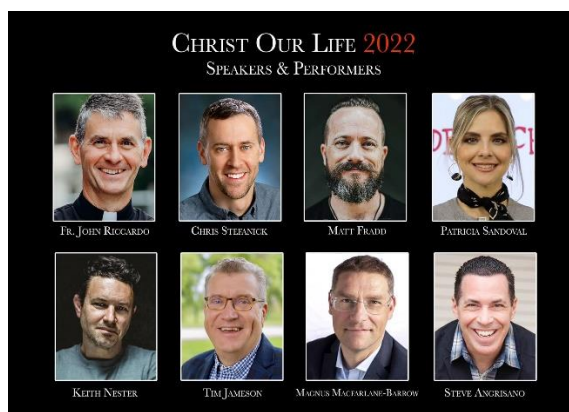


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## Mary's Meals Founder Joins World-Class Speakers as Presenter at International Conference

*Distinctly Catholic conference goes global again with renowned speakers*



*Mary's Meals Founder, Magnus MacFarlane Barrow joins fellow conference presenters.*

**Bloomfield, N.J. – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – The 7<sup>th</sup> biennial [Christ Our Life Catholic \(COL\) Conference](#) returns on **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, Iowa. Once again, both in-person attendance and livestreaming will be offered.

Returning for his 7<sup>th</sup> conference as a featured presenter, Mary's Meals Founder, and Catholic leader, [Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow](#), will join an impressive line-up of world-class speakers as part of this Catholic gathering.

In 2002, MacFarlane-Barrow founded the international school feeding charity, [Mary's Meals](#), named after Mary, the mother of Jesus. Magnus was inspired by his faith and the words of a young Malawian boy who only wanted to have enough to eat and to go to school.

Mary's Meals offers a unique model in which it collaborates with communities to source food locally, where possible, and work with volunteers to prepare, cook, and serve food to the children in their places of education. This allows everyone to be part of the solution to hunger and missed education and provides hope of a brighter future for a new generation.

"I am delighted to be invited to return to this inspiring and affirming conference where so much can be learned and so many blessings can be shared," said MacFarlane-Barrow.

He added, "Mary's Meals has been greatly enriched by the outpouring of support from COL attendees over the years, which has resulted in feeding thousands of children."

Now, 20 years later, Mary's Meals feeds 2,279,941 million children one nutritious meal daily in their place of education in 20 developing countries such as South Sudan, Ethiopia, Haiti, and Yemen. This global movement offers anyone the opportunity to participate in the mission through prayer, giving (\$21 feeds a child for a year), talent (events, fundraising, and school lessons), and sharing the Mary's Meals story of hope.

MacFarlane-Barrow has been named one of [TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People](#) and this summer, was saluted for a second time as a [CNN Top Ten Hero](#) for his work in feeding the world's poorest children. He is also the author of the bestselling book about this global movement, [The Shed That Fed 2 Million Children](#) and his most recent book in 2020, [Give: The Art of Living Generously](#).

MacFarlane-Barrow notes, "It's particularly meaningful to gather now as we face a catastrophic global hunger crisis that imperils more than 345 million people."

He will present a talk based on the 20 years that Mary's Meals has been serving meals to children where they learn and the current global hunger crisis as well as provide updates on the Mary's Meals mission.

He will join internationally renowned presenters: [Fr. John Riccardo](#); [Patricia Sandoval](#); [Chris Stefanick](#); [Matt Fradd](#); and [Keith Nester](#); and [Steve Angrisano](#). Additionally, [Jon Leonetti](#) of Iowa Catholic Radio returns as emcee, just as he has done since the first Christ Our Life Catholic Conference 12 years ago.

Since its debut in 2010, the [Christ Our Life Catholic Conference](#) (COL2022) has grown exponentially from a regional gathering to an international event. According to thousands of testimonials over the past 12 years, many lives have been dramatically changed by the caliber of the presenters and music and the focus on Catholicism, including the faith-filled reverence at Mass, Eucharistic Procession, Adoration, Benediction, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"We want participants to know that Jesus is Mercy, and he wants to meet them right where they are in their life and faith journey, says Christ Our Life Co-Chair and Co-Founder Ellen Miller. Miller is also a Regional Coordinator for Mary's Meals USA.

It was during a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 2009 when Miller met MacFarlane-Barrow, which led to an invitation to him to be a featured speaker at the first Christ Our Life Catholic Conference in 2010.

"We heard Magnus share his passion for the children of Mary's Meals, their families, and the communities around the world who love and support them ... and that's all it took for us to want to invite him," Miller adds.

Fellow conference Co-Chair and Co-Founder, Marilyn Lane says, "One of the greatest gifts derived from the conference is related to the witnesses that thousands have shared. The common thread is participants' strong awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence."

Attendees can attend in-person or participate by livestreaming during the conference. Tickets are just \$15 for students and \$25 for adults for the entire weekend.

More information on the conference can be found at: [www. https://christourlifeiowa.com/](http://www.https://christourlifeiowa.com/)

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## Interviews

Interviews with Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Founder, and CEO of Mary's Meals and images and additional information are available.

## About Mary's Meals

[Mary's Meals](#) is a global movement that sets up school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals works with in-country volunteers to provide one daily meal in a place of learning to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can be their ladder out of poverty. Mary's Meals began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002.

Today, the organization feeds 2,279,941 hungry children every school day across five continents, in the following countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger, Romania, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mary's Meals collaborates with the U.N. World Food Program and is part

of the global School Meals Coalition, an emerging initiative of governments and partners to drive actions that can urgently re-establish, improve, and scale up food and education systems.

For more information about Mary's Meals visit [marysmealsusa.org](http://marysmealsusa.org) or follow Mary's Meals on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

## **Facts**

- It costs just \$21 to feed a child for an entire year.
- Mary's Meals is commemorating 20 years of service and now serves children in 20 countries.
- The words of a child lead to the mission of feeding children in their places of education.
- Mary's Meals collaborates with local communities to source, prepare, cook, and serve meals.
- Globally, people can support this critical mission through prayer, donations, and sharing of talents and the Mary's Meals story.
- Mary's Meals feeds 2,279, 941 children every school day.