



CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

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

DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES

CHANCERY OFFICE

LENTEN REMINDERS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016, and Good Friday, March 25, 2016, are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. **The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97 and 1252).** With regard to Good Friday, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council should be recalled.

Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind (*Constitution on the Liturgy, No. 110*).

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of Pope John Paul II may be simply paraphrased: the obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

CONFIRMATION AND THE FACULTY TO CONFIRM

The following might be helpful for you regarding Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. For priests who have been granted the faculties of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, these are the instructions for the Faculty to Confirm as found in the *Pagella, Clerus Cincinnatiensis, Volume XII, No. 1, pages 260-261*. The mandate is given to all priests in the Archdiocese:

1. **to baptize and confirm** in accordance with canon 883.2 persons who are no longer infants whom the priest judges suitable for Catholic baptism;
2. **to admit into full communion** with the Catholic Church **and to confirm** in accordance with canon 883.2 previously baptized persons who are no longer infants whom the priest judges suitable for admission to the Catholic Church;

3. **to readmit into full communion** with the Catholic Church and **to confirm** in accordance with the response to the Pontifical Commission for the Interpretation of the Decrees of the Second Vatican Council, April 25, 1975, persons beyond infancy who were baptized Catholic but not confirmed and who later became an apostate or a heretic, whom the priest judges suitable for readmission to the Catholic Church. (If you have any questions about whether or not someone later became an apostate or a heretic, please call the Chancery.)

Priests do not have the faculty to confirm a baptized but never confirmed Catholic who simply has not been active in the practice of the faith without becoming a member of another Church and now desires to be confirmed and be actively involved in the Church's life. **In these cases, individual delegation of the archbishop is needed.** Priests can seek such delegation in writing from the Chancery, giving reasons why the delegation is sought, the name of the person to be delegated, the name of the candidate, and the intended date of the ceremony.

If you need to request a faculty to confirm, please do so in ample time to receive it before the Easter Vigil. Also, if you have more than one parish, please include the name of the parish where the Confirmation will take place. Thank you.

GOOD FRIDAY 2016 COLLECTION

The Good Friday collection is to be taken up in all churches and chapels where Good Friday services are celebrated. The proceeds will benefit the churches in the Holy Land. Please send the proceeds from the collection to the Finance Office of the Archdiocese in the week following Easter. Thank you.

MASS STIPENDS - SOME PRACTICAL DIRECTION

Included with this mailing is some practical direction regarding Mass stipends. Please retain this insert in the parish office where Mass stipends are generally accepted for easy reference. Any questions that you may have can be addressed to Fr. Steve Angi, Chancellor, at 513.421.3131x2846 or sangi@catholiccincinnati.org.

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL ISSUES

Please see the insert enclosed with this mailing titled "Guidelines for Church Involvement in Political Issues." If you have any questions about involvement in political issues, please contact Father Steve Angi at 513.421.3131x2846. Thank you.

TRIBUNAL OFFICE

The web page for the Tribunal Office has been updated with a revised list of baptisms which are considered valid. The Tribunal is grateful to the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops for its recently published guidelines about baptisms. Their conclusions have been integrated into the current Tribunal web site lists. Email Sister Victoria at the Tribunal if you would like a copy of the Canadian document: victoriav@catholiccincinnati.org

For the revised list of baptisms, please go to the Archdiocesan web site at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/> then click on Ministries and Offices at the top of the page; scroll down to Tribunal; click on the Issue of Baptism in Marriages Cases in the left column of the page or click on the following link:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/tribunal/the-issue-of-baptism-in-marriage-cases/>

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Remember, our online parish directory needs help in keeping the listings current. Please go to www.CatholicCincinnati.org and check out your parish in the directory by clicking on the three horizontal lines at the top right of the home page, and then “Find a Parish.” If you see any mistakes, outdated information or even what appear to be software errors, please send an e-mail to Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org with the subject line DIRECTORY.

