



## CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

100 East Eighth Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
(To be filed in loose leaf binder and kept in parish archives)

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*May God Bless You In The New Year*



### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP**

#### **SERVANT OF GOD LUISA PICCARRETA AND DIVINE WILL**

In September, 2010, Archbishop Schnurr wrote to the clergy of the Archdiocese about the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta and Divine Will gatherings based upon her writings and spirituality. In that communique he stated that, while the cause for the beatification of Luisa Piccarreta has been taken up by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, confusion and controversy have surrounded her name and spirituality due to poor translations and rash interpretations of her writings, as well as a lack of theological competence by some who try to explain her writings.

Because of these controversies, the Archbishop of Trani, where Luisa lived and died, directed that only authorized priests were permitted to speak on Luisa and prayer groups were to be conducted under the guidance of a priest.

On April 26, 2015, the Archbishop of Trani, His Excellency Giovanni Battista Pichierri, promulgated a new directive which seems to modify his earlier stance. He now states, "I extend my appeal to the Bishops of the dioceses in which 'groups of the Divine Will' are located, to welcome and support such groups, assisting them to put into practice concretely the spirituality of the Divine Will." Nevertheless, Archbishop Pichierri also points out that, while the Cause of Beatification is proceeding positively, a critical edition of the teachings of the Servant of God has not yet been completed.

In light of this most recent message from the Archbishop of Trani, Archbishop Schnurr wishes to offer the support and encouragement recommended by Archbishop Pichierri.

# DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES

## *CHANCERY OFFICE*

Linda Heidi, Canonical Administrative Assistant in the Chancery Office, has accepted a new position at the Athenaeum of Ohio, effective February 1, 2016. A special thanks and heartfelt gratitude for Linda's dedication, perseverance and selfless years of service to the priests and people of the Archdiocese. Blessings and prayers for Linda as she continues to serve the Archdiocese at the Athenaeum.

## **CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS INDEX 2015**

The *Index* for the 2015 *Clergy Communications* is included with this mailing.

## **OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

### **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 Protection of Children and Youth before the new employee can begin having contact with children.

### **QUARTERLY UPDATES**

To ensure that we are consistent with our implementation of the *Decree*, we have finalized three procedures. These procedures do not take the place of policies defined in the *Decree*, but allow us to standardize how we have implemented these policies. Each Local Safe Environment Coordinator and Facilitator has received a copy of these procedures. We will continue to finalize additional procedures and will release these quarterly. The following procedures are available: Policy A.7, reading bulletins; Policy A.9, training for information only; Policy B.1, fingerprint requirements.

Changing Profiles: NEEDS BACKGROUND CHECK profiles. If you see that a person has done a background check and still has the NEEDS BACKGROUND CHECK profile, feel free to change the profile to reflect what he or she is doing at your location.

Inactive accounts: Effective January 1, 2016, any individual who is inactive for 18 continuous months will be required to obtain re-training in accordance with a manner approved by the Chancellor. This procedure is not retroactive, therefore an individual's 18 months starts on January 1 for anyone currently inactivated. See procedure A.7 for guidance.

## **FACILITATOR 3.0 TRAINING**

**If you attended the 3.0 training in 2015 you do not need to attend this session.**

This training is mandatory for facilitators who did not attend the sessions held in the spring of 2015. If your ability to conduct training was suspended and you would like to be reactivated you must attend one of the two classes in February. These will be the last sessions held for the updates. 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. The training is an hour and half long. The training sessions are:

**Thursday, February 25 - Pilarczyk Center, Dayton; 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, February 25 - Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati; 2:00 – 3:30 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. Remember, if you previously attended a training session for 3.0 you do not have to attend this training.

## **VOCATION OFFICE**

### **SPIRITUALLY ADOPT A SEMINARIAN**

We are still looking for parishes, parish groups, and families who are willing to spiritually adopt our seminarians as they continue their formation and discernment. Please contact Wayne Topp in the Vocation Office if your parish is interested in this opportunity: 513.421.3131x2891.

### **CHOSEN: MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

Monthly Holy Hour with prayerful music for those discerning a vocation or praying for vocations - Thursday, **January 14** beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio. Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Vocation Office and Children of Mary. Chosen: every second Thursday of the month. Come and bring a friend!

### **JANUARY 17: HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS AT THE ATHENAEUM**

All are welcome and encouraged to attend a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the St. Gregory the Great Chapel at Mount St. Mary's Seminary on the Athenaeum campus, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230. Research shows that prayer plays a critical role in a man's decision to become a priest. And where you find growing seminaries – you also find steadfast prayer by the faithful. **What can YOU do to promote the priesthood? Pray!** If you have any questions, please call 513.231.2223 or visit: [www.athenaeum.edu](http://www.athenaeum.edu).

### **JANUARY 31: CLOSING MASS FOR THE YEAR FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

The celebration of the Year for Consecrated Life will come to a close with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a reception following the mass provided by the Serra Club of Cincinnati. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – SPREAD THE WORD!**

### **March 4-5, 2016: Mount St. Mary's Seminary Welcome Weekend**

Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati is hosting a welcome weekend for men who are college age or older who want to learn more about discernment and priesthood. The weekend takes place on Friday-Saturday, March 4-5. Attendees will spend the night at the seminary and participate in the community liturgies as well as additional prayer, social time, and talks about discernment and seminary life. If you would like more information or to register, please call 513.421.3131x2890 or email at [vocations@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:vocations@catholiccincinnati.org).

