



ACTION REQUIRED

VOCATION POSTER 2019

Each parish, college/university and Catholic high school in the archdiocese should have received two copies of the 2019 Vocation Poster in November. Please display the poster prominently in your church and/or school to support vocations to consecrated life. If somehow your parish or school was missed, please contact [Maria Reinagel](mailto:maria.reinagel@archdioceseofcincinnati.org) at 513.263.6683.

OHIO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

On January 1, 2020, the Ohio minimum wage will increase to \$8.70 per hour. The minimum wage increase is the result of a constitutional amendment passed by voters in November 2006. The amendment requires the Ohio minimum wage to increase on January 1 of each year by the rate of inflation. The increase is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the prior 12 month period as of September 30, 2019. As a result of this increase, please make sure that none of your employees is paid less than \$8.70 an hour beginning January 1, 2020.

For questions about the minimum wage increase, please contact [Rob Reid](mailto:rob.reid@archdioceseofcincinnati.org) at 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](mailto:meg.paul@archdioceseofcincinnati.org) at 513.263.3141.

OHIO & FEDERAL COMBINATION POSTER

All locations, regardless of size, are required to post the Federal & State Poster. It is your responsibility to have this poster displayed in a public location.

You can readily find companies that sell a combination poster. One location we have used is [All In One Posters](http://www.inoneposters.com) (1.800.273.0307). The cost is \$19.95.

EASTER VIGIL START TIME

The *Roman Missal* specifies that the Easter Vigil “must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall...”. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, **the Easter Vigil should begin no earlier than 8:45 p.m.**, and preferably at 9:00 p.m.

REQUEST FOR MASS COUNTS ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH IN 2020

We request that each parish collect Mass counts one Sunday per month in 2020. Please keep this data at your parish office; the Office of Parish Vitality and Mission will then request it from you in June and December. This data is an important part of a larger archdiocese-wide data gathering process. Questions? Please email [Rob Brock](mailto:rob.brock@archdioceseofcincinnati.org) in the Office of Parish Vitality and Mission or call 513.263.6687.

OPTIONAL

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Vocations Office is hosting a Men's Discernment retreat for men college age and older on January 10-12 at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood. There is no cost for this retreat. For more information or to register, see the [website](#) or call Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer at 513.263.3390.

VOCATION NIGHT

Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West is hosting a Vocation Night for college age men and older on Wednesday, January 29 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm. For more information or to register, see the [website](#) or call Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer at 513.263.3390.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION FOR PRIESTS

The Advent Day of Reflection for Priests has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton, OH. Rev. Matthew Summe, LC, will be the presenter speaking on "The Incarnation and Priestly Wholeness". To register, email [Sarah Frohmiller](#) or call 513.263.6651.

SAVE THE DATE – SPRING RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

The Spring Retreat for Priests is scheduled for March 16-20, 2020 at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center. Our speaker will be Reverend Thomas Buffer, S.T.D., of the Diocese of Columbus. More information to come.

CONSECRATED AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS MINISTERS AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

The Office of Consecrated Life has a panel of speakers with a 45 minute presentation on the vocation to consecrated life as well as a list of individual Vocation ministers who are available to visit schools and parish religion classes throughout the school year. Please consider having a consecrated religious woman or man come speak with your students about vocations. For more information, email [Maria Reinagel](#) or call 513.263.6683.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

The Department of Human Resources will be holding informational meetings on the Department of Labor (DOL) Final Overtime Rule, which is set to take effect on January 1, 2020. These meetings are open to pastors, business managers and others who are responsible for wage-hour law compliance and the implementation of the Final Overtime Rule. Specific information regarding these sessions is as follows:

- St. John the Evangelist, 9080 Cincinnati Dayton Rd., West Chester, OH 45069 (held in the Education/Activity Center), Wednesday, December 4 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- St. Christopher Church, 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia, OH 45377 (held in the Emmaus Center), Wednesday, December 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

If you have any questions, contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](#) at 513.263.3341.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION TUITION AID GRANTS

The Catholic Education Foundation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is currently accepting applications for 2020-2021 elementary school (K-8) tuition assistance grants. All grants are needs-based and can be used at any Catholic elementary school within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Typically, awards have ranged from \$250 to \$1,200 per qualified student.