VOCATION OFFICE

LOOKING FOR SCHOOL VISIT OPPORTUNITIES

The Vocation Office is looking for opportunities to come and speak to students in our Catholic high schools and grade schools about discernment and vocations. Please contact Fr. Schmitmeyer to schedule these opportunities for the 2016-17 school year.

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.

VOCATION AWARENESS PACKETS STILL AVAILABLE

As a reminder, if your parish or school has not yet made use of the Vocation Awareness educational materials for this school year, all parishes and schools still have access to those materials at www.vocationlessons.com with access code: CinciVocations513.

MARCH 10-12: JOSEPHINUM LIVE-IN WEEKEND

On March 10-12, 2016, the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH, and the Vocation Office will host a College Live-In for young men who are juniors and seniors in high school, or college students who are interested in knowing more about seminary life. The Live-In schedule will include a tour of the campus, discussions, meals and prayer with the college seminarians, attendance at classes, and time for recreation. There is no charge for the weekend. For further information, please call the rectory at 614.885.5585 or any of the following individuals at the Josephinum: Fr. John Rozembajgier, Vice Rector for the College, at 614.985.2244; or Mrs. Arminda Crawford, Administrative Assistant, at 614.985.2241. <http://www.pcj.edu/>.

MARCH 13, 2016: CAST YOUR NETS

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 in McCartyville, OH 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.

APRIL 9, 2016: CITY SQUARE DANCE TO SUPPORT RUN FOR THE CALL

Young adults and families are invited to join in the 5th annual Cincinnati Square Dance on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. at Annunciation Parish in Clifton. The evening includes FREE square dance lessons, live square dance callers, and a DJ. Food and drinks will be provided as well. Cost of the night is just \$5 per person or a maximum of \$20 per family.

APRIL 9, 2016: FATHER/SON DAY OF SERVICE

On Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. the Knights of Columbus Council of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West is hosting Real Men, Real Faith: A Father and Son Day of Service that will include Mass, service work, games, activities, a talk on responding to God's call and a lunch. The day is for fathers and their sons aged 13-18 years old and is FREE to attend. To register go to: www.realmenrealfaith.app.rsvpify.com or, for more information, contact Tim Fernandez at mtsmknights@gmail.com.

APRIL 30, 2016: DEACON ORDINATION

This year's Diaconate ordination will take place at Immaculate Conception in Dayton, where 19 permanent and four 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

Preparations are under way for the Catholic Revive Rally 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. – 3:00 p.m. The guest speakers are John Micheal 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.

DEACON CANDIDATES

The 24 men who have been accepted into the diaconate formation program have begun their Aspirancy phase. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they discern their call.

SACRED HEART RADIO ANNIVERSARY

Sacred Heart Radio will be celebrating their 15th anniversary on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the Sharonville Convention Center. Cardinal Raymond Burke will be the featured speaker. For more information, go to their website at www.sacredheartradio.com.

NDICE 2016

The 2016 NDICE Conference at Xavier University is set. The dates are July 17–20, 2016. The theme this year is “Deacons: Building Bridges to the Kingdom of God.” Some of the speakers will be Bishop Frank Caggiano, Rev. Gerald McGlone, SJ, and Amy McEntee. It will be a great event, as always. You can register online at www.ndice.net. Make plans to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Deacon Mike Cassani for his recent appointment as Director of Mission to Mercy West Hospital. Let’s pray that Mike will be successful in this important position.

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

The annual blessing of the bikes will be held this year on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at the Kil-Kare Raceway in Xenia, OH. The event begins at 1:00 p.m. and is always a fun and popular event. Any deacon who would be able to volunteer to help with the blessing, contact Deacon Greg Cecere at gacohio@sbcglobal.net.