### **CAST YOUR NETS YOUTH RALLY**

On Sunday, March 13, 2016, the Northern Network of Youth Ministers, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Vocation Office will be hosting the Cast Your Nets Youth Rally for high school students. The event will take place from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church in McCartyville, and will feature keynote speaker, Fr. Eric Bowman, and practical workshops for growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and living out our call to holiness. More information coming soon on the Office of Youth Ministry page at [www.catholiccincinnati.org](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org).

### **APRIL 30, 2016: DIACONATE ORDINATION**

This year's diaconate ordination will take place at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton, where more than thirty permanent and three transitional deacons will be ordained by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. If you haven't already, please mark your calendars to join in this great celebration.

### **MAY 21, 2016: PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION**

This year's priesthood ordination will take place at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains on Saturday, May 21, when seven men will be ordained by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendars to join in this great celebration.

## ***DIACONATE OFFICE***

### **CATHOLIC REVIVE RALLY**

We are pleased to announce that the contract has been signed and the Catholic Revive Rally will be coming to Cincinnati on October 29, 2016. The event will be held at the Cintas Center and the tentative time frame is 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The guest speakers are John Michael Talbot, Curtis Martin, Father Larry Richards and Jeff Cavins. The event is for men and women and we encourage everyone to get involved in helping us promote this great event. More details will be coming as we begin marketing the Rally.

### **NADD NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Our office has been contacted about hosting the National Association of Diaconate Directors annual convention. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our great city and the wonderful Catholic community here. The deacons of the Archdiocese will be playing a major role in putting on the event. The convention will be here either in 2019 or 2020.

## **DEACON CANDIDATES**

Please keep the candidates for the permanent diaconate in your prayers. They are entering their final semester of preparation before their ordination on April 30. Also, keep those men who are discerning a call for the 2016 class in your prayers as well. We currently have twenty-four men who have formally applied.

## **FORMED**

As part of the Diaconate Office efforts to provide more continuing education opportunities, I purchased the online program Formed for all of the deacons. It is a website with videos, audio recordings, movies and books that do a great job of expanding our knowledge of the faith. It includes Symbolon, a 20-video series that explores the faith and the life of the Church. Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series is also included. This is a personal license not to be used by the parish. However, the deacons are free to use it for teaching within the Parish for adult faith formation, RCIA, marriage prep and other programs. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) to check out the site. Another wonderful program that has recently come out is called **Return** by Brandon Vogt. This program is designed to help parents talk to their children who have left the Church. I'm currently working with Brandon to see if we can do the same thing we did with Formed for the all of the deacon community.

## ***OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS***

### **THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE COMES TO A CLOSE**

This year set aside by Pope Francis, which is coming to a close, began here in the Archdiocese with a letter from Archbishop Schnurr encouraging pastors to celebrate this year in their parishes. He saw as objectives of this year: an increase in the visibility of religious life/the consecrated life; to express appreciation; to highlight the joy experienced in this vocational choice and education on religious life/the consecrated life. As Director of the Office of Religious, I am grateful to the many parishes that celebrated and/or communicated the events of this year in a myriad of ways. The month of January holds two more events to which all are invited. On Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m., there will be a free concert at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. The choir will be comprised of some 120 women and men religious as well as religious women and men instrumentalists. The concert will be approximately an hour in length and will be followed by a reception where vocation materials will be available. This concert was the inspiration of Reverend Jeff Scheeler, OFM, Provincial of the Franciscan Friars, and put in the capable hands of Reverend Fred Link, OFM. On Sunday, January 31, Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate the Closing Liturgy for the year at the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral. A reception will follow provided by the Serra Club of Cincinnati. For more information about both of these events for yourself or to share with your parishioners, please go to: to:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/religious/consecrated-life-2015/>.

Even though this special year officially comes to a close on February 2, it is my hope all of us will continue to consider ways to lift up the consecrated life as a viable vocation choice.

# DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

## *FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE*

### **MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT**

Effective January 1, 2016, the Archdiocese reimbursement for mileage will decrease from 57.5 cents to 54 cents per mile. As in the past, our reimbursement rate matches the IRS approved rate. Feel free to call the Finance Office at 513.421.3131 if you have any questions.

### **From the Desk of the Senior Auditor**

Early January is a good time to review whether you have identified all vendors that need to receive Federal Form 1099. Here is some guidance regarding who should receive a 1099 from your location:

- a. Attorneys paid \$600 or more in fees should receive a 1099 for amounts paid to them during 2015 regardless of legal structure of law firm.
- b. Retired extra clergy help who earned \$600 or more should receive a 1099 for amounts paid to them in 2015.
- c. Independent contractors paid \$600 or more for services should receive a 1099 for amounts paid to them in 2015 including payments of \$600 or more to unincorporated businesses.

Since you can't be sure if Joe the Plumber operates under his social security number or a federal tax identification number formatted like xx-xxxxxxx, Archdiocesan locations should send Joe the Plumber a federal form W-9. The W-9 requests the vendor to complete the form and return it to you. The W-9 will list the vendor's official name, address, and tax ID number. If the form lists a social security number, this is your cue that a 1099 must be issued if you pay this vendor \$600 or more during any calendar year. A W-9 should also be sent to retired extra clergy help and individuals you pay \$600 or more so that you have their proper address and social security number for preparing 1099's at year end. Form W-9 is therefore an important document to keep in your files. You do not send Form W-9 to the IRS.

Federal Form 1099's must be printed on forms acceptable for filing per specifications outlined by the IRS, which generally means printed in red drop-out ink. You can obtain these forms from the IRS or from an office supply store.

