



CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

100 East Eighth Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(To be filed in loose leaf binder and kept in parish archives)

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES

CHANCERY OFFICE

FRAUD ALERT

We have received correspondence from the Office of the General Secretary of the USCCB alerting us of a fraudulent request. The request is a letter that presents an appeal for financial support for humanitarian assistance and purports to originate from the Apostolic Nunciature in Malawi. It has been confirmed that this letter and request **are fraudulent**. Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the Chancery Office at 513.421.3131x2842.

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Catholic parishes and dioceses across the United States observe Child Abuse Prevention Month during April. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) also makes resources available at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/child-abuse-prevention-month-resources.cfm>. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has published a document for parents about protecting their children from abuse. The link below will connect you to this resource, *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Guide for Parents and Guardians*. It describes healthy and unhealthy relationships, types of abuse, frequently asked questions, good safety rules and child protection agency contact numbers for every county in the Archdiocese. To meet our due diligence in making this resource available to parents, you are asked to communicate the availability of this document to all your parents, at least annually,

through your school, religious education and youth ministry programs. Please see: http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/How_to_Protect_Your_Children_From_Child_Abuse_AoC.pdf. Please feel free to contact Joe Riede, Safe Environment Coordinator, Children and Youth, if you have any questions regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month at 513.421.3131x2855 or jriede@catholiccincinnati.org.

Thanks for all you do to protect our children.

BACKGROUND CHECK / CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

All “employees” and “regular volunteers” as defined in the July 1, 2013 *Decree on Child Protection (Decree)* must receive an acceptable background check, and must attend a VIRTUS® Child Awareness Session on the *Decree* before they can have contact with children. **If any employee or regular volunteer has not received an acceptable background check result and / or not attended a VIRTUS® Child Awareness Session on the *Decree*, that employee or regular volunteer is not approved to have contact with children and may not have contact with children.** In addition, all new employees within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati must complete and sign a B.4 Form and send them to the Office of Safe Environment for the Protection of Children and Youth before the new employee can begin having contact with children.

MANDATORY FACILITATOR TRAINING

VIRTUS® has completed production of Version 3.0 of the Protecting God’s Children for Adults Program and we have taken the last couple of months to ensure that we are properly prepared and our message is consistent in all the upcoming meetings. The 3.0 training is designed to ensure that each of our facilitators has the materials available to make our program the best it can be. Each facilitator will receive an updated CD, updated participant’s workbook, binder inserts and an electronic copy of the updated PowerPoint presentation. **This training is mandatory for facilitators.** When all the training is completed, those who have not attended a training session will be placed in inactive status as a facilitator. We are also asking that each facilitator commit to a minimum of 2 training sessions a year. We have found that this is the minimum number needed to stay current and comfortable in front of a class. Our *Train-the-Trainers* are also available for mentoring sessions to give you the support you need. The training is an hour and half long and will be given at 5 locations throughout the Archdiocese, consisting of morning, afternoon and evening classes. This will give us a total of 9 sessions, which should allow everyone to find a time and location that fits their need. We ask that parish staff choose a daytime session and leave the evening slots available for our working volunteers. The training sessions are:

Tuesday, April 14 - St. Susanna, Mason

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. / 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. / 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23 - Archdiocesan Offices, Sidney

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. / 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23 - Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, Maria Stein

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28 - Pilarczyk Center, Dayton

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. / 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. / 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 30 – Archdiocesan Offices, Cincinnati

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

To sign up for these sessions, log into your VIRTUS® account and click on the Training Tab. Click on the ‘Live Training’ link and then the ‘pre-register for an upcoming live training session in your area’ link to register for this class. These classes are located at the end of the session listings. Thank you for the time you spent preparing to be a VIRTUS® facilitator. The fact that you volunteered your time to take the training, demonstrates the importance you place on protecting the youth of the Archdiocese.

VOCATIONS OFFICE

DIACONATE ORDINATION

Please pray for the seven men being ordained transitional deacons by Bishop Joseph Binzer on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral. Please pray for these men.

Mr. Timothy Fahey

Mr. Christopher Geiger

Mr. Eric Roush

Mr. Sean Wilson

Mr. Matthew Feist

Mr. Alexander McCollough

Mr. Jason Williams

PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION

We encourage all priests to join us in the ordination of three young men to the priesthood on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. Please pray for these men.

Rev. Mr. Adrian Hilton

Rev. Mr. Ethan Moore

Rev. Mr. Eric Wood

APRIL 5 - MAY 24: RUN FOR THE CALL RUN-A-THON

Run for the Call is sponsoring an Archdiocesan-wide Easter Run-a-thon to raise funds to support our seminarians in need of additional financial assistance. Participants are asked to log the miles they run or walk throughout the Easter season and collect pledges for those miles. The goal is to have at least 50 members running a total of 5000 miles in that time. Participants can join at any time. To learn more or to sign up, please visit: runforthecall.wordpress.com or call Wayne Topp at 513.421.3131x.2891.

APRIL 9: CHOSEN: MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Monthly Holy Hour with prayerful music for those discerning a Vocation or praying for Vocations - Thursday, April 9 beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood Ohio. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Vocations Office and Children of Mary. “Chosen” is held every 2nd Thursday of the month. Come and bring a friend!

SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE SPRING DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods “Come and See” weekend will be held from 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 10 to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Free! Learn more about living life as a woman religious, about the Sisters of Providence and their foundress, St. Mother Theodore Guerin. Theme is “Rooted in the Charism of Providence,” to coincide with the Congregation’s 175th anniversary celebration. Please call Sr. Editha at 812.535.2895 or email eben@spsmw.org if you have any questions.

SISTERS OF MERCY ‘COME AND SEE’ RETREAT

Come pray and share community with the Sisters of Mercy at a “Come and See” Retreat at Regina Hall, 2319 Grandview Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206, on Saturday, April 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Single Catholic women aged 18 to 45 are invited. To register, please contact Sister Sue at sruedy@mercysc.org or call 513.221.3495 by **April 6**.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Franciscan Sisters of the Poor wish you a joyous Easter season and welcome you to join them for coffee and conversation on Sunday, April 12 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Clare Chapel, 60 Compton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215 (near Wyoming). This is a great opportunity for those discerning a religious vocation. Please contact Sr. Jo-Ann at 513.761.9040x156 or www.sfp-vocations.org if you have any questions. All are welcome! Bring your family and friends.

GOD PROVIDES SERVANTS: DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN

On Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (with an opportunity to attend the parish Mass available at 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.), the Vocation Committee at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Liberty Township will host a women’s discernment retreat called “God Provides Servants.” This retreat, which is sponsored by the InterCommunity Vocation Ministers of Greater Cincinnati, is open to all women ages 18-40. The retreat is free and includes light refreshments and lunch. All interested should contact Sr. Cathy Bauer, OSB by **April 19th** at bauerosb@yahoo.com.

APRIL 26: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Please consider adding extra prayers for vocations in the intercessions at Mass and pray the Archdiocesan Prayer for vocations at all Masses this weekend. If you would like enough prayer cards for your parish, please contact the Vocation Office at 513.421.3131x2891.

SERVER RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITY WITH THE CINCINNATI REDS AND SERRA CLUB OF CINCINNATI

To assist your parish in recruiting and retaining good servers/sacristans, Serra Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Reds are offering discounted View Level tickets for \$5.00 for the Reds-Brewers game at 12:35 p. m. on April 29 at Great American Ball Park. Tickets may be purchased by having a school or parish representative call the Cincinnati Reds, Ryan Kirkpatrick, at 513.765.7457 with a credit card. Tickets must be purchased on or before **April 15, 2015**. “Recognition for Service” certificates that can be personalized are available by emailing: CincinnatiSerra@gmail.com.

MAY 2-3: RUN FOR THE CALL AT THE FLYING PIG MARATHON

The Run for the Call team is looking for volunteers to help run a booth at the Charity Village at Sawyer Point during the Flying Pig Marathon post-race party on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, please contact Wayne Topp at: wtopp@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2891.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

- **Seminarian Ultimate Frisbee Tour**
 - o **July 25**– 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Athenaeum
 - o **August 5**– 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, Covington, OH
 - o **August 8**– 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Wright State University Campus Ministry

- **National Vocation Awareness Week**
 - o **November 1 - 7, 2015** – The vocation office will be purchasing resources for your use in parishes and schools.