UPCOMING ORDINATION

Please keep our 19 current candidates in formation in your prayers as they prepare for ordination into the permanent diaconate on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton. Also, please pray for our three transitional deacons as well. The ordination begins at 11:00 a.m. and all clergy are welcome.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The audited financial statements of the Central Offices of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati have been issued by Barnes Dennig & Company CPA’s. The financial statements can viewed on the Archdiocese web site under the Finance Office website using the following link:

http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/AOC2015_report_FINAL021916.pdf

INTEREST RATES

The amount paid for investments placed with the Archdiocese will remain unchanged. The rate on Archdiocesan Investment Notes for the period March 16, 2016 through September 15, 2016 will be 2.50%. The Archdiocesan Loan Rate will remain at 6.50%.

HEALTH CARE PLAN CHANGES FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Effective July 1, 2016: the monthly premium rates charged to locations is changing from \$645.00 to \$651.00 for single coverage, from \$1,501.00 to \$1,516.00 for family coverage, and from \$294.00 to \$297.00 for retiree supplemental coverage. There is no change in the monthly employee health care contribution rate of \$32.00 for single coverage and \$75.00 for family coverage.

The annual deductible will remain unchanged at \$425 for single coverage, and \$850 for family coverage. The deductible covers a calendar year, not plan year. The annual Out-Of-Pocket (OOP) Maximum is changing from \$2,200 to \$2,300 for single coverage and from \$4,400 to \$4,600 for family coverage. The OOP covers a calendar year, not plan year.

The Standard Insurance Company has increased rates for the Archdiocesan Basic Core Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance for the 2016-2017 plan year as follows:

Death Benefit	Employee Age	Premium
\$50,000	Under 65	\$9.25
\$32,500	65 to 69	\$6.01
\$21,000	70 to 74	\$3.89
\$15,000	75 and over	\$2.78

The Long Term Disability rate is not changing; it remains at 0.00272 of pre-disability annual earnings.

Questions: contact Charlotte Carpenter at 513.421.3131x2852 or ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION

Since July 2011, Archdiocesan locations that employ a Diocesan priest have been making monthly contributions into the Priests' Retirement Fund. Effective July 1, 2016, that monthly per priest charge will increase from \$400 to \$500.

The Archdiocese Finance Office will continue to draft the appropriate amount from each location's bank account on file the last business day of each month based on the number of Diocesan priests assigned. Please be sure to notify the Finance Office of any changes in banking information. Locations that share a priest are required to contribute their share of the cost. The Finance Office will draft the funds from the location from which the priest is paid and the other location should then reimburse the location from which the funds were drafted for their share of the monthly cost.

- Those locations that employ religious order priests should continue to make the appropriate arrangements with the provincial at the religious order to remit the retirement amounts directly to them.
- The Archdiocese of Cincinnati 401(k) Plan was amended to include new priests. The definition 'Covered Priest' means any diocesan priest who is ordained into the Archdiocese of Cincinnati after January 1, 2015, or any diocesan priest whose

incardination date into the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is on or after January 1, 2016, or any priest who is not subject to a vow of poverty and is on canonical assignment, beginning on or after January 1, 2016, to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati from another diocese or religious order. Each location will contribute the same monthly \$500 contribution towards retirement except it will be processed through the Fifth Third site on a quarterly basis as it is currently processed for eligible lay employees. The Finance Office will work directly with the locations to establish correct procedure on the Fifth Third site.

Questions: Contact Charlotte Carpenter 513.421.3131x2852.

OFFICE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

ATTENTION: PASTORS, BUSINESS MANAGERS, MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL AND ALL THOSE WHO WORK WITH CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Property Management is sponsoring two more sessions of Contracts 101 on April 19 in Dayton and April 20 in Cincinnati from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The exact locations are still yet to be determined, but lunch will be provided. This interactive short course on working construction and property maintenance contracts has been an invaluable experience for those who have taken it over the last two years, and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati would like representatives from all parishes to soon attend. So, if you haven't yet experienced the excitement of the course, please consider signing up for the spring session. The course will not be offered again until October 2016. Please visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/property-management/upcoming-workshops/> to sign up and find out the final locations! We have also enclosed a flyer with this mailing for more information.