Payment of attorney fees, payments to retired clergy, payments to independent contractors (nonemployees), including unincorporated businesses operating under a social security number, go in box 7 on Federal Form 1099. If an unincorporated business operates under a DBA (doing business as) such as Carol's Cleaning Service, the 1099 should be issued to the owner whose social security number is listed on the W-9 you received. Payment of fees to attorneys must include their taxpayer identification number (TIN) which they are required to give you on the W-9 you request from them.

## Deadlines:

Federal Form 1099's are required to be sent to the appropriate vendors by February 1, 2016. Federal Form 1099's are due to the IRS by February 29, 2016 attached to Transmittal Form 1096.

New penalties apply this filing season for 1099s:

- \$50 per information return if you correctly file by March 30, 2016; maximum penalty \$500,000 per year (\$175,000 for small businesses).
- \$100 per information return if you correctly file more than 30 days after the due date but by August 1, 2016; maximum penalty \$1,500,000 per year (\$500,000 for small businesses).
- \$250 per information return if you file after August 1, 2016 or you do not file required information returns; maximum penalty \$3,000,000 per year (\$1,000,000 for small businesses).
- The penalty due to intentional disregard of the requirements to furnish a correct payee statement is \$500 per payee statement with no maximum penalty.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

### STATUS OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FINAL RULE

In July 2015, the Department of Labor (“DOL”) released a proposed rule expanding the current overtime requirements to an additional five million workers. The proposed rule more than doubles the current salary minimum required for exempt status from \$455 per week (\$23,660 per year) to a projected level of \$970 per week (\$50,440 per year in 2016). Under the proposed rule, 40% of full-time salaried workers would lose their exempt status. The impact on parishes and schools will be significant—with the exception of teachers and the clergy, any employee who does not make the threshold salary (i.e., \$50,440 in the proposed rule) will automatically be considered non-exempt and, therefore, subject to the minimum wage, overtime and recordkeeping requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

The DOL recently published that it is targeting July 2016 for the release of the final rule. This deadline, however, is not set in stone. The DOL also announced that once the final rule is published, employers will have just 60 days to comply.

While it is premature to make any immediate changes, please use the above timeline as an opportunity to review your exempt/non-exempt classifications and consider how these potential changes will impact you.

If you need further assistance in this area, please contact Rob Reid at 513.421.3131x6611, [rreid@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:rreid@catholiccincinnati.org) or Meg Paul at 513.421.3131x2841, [mpaul@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mpaul@catholiccincinnati.org) in the Department of Human Resources.

# DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL SERVICES

## *FAMILY AND RESPECT LIFE OFFICE (FARLO)*

### **STAFF CHANGE**

Caron Bergen, Respect Life Coordinator/Administrative Assistant in the Family and Respect Life Office has taken a new position at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Reading. We thank Caron for her knowledge and service to our office. Please direct inquiries to Colleen Gerke, Director, at 513.421.3131x2624 until a replacement is named.

### **CHRIST AT THE CENTER: FAMILY AND HOME**

The latest Home Edition of CATC is included with this mailing. If you need a copy, you may also find it 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/>.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS– GOLDEN JUBILEE**

The dates for the 2016 Golden Jubilee 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Masses will be August 27, 2016 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Cincinnati and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton at the regularly scheduled 4:30 p.m. Masses. Archbishop Dennis M Schnurr and Bishop Joseph R. Binzer will preside at each Mass. The Golden Jubilee Masses acknowledge couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. For questions, please call the Family and Respect Life Office at 513.421.3131x2624.

### **43<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE**

The USCCB offers the following ideas for January 22, 2016.

- Pray a Holy Hour for Life
- Pray for the safety of pilgrims at the March for Life in Washington.
- Pray the Rosary for Life
- Participate in the 9 Days for Life (<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm> )

Go here for planning suggestions, <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2014/resources-for-observing-the-42nd-anniversary-of-roe-v-wade.cfm> .

### **THE 2015 MARCH FOR LIFE WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 22**

The March for Life in Washington D.C. is an annual event that is held in January to the date to commemorate the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court which legalized abortion in our nation. Doe v. Bolton, decided on the same day, legalized abortion during all nine months of pregnancy. Lest we forget the children lost through those decisions, and their parents, we annually gather in respect to the dignity of all human life. Every year the March for Life chooses what it believes to be one of the most pressing issues of our time for the pro-life movement as its annual theme. This year their theme is “Every Life is Worth Living.”

Buses coordinated by the Archdiocese will leave Cincinnati on the evening of Thursday, January 21 following a communal prayer service at 7:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd in Montgomery

officiated by Bishop Joseph R. Binzer, and will return to the same location early Saturday morning following the March for Life. Other activities are on-going in the Washington, D.C. area during the week leading up to the March for Life. Consult the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' webpage for more details: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/washington-area-events.cfm>.

If you have any questions about the Archdiocese of Cincinnati bus trip, please contact Bob Wurzelbacher at [bwurzelbacher@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:bwurzelbacher@catholiccincinnati.org) or 513.421.3131x2742. For additional information, please consult the March for Life webpage at: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/resources-and-events/march-for-life/>.

### **DIVORCE MINISTRY**

Catholic Divorce Ministry - If you are a Catholic who is newly divorced or separated, you may be going through a very difficult time right now. You should not have to feel isolated or cut off from the Catholic Church. The church is here to offer the support and ministry you need and deserve. There are two excellent Catholic-sponsored divorce-recovery support groups in the local area to help men and women heal from this life trauma. Both groups feature nationally recognized experts on divorce through professional video input and small group discussions. There are such recovery topics as anger, loneliness, new relationships, annulments, etc.