DIACONATE OFFICE

REGIONAL MEETINGS

In an effort to get a greater attendance at the Deacon Regional Meetings, we are currently planning on moving them to Saturday mornings. So many of our deacons are working, and having a meeting in the evening that requires any kind of drive makes it difficult to attend. By moving them to Saturday mornings, we hope to increase the attendance and make it easier for all deacons to attend. We were planning on starting this spring but with all the conflicting events going, we have decided to wait until the fall to implement the new regional meeting structure. Dates and locations will be determined in the near future.

DIACONATE OFFICE UPDATE

We continue to make changes to the communications aspect of the Diaconate Office. Our objective is to be responsible with our resources. If you no longer wish to receive communications from the Diaconate Office or you have a change of address, please notify the Diaconate Office at dproffitt@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2641.

FATHER SHAWN MCKNIGHT

The workshop with Fr. Shawn McKnight was a great success. We had deacons attend that day and heard a wonderful presentation on the diaconate from Fr. McKnight. It was so well received that Fr. McKnight has agreed to come back in the fall and do another workshop. This one will be on the deacon and his role in the liturgy. We are finalizing the details at this time and will have more information in the near future.

FORMATION CLASS FOR 2016

If you feel that any man in your parish may exhibit what you think may be a call to the diaconate, please feel free to reach out to the Diaconate Office to arrange a meeting. We get

some of our best referrals from our priests who see qualities in an individual that may demonstrate a call to the diaconate. We are always happy to be of assistance in moving them to the next step.

ASSISTANCE OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS FOR WEDDINGS

Recently, the Priests' Personnel Office received a few requests from couples who hope to marry in a Catholic church and need a priest or deacon to help with marriage preparation and the wedding ceremony. For example, a couple no longer lives in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, hopes to return home for the wedding, and a priest and/or deacon at a parish is/are not available. The couple contacts the Priests' Personnel Office because they do not know where to begin to find a priest or deacon to assist them. If you are willing to assist with the marriage preparation and the wedding ceremony of couples in these situations, please contact Ms. Sarah Frohmiller at sfrohmiller@catholiccincinnati.org, or 513.421.3131x2651. Thank you.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Deacon Paul Kluener who passed away on March 15. Deacon Paul served the Archdiocese for 36 years at St. James the Greater Parish in White Oak. Also we ask you to pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Kay Wong, wife of Deacon Lou Wong who passed away on March 11. Deacon Lou serves at St. Susanna Parish. Deacon Mike Hinger lost both of his parents recently. Please keep him in your prayers. Pray for all our deacons who have lost loved ones, are battling illness or have a family member who is dealing with a difficult situation.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE

DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS

Parishes should send the monies collected for Archdiocesan Designated Collections shortly after the collection date to the Finance Office, with the exception of the Mission Sunday collection which should go directly to the Mission Office. These funds are not the property of the parish and should not be used for operating expenses. Thanks for your cooperation. Please contact Steve Burger in the Finance Office at 513.421.3131x2850 with any questions.

NEW RATE ON INVESTMENT NOTES

The interest rate paid on Archdiocesan investment notes for the period March 16, 2015 through September 15, 2015 will be 2.40%. This rate is posted on the Finance Office section of the Archdiocesan website. Please contact Steve Burger at 513.421.3131x2850 with any questions.

PARISH ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

We are planning training update sessions for Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Archdiocesan offices in Cincinnati and Thursday, May 7, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Pilarczyk Center in Dayton. If attending, please contact Anne Morrow (amorrow@catholiccincinnati.org) to register. Also, let us know of topics you would like to include. We are also planning to have a full-day training course for parish staff for new business managers and accounting staff. If

interested, please notify Dan Umberg (dumberg@catholiccincinnati.org) or Anne Morrow (amorrows@catholiccincinnati.org).

ParishSoft now has available a custom report-writing module. Individual parishes interested in this added function should contact ParishSoft for details. While the Archdiocese is not currently subscribing to the custom report-writing module, it will be arranging a webinar in the future for parishes interested in subscribing. Please contact Dan Umberg for details regarding the webinar.

All bank accounts and the related transactions pertaining to the parish should be recorded in the ParishSoft system. If you have questions regarding this, please contact Steve Burger (sburger@catholiccincinnati.org) or Dan Umberg (dumberg@catholiccincinnati.org). **Please close each month when complete.** This not only helps prevent errors in dating transactions, but also helps assure that the monthly/quarterly reports that are generated from the ConnectNow system for review are not changed subsequent to approval. We would like to remind the users of ConnectNow System that assistance with ConnectNow accounting is available by contacting the Archdiocesan Finance office. Various parish business managers and parish accountants also have volunteered to assist/train employees of other parishes. If you need individual assistance, please contact Dan Umberg (dumberg@catholiccincinnati.org) or Anne Morrow (amorrows@catholiccincinnati.org).

Remember that Videos, Release Notes, the User Guide and Online Help Articles are available to review on your “Ledgers and Payables” screen in the ConnectNow System (ParishSoft). These sources provide answers to many common and not-so-common questions regarding bookkeeping and the accounting system.

RETIREMENT SEMINAR PRESENTATION

Two special presentations to all Archdiocesan employees will be offered.

1. St. Luke Parish, 1440 North Fairfield Road, Beavercreek, OH 45432; **Tuesday, May 5th, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**, in Kramer Hall, located on the lower floor of the main church building. Parking available in front of the church and school (school buses depart school by 3:10 p.m.).
2. Mount St. Mary Seminary/Athenaeum of Ohio, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230; **Wednesday, May 20th 3:30-5:00 p.m.** Presentation will be in the Bartlett Pastoral Center, which is a one story building located to the left side of the main entrance to Mount St. Mary Seminary.

Presenters will be a Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration and Charlotte Carpenter, Director of Benefits for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The topics covered will include: when and how to apply for Social Security and Medicare, the AOC supplemental medical insurance benefit, applying for the AOC Lay Employee Pension Plan, and 401(k) distribution options. There will be opportunities to ask questions during and after the presentation. Please RSVP to either presentation so we can be sure to have enough materials on hand to distribute. Please email Stacey Longbottom at slongbottom@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x6607. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Carpenter at ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org.

2015-2016 BENEFIT OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment for all benefit plans sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is May 15, 2015 through June 1, 2015. This process is a positive open enrollment, meaning that all eligible employees must log into the Benefits Allocation System (BAS) through MyEnroll.com to elect or to waive each benefit. **If an employee does not make an election, the employee's coverage will be waived for that plan year.** Effective July, 2015, changes to employee eligibility for Medical, Dental, and Flexible Spending/Dependent Care are as follows:

- Full time employees who work 30+ hours per week or teach 15+ classroom hours per week
- Variable hour employees who have worked an average of 30+ hours per week or have taught 15+ classroom hours per week

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is counting hours of all employees during the measurement period mandated by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of July 1, 2014 to April 3, 2015. The new method to determine eligibility using the standard measurement period will create four classes of eligibility:

1. Eligible for all benefits
2. Eligible for medical/dental/FSA only
3. Eligible for Life & LTD insurance only
4. Benefits Ineligible

All employees who have benefits currently, anyone losing benefits due to the measurement period and working less than 30 hours/week or anyone now eligible for health insurance benefits during the July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 stability period will receive a letter via U.S. Mail in early May indicating their benefit eligibility status. There will also be instructions to log into MyEnroll.com. All open enrollment materials will be posted online!

Other key points: Current retirees who have elected retiree coverage already, **DO NOT** have to go through the Online Open Enrollment process. This also applies to pre-65 retirees. However, if you have current employees planning to retire on July 1, 2015, please instruct them to go through the open enrollment “as if” they are staying an active employee. **Administrators are then responsible to terminate that coverage OR change the class code in BAS if the employee elects the retiree supplemental insurance coverage.** Priests (both active and retired) and religious do not have to log into the system unless they would like to make a change in coverage. For example, to add or delete dental coverage or flexible spending account amount you must log into MyEnroll.com to make or change an election in coverage. Otherwise current benefits will automatically roll over into the new plan year.