From the Desk of the Senior Auditor

We started Financial Reviews several years ago as a method to assist parishes and schools with their financial management. In a recent meeting, a business manager and pastor described their frustration at not knowing what to expect, not understanding what we do, why we do it, how it is completed. Based on this conversation we will take the next couple months describing why and how we conduct the financial reviews.

The document *Diocesan Financial Issues* was developed by the Committee on Budget and Finance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It best describes why the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has the Parish Auditor group to provide service to each parish and school.

12. Internal Audits

Each diocese should implement some level of internal audit. Such a function is a very important component of a sound internal control environment for parishes, schools and other diocesan entities.

The primary role of the internal audit function is to aid pastors and others in fulfilling their canonical and legal responsibilities. An effective internal audit will help safeguard the assets of a

parish, review recordkeeping, accounting and financial reporting of the parish, identify areas of improvement and report findings and observations to the pastor, parish finance council and the audit or accounting committee of the diocese. Ideally, the internal auditors serve as pro-active, cooperative management advisory partners to the pastor. A well-developed internal audit team will function most effectively as consultants rather than compliance monitors, adding value through reviewing the parish business operation and making recommendations for improvement. An internal audit also provides an independent review and verification that an organization is complying with laws and policies of the diocese and is making economical and efficient use of its resources. An internal audit assists management by providing independent and objective analysis of activities and controls. Internal audits are an objective review of the policies and systems a parish, school or other diocesan entity has in place that sometimes are never tested. Thus, an internal audit is designed to determine whether internal controls are in place and functioning so as to safeguard assets, provide reasonable assurance that financial activities are being properly recorded, summarized and reported, and provide reasonable assurance of compliance with diocesan policies and civil regulations.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department wants to remind all pastors of the *Policy Guidelines for Parishes* that can be found on the Human Resources page of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati website. Please go to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/human-resources-office/> and click on “Handbook” from the subject list on the left hand side.

The *Policy Guidelines for Parishes* is a compilation of suggested policies and procedures assembled in the form of a Handbook that all parishes can use in its present format or use as a starting point for adapting to reflect local policies and procedures.

We can't stress enough the importance of having a Parish Policy/Procedure Handbook in place at your parish. A handbook ensures that all employees know the behavioral and procedural parameters around their employment. A handbook also helps to ensure that your employees are treated equally in similar situations, which goes a long way in protecting the parish in the event of possible employment-related legal action.

****UPDATED** 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).

Two months ago, the DOL indicated that it was targeting July 2016 for the release of the final rule. This deadline, however, appears to be moving up. DOL Secretary Thomas Perez said in a recent interview that his agency is confident that a final rule will be published by the spring of 2016. There was no indication of any change in the anticipated effective date—that is, once the final rule is published employers will have just 60 days to comply.

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, reid@catholiccincinnati.org or Meg Paul at 513.421.3131x2841, mpaul@catholiccincinnati.org in the Department of Human Resources.

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL SERVICES

FAMILY AND RESPECT LIFE OFFICE (FARLO)

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY – DAY OF REFLECTION

Since 1994, Project Rachel has ministered to women and men who have lost a child through abortion. Knowing what we do know now, there are relatives, friends, partners and others involved in the experience that are also suffering the loss of an unborn child, and need to honor the child and have an opportunity to heal while grieving and mourning their loss. The Family and Respect Life Office is offering a Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 19, in Cincinnati from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be Witnesses, Healing Service and Reconciliation, music and prayer. We invite you to: **“Look into your heart, listen to the voice of God. Help yourself by accepting His love and forgiveness.”** For more information or registration, please call the Family and Respect Life Office at 937.222.0227 or 513.421.3131x2653. There is no charge; a free will offering will be accepted.