### **CATHOLIC-SPONSORED DIVORCE CARE**

13 weeks, held on Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. from January 14 to April 14 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, OH. Cost: is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. For more information, or to register, please call Marcelle Toma at 937.312.1157 or [mtoma@woh.rr.com](mailto:mtoma@woh.rr.com).

### **CATHOLIC DIVORCE SURVIVAL GUIDE - 2 locations!**

**Vandalia** - 12 weeks, held on Monday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. from January 11 to March 28 in the "Candle Room" of St. Christopher's Church in Vandalia. Cost: is \$25 per person.

**Piqua** - 12 weeks, held on Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. from January 14 to March 31 in the "Holy Family Room" on the second floor of the Downing St Campus, 218 S. Downing Street, Piqua. Cost: is \$25 per person.

Register online at: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=670e37> for either session. For questions, please call Noreen Wendeln at the Family & Respect Life Office 937.222.0227.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE AWARD**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Family and Respect Life Office is pleased to announce the second annual Archdiocesan Respect Life Award. This annual award is to recognize those who exemplify protecting the dignity of human life in "every stage and in every situation" (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, page 2.) An ad-hoc committee of the Archdiocesan Respect Life Commission will select the recipient(s) to receive the award. The criteria used will be based on the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life (A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2001). The Archbishop will have the final say on the recipient. A nomination form is available on our website at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/resources-and-events/respect-life-award-candidate-submission/online-respect->

[life-award-candidate-submission-form/](#). The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2015. Nominees must be Catholic, living out his or her faith in a visible way, and “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 human life at every stage of its existence” (Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life. A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2001, page 1). The award will be presented in October, 2016.

## ***PRIESTLY FORMATION OFFICE***

### **WINTER/SPRING RETREAT FOR PRIESTS**

The **Winter/Spring Retreat for Priests** has been scheduled for February 15 through February 19, 2016 (the first full week of Lent.) at Maria Stein. Our retreat director will be Father Paul Ruwe.

### ***LOOKING TOWARDS THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE:***

- The one-day Convocation for Priests of 2016 is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2016.
- The **multi-day Convocation for Priests** (two years from now) has been tentatively scheduled for the **week of June 19, 2017**.

## ***PRIESTS' PERSONNEL OFFICE***

### **EXTRA CLERGY HELP FEE SCHEDULE**

Enclosed is a copy of the updated Extra Clergy Help Fee Schedule. Please note that the mileage reimbursement changed to 54 cents/mile effective January 1, 2016. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bishop Joe Binzer at [jbinzer@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:jbinzer@catholiccincinnati.org) or 513.263.6601. Thank you for all you do!!

## ***WORSHIP OFFICE***

### **JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY - UPDATE**

For resources for parishioners and staff, please go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/jubilee-of-mercy/>. These pages will be updated on a regular basis with additional content and resources. If you would like to offer us feedback or suggestions to assist your parish more, please do not hesitate to contact: Sean Ater – [sater@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:sater@catholiccincinnati.org); Karen Kane - [kkane@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:kkane@catholiccincinnati.org); or Tony Stieritz – [tstieritz@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:tstieritz@catholiccincinnati.org) .

### **RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will take place on the First Sunday of Lent, February 14, 2016. All information is now available on our website. Parishes that have catechumens or candidates for full communion/Catholics completing initiation should complete the information form and submit it to the Worship Office no later than Monday, January 18, 2016. Please remember that seating is determined on a first come, first served basis according to

when the form is turned into the Worship Office. To access all the information, please visit our website <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/rite-of-election-2016/>.

### **THE “LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU” 2016**

Mark your calendars! Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. We will once again open our doors to those seeking the mercy and love of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Resources and publicity materials will be provided and posted on the Worship Office website in mid-January.

### **LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI**

Through prayer, music, and reflection Father Larry Tensi and Karen Kane will engage participants in a deeper experience and understanding of the celebration of the Eucharist and assist them in connecting their Sunday worship to their everyday lives. Children in grades 1 – 6 will also have a separate, spirit-filled program. This four-evening retreat-like experience will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. on February 15, 22, March 7, 14, 2016 at St. Michael Church, Mt. Orab. Parishes can take advantage of registration discounts. For more information and registration, please go <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/>

### **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/>

## ***MISSION OFFICE***

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH OUR CHURCH IN MISSION! 2016 MCP ASSIGNMENTS COMING, 2015 MISSION COLLECTIONS DUE**

As our sister and brother Catholics in mission dioceses strive to build their own faith communities, they are most grateful for our support that allows God’s love to become ALIVE AND REAL. Many sisters, priests, bishops and lay catechists who have visited or have written to our Mission Office express their gratitude as they are enabled to educate seminarians, religious sisters and brothers, serve millions with AIDS, provide orphanages, schools and clinics, etc. etc. in the name of Jesus Christ.

So, have you mailed in your parishioners’ donations for your missionary guest speaker for our annual Archdiocesan Mission Co-operation Plan (MCP)? Also, have you mailed in your parishioners’ envelopes and donations from the past October 18 World Mission Sunday collection? If not, please mail these donations and envelopes **DIRECTLY and addressed to the Mission Office, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202** as they need to be properly recorded in the Mission Office for the Society of the Propagation for the Faith and for the missionary orders.

The Mission Office will soon be sending MCP 2016 assignments to you, our pastors. So to avoid confusion, please send in past MCP donations ASAP. If you are unsure if your parish has mailed in these donations, please feel free to call Melonise Knight of our Mission Office at 513.421.3131x2631.

**And please pray** for our missionaries and mission dioceses, many who work in very difficult conditions and places spreading God's message of hope, peace, justice and reconciliation.