OPEN ENROLLMENT & ACA REVIEW

Administrators, Business Managers, and Pastors are invited to learn about Open Enrollment and the Affordable Care Act impact on the health benefits of Archdiocese of Cincinnati employees. Charlotte Carpenter and Annie Zoz from the Finance Office are presenting.

- Friday April 17, 2015 10:00 a.m. - Noon at the Dayton Archdiocesan Office, 1436 Needmore Road, Dayton, OH 45414, in the Pilarczyk Center
- Tuesday April 21, 2015 10:00 a.m. - Noon at St. John Church, (West Chester), 9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester, OH 45069, in the Favret Center.

Please RSVP to Stacey Longbottom at slongbottom@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x.6607. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Carpenter at ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2852.

NEW RATES FOR CORE LIFE INSURANCE

The Standard Insurance Company has increased rates for the Archdiocesan Basic Core Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance for the 2015-2016 plan year. Effective with the July 2015 invoice from Benefit Allocation Systems (BAS), the monthly premium based on Life Insurance Benefit amount will be as follows:

	Employee	
Death Benefit	Age	Premium
\$50,000	Under 65	\$7.90
\$32,500	65 to 69	\$5.13
\$21,000	70 to 74	\$3.32
\$15,000	75 and over	\$2.37

The Long-Term Disability rate is not changing; it remains at 0.272% of pre-disability earnings. (Administrators must update the annual wage field in BAS on each employee's home page for BAS to correctly calculate LTD premiums.) If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Carpenter at ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2852.

HEALTH BENEFITS & ACA REPORTING - ONLINE TRAINING WITH BAS

Benefit Allocation Systems (BAS) is hosting webinars every Thursday in April and May at 1:00 p.m. for Administrators only.

1. Log onto myenroll1.glance.net;
2. enter session key 1212;
3. then dial by phone 888.994.7161, and
4. type passcode 3361404 to participate.

Please plan to log in/call in about 5 minutes ahead of the start of training session. BAS Client Services is also available to provide support at 1.866.694.6423 or AOCBenefits@basusa.com Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The webinar will focus on open enrollment information and ACA hours reporting, as well as time for questions.

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE

An employee may be eligible for 12 months of continuation of coverage if employment ends. If an employee with health insurance coverage is terminated (other than for gross misconduct) or there is a reduction in force at an Archdiocesan location in the health plan, the employee's health insurance coverage will end on the last day of month of the last day worked. The employee may be eligible for Continuation of Coverage for 12 months from the date that coverage terminates and must pay the FULL COST of that coverage by the 10th of each month to the former employment location. There is NO continuation of coverage for:

- Employees who voluntarily quit/resign;

- Divorced spouse of our employee,
- Dependent children over age 26.

There can be continuation of coverage for a surviving spouse if an employee passes away suddenly. Eligibility for coverage under any other group health plan disqualifies a participant and/or his/her dependent (s) from eligibility for Continuation of Coverage under the Archdiocese plan. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Carpenter at ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2852.

FESTIVAL REMINDERS

With Festival season approaching, please review the following important information.

❖ GAMBLING

The Attorney General's policy for fundraising events that include games of chance is posted on the Archdiocesan website:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/OhioCharitableGamblingLaw.pdf>

It is a requirement that **all gambling** (except for bingo) be conducted as part of a parish festival. Under Ohio law, all gambling activities require that **volunteers** be the operators of the specific games. The only exception is the payment for security personnel.

No one under the age of eighteen (18) should be permitted to **operate** a game of chance with cash prizes. Persons younger than eighteen (18), however, may **assist** in the operation of a game so long as the prize awarded is a non-cash item.

No one under the age of eighteen (18) should be permitted to **gamble** in a game of chance for cash prizes. Persons under the age of eighteen (18), may gamble for a non-cash prize as long as the intent of the game is entertainment, such as ring toss, ball toss, pick-a-prize, etc.

Raffle Tickets and Younger Children

You should exercise prudence with regard to raffles and other schemes of chance. Young children should not be responsible for selling raffle tickets and the subsequent responsibility for accounting for the sales. For instance, no one under the age of eighteen (18) is permitted to purchase a State of Ohio lottery ticket. If an adult purchases a ticket and gives it to a person under eighteen (18), prudence dictates that if that ticket is a winner, the prize should be turned over to the parent or legal guardian of the child to avoid potential legal problems.

Information Reporting Requirements – Form W2-G (Certain Gambling Winnings) **must** be filed for each person who wins a prize with a fair market value of more than \$5,000. Such forms are also required if the winnings are more than \$600 and are at least 300 times the amount of the raffle ticket.

Income Tax Withholding – A charity must withhold (and remit to the U.S. Treasury) federal income tax on any payment exceeding \$5,000 (net of ticket cost) that is made as part of a lottery fund raiser. A raffle is considered a lottery for withholding purposes. This also applies to non-cash items with a fair market value exceeding \$5,000 (net of ticket cost). The instructions for Forms W-2G and 5754 expand on the above paragraphs.

❖ **BEER**

A temporary liquor permit (F) valid for the date of the festival must be obtained from the local Department of Liquor Control. Bartenders at work or any server of alcoholic beverages that knowingly serves a person under the influence of alcohol can be sued if an intoxicated person causes bodily injury or property damage. Temporary liquor permit holders cannot sell or serve an unlimited number of drinks for a one-time admission charge.

Purchases of multiple cups of beer should be discouraged. If the parish wishes to allow adults to take beer into the area in which gambling is taking place, efforts should be made to control the possibility of children obtaining access to the beer.

The self-insurance program of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati provides liquor liability coverage for all locations covered under the program. The following recommendations are to be reviewed and put into effect when possible:

- Post signs prohibiting anyone from bringing alcoholic beverages on the premises. Violators should be asked to leave the premises.
- Liquor or beer sales should be held only within a restricted, confined, roped in or fenced in area.
- Post signs about the serving area on the legal age of drinking. The signs should also indicate that you reserve the right to verify the age of anyone wishing to purchase beer and the right to refuse to serve anyone.
- Post signs offering transportation for overindulged guests. These signs should be staffed by someone at all times in order to prevent an intoxicated person who may need assistance with transportation from wandering off.

❖ **FESTIVAL RIDES AND OUTSIDE FOOD SERVICE**

For-profit vendors who provide festival rides or food service must have liability insurance (\$1,000,000) with aggregate limits of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) and provide a certificate of insurance naming Archbishop Schnurr as Trustee for the sponsoring institution as an Additional Insured for the dates of the festival.

Our Insurance Office has been receiving requests for information about insurance for **Paint Ball Games, Trampolines, Bungee Jumps, Bull Riding Machines, Rock Climbing Walls and Inflatable Attractions** that some parishes wish to have at their parish festivals. Our Archdiocesan Insurance Underwriters **will not insure any** of these activities. Without insurance, the Archdiocese is 100% liable for any injuries suffered by festival participants. Accordingly, parishes and institutions **may not have** Paint Ball Games, Trampolines, Bungee Jumps, Bull Riding Machines, Rock Climbing Walls, or any Inflatable Attractions.

❖ **USING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AS PRIZES**

ISSUE: Under Ohio law, may a parish/school use alcoholic beverages as prizes in a raffle or silent auction (aka a “Bid ‘n Buy”)?

ANSWER: A parish/school may not use alcoholic beverages as prizes in a raffle. A parish/school may use certain alcoholic beverages as prizes in a silent auction, **but only** if

the parish/school holds an F-2 or an F-6 liquor permit; **even then**, the parish/school should note that there are certain restrictions imposed on such a permit that could make holding such an auction in the context of a parish/school festival impractical.

