



FAQ: JOIN & St. Francis Merger with Catholic Social Services

1. What is being announced?

Catholic Social Services (CSS) is welcoming the Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs (JOIN) and the St. Francis Evangelization Center (St Francis) into its family of program ministries. (Formerly JOIN and St. Francis were operated under the curia of the Diocese.) This merger strengthens our ability to serve individuals and families experiencing poverty across central and southeastern Ohio.

2. Why is this merger happening?

This is a mission-driven decision to better respond to growing and changing needs of our communities. By combining resources, expertise, and outreach, CSS can expand services, improve access to care, and serve more people, especially in underserved rural areas.

3. Will JOIN and St. Francis continue to operate?

Yes. Their mission and services will continue:

- JOIN's services in Franklin County will be integrated into existing CSS locations.
- St. Francis in McArthur will expand into a broader community outreach center.

4. How will this impact the people being served?

Individuals will continue to receive compassionate, Christ-centered care with even more services and programs. This merger allows us to:

- Serve more individuals and families
- Expand access to food, financial assistance, and emergency support
- Increase outreach in rural communities, especially in southeastern Ohio

5. Who do I call if I need to receive services from JOIN or St. Francis?

You can call the same phone number for both JOIN or St. Francis or email the new information emails listed below.

- JOIN: Phone: **614-241-2530** or Email: **infoJOIN@colscss.org**
- St. Francis Evangelization Center: Phone: **740-596-5820** or email: **infoStFrancis@colscss.org**



6. Who do I call with questions about the merger?

Call Catholic Social Services at 614-221-5891

1. Kelley Henerdson, President and CEO of Catholic Social Services
2. Julie Naporano, VP of Development & Communication
3. Lisa Keita, VP of Nutritional Services

7. Will donations to JOIN or St. Francis still support those communities?

Yes, just like many of the ministries in the Catholic Social Services family, donors may support the causes they most care about through a designated gift.

- Gifts designated for JOIN or St. Francis will continue to support services in those programs and communities.
- The merger enhances stewardship by allowing resources to go further and have greater impact.

8. Who is leading this transition?

With the approval of Bishop Fernandes, CSS Board of Directors, various stakeholders, partners, and the executive team, Kelley Henderson, President and CEO of Catholic Social Services and Lisa Keita, current Executive Director of JOIN and St. Francis, will oversee the transition and help launch expanded services focused on rural communities.

9. What new opportunities does this create?

CSS is excited about the opportunity this merger will provide for our neighbors in need. This is about growth in mission, not change in purpose. We are building on strong foundations to serve more people, more effectively, while remaining rooted in Christ-centered care and compassion.

This merger opens the door to:

- Expanded nutrition and food access programs
- Greater regional collaboration
- Increased impact across both urban and rural communities