How to apply: www.catholicbestchoice.org

Deadline: January 31, 2020

The Catholic Education Foundation tuition aid program became a reality in 2017-2018 through the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign. Due to the generosity of your parish, the Catholic Education Foundation will again be able to offer over \$2,000,000 in financial aid! For more details and to apply, visit [here](#).

#GIVING TUESDAY, DEC. 3 – RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

On #Giving Tuesday, December 3, the biggest global day of giving, please support the [Retirement Fund for Religious](#). This is an opportunity for Catholics to thank the religious women and men who provided Catholic schooling for them. Please share our page.

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

Each year, the National Night of Prayer for Life takes place from 9:00 p.m. on December 8 until 1:00 a.m. December 9. The National Prayer for Life is a pro-life prayer service consisting of Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a full 20 decades of the Rosary, a prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer and hymns. We invite all parishes to consider organizing a local prayer event if they can, using resources provided at Nationalnightofprayerforlife.org.

KEY WEEKENDS FOR THE 2020 CMA

- Announcement Weekend: January 18/19, 2020
- Commitment Weekend: February 1/2, 2020

2020 CMA – REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Regional Training Workshops for the 2020 CMA will be taking place in early December. These workshops are for pastors, parish staff, CMA chairs, and anyone helping with the CMA. Each workshop is identical to the others. Dates, times, and locations are listed below:

- Tuesday, December 10, 10:00 – 11:00 AM @ St. Peter, Huber Heights (Dayton Area)
- Tuesday, December 10, 2:00 – 3:00 PM @ Holy Redeemer, New Bremen (North)
- Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 – 11:00 AM @ St. Saviour (Cincinnati Area)
- Wednesday, December 11, 1:00 – 2:00 PM @ Corpus Christi (Cincinnati Area)
- Thursday, December 12, 10:00 – 11:00 AM @ Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe

Please RSVP by December 4 to [Matt Reinkemeyer](#).

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) RICE BOWL - IMPORTANT UPDATE

Every few years, CRS goes through a clean-up process in order to be better stewards of our CRS Rice Bowl resources. For this coming year only, **parishes need to make a proactive order or they will not receive rice bowls.** CRS has and will continue to send notices about this with a response card. Parishes can send in the card or can make their order [online](#).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2020 WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Social Action and the Divine Worship and Sacraments offices have put together a [great list of resources](#) for this holiday. We encourage all parishes to incorporate some of these resources into their liturgies on January 1.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Just a reminder that the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements are due by December 1, 2019. Each year responsible individuals who hold decision making or policy setting positions or who purchase equipment, supplies or other goods, must sign the form. All Disclosure Statements must be kept in a confidential file (at your location) under lock and key. If you have any questions regarding this reminder, please contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611. Please [click](#) for the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement.

GUIDANCE ON PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTEERS

We have received numerous inquiries from parishes regarding volunteers and whether they can receive any form of payment or reimbursement for expenses. Especially this time of year, a parish may want to pay a volunteer as a “thank you” for being loyal to the parish. Please read the recommended [guidelines](#) on payments to volunteers. If you have any questions or concerns please contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](#) at 513.263.3341.

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ADVENT – FREE!

Download [The Ultimate Guide to Advent](#) free from *The Catholic Telegraph* to help experience all the peace, hope, and joy this season has to offer – **and urge your parishioners to do so, as well!** See the sample bulletin entry in the next section.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

This collection takes place on December 7 and 8. Retired religious count on your support for this much-needed collection. If you would like a fact sheet or a picture of this year’s billboard, please email [Maria Reinagel](#) or call 513.263.6683. Or find both of these resources [here](#) along with this year’s TV Spot. Questions or need assistance? Please do not hesitate to contact Maria.

DISCERNMENT AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Click [here](#) for a list of discernment and spiritual growth opportunities being offered around the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for men and women who may be considering consecrated and religious life.