Regarding an F-2 permit: first, an F-2 permit holder is only allowed to hold such an auction once during any calendar year. Second, the auction event cannot last for more than a 24 hour period. This would prohibit the auction of alcoholic beverages at any parish/school festival that lasts more than one day. **Regarding an F-6 permit:** an F-6 permit would allow a parish/school to auction off wine only, but not beer or mixed beverages. **However, under Ohio law, an organization is only permitted to hold one liquor permit at a time.** As a result, a parish/school holding an F-6 permit would be able to auction wine at its festival, but unable to sell beer or mixed beverages at the festival.

Please contact Steve Burger in the Finance Office, 513.421.3131x2850, with any questions or for a copy of the legal memorandum relating to this topic.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR AUDITOR

With tax season coming to a close we felt that this would be a great opportunity to highlight several Audit findings related to tax issues and potential IRS problems.

- 1- The parish has been withholding Social Security tax and Medicare tax from Father's pay and paying the employer match. While Archdiocesan priests are employees of a parish for income tax purposes, Archdiocesan priests are self-employed for FICA (Social Security tax and Medicare tax) purposes. Therefore, Archdiocesan priests are not subject to mandatory withholding for FICA and FICA **MUST NOT** be withheld through Paycor, or matched through Paycor. Instead, the Internal Revenue Code states that Archdiocesan priests are subject to and responsible for paying self-employment tax which is similar to FICA.
- 2- During our review of reimbursements for gas and mileage driven we noted that the location paid based on gas pump receipts. In order to be considered a non-taxable payment, mileage reimbursements must be supported by a computation/log of miles driven and paid at the IRS reimbursement rate. We recommend that preprinted mileage reimbursement forms be made available that will provide for date, destination, miles driven, and purpose of the trip and approval signature.
- 3- The location did not issue Federal Form 1099 for an individual earning more than \$600 who does work for the location. Form 1099s are required on a calendar year basis for payments to independent contractors. The Form 1099s should be sent by January 31 of the year following payment. In addition, a copy should be filed with the IRS by February 28th.
- 4- We noted that bonus and gift cards given to employees were not processed through payroll. Cash is never a de minimis fringe benefit and always taxable, no matter how little (except in the limited cases of money paid for a meal required because of overtime work or for local transportation that is required for security concerns). This is because it is not

unreasonable or administratively impracticable to account for cash since the value of the amount provided is readily apparent.

Treasury regulations section 1.132-6(c) similarly provides that: cash equivalent (such as a fringe benefit provided to an employee through the use of a gift certificate or charge or credit card) is generally not excludable as a de minimis fringe benefit even if the same property or service acquired would be excludable as a de minimis fringe benefit. For example, the provision of cash to an employee for a theater ticket that would itself be excludable as a de minimis fringe ... is not excludable as a de minimis fringe.

In Technical Advice Memorandum (TAM) 200437030 (April 30, 2004), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) considered an employer's gift of a \$35 gift certificate, redeemable for groceries at specified local grocery stores, which was given in lieu of the ham, turkey, or gift basket that the employer had traditionally bestowed as holiday gifts in prior years. The IRS held that the gift certificate was not de minimis because it is not administratively impracticable to account for gift certificates. The guidance indicates that an employer's gift of holiday hams to employees qualifies as excludable de minimis fringe benefits; however, the amount of the gift certificates that an employer gives employees to purchase the hams themselves is taxable income.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Please see the revised Policy Prohibiting Weapons in the Workplace. This policy (<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Prohibiting-Weapons-in-the-Workplace.pdf>) is also available for viewing on the HR page of our website.

The policy has been revised to clarify the exceptions to the policy for law enforcement officers and security personnel, as well as notification that insurance coverage may not be available for violations of the policy that result in damage or injury.

POLICY PROHIBITING WEAPONS IN THE WORKPLACE

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and its Affiliates (defined as any entity that is subject to the administrative authority of the Archbishop of Cincinnati under Canon Law) are committed to providing a safe workplace for their employees and all those who enter their property or premises. The term "premises" includes all buildings or land owned by the Archdiocese/Affiliates. Accordingly, the Archdiocese has adopted the following policy on weapons in the workplace. This policy applies to all employees and other persons entering Archdiocesan/Affiliate property or premises regardless of whether such employee or other person possesses a valid license that permits the carrying of a concealed weapon. Unless specifically authorized in writing by a management official of the Archdiocese/Affiliate, the possession, transfer or use of weapons is prohibited while on Archdiocesan/Affiliate property or premises, including without limitation, while in Archdiocesan/Affiliate-owned vehicles. This policy shall not prohibit the following persons from carrying a firearm on Archdiocesan/Affiliate property or premises provided the person possesses valid photographic identification: (1) law enforcement officers; and (2) security personnel employed by or contracted with the Archdiocese/Affiliate and who have been granted written permission by a management official of the Archdiocese/Affiliate to carry a firearm while on duty. Weapons prohibited by this policy

include without limitation: firearms (including concealed handguns), firearm replicas, objects indistinguishable from firearms, ammunition look-alike's (dummies or duds), explosives, night sticks, spring loaded knives, and other objects designated to intimidate or injure people.

Any Archdiocesan/Affiliate employee who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment. Any other individual who violates this policy will be removed from the Archdiocesan/Affiliate property or premises and may be prohibited from future entry to the Archdiocesan/Affiliate property or premises. Additionally, any violation of this policy that results in damage or injury may not be covered by Archdiocesan/Affiliate insurance.

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL SERVICES

FAMILY AND RESPECT LIFE OFFICE (FARLO)

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

Registration deadline for transportation to the World Meeting of Families is June 1st. Registration is considered complete when payment is received. We will not hold seats without payment. Payment is non-refundable after June 1st. Payment for both the Full Week Trip and Papal Mass Bus trips may be made using our secure payment and registration system found on our webpage: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/world-meeting-of-families-2015/register-for-the-world-meeting-of-families/>. Checks for the full amount may be mailed to the Family and Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

There is an FAQ section on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati World Meeting of Families webpage that you can consult before completing your registration and payment. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/world-meeting-of-families-2015/register-for-the-world-meeting-of-families/>

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING

WITH YOUR CHILDREN TO THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

All adults (parents, legal guardians, related adults or guests) travelling with children must have a background check on file with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and return a signed waiver. A copy of the waiver is available on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati World Meeting of Families webpage at: http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/WMOF_Parent_Liability_form.pdf

For information about how to obtain a background check, please click on this link:

http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/background_check_requirements.pdf.

If you have questions pertaining to background checks, please call 513.421.3131x2843 or 2855. Every effort will be made to have "Family" and "Adults Only" busses. Adults riding "Adults Only" busses will not have to secure a background check. For up-to-date information about the World Meeting of Families as well as additional activities in Philadelphia, please consult the World Meeting of Families website at <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/>.

PROJECT RACHEL DAY OF REFLECTION FOR OTHERS

Project Rachel is offering a Day of Reflection for others affected by the trauma of abortion, Saturday, April 11, 2015, in Fairfield, Ohio. The day will include prayer, witnesses, and a healing service that includes the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided. There is no cost. “I’m thankful for the powerful, healing reminder that as long as we turn to God, He will love us no matter what.” -N, past participant. For specific times and location or to register, please call the confidential hotline at 513.784.0531.

MARRIAGE RETREAT IN SPANISH

A marriage retreat for any couple wanting to strengthen their relationship is being held April 25, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at St. Susanna Parish, Mason, Ohio 45040. For more information, please contact Fr. Samuel González at 513.383.8867 / samipadre@aol.com or Karla Eysoldt at 513.448.8994 / keysoldt@catholiccincinnati.org.

RESPECT LIFE AWARD

Each year, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati honors a person who embodies the call to “proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self, and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture life at every stage of its existence” (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities. USCCB). There is still time to nominate a candidate; **deadline is June 1st**. Nominations may be submitted online at: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/resources-and-events/respect-life-award-candidate-submission/>. All nominees and the award recipients will be honored on Respect Life Sunday, October 4, 2015 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass officiated by Bishop Joseph R. Binzer at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. For questions, please contact Caron Bergen in the Family and Respect Life Office at cbergen@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2653.