CANA II

Cana II, marriage preparation for when one or both members of a couple has been previously married, helps couples respond to the Church’s teaching on the sacramentality of marriage and address unique needs such as finances (child support), communications and stepchildren. Upcoming dates are March 12, 2016 at Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal and May 21, 2016 at Glenmary Home Missioners, 4119 Glenmary Trace, Fairfield, OH 45014. For more information, go to

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Glenmary-Home-Missioners/139645252752737?id=139645252752737&sk=page_map

FOCCUS TRAINING

Saturday, April 30, 2016, at St. Margaret-St. John Parish, Cincinnati, Ohio from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Please contact Teresa Kaltenbach at 513.421.3131x2653 or email tkaltenbach@catholiccincinnati.org to register. The fee is \$100.00 per couple (includes binder).

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/>.

PRIESTLY FORMATION OFFICE

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR PRIESTS

The Lenten Day of Reflection for Priests is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton, Ohio. Our speaker will be Father Anthony Stephens, CPM. The theme will be: “Making the Most of the Year of Mercy.” You should have received a flyer in the mail; to register, use the flyer or simply call or email Sarah Frohmiller, Office of Priestly Formation, 513.421.3131x2651 or sfrohmiller@catholiccincinnati.org by Thursday, February 25, 2016.

PRIESTS’ ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The dinner is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2016 at the Bergamo Center, Dayton.

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 (next year) has been scheduled for June 19- 22, 2017.

PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED TO US:

- National Federation of Priests’ Councils 48th Annual Convention “Keeping Up with Pope Francis; Bringing the Message to Parish Life;” Indianapolis, April 18-21, 2016
<http://nfpc.org/>
- Thomistic Institute; Becoming a Better Preacher, Baltimore, August 9-11, 2016.
www.thomisticinstitute.org/priest2016.
- St. Meinrad also has programs for priests who seek to improve their English speaking skills, prepare for retirement or rekindle their ministry at midlife. For more information on St. Meinrad’s programs please see <http://www.saintmeinrad.org/> or email smipp@saintmeinrad.edu for more information.

WORSHIP OFFICE

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.

SCRUTINIES

In this final period of preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation, the three Scrutinies are to be celebrated with the Elect on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent using the Cycle A readings. (cf. RCIA, 20, 146) Please note, “The bishop may dispense from one of them for serious reasons or, in extraordinary circumstances, even from two” (RCIA, 20).

PASCHAL TRIDUUM RESOURCES

HOLY THURSDAY, WASHING OF THE FEET:

On the authority of Pope Francis, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments [CDWDS] issued a Decree and a Commentary on 6 January 2016 changing the rubric for the Washing of the Feet during the Evening Mass on Thursday of the Lord’s Supper. Here is the rubric:

Those who have been chosen from amongst the people of God are led by the ministers to seats prepared in a suitable place. Then the Priest (removing the chasuble if necessary) goes to each one, and, with the help of the ministers, pours water over each one’s feet and then dries them.

By the action of the Apostolic See, those chosen for the foot washing is open to all members of the People of God – boys and girls, women and men. Those chosen for the foot washing reflect all who make up the People of God, the disciples of the Lord.

In the account of the Last Supper in the Gospel of John, the Good News proclaimed during the Holy Thursday Evening Mass, Jesus washes the feet of an unspecified number of disciples. Just as the “beloved disciple” is nameless so that it may be, in fact, every hearer who is the beloved one, the “disciples” are all of us as well. This *mandatum*, this love command to be of service, to be servants is given to each one of the baptized.

Some feet are washed during the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper as another reminder to be like Jesus. No task, no service, no gesture is beneath those who bear the name Christian.