PRISON MINISTRY COLLECTING RELIGIOUS ITEMS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Prison Ministry is collecting religious items and Christmas cards to bring into the prisons and jails this Christmas. Rosaries, saint medals, crucifixes, holy cards, and novenas that are sitting around doing nothing at home are much cherished reminders of God's love and mercy for our brothers and sisters in prison. A Christmas card sent to an inmate who has no one else will bring light into their darkness. All items and Christmas cards can be sent to: Archdiocese Prison Ministry, 100 E Eighth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE & OTHER LITURGIES

Need help preparing Advent liturgies? You'll find resources, including a ritual text for a communal penance service, on the Office of Divine Worship and Sacraments [website](#).

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN THE STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

We are very happy to announce two new staff members to the Stewardship Department, James Hess and Matt Reinkemeyer!

James will be serving as a Development Officer, a newly created position to better reach out and engage prospective and current donors with the CMA and special campaigns. James comes to the department from the University of Cincinnati Foundation. In addition, Ryan Lopez, who for the last few years has served as the Director of Development Operations, will also be transitioning to a Development Officer role for the department. One of the areas of focus for these Development Officer positions will be to work with parishes that want help implementing their own capital campaigns and appeals. If you need help or have questions, please feel free to contact us!

With Ryan taking on a new role, we also welcome Matt Reinkemeyer as our new staff member to serve as the Director of Development Operations. Matt will be leading the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA). Matt comes to the Stewardship Department from Via and the Office for Youth Evangelization and Discipleship here in the Archdiocese.

“SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD”: JANUARY 26, 2020

You can find resources to celebrate the first annual Sunday of the Word of God on January 26, 2020 on the [website of the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#). Resources are available for parish liturgies, families, and more!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT HISPANIC MINISTRY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Is your parish looking for a unique, local way to reach out to others? Many parishes in the Archdiocese are experiencing an influx of Hispanic adults and families in their area and are doing their best to respond sacramentally and pastorally. This naturally involves the need for additional extern priests as well as funding for catechist certification, resources, and other means of support. Perhaps your parish does not have a substantial presence of Hispanic people and would like to be part of welcoming and supporting our Hispanic brothers and sisters through a financial partnership. If so, please contact Fr. Jan Schmidt at jschmidt@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.263.6653 to explore possibilities.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION & ENVELOPES

Fellow Catholics in 1,100 mission dioceses are grateful for your solidarity! Please mail into the Mission Office your Mission Sunday donations AND your **envelopes** as soon as possible to: Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th St. Cincinnati, OH, 45202. Any questions or comments? Contact [Melonise Knight](#) at 513.263.6681.

REMINDER FOR MISSIONARY CO-OP PLAN (MCP) COLLECTIONS

Please mail in any remaining MCP collections to the same address, per above. Please indicate for **which year** those funds were collected. New MCP selections are made in January 2020 and we wish to not confuse these collections with last year's donations. Thank you so much for your hospitality and generosity to missionaries, many of whom serve in very difficult situations.

THIS ADVENT/LENT, LET'S LEARN FROM CATHOLICS OF OTHER CULTURES AND NATIONS

At this time in history, Pope Francis especially urges us to more inter-religious and cultural dialogue as well as respect for immigrants and refugees, i.e., Lampedusa Island, the border with Mexico, etc. The Holy Father also reminds us to share our love for Jesus locally and globally. In our archdiocese we are blessed to have returned missionaries and outstanding Catholics from Vietnam, Philippines, Uganda, Mexico, Central and South America, Caribbean, Appalachia, U.S. Southwest, etc. They wish to share their love for the Lord and the Church by sharing their experience and stories with your students, RCIA candidates, adult prayer groups, etc. Let the Mission Office help your PSR director, adult education leader, and school principal organize a visit or longer program this Advent or Lent with our fellow Catholics of other cultures and returned missionaries. What about starting a parish/school twinning relationship? Contact [Sr. Eileen Connelly](#) or 513.263.6682.

PLAN AND LEAD EVEN BETTER, SAFER, HOLIER JOURNEYS AND MISSION TRIPS...AND REDUCE HAZARDS

Attention pastors, principals, parish/school staff and volunteers who plan or lead immersion/service trips with youth, high school and college campus ministers, service coordinators, parish twinning leaders and other trip planners. With advice from you and others, various offices of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati have developed rules, guidelines and travel tips that deal with insurance/liability coverage, solid religious motivations, child protection and safety considerations for youth AND adults. Visit the archdiocesan Risk Management Office [website](#) or contact [Dr. Mike Gable](#) of the Mission Office who is also willing to provide advice.