CHRIST AT THE CENTER: FAMILY AND HOME

The April 12 – May 10 Home Edition of CATC is included with this mailing and will be posted on the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis page, scrolling down to the “Christ at the Center” icon: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis/>.

9 MONTHS WITH CHRIST IN THE WOMB

It is not too late to join dozens of other parishes in this special prayer campaign which seeks a deeper recognition of the profound dignity of every person made in the image and likeness of God. From March 25th to December 25th 2015, we are encouraging all parishes to join us in participation of this Respect Life Prayer Campaign. Promoting a consistent ethic of life, this campaign offers a monthly reflection on a different biblical story during the earliest moments of Christ’s time on earth. Each reflection will discuss the importance of a different social issue such as immigration, death penalty, care for the elderly, concern for the disabled, etc. Additionally, short weekly reflections will be available for parishes to prayerfully chart Christ’s fetal development in their bulletins. We are also asking everyone to pray daily our special prayer to Christ in the womb. Learn more at www.respectlifecoordinator.com.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Golden Jubilee Masses for both Cincinnati and Dayton will be held on May 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. It is not too late to RSVP. Parishes can print their own certificates from the webpage at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/family/marriage/golden-jubilee-mass/>. For Jubilarian invitations to the Masses and certificates for 25, 50, 60, 65, 70 & 75 years of marriage, please call Caron Bergen in the Family and Respect Life Office at 513.421.3131x2653 or email cbergen@catholiccincinnati.org.

Mark your calendars - next year's Golden Jubilee Masses will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at both the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, Cincinnati and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Dayton.

PRIESTLY FORMATION OFFICE

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY RETREAT IN PENNSYLVANIA

If you have attended the Theology of the Body Roman I course, offered by the TOB Institute, you may consider making your annual retreat in a special retreat program entitled *Theology of the Body and Priestly Identity* sponsored by the Theology of the Body Institute November 16 - 20, 2015 at St. Mary of Providence Retreat Center in Elverson, PA. More information may be found on www.tobinstitute.org.

PRIESTS' ANNIVERSARY DINNER

This year the priests' anniversary dinner will be Monday, May 18, 2015 at Bergamo Center, Dayton. Please mark your calendars.

PARISH PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Parish Personnel Management Workshop is a two-day program for pastors and business managers. It is scheduled for August 26 & 27 at Bergamo. Mary Kessler, consultant available through the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA), will be the presenter. More information to follow.

PRIESTS' SUPPORT GROUPS

There has been interest expressed by many priests in being a part of priests' support groups. The Priestly Formation Office is looking into ways to facilitate this. If you are a member of a present support group, you may want to consider inviting some of your confreres to join yours.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF

PRIESTS' COUNCILS 47TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC) 47th Annual Convocation, open to all US bishops, priests, and seminarians, takes place April 20-23 at The Galt House in Louisville, KY. Following the theme of Pope Francis' synod on the family, NFPC will be exploring the place of the Priest in the Family of God: Father, Brother, Son. For more information, please visit <http://nfpc.org/annual-convocation/convocation-overview/>. Our Priests' Personnel Policies note that tuition for up to four days of continuing education programs will be paid for by the Priestly Formation Office, whether the programs are sponsored by the Office or by other organizations. Room and board will be paid by the parish or institution to which the priest is primarily

assigned. A priest who serves in a parish or institution which is unable to assume these expenses will have his room and board paid by the Priestly Formation Office. Travel expenses are to be paid by the priest himself or from the professional reimbursement account. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Andrew Umberg, the Director of the Priestly Formation Office at 513.421.3131x2651 or aumberg@catholiccincinnati.org. Thanks!!

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT FALL

Parish Administration Workshop is scheduled for September 30, 2015. New location this year: Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe.

Convocation of Priests is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at Incarnation Parish.

Fall retreat for Priests is scheduled for October 12 – 16 at Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford.

Gospel Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th (Cincinnati) and Thursday, November 5th (Dayton).

PRIESTS' PERSONNEL OFFICE

SAVE THE DATE: SENIOR CLERGY LUNCHEON

The annual Senior Clergy Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at Bergamo Center, Dayton. The luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Clarence Heis at 513.421.3131x2656.

ASSISTANCE OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS FOR WEDDINGS

Recently, the Priests' Personnel Office received a few requests from couples who hope to marry in a Catholic church and need a priest or deacon to help with marriage preparation and the wedding ceremony. For example, a couple no longer lives in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, hopes to return home for the wedding, and a priest and/or deacon at a parish is/are not available. The couple contacts the Priests' Personnel Office because they do not know where to begin to find a priest or deacon to assist them. If you are willing to assist with the marriage preparation and the wedding ceremony of couples in these situations, please contact Ms. Sarah Frohmiller at sfrohmiller@catholiccincinnati.org, or 513.421.3131x2651. Thank you.

SUNDAY MASS HELP AT BELTERRA PARK

Belterra Park (formally River Downs) in Cincinnati is requesting a priest (or a group of priests who will rotate) to celebrate Sunday Mass around 11:00 a.m. Archbishop Schnurr gave permission for Sunday Mass to be celebrated at the Park. The Mass must be celebrated around 11:00 a.m. because of the Park's schedule. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Mr. Steve Hater at 513.702.8311. A stipend will be paid.

WORSHIP OFFICE

PASCHAL TRIDUUM RESOURCES

For your assistance in planning and preparing the Triduum:

18 Questions on the Paschal Triduum (USCCB Committee for Divine Worship) Go to:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/questions-and-answers.cfm>.

CELEBRATION OF THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM IN PASTORAL REGIONS OR PARISH CLUSTERS

(Notes developed by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Worship Commission) Go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Triduum-and-pastoral-regions.pdf>.

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS

(From the USCCB) Go to: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/reception-of-holy-oils.cfm>.

HOLY THURSDAY AND THE WASHING OF THE FEET (MANDATUM)

(From the USCCB) Go to:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/holy-thursday-mandatum.cfm>.

- In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, it has been the custom of priests to wash the feet of a representative group of parishioners: men, women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and anyone who represents the community of faith.

TIME FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states that the Easter Vigil is to be celebrated in darkness. **Therefore, this year the Easter Vigil may begin at 8:45 p.m. or later.** For more on **The Roman Missal and the Easter Vigil (From the USCCB)**, please visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/roman-missal-and-the-easter-vigil.cfm>.

STATUS OF THE *ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY, SECOND EDITION* (RITE OF MARRIAGE)

As you may recall, the USCCB approved the English translation of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Second Edition*, in November, 2013. The text was then submitted to the Holy See for *recognitio*. It was the hope that we would have received the *recognitio* sometime in 2014; however, that has not come to pass. There is much speculation about reasons for the delay, but the reality is, we are still waiting for confirmation by the Holy See. As soon as confirmation arrives, there will be workshops offered by the USCCB and the FDLC, as well as by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Worship Office and Worship Commission. We will keep you updated.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Outpouring, 2015, is an ecumenical prayer event being celebrated on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at Cincinnati Gardens at 3:00 p.m. Join Archbishop Schnurr, leaders of other Christian churches, and thousands of Christians in prayer for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over our communities uniting us in hope and peace. More information to come!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER WORKSHOP

April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2015 from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe. A five-evening workshop designed to train lay people to lead some of the rites of the Church when a priest or deacon is not available (i.e. Liturgy of the Hours, Funeral Vigil, Funeral outside of Mass, Rite of Committal, Liturgy of the Word [with Communion], and the Rite of Exposition. (PLEASE NOTE: A person taking this workshop must have the approval from his or her pastor.) For more information or registration, please call the Worship Office at 513.421.3131 or email worship@catholiccincinnati.org.

RCIA TEAM FORMATION DAY: THE NEOPHYTE YEAR

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Incarnation Parish, Centerville
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at St. Saviour Parish, Cincinnati

The Neophyte Year is that part of the RCIA process that we know we should be providing. This workshop is the opportunity to look at this essential part of the RCIA journey from the perspective of parish and the RCIA Team and how we can cooperate more with the grace of God, who normally works through the normal. For more information and registration, please go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/042015-flyer.pdf>

LAUDATE: FORMING YOUTH FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

June 8 – 11, 2015 at Bergamo Retreat Center, Dayton, OH.