### **INVITE PARISHIONERS TO JOIN US FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY SOJOURNS**

(You may wish to insert the following in your parish bulletin)

The Mission Office is collaborating with several other Catholic communities in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati over the coming Year of Mercy to host monthly sojourns. The goal is to highlight the various Catholic cultural communities and build relationships within our archdiocese. The events are mostly at a Sunday Mass with a reception to follow with structured conversation about mercy. Any parish is welcome to form a delegation to attend these events. Individual sojourners are also very welcome!

Our next stop: **January 30, 2016** at 3:00 p.m., Saint Kuriakose Chavara Syro-Malabar Community, Our Lady of the Rosary, 17 Farragut Rd, Cincinnati, 45218 with Indian Catholics.

### **THIS LENT, INVITE CHILDREN/STUDENTS TO MISSIONARY SOLIDARITY TOO!**

First heard at Baptism, the call to share our faith — to be missionaries — is truly connected to every moment of every day. The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), part of the Pontifical Mission Societies, offers young Catholics and their families opportunities to make those daily connections. To learn more or to place an order for many kinds of educational materials, please visit [mcakids.org](http://mcakids.org). New to teaching about mission? Download our Mission Education Guidelines for teachers and catechists. Please contact Teresa Phillips of the local Mission Office for further advice and support to promote the mission work of our church among our schools and religious education programs at: [mission@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mission@catholiccincinnati.org) or 513.421.3131x2632.

### **KNOW ANY ONE SEEKING**

#### **ADVICE FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE OR MISSION TRIPS?**

The Mission Office wishes to support people from our archdiocese who are discerning or are already serving with a mission organization or religious order in the U.S. or overseas for more than a year. If you know someone in that situation, please have them contact us. Or if you know of someone seeking advice about mission trips or parish twinning have them contact our office: Dr. Mike Gable 513.421.3131x2631 or [mission@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mission@catholiccincinnati.org).

To promote mission vocations and global awareness, why not invite a returned missionary to speak to your parish, school or classroom? Contact: Teresa Phillips, (513) 421-3131 x. 2632 or [mission@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mission@catholiccincinnati.org)

### **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>

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### ILUMEN DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT DAYS FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH IN GRADES 7 & 8

*iLumen: Created for Greatness* is a day-long exploration of what it means to be Catholic disciples of Jesus. Current 7th and 8th graders will discover and learn to use the Super Powers they received in Baptism. Through interactive, fun games, witness talks, prayer, art, and service, youth will recognize they are created for greatness and learn how to use their super powers as a mighty force that brings God's love to the world. Cost: is \$20 per person (includes all materials, lunch and snacks). All programs run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

January 9, 2016 at Ascension Parish in Kettering (Dayton region)

January 16, 2016 at St. Michael Parish in Sharonville (Cincinnati region)

January 30, 2016 at St. Michael Parish in Fort Loramie (Northern region)

Register at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/iLumen/>

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Offices of Evangelization and Catechesis and Youth & Young Adult Ministry.

### PLANNING FOR THE JUBILEE OF MERCY

**April, 2016 Theme:** *Professing and Creating a Culture of Mercy.* April 24 is the Jubilee for Young Boys and Girls, and so the OYYAM will be devoted to professing and creating a culture of mercy, with the following events on the Archdiocesan calendar:

- **Annual Girl Scout Awards Celebration, Sunday, April 3, 2016, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains:** This annual celebration will recognize both girls and adult religious award recipients, followed by a special program of fun learning activities in the undercroft.
- **Annual Boy Scout Religious Emblems & Adult Recognitions Ceremony, Sunday, April 10, 2016, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains:** Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Pius XII religious emblems and adult recognitions will be awarded at this special ceremony, followed by a social in the undercroft.
- **CHOSEN, Saturday, April 16, 2016, LaSalle High School:** This Saturday evening event for 6 - 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents includes prayer, music, hands-on works of mercy for the poor, and engaging presentations to help your young people better understand what it means to be called by Jesus as a disciple today. This year's NCYC emcee [Paul J. Kim](#) is our featured guest and presenter. Build this special event into your Confirmation program, spring school schedule, youth athletics calendar, and Scouting programs.

**July 2016 Theme:** *Jubilee for Young People.* July 26 - 31 is World Youth Day in Poland (details below). There will be two regional U.S. celebrations of WYD, during this period, one in Detroit and the other in Chicago. Stay tuned for more details.

### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**First Fridays + One on the Journey:** Please contact Dr. Sean Reynolds at

[sreynolds@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:sreynolds@catholiccincinnati.org) to schedule a special First Friday gathering at your parish, open to young adults Archdiocesan-wide, with Eucharistic adoration and the Catholic Relief Services' "One on the Journey" Solidarity Prayer Walk.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

### ***CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE***

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** is quickly approaching! We will be celebrating with Catholic schools across the United States during Catholic Schools Week (January 31- February 6, 2016). Each of our schools is planning a number of events in recognition of the wonderful success and tradition of our Catholic schools. Please join us in praying for a vibrant future for our Catholic schools! Catholic Schools Week events include:

**National Day of Appreciation:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016 has been designated as a National Day of Appreciation for Catholic Schools in the U.S. Church.

**Catholic Schools Week Masses:** We are planning two large Masses for Catholic Schools Week. Each of these Masses will include student representatives from area Catholic schools. All priests and religious are welcome to attend. The Masses are:

*Cincinnati:* Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati. Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate. Pre-Mass procession begins at 9:40 a.m.

*Dayton & Northern Region:* Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4500 Ackerman Blvd., Kettering, Ohio 45429. Bishop Binzer will celebrate. Pre-Mass procession begins at 9:40 a.m.

