Our 2026-2027 Vision Keeper Award Recipients

Each year Interfaith Action of Evanston hosts their annual ***Vision Keepers Dinner*** to recognize and celebrate those who embody service, social action, and interfaith cooperation. This year, St. John XXIII Parish will honor two Vision Keepers: the parish's **Somos Uno** team and parishioner **Cliff Barber**, CEO of Fillmore Linen Service. The event will bring together representatives from congregations throughout Evanston and take place on **Sunday, October 25, at 5:30 p.m.** at the **Hilton Orrington Hotel, Grand Ballroom**, 1710 Orrington Ave., Evanston, IL.

CLIFF BARBER is a man of deep faith with a passion for justice and mercy. He is currently the CEO of Fillmore Linen Service, a commercial laundry facility serving the healthcare industry located in North Lawndale, a Chicago community affected by decades of disinvestment, high unemployment, poverty, and violent crime. As a proud southside Chicago native, Cliff brings a deep understanding of the area's communities and challenges to this role. He has prioritized hiring formerly incarcerated job seekers and supporting North Lawndale's renewal by creating employment opportunities for local residents. Under his leadership, Fillmore Linen has expanded from a few dozen employees to more than 300.

Cliff led the Archdiocese of Chicago's Renew My Church initiative as Chief Strategy Officer and was most recently a partner at Chicago Rises Fund, an impact investing fund. He has a deep knowledge of impact investing having helped develop the vision for a recently closed $29 million impact fund for a syndicate of minority-owned CDFIs from across the nation. Cliff has an MBA from Harvard Business School, a General Course degree in economics from the London School of Economics and a BSc in economics from Grinnell College. He lives with his wife Claire and five children in Evanston.

Somos Uno (**We Are One**) was established at St. John XXIII Parish in January 2025, following a U.S. presidential executive order that expanded federal agents' authority to enter "sensitive" locations, including houses of worship. This group of parishioners and neighbors maintains a visible presence on parish campuses to help safeguard the right to worship peacefully and without fear.

Somos Uno collaborates with other parish ministries — St. Vincent de Paul*,* Migrant Ministry*, and* Pastoral Migratoria — to support individuals facing legal and financial challenges. Its services include educational workshops, food assistance, rental support, court accompaniment, and referrals to legal resources.

We hope you will consider joining us as we honor our Vision Keepers. Tickets are **$90.00** each. Please RSVP no later than **Friday, Oct. 2, 2026**, to the Parish Office on the St. Nicholas Campus. All reservations must be accompanied by payment. Proceeds from the Vision Keepers Dinner support Interfaith Action's Winter Overnight Shelter and Warming Center, Hospitality Center for the Homeless, and local Soup Kitchens.