A four-day, three-night music ministry experience that features sessions in voice, organ, piano, guitar, and other instruments used in Catholic liturgy. Teens will hear inspiring keynote presentations, learn liturgy fundamentals and be mentored by adult music ministers. Sponsored by the Worship Office and Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. **The early-bird registration deadline is May 8, 2015.** Registration forms and scholarship applications are available on the LAUDATE web page at: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry/services/youthleader/laudate/>.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE WORSHIP OFFICE E-NEWS?

If you have not signed up for the Worship Office newsletter, you can do so by visiting: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/join-our-email-newsletter/>.

OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (OYYAM)

Important: There is far more information on youth and young adult opportunities on our website than we are able to include here. Visit our websites:

- Young Adult Ministry: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/young-adult>
- Youth Ministry: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry>

WORLD YOUTH DAYS, 2015 & 2016

On January 31, appropriately on the Feast of St. John Bosco, Pope Francis released his 2015 World Youth Day message, available in full here:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco_20150131_messaggio-giovani_2015.html.

The theme for this year's World Youth Day, celebrated in the U.S.A. on the thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time (October 25, 2015), is once again taken from the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Mt 5: 8) The OYYAM as always will provide ideas for celebrating in our parishes and schools later in 2015.

At the end of his message for 2015, Pope Francis connects this year's WYD celebration to the grand international celebration of WYD in Poland, saying: "*This year's World Youth Day begins the final stage of preparations for the great gathering of young people from around the world in Krakow in 2016.*" If you wish, follow this link to the official website of WYD 2016: <http://www.krakow2016.com/en/>.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has teamed up with Mission Youth to offer a pilgrimage package for World Youth Day 2016. This World Youth Day pilgrimage will be a special one, in the homeland of St. John Paul II who began the first WYD experiences. In addition to the amazing WYD events with Pope Francis and 500,000+ Catholic youth from around the world, the plan is to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp, the site of St. Maximilian Kolbe's martyrdom cell, the famous and miraculous painting of the "Black Madonna" in Czestochowa, the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, and places where John Paul II lived and worked, including the Beskidy mountains where he received inspiration and would take youth for hikes. There are just 80 spots reserved for this pilgrimage, so all are encouraged to sign up soon. The group will be staying at the AGH University of Science and Technology – a beautiful campus and excellent location within walking distance to many of the official WYD events optimizing logistics and enabling an incredible experience for the pilgrims. All details for the pilgrimage can be found at the Mission Youth website. Prices listed include airfare from Chicago (Mission Youth will arrange transportation from Cincinnati to Chicago airport). Please consider inviting your young adults and age 16+ youth to join Pope Francis in Poland this next WYD.

P.S. If you would like to schedule an information session for youth and parents at your parish or school, please contact Maria Gaviria at gaviria.mm@pg.com. More information and forms are available here: <http://www.missionyouthmissions.com/> and follow the link to WYD 2016.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ATHLETICS INITIATIVE AND CHARTER IMPLEMENTATION

Here's a snapshot of Youth Athletics Initiative developments (please forward to your athletics leaders):

1. **Spiritual Liaisons:** The Charter requires a "Spiritual Liaison" for each boosters organization, and the Commission will be providing special sessions this spring to provide guidance, resources and support for this vital role. Parish and school leaders are asked to encourage their respective Spiritual Liaisons to attend. Scheduling is TBA.

2. **March 15, 2015 Deadline for Boosters Compliance Materials:** A great many of our parishes and boosters organizations have submitted their compliance materials, and some are still on the way. Cooperation has been outstanding. In the Cincinnati region, direct any questions to the chair of the Subcommittee on Athletics Organizations, Gina Kelly, 513.739.0430, or gina.kelly@clorox.com. In the Dayton and Northern regions, direct questions to Tim Colbert at 937.223.1001x5050 or tcobert@catholiccincinnati.org.
3. **Fall sports in the Cincinnati metro area:** A special Steering Team of the Archdiocesan Youth Athletics Commission is under way; planning for fall sports after the Cincinnati CYO dissolves after the end of this school year. The Steering Team, convened by the “Key Three” leadership of the Commission (Youth Athletics Chaplain Deacon David Profitt; Dr. Sean Reynolds, Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry; and Greg Tankersley of St. Ignatius Parish and LaSalle High School). Greg will be heading up the Task Force, assisted by area athletics leaders and Don Back (the Commission’s Chair of its Subcommittee on Leagues). Greg and Don are happy to accept calls from booster presidents with their ideas and thoughts. *Important: parents, coaches and boosters members should direct their comments or questions to their boosters presidents rather than calling Greg or Don directly.* Greg Tankersley’s mobile number is 513.235.7112; Don Back’s mobile number is 513.520.2333.

HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS MINISTRY TRAINING

The OYYAM is teaming up with the OEC and the Schools Office to offer a one-day in-service for high school campus ministers on best practices in youth retreat ministry, June 16, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Fenwick High School.

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

IGNITE, 2015, APRIL 17-19, 2015, BERGAMO CONFERENCE CENTER

IGNITE is a high-energy, weekend discipleship retreat for youth with demonstrated leadership abilities in grades 7 and 8. As a short-term apprenticeship in Catholic discipleship of Jesus Christ, youth will experience Catholicism as a comprehensive way of life—igniting in them the desire to live as disciples and lead their peers for living the faith in their families, schools and activities. Hallmarks of IGNITE are active and engaging learning sessions, powerful faith-sharing and witness talks, prayer experiences, small group discussions, breakouts and general sessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Mass. This year’s theme: Jesus 24/7: To Know, To Love, To Serve. Cost is \$150.00 per person. For more information, please visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry/services/youthleader/ignite/>.

NEXT JUNIOR HIGH RALLY IS OCTOBER 17, 2015 WITH STEVE ANGRISANO

Our next middle school and junior high rally will happen next fall on Saturday afternoon and evening, Oct. 17. (Note: we had hoped for a spring rally, but scheduling a spring rally around Lent, Easter, Confirmations, Mother’s Day, 8th grade trips, etc., proved impossible.) The October 17th rally will take place at Archbishop Moeller H.S. in Cincinnati, and will feature Steve Angrisano, a veteran musician, composer and youth minister who has been featured at 6 World Youth Days, several National Catholic Youth Conferences and countless diocesan youth conventions and Steubenville Conferences. He’s especially good at actively engaging large

groups of young people, so mark your calendars and keep in mind there will be a parent track. To learn more about Steve Angrisano, visit <http://www.spiritandsong.com/Steve-Angrisano>.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

LAUDATE: FORMING YOUTH FOR MUSIC MINISTRY!

Please refer to the article under the Worship Office section.

ROOTED IN THE VINE, A CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH.

Through collaboration of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Catholic Social Action Office and the OYYAM, this six-day retreat experience for high-school students is full of fun and eye-opening opportunities that will challenge your youth to see from others' perspectives and grow in love of God and neighbor. **June 27 - July 2** at the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** in Cincinnati (1125 Bank St.). For information and registration, please visit our [homepage](#).

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (NCYC) INDIANAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 19-22, 2015

20,000+ Catholic young people and their adult leaders will converge on Indy for this high-impact, 3-day experience with top national Catholic musicians, keynotes, workshops, liturgy, service, comedy and more. NCYC happens every other year, so make sure your young people don't miss out! Check out the webpage at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ncyc-2015/> for everything you need to prepare for NCYC. There you will find information on pricing, registration, the promo video and more. **Scholarship applications are due May 8, so don't delay!**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

NEW STAFF

We are very pleased to announce the hire of Ms. Kathy Kane as the Director of Certification in the Catholic Schools Office. Ms. Kane replaces Ms. Cathy Bever, who has served in this role for 16 years. Ms. Kane is currently the Principal of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School. She has previously served as a teacher and assistant principal at Our Lady of Victory, and is an instructor for the Excellence Initiative at Xavier University. She possesses Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education from Xavier, and is a recipient of the Archdiocesan "Civitate Dei" Award. As Certification Director, Ms. Kane will assist Catholic educators with state certification needs, spearhead the Master Teacher Program, and supervise the Resident Educator program. We are thrilled to have Ms. Kane joining our team!