OCTOBER COUNT AND OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DIRECTORY SUBMISSIONS

The Chancery Office wants to extend a sincere thank you to all the parishes and other organizations that provided their updates for the 2019 October Count and their information for *The Official Catholic Directory 2020 Edition*.

BULLETIN ENTRIES

VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN - Are you a college age man or older and wondering who God wants you to be? The Vocation Office for the Archdiocese is hosting a Discernment Retreat at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood on January 10-12. The retreat starts at 6:00 p.m. and concludes on Sunday by 11:00 a.m. There is no cost for the retreat. For more information or to register, see the website at www.cincinnati vocations.org or call Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer at 513.263.3390.

VOCATION NIGHT - Mt. St. Mary's Seminary is hosting a Vocation Night on Wednesday, January 29 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The night is for men college age and older who are discerning who God wants them to be. For more information or to register, see the website at www.cincinnati vocations.org or call Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer at 513.263.3390.

HAVE THE BEST ADVENT EVER! - What would it take for you to have a truly unforgettable Advent with your family? Download The Ultimate Guide to Advent free from *The Catholic Telegraph* to help experience all the peace, hope, and joy this season has to offer. Visit www.thecatholictelegraph.com/advent-guide to get your free copy!

CAREGIVING AND THE HOLIDAYS - Holidays can be difficult. If you know of a caregiver who needs encouragement and support, please tell them about our Caregiver Assistance Network and have them call Angie Homoele at 513.672.3834 or visit www.ccswoh.org/caregivers for our local meetings calendar.

FAIR TRADE SALE (DAYTON AREA) - There will be a fair trade sale on December 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the University of Dayton's Curran Center. Santa Clause will be available for pictures! Questions? Contact Sara Seligmann at sseligmann@catholiccincinnati.org.

FAIR TRADE SALE (CINTL. AREA) - The 13th Annual Alternative Gift Fair Global Christmas Market is on December 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Gallagher Student Center at Xavier University. Contact Tim at severynte@xavier.edu, 513.745.1908 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY VIGIL - On December 10 from 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. there will be a Vigil at the Butler County Correctional Complex for dignity and justice for immigrants. For more information go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/international-human-rights-day-vigil-dignity-and-justice-for-immigrants-tickets-81357160457>.

NATIONWIDE VIGIL TO #ENDGUNVIOLENCE - On December 17 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. there will be a Taize Prayer service at St. Anthony Parish (6104 Desmond St., Cincinnati, 45227) honoring over 700,000 Americans who have been killed by gun violence in the last seven years. Contact office@stanthonychurch.net or call 513.271.0929 for more information.

FOOD FOR ALL - Every county in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is home to people who struggle with food insecurity. Interested in reducing food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry or learning more about hunger in our area? Contact April Hoak, Food for All coordinator at 513.672.3720 or ahoak@ccswoh.org.

THANKS FOR YOUR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY DONATIONS! - Our fellow Catholics, priests, sisters and catechists in the 1000+ mission dioceses are deeply grateful for your World Mission Sunday (WMS) collection from October 20. These donations will help, for example, sisters serving at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Home in Burkina Faso to provide food, shelter, safety, love, and especially hope for struggling families. These sisters also supply education and medical care as well as the comforting presence of the Lord. So THANK YOU!

BEING PRO LIFE - Each month an important respect life topic is covered in **an engaging interview with someone personally affected by a particular issue**. You can find each *Being Pro-Life* column in *The Catholic Telegraph* and can watch the video or listen to the podcast by going to www.catholiccincinnati.org/Being-Pro-Life. This month's topic is Palliative Care. Invite parishioners, family and friends to check out the link.

MINISTRY TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (REPORTING) - The Archdiocese of Cincinnati regards child abuse in all its forms as gravely sinful and criminal. Anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse by a legitimate member of the clergy or hierarchy, employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese should first report the abuse to the appropriate secular legal authority and then to Ms. Teresa Maley, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse of the Archdiocese, at 513.263.6623 or 1.800.686.2724 ext. 6623.

Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 - Chancery Office. Tel: **513.263.3342** Fax: **513.421.6225**.
Website: www.CatholicCincinnati.org Email: Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org.