If you are a priest and wish to concelebrate, please contact Diane Hungler at [dhungler@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:dhungler@catholiccincinnati.org) or 513.421.3131x2726. If you wish to concelebrate, we will need to hear from you by January 15.

### **ARCHBISHOP SCHNURR'S BROADCAST**

Archbishop Schnurr will be conducting his annual broadcast to the Catholic High Schools on Monday, February 1 at 9:30 a.m. This year, Archbishop Schnurr will be broadcasting from Lehman Catholic High School. During the broadcast, Archbishop Schnurr will respond via teleconference to questions asked by students across the Archdiocese.

### ***OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS***

#### **VATICAN SPORTS OFFICE OFFICIAL TO KEYNOTE AT CONFERENCE**

**Dr. Santiago Perez de Camino, Director of the Vatican Office of Church and Sport,** will keynote a *SportsLeader* Conference encouraged by the Archdiocese March 30-April 1, 2016.

Catholic high school can be an important place of encounter between popular culture and **youth ministry, adult faith formation and family ministry.**

*SportsLeader* has pioneered a creative, intentional approach to the spiritual formation of our

coaches, athletes and parents. Come and learn about this dynamic ministry and how your high school community can deepen Catholic identity through its suggestions for best practices in Catholic athletics.

While not “required” at this time for Catholic schools, teams or parishes, the Archdiocese encourages you to attend this conference as a way to learn about *SportsLeader*. You will hear from local and national Catholic coaches, athletes, parents and school officials who have their personal faith and the Catholic identity of their schools and teams strengthened and celebrated through this amazing ministry.

The conference will be held at the Seminary. [Preliminary details here](#), more information to follow. The conference is **free of charge for all Archdiocesan clergy, meals also included at no cost**. Questions, please call the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, 513.421.3131x2710 or [twray@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:twray@catholiccincinnati.org).

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

Catholic elementary schools and parishes, please schedule the NCEA ACRE Assessment with consideration for potential inclement weather school and building closures, so that you can meet the deadline below. 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. 2015-16 Deadlines for submitting answer sheets to CALtesting for scoring:

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

For more information, please link to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis/resources/ncea-acre/>.



The number of parishes subscribing to FORMED “digital library” of Catholic teaching is growing...**144!** Click [here](#) for details instructions on how to claim your parish **FORMED** grant **which has been extended until January 15, 2016**. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to purchase **FORMED** using the *Archdiocesan grant access code*.

- Click [here](#) for brief video “samples” of **FORMED** content and structure.
- Click link [here](#) for the **doctrinal index** of Church teachings contained in the **FORMED** virtual library.
- Click [here](#) for the **liturgical year index** of FORMED catechetical ideas/connections that can be adapted in your parish for Adult Faith Formation opportunities—**beginning January 1 with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**.

Beginning January 13, 2016 and continuing monthly through April, pastors, deacons, DRE’s, CRE’s, Youth Ministers, RCIA leaders and volunteers can view OEC-hosted webinars for

practical suggestions on how to implement **FORMED** and design Adult Faith Formation and Youth programs. See the schedule and topics [here](#).

### **CHRIST AT THE CENTER...**

The infusion bulletin for The Baptism of the Lord – Ordinary Time, January 10, 2016 – February 7, 2016, is included with this mailing. The **Spanish** edition is also included.

## **OFFICE OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION**

### **ARE YOU READY TO BUILD A CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC PARISH?**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office of the New Evangelization, in partnership with the Evangelical Catholic, is offering a unique service to parishes committed to becoming completely mission-oriented.

#### **Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance**

A Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance is a partnership between the parish and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office of the New Evangelization. With the help of the Evangelical Catholic, we will mentor you to be equipped to implement a strategic process of evangelization.

#### **What makes the Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance Different?**

- This is not about implementing a new program, or giving you a plug and play manual for evangelization. This is about equipping parish leadership with the vision, the skills, and the motivation to create a culture for evangelization.
- We are not offering an easy solution or easy answers. Successful Parish Alliances will find themselves hard at work! This will change the way your staff works and how you use parish resources. We promise that it will get messy because evangelization is messy.
- A Parish Alliance is a major investment of time and resources from the Office of the New Evangelization. Instead of trying to do everything for everybody we have made a strategic decision to work very hard with a few parishes at a time. In the long run, we know that this will be the best use of our time.

#### **What will this cost us?**

The cost for the Parish Alliance is being paid through the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal and is therefore free to parishes. A Parish Alliance will require a significant commitment of time, energy, and personnel. We can only work with a select number of parishes at this time, so it will be very important that parishes are prepared and informed.

#### **Who else is doing this?**

Our first Contagiously Catholic Parish is St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Liberty Township. We are currently looking for three to five parishes to work with in our second year.

If you are interested please contact Sean Ater. For more information, please go to:

[www.contagiouslycatholic.com/evangelization-training/parish-alliance/](http://www.contagiouslycatholic.com/evangelization-training/parish-alliance/)

## **ENCOUNTER CINCINNATI**

All high-school youth are invited to attend Encounter Cincinnati taking place at the Underground (1140 Smiley Ave. Cincinnati, OH) on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. The speaker this month will be Peter Burds, Director of College Campus Ministry for the

Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Encounter gathers teens from parishes and schools from across the Cincinnati area (and beyond) for an evening of worship, dynamic talks, Eucharistic adoration, and the opportunity for confession and fellowship. For more information about Encounter, please visit [www.encountercincinnati.org](http://www.encountercincinnati.org)

### **NEW EVANGELIZATION REFLECTION**

The New Evangelization has been described as being new in ardor, new in methods, and new in expression. Consider having Sean Ater facilitate a conversation with your parish leaders on how your parish will respond to the call for a new evangelization. The format of this reflection is flexible but will lead participants to consider new methods and expressions for evangelization. The goal of this reflection is to inspire a new ardor for evangelization for those in parish ministry. This reflection would be appropriate for parish staff, Pastoral Council, Evangelization Committees, or other key parish leaders.

