

Candidate for MI National Council

Brian Covey, Southern California

My name is Brian Covey. My wife Renee and I were married in the Church when I was twenty-one, and we have been blessed with nine children, including three who joined our family from Ethiopia in 2009. By God's grace, our family remains in good standing and MI consecrated; this devotion has been the bedrock of my thirty-year career and my service to the Church.

I retired in 2015 as a Chief Deputy Warden. A hallmark of my work was building the department's first "Youth Offenders Program," a landmark effort to look after those most at risk and provide a path for dignity. This experience, combined with six years on the Executive Board for Vianney Academy, instilled in me a deep responsibility for the well-being of those under my watch.

My commitment to the MI reached a turning point when the National Director for MI Youth and Young Adults asked me to join a committee of professionals to address the movement's mandate to protect the vulnerable. Under her leadership, we built an "architecture of safety" for the minors and the vulnerable in our care. We didn't want a cold list of rules; we wanted a structure that embodied the protective vigilance of the Good Shepherd, ensuring our community remained a secure sanctuary. By keeping Saint Maximilian's motto, "Only Love Creates," at the center, we ensured these protections supported an atmosphere Our Lady would be proud of—prioritizing the safety of our youth and the elderly poor over mere bureaucracy.

Because the National Director recognized that standard training like Virtus often fell short of the unique demands of extended retreats and pilgrimages, I joined her to observe the ground-level realities of these events. These committee contributions helped form the approved U.S. National Policy, which stood as the movement's sole comprehensive standard for protection until the international policy was published in 2025.

I am running for the National Council to offer this same level of watchful stewardship to the Movement at large. My decades of leadership and executive board experience in business and legal operations have prepared me for the governance and long-term planning required by the Council. Now retired, I am ready to use my background to keep our movement strong and continue our Mother's work.

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