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC) is excited to announce the hire of our new Director, **Fr. Thomas Wray**. Fr. Wray will succeed Mr. Ken Gleason, who is retiring after 19 years in this position. Fr. Wray's hire follows a highly competitive national search. He currently serves as the Parochial Vicar and Director of Religious Education for St. Margaret of York Parish. A former Episcopal priest, Fr. Wray was ordained as a priest of the Archdiocese on March 8, 2015. Previously, he served as an Episcopal Rector at churches in Cincinnati and Chicago. Fr. Wray holds a Bachelor's Degree from Wheaton College and a Master's in Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He is currently working on a Doctorate of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Fr. Wray is a man of abundant talent and passionate faith. He is an ardent evangelist, having spearheaded the many faith formation programs at St. Margaret of York. Fr. Wray has a proven track record of establishing a compelling vision for evangelization and catechesis. We know that our catechetical programs will thrive under his leadership! Fr. Wray will begin his duties on July 1, 2015. We wish to thank Mr. Ken Gleason for his many years of distinguished service to the OEC.

CHRIST AT THE CENTER...

The infusion bulletin for Easter - Pentecost, April 5, 2015 – May 24, 2015, is included with this mailing. The **Spanish** edition is also included.

NCEA IFG: ACRE ASSESSMENT

Catholic school principals and catechetical leaders, and parish catechetical leaders are reminded that the **NCEA ACRE Assessment must be administered in every parish and school annually.** (Religious Education & Catechetical Policies #2108.02 NCEA ACRE INVENTORIES, see

http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/OEC_Policies2012.pdf).

2015-16 deadlines for submitting answer sheets to CALtesting for scoring:

- Friday, **November 20, 2015**, for Catholic High Schools
- Friday, **February 19, 2016**, for Catholic Elementary Schools and all parish religious education programs

Please schedule with consideration for potential inclement weather building closures, so that you can meet the posted deadlines. If you have questions or concerns about administration of the IFG:ACRE assessment, please consult your regional consultant in the Catholic Schools Office or the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. For more information, link to:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis/resources/ncea-acre/>.

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, in partnership with the Office of Hispanic Ministry, invites you to the Program of Faith Formation for Adults in Spanish. There is a flyer included with this mailing.

FORMACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS

La Oficina de Evangelización y Catequesis en colaboración con la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano INVITAN al curso de Formación Cristiana para Adultos Venga a descubrir la riqueza de nuestra religión Católica! Acompañenos en el camino al encuentro con Cristo Vivo! Hay un volante incluido en este mensaje.

OFFICE OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

PARRHESIA 2015: NEW EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE

Saturday April 18, 2015, 2:30 p.m. at St. Maximillian Kolbe, Liberty Township

“Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin and other things Jesus didn’t say about loving your neighbor” by keynote speaker John Leyendecker. Small group discussion after the speaker. Mass, dinner, and happy hour. Q&A with Archbishop Schnurr. Exposition, Adoration and Confession available. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Info and registration at: www.boldcatholicnow.com.

CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC EVANGELIZATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 25, 2015: One-on-One Ministry,
Savannah Center, West Chester: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW. Cost: \$25 per person (includes continental breakfast and lunch.) This workshop will equip you for personal, one-on-one mentoring relationships for establishing discipleship and training for evangelization. You may find more information and registration at: www.ContagiouslyCatholic.org. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Ater at sater@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2733.

VIGIL PRAISE CINCINNATI: AN EVENING OF ADORATION AND WORSHIP

Friday May 1, 2015, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.,

Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at the Athenaeum of Ohio.

Featuring Fr. Benedict O’Cinnsealaigh, Rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. Free – Open to all ages. For more information, please contact Luke Carey, Office of the New Evangelization, at lcarey@catholiccincinnati.org.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHWESTERN OHIO

AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Garden Manor, 6898 Hamilton-Middletown Pike, Middletown

No Fee. Please join us for this wonderful presentation on Caregiving for someone with Dementia/Alzheimers. Judy Benson, with Hospice of Middletown, will present a DVD for caregivers followed by discussion.

**SU CASA HISPANIC CENTER
16TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION & AWARDS DINNER**

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, Cintas Center at Xavier University Campus
Reception at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Kevin Appleby, Director, Office of Migration and Refugee Policy United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. \$90 per person. R.S.V.P. by April 1, 2015 by calling 513.761.1588.

“FOOD FOR ALL”

In collaboration with the Office of New Evangelization, Social Action, Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley and Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, there will be a food drive for the whole Archdiocese in the fall. The goal of this event is for parishes to organize groups to go door to door, spreading word of the good works we do, inviting them to church and gathering food that will be donated to the food pantry supported by each parish. In addition, people will be invited to participate in a letter writing campaign to urge congress not to cut funding to the federal food stamp program. More details to come.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

CRS COLLECTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE IS APRIL 18 AND 19

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection on the weekend of April 18 and 19. The appeal for the collection will be the weekend before on April 11 and 12. The theme this year is: Help Jesus in Disguise. This collection funds Catholic Relief Services and five other agencies and will:

- Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.
- Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.
- Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church**.
- Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and abandoned through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development**.
- Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.

Letters have gone out to pastors about the collection. You should have received your materials for the campaign. Please call our office at 937.224.3026 or email plong@catholiccincinnati.org if you need any assistance.

CRS RICE BOWL CHALLENGE GRANT

The Archdiocese's CRS Committee again will offer two Challenge Grants of \$750 each to a parish which is participating in the CRS Rice Bowl Program for the first time and to a parish which is expanding its CRS Rice Bowl efforts. An application and information is available on the Catholic Social Action website.

A WALK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE ON GOOD FRIDAY

A cross-section of people from the Greater Dayton area will shoulder the crosses of social injustices as they make 14 stops throughout the west side of downtown Dayton on Good Friday, April 3. The annual walk begins at noon at the Old Courthouse at Third and Main Streets. The walk is held rain or shine. Each year 14 issues are chosen to correspond with the 14 Stations of the Cross. They reflect both new and ongoing social justice issues. The stops are symbolic for the stations. The Walk for Justice and Peace on Good Friday is an ecumenical tradition in Dayton. The walk is sponsored by 29 churches, faith communities and social justice organizations, which include the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office and the Dayton Hispanic Ministry Office, the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative, Sisters of the Precious Blood, and the UD Center for Social Concern.

FAITHFUL SUSTAINABILITY: BEST PRACTICES FOR FACILITIES AND HOMES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI!

Attention church and school facility managers, grounds keepers, finance leaders, and homeowners: Anticipating Pope Francis' upcoming encyclical on care for creation this summer... How can we, as a community of faith, more fully answer the call for sustainability?

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch included)
St. John the Evangelist Church, West Chester, Pavilion
(9080 Cincinnati Dayton Road, West Chester Twp., 45069)

Through a morning of workshops and discussions with local experts, we will explore how the local Church can reduce our environmental footprint, lower utility bills, nurture nature, and increase our commitment to energy efficiency in our homes, schools and parishes. All are welcome, but space is limited to the first 45 facility leaders and 45 parishioners who register. Don't miss out, and bring your own mug or beverage container! **The event is free, but you must register!** Learn more and register at www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SPIRIT OF SR. DOROTHY STANG AWARD

In 2010, in honor of the 5 year remembrance of her murder, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Archdiocesan Offices of Mission, Catholic Social Action, Evangelization and Catechesis and Youth and Young Adult Ministry initiated the **Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Awards**. During this, the tenth anniversary of her death, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur will hold special events throughout the year all over the country. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is proud to participate in this remembrance. (Please see the SNDdeN website for more on Sr. Dorothy: <http://www.notredameonline.org/en/resources/sister-dorothy-stang/>) We will again present these awards for 2015. Nominees may be:

Catholic school faculty members, parish lay ministers,
parishioners active in Social Justice or graduating high school seniors

who have demonstrated the values of Sister Dorothy Stang: solidarity with the poor and care for the Earth and/or application of Catholic Social Teaching in cross cultural service or teaching ministry. The 2015 nomination forms are now available. **Nominations are due April 6, 2015.** <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/2015-Nomination-form1.pdf>

RURAL URBAN MASS

Joe and Joanna Goettemoeller's Farm will be the site of the 2015 Rural Urban Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Binzer on Thursday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m. Immaculate Conception in Botkins will be the host parish of the Mass. The Goettemoeller's Farm is located at 13775 Lock 2 Road, Botkins. The Catholic Century Farm Awards will also be distributed at the Mass.