### **WEB RESOURCES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION**

[www.ContagiouslyCatholic.com](http://www.ContagiouslyCatholic.com) - This webpage will offer ways for pastors, parish leadership, and parishioners to become informed and equipped as Missionary Disciples. The site will highlight resources, workshops, blogs, and events sponsored by the Office of the New Evangelization and partner offices and organizations working to build a culture of witness in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

[www.Stirintoflame.org](http://www.Stirintoflame.org) - This is an outreach webpage sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and managed jointly by the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis and the Office of the New Evangelization. This webpage is a resource for reaching those who are curious about the Catholic faith or are open to growing in their Catholic faith.

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### ***CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHWESTERN OHIO***

#### **VOLUNTEER**

The Refugee Resettlement Program of Catholic Charities will be hosting a Volunteer Training and Information Session on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. The training is specific to volunteer work with our refugees. The training will be held at 7162 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237. Please contact [msnyder@ccswoh.org](mailto:msnyder@ccswoh.org) for more information.

#### **FACE OF MERCY**

Catholic Charities is offering a presentation on the *Face of Mercy* for parishes or parish groups. The explanation of *Misericordiae Vultus* hopes to engage the faithful to reflect and live this Year of Mercy more fully. To schedule a free presentation at your parish, please contact Scott Stephens at 513.672.3714 or [sstephens@ccswoh.org](mailto:sstephens@ccswoh.org).

#### **NOMINATE A CHAMPION OF MERCY**



Acts of Mercy occur in our parishes, schools, health care facilities and communities every day. In order to reflect on and celebrate mercy, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio will recognize 100 Champions of Mercy at its

Centennial Awards Dinner in October. The top three award recipients will receive \$500 each, which will be donated to the charity of their choice. Nominations are due by May 21, 2016 at [www.ccswoh.org/ChampionofMercy](http://www.ccswoh.org/ChampionofMercy).

### **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**

The counseling offices in Eastgate moved in December to the Montgomery Road location. Clients will be seen at 10700 Montgomery Road. The intake phone number to schedule counseling at any of the locations remains the same at 513.489.8898.

### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE**

#### **NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK 2016: JANUARY 3 - 9**

National Migration Week 2016 will take place January 3 – 9 with the theme, “A Stranger and You Welcomed Me.” Especially in this time of increasing hostilities towards migrants and refugees, National Migration Week 2016 picks up on the theme of welcome and, in doing so, calls on each of us to welcome the stranger among us. For prayer cards and other resources related to human trafficking, migrants and refugees, please visit: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/index.cfm>.

#### **LAUDATO SI ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN THE SPRINGFIELD DEANERY**

The Our Lady of Mercy Secular Franciscan Order and the Springfield Social Action Committee will offer a four-week study session of Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’ On Care for Our Common Home* on the Tuesdays in January, January 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Church, 1827 N. Limestone Street., Springfield. Books will be available for \$9.00 each on the first night of the presentation. The Catholic Social Action Office will present an overview on the first night and Fr. David Vincent will lead the discussion on the next three nights. For more information, please contact Pam Long at the Catholic Social Action Office [plong@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:plong@catholiccincinnati.org) or 937.224.3026x5018.

#### **VESSELS OF MERCY RETREAT**

##### **TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE IN JANUARY**

Join us for a unique retreat, Vessels of Mercy, that will engage our hearts, minds and hands and lead us into a deeper spiritual understanding and practice of global solidarity. This three-hour retreat will begin with an “art gallery walk” of photos and reflections. We’ll listen to the voices via Skype or in-person of a Catholic Relief Services representative who has seen the mercy that U.S. Catholics bring to families who are poor and vulnerable around the world and we’ll visit “learning stations” where you can reflect on how we can embrace global solidarity at home and in our parishes. Finally, we’ll even taste global culture. The retreat will travel to three locations in the Archdiocese:

- Good Shepherd Church, 8815 E. Kemper Road, Cincinnati, Saturday, January 9. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., retreat from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon), snow date, January 16. Reservations: Pam Long, [plong@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:plong@catholiccincinnati.org) or 937.224.3026x5018.
- St. Michael Church, 33 Elm Street, Fort Loramie, Monday, January 25. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., simple supper at 5:30 p.m., retreat from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Reservations: Ann Bollheimer, [annb@nflregion.org](mailto:annb@nflregion.org) or 937.295.2891x105.

- Archbishop Pilarczyk Center, 1436 Needmore Road, Dayton, Saturday, January 30. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., retreat from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon); snow date, February 6. Reservations: Pam Long, [plong@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:plong@catholiccincinnati.org) or 937.224.3026x5018.

There is no cost for the event, but goodwill donations will be accepted to support the good work of CRS.

### **NEW THIS YEAR FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL**

Today CRS Rice Bowl offers families, schools and faith communities an opportunity to prayerfully journey through Lent. New this year is:

- *Hispanic Ministry – Reflexiones para la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*: Accompany your youth and young-adult ministries with faith formation modules that offer activities, reflections on scripture and prayers to bring Lent to life.
- *Stations of the Cross Digital Retreats*: One-minute video reflections
- *Community Reflections – Laudato Si Edition*: Gather small faith sharing groups of young adults to prayerfully consider how cultivating the spiritual pillars of Lent can impact our common home.
- *CRS Rice Bowl App*: New reflections and recipes, integrated social sharing and a new way to track your Lenten sacrifices. Available in both English and Spanish.

