discernment, and public witness. As the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* teaches, “*A just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person.*”

From Ash Wednesday to Corpus Christi, Catholic communities across the country are hosting public witness events that affirm human dignity and foster a culture of life and love. “With our communities fractured and the vulnerable living in fear,” the Pastoral Minister of St. Joan of Arc parish, SueAnn Jeral, encourages us to, “respond to our call to be voices of truth in opposing the cruelty and dehumanization of our neighbors. *Catholics in Communion* pledge commitment to prayer and public witness to uphold the dignity of all.”

Participants follow the pastoral method of See, Judge, Act—seeing the realities in their communities, judging them in light of the Gospel, and acting through prayerful witness and concrete solidarity. As Pope Benedict XVI warned, excluding faith from public life weakens genuine human encounter and cooperation. This initiative seeks to make faith visible through a steady rhythm of prayer, gathering, discernment, and action.

Organizers emphasize that this is not a one-time campaign, but an ongoing movement rooted in communion. Inspired by St. Paul’s reminder that “*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it*” (1 Corinthians 12:26), the initiative calls Catholics into deeper solidarity with the most vulnerable. Lia Romero, Coordinator of St. Joan of Arc’s LOVE IN ACTION: Life, Justice and Creation Ministry states, “I am looking forward to what comes next for us working with the national *Catholics in Communion* movement as we continue our walk in solidarity with our marginalized brothers and sisters who suffer from violations of human dignity in so many ways.”

Echoing St. John Paul II, leaders stress that true solidarity “*is not a feeling of vague compassion... but a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.*” This commitment is lived through concrete action: “*Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth*” (1 John 3:18).

The Season of Faithful Witness offers a shared, prayerful, and visible response for Catholics seeking to live their faith more fully in today’s world—standing together in hope, unity, and love.

Public Witness Event Details

What: Prayerful Walking of the Stations of the Cross for Social Justice

When: May 9, 2026, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Where: St. Joan of Arc Parish, 100 Willow Bend Rd, Marlton, NJ

Media Contact: Lia Romero lia@stjoans.org Coordinator of LOVE IN ACTION: Life, Justice and Creation ministry SueAnn Jeral, Pastoral Minister of Adult Faith Formation. sueann.jeral@stjoans.org. 856-983-0077, ext. 306

For more information on the Season of Faithful Witness, visit:

<https://www.catholicsincommunion.org/>