ST. MARTIN DEANERY CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

The St. Martin Deanery Catholic Rural Life Conference's next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church in Arnheim, Brown County. For directions or more information, please call Pat Hornschemeier at 937.378.4769 (day) or 937.378.4560 (evening).

CARE FOR CREATION CALENDARS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Pope Francis is expected to issue his Environmental Encyclical in June or July this year. This would be a great opportunity to have study groups or special activities planned for next year focused on the encyclical. Our office looks forward to planning activities and presentations with you. One activity that is already made for you is the Care for Creation Calendar created by the Catholic Conference of Ohio. There is an interactive version of this. <http://www.ohiocathconf.org/I/Envir/creationcal/CatholicCreationCalendaInteractive.pdf>

OHIO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY: APRIL 28

The Catholic Social Action Office, along with the Catholic Conference of Ohio, will be organizing a Legislative Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse in Tuesday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Carpools will be leaving from Cincinnati and Dayton. Come join our delegation from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as we meet with our local legislators to advocate for the priority issues of the Ohio Catholic bishops, including protecting life, the poor and vulnerable in the state budget, fair hiring policies, care for creation, immigrants, and more! To learn more details and sign up, please contact the Catholic Social Action Office at 513.421.3131x2660 or csa@catholiccincinnati.org in Cincinnati, or 937.224.3026 or plong@catholiccincinnati.org in Dayton.

REFLECTING ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT: "SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME"

The Archdiocese is partnering with the Cincinnati Juneteenth Committee to encourage parishes, schools, and any Catholic institution to organize small discussion groups to reflect upon the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery in the United States. Groups all over the Archdiocese can gather anytime between now and early May to participate. The process includes watching the powerful PBS documentary, *Slavery by Another Name*. Discussion guides can be provided, including a supplemental version with Catholic teaching, prepared by the Archdiocesan Anti-Racism Task Force. For more information, please contact the Catholic Social Action Office at 513.421.3131x2660, or csa@catholiccincinnati.org.

OUTPOURING 2015: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please see the article under the Worship Office section.

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

CMA PLEDGES REACH \$4 MILLION

The 2015 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) recently crossed the \$4 million mark in pledges! We extend a special “thank you” to pastors, parish staff, and volunteers who have helped to promote this year’s Appeal. Please know that your hard work over the last few months has given the CMA a strong push towards reaching this year’s \$5 million goal.

CMA STATISTICS & PARISH PROGRESS

Totals for this year’s CMA, including parish progress, can be found at www.CatholicAppeal.info under the “Info for Parish Staff” link – **the password to access this section is: cma2007.**

Thank you again for your efforts towards this year’s CMA! For more information or questions about the CMA, please contact David Kissell at 513.421.3131x2881 or email david@CatholicAppeal.info.

MISCELLANEOUS

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers lay men and women the opportunity to grow in faith, knowledge and skills through courses in theology, scripture, history and doctrine, as well as pastoral studies in evangelization, catechesis and effective service. It is designed for busy adults with evening and Saturday classes and flexible formation components. Locations for 2015-17 include the main campus in Mt. Washington, St. Ignatius Parish and the Pilarczyk Center in Dayton. Most students enter the program because their pastor, deacon or a parish staff member has encouraged them. Who are the people in your parish who want to prepare for the challenges of what Pope Francis calls, “missionary discipleship?” We offer graduate and non-degreed options and classes count toward catechetical certification and application for the permanent diaconate.

Information Meetings are scheduled for:

- St. Ignatius Parish Center: April 11, 10:00 a.m.
- The Pilarczyk Center, Moeddel Room, April 11 10:00 a.m.
- The Athenaeum, Room 114: April 18, 10:00 a.m.

For information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 513.231.1200 in Cincinnati and 419.305.5486 in Dayton.

**Please submit articles for the May *Clergy Communications* before April 23, 2015.
Thank You.**

Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 - Chancery Office. Tel: **513.421.3131x2842**. Fax: **513.421.6225**.
Website: www.CatholicCincinnati.org. Email: Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT SHEET

MINISTRY TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (REPORTING) - The Archdiocese of Cincinnati regards child abuse in all its forms as a serious matter. If you are or have been abused by an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese, or are aware of abuse currently taking place, please contact Ms. Cherie Groman, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse, at 513.263.6623, or 1.800.686.2724x6623. **This is a confidential, dedicated line to accept calls related to child abuse by employees or volunteers. In addition, be sure to notify the survivor's secular legal authorities.**

REPORTING FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT - In a spirit of good stewardship, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has instituted a financial misconduct hotline to allow employees, volunteers, vendors and other interested parties to report what they believe to be financial misconduct at any level – parish, deanery or Archdiocese. As an additional safeguard, the hotline is administered by an independent third-party company, EthicsPoint. You may report a concern on this hotline either by calling one of EthicsPoint's trained specialists at 1.888.389.0381 or by visiting the website www.ethicspoint.com. There is also a link on the Archdiocesan website, www.CatholicCincinnati.org, under Ministries and Offices > Finance Office > "To Report Financial Misconduct." (on menu on left-hand side of page) > "File a Report" (at top of page).

WHERE WILL YOUR LIFE "GPS" TAKE YOU? - The Vocation Committee of the Greater Cincinnati Area is offering a Retreat for Women entitled "God Provides Servants" on April 25th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. For further details and how to register, please visit: www.catholiccincinnati.org – Homepage – Resources – Consecrated Life 2015 – Events.

FAITHFUL SUSTAINABILITY: BEST PRACTICES FOR FACILITIES AND HOMES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI! - *Attention church and school facility managers, grounds keepers, finance leaders, and homeowners:* Anticipating Pope Francis' upcoming encyclical on care for creation this summer... How can we, as a community of faith, more fully answer the call for sustainability? **Saturday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch included) at St. John the Evangelist Church, West Chester Pavilion (9080 Cincinnati Dayton Road West Chester Twp., 45069).** Through a morning of workshops and discussions with local experts, we'll explore how the local Church can reduce our environmental footprint, lower utility bills, nurture nature, and increase our commitment to energy efficiency in our homes, schools and parishes. All are welcome, but space is limited to the first 45 facility leaders and 45 parishioners who register. Don't miss out, and bring your own mug or beverage container! The event is free, but you must register! Learn more and register at www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction.

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<http://www.ohiocathconf.org/I/Envir/creationcal/CatholicCreationCalendaInteractive.pdf>

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION - *The Archdiocese Climate Change Task Force is providing sample bulletin announcements once a month that include a sample prayer/reflection, quote from the Holy See, and energy-saving/care for creation tip. Please feel free to use these as appropriate.* Reflection: Creator God, we thank you for brother sun, sister moon and the stars. We give thanks for the rhythm of the days, months and years. Help us to value both light and darkness. Grant us wisdom in the use of energy supplies, and inspiration in the development of renewable resources. Quote from the Holy See: "Brothers and sisters: creation is not a property, which we can dispose of at will; much less so is it the property of a some, of a few: creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude."-- Pope Francis, Audience, May 21, 2014. Care for Creation Tip: **Be mindful of unnecessary water usage.** Treating and pumping water utilizes energy; in fact, 3% of our nation's energy is used for making water available. Using water more efficiently thus would decrease our production of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.