The five countries we will be walking in solidarity with this year are Columbia, Laos, Rwanda, Honduras, and Madagascar and in the United States, the Archdiocese of Louisville.

CRS receives 75% of all donations collected in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to support CRS' programs around the world. The remaining 25% of all donations fight hunger and poverty in our Archdiocese. It's not too late to order materials. Please contact Pam Long at 937.224.3026 or email her at [plong@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:plong@catholiccincinnati.org).

### **RESOURCES FOR**

#### **THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18 - 25, 2016**

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between the 18 - 25 of January, between the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul. The annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been recognized since 1908. The theme chosen for 2016 is "Jesus said to her, 'Give me to drink.' (John 4:7)" Throughout the year, join Christians everywhere in praying "that they may all be one." Resources for this commemoration, and throughout 2016, are prepared jointly by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. They can be found through:

- The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity at [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/weeks-prayer-doc/rc\\_pc\\_chrstuni\\_doc\\_20150526\\_week-prayer-2016\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/weeks-prayer-doc/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20150526_week-prayer-2016_en.html) ; and

- The World Council of Churches at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer>.

### **SAMPLE INTERCESSION ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION**

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office will be sharing sample intercessions to help us pray for mercy for those experiencing religious persecution across the world. *For all who suffer persecution, derision and isolation because of their religious beliefs; may the Spirit of God strengthen them in their resolution, that they may be Gospel Light guiding our steps in justice, love and peace, we pray to the Lord....*

## **DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP**

Materials for the 2016 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) were shipped to parishes in mid-December. All resources are also available at [www.CatholicAppeal.info](http://www.CatholicAppeal.info) under the “Info for Parish Staff” section – the password to access this section is “cma2007.”

### **2016 CMA – KEY APPEAL WEEKENDS**

- **Announcement Weekend:** January 16/17, 2016
- **Commitment Weekend:** January 23/24, 2016

For more information or for questions about this year’s CMA, please contact David Kissell at 513.421.3131x2881 or email [david@CatholicAppeal.info](mailto:david@CatholicAppeal.info).

### **MISCELLAENOUS**

#### **CELEBRATE!**

**Vespers and Choral Concert for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** will be held on **Sunday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.** in the chapel of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230. The service will be led by Fr. Paul Ruwe, a member of the faculty. Music will be sung by the Athenaeum Chorale. The public is invited to attend. All are welcome.

#### **HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

**Please refer to the article under the Vocation Office section.**

**Please submit articles for the February *Clergy Communications* before January 20, 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](http://www.CatholicCincinnati.org). Email: [Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org](mailto: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](http://www.ethicspoint.com). There is also a link on the Archdiocesan website, [www.CatholicCincinnati.org](http://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).

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK...** for 2016 begins on Sunday, January 31. During this week, we will celebrate the distinguished history and excellence of our Catholic schools. Our schools are planning many events in recognition of this week. All priests and religious are invited to attend the Cincinnati Catholic Schools Week Mass on Tuesday, February 2 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate, and representatives from all Cincinnati-area Catholic schools will be present. The Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. If interested in attending, please contact the Catholic Schools Office at 513-421-3131x2726. Bishop Binzer will celebrate Mass in Dayton on February 3 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Kettering.

**LAUDATO SI ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN THE SPRINGFIELD DEANERY** - The Our Lady of Mercy Secular Franciscan Order and the Springfield Social Action Committee will offer a four-week study session of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home* on the Tuesdays in January, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, 1827 N. Limestone St., Springfield. Books will be available for \$9 each on the first night of the presentation. The Catholic Social Action Office will present an overview on the first night and Fr. David Vincent will lead the discussion on the next three nights. For more information contact Pam Long at the Catholic Social Action Office [plong@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:plong@catholiccincinnati.org) or 937-224-3026 ext. 5018.

**Vessels of Mercy Retreat to travel throughout the Archdiocese in January** - Join us for a unique retreat, Vessels of Mercy, that will engage our hearts, minds and hands and lead us into a deeper spiritual understanding and practice of global solidarity. Organized by the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office and Catholic Relief Services Committee, this three-hour retreat will begin with an "art gallery walk" of photos and reflections. We'll listen to the voices via Skype or in-person of a Catholic Relief Services representative who has seen the mercy that U.S. Catholics bring to families who are poor and vulnerable around the world and we'll visit

“learning stations” where can reflect on how we can embrace global solidarity at home and in our parishes. Finally we’ll even taste global culture. The retreat will travel to three locations in the Archdiocese:

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There is no cost for the event, but goodwill donations will be accepted to support the good work of CRS.

**CARE FOR 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.*

Prayer/Reflection: On this winter’s day we are warmed by the beauty of this place in which we live, by the company of family and friends, by our passion for justice, peace and care for our common home, the Earth. May the thoughts of our hearts, the words of our mouth, the work of our hands, and all that we do with our lives speak of grace and truth as we seek to live in the way of Christ. Amen. Quote from the Holy See: “The mercy to which we are all called embraces all of creation. God has entrusted (creation) to us because we are stewards, not exploiters or - worse still - destroyers.” Pope Francis, St. Peter's Square, Oct. 28, 2015. Caring for Creation Tip: During this season of festivities and gift giving, consider ways that you can also reduce the use! Carry cloth bags, not only to the grocery, but to all shops and stores. Take along a small container to restaurants for carry outs or leftovers. Consider using bar soap in lieu of liquid hand and bath soaps, and at the end, poof, you have nothing left to discard!