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>

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY - UPDATE

- **TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FOR THE LORD, March 4 & 5, 2016:** Pope Francis has invited the Universal Church to participate in 24 hours of prayer and reconciliation on

March 4 & 5, 2016. Because parishes will have just participated in “The Light is On for You,” Archbishop Schnurr is not requiring that all parishes add this to their already-busy Lenten schedules. However, if your parish is planning to offer this opportunity, we would be grateful for any information you would like to share with us. We will create a list of parishes/pastoral regions who plan to provide this time of prayer and reconciliation and place it on our Year of Mercy webpage. Other possible scenarios might include: a parish or two in a deanery provide this time; or parishes in a pastoral region divide up the 24 hours. It is really up to pastors and staffs to determine if and how they will do this. Please email Karen Kane at kkane@catholiccincinnati.org with any information that you would like for us to publish.

- For additional resources for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, parishioners and staff go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/jubilee-of-mercy/>. 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; Karen Kane - kkane@catholiccincinnati.org; or Tony Stieritz – tstieritz@catholiccincinnati.org.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

EVENINGS OF RENEWAL FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Thursday, April 14, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd, Cincinnati
Monday, April 18, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Kettering
Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. James the Valley, Cincinnati
Monday, April 25, 2016 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Botkins

Presenters: Deacon Dave Shea and Karen Kane. Look for more information and registration to be posted on our website.

ADULT CHOIR FESTIVAL

Save the date! Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. at St. Columban Church, Loveland
Guest Conductor: Mr. Lee Gwozdz. For more information please go to:
<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/adult-choir-festival-flyer.pdf>

LAUDATE: FORMING YOUTH FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

Save the date! June 13 – 16, 2016 at Bergamo Center for Christian Living, Dayton, OH.
Information is now available 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/>

MISSION OFFICE

INVITE YOUR PARISHIONERS TO THE YEAR OF MERCY SOJOURN MONTHLY VISITS

The Mission Office encourages religious dialogue and understanding globally and also locally, especially during the Year of Mercy. Members of all parishes and all cultures are invited to attend Mass and fellowship gatherings on these upcoming dates, times and locations.

- **March 13, 2016** at 1:00 p.m. at the Ghanaian Catholic Community, St. Matthias Church, 1050 West Kemper Rd, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45240.
- **April 17, 2016** at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, 612 E Mulberry, West Union 45693 with a rural Catholic parish.

More dates and locations to be announced.

HAS THE CONTACT PERSON FOR YOUR MISSIONARY CO-OP PLAN CONNECTED WITH YOU?

Most of our pastors should have worked out their 2016 MCP (Missionary Co-op Plan) assignment from the Mission Office by now. Please call Melonise Knight at the Mission Office if you have not at 513.421.3131x2631. The missionary group assigned to your parish has the responsibility of phoning the pastor to set up the date of the MCP visit. All missionaries are to have letters of “Good Standing” with them and the Mission Office has originals. For many mission dioceses and organizations, the MCP is a major source of income to help them proclaim God’s “Good News” in some very difficult parts of our world. Consequently, pastors’ and parishioners’ support is most appreciated.

The Mission Office has a mandatory training workshop for incoming missionaries who have not spoken in our archdiocese before. They will be held on the weekend of May 27 and 28 or June 4 and 5. So we recommend that our MCP attendees ask our pastors to visit those weekends to defray the cost of travel. These workshops take place from Friday noon to Saturday noon and they insure better, shorter and more effective mission appeals.

To promote Catholic mission and global solidarity awareness among our parishioners, the Mission Office encourages our parish staffs to invite their visiting MCP missionary guests to also dialogue with parishioners between the weekend masses, visit their homes, and speak to summer Bible schools, RCIA, and parish groups while the missionary is at your parish.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MISSION SUPPPORT!

MAY I VISIT OR HAVE LUNCH WITH YOU AND YOUR PARISH STAFF?

Mike Gable, Director of the Mission Office, enjoys meeting pastors, their staffs or pastoral councils around the archdiocese to thank them for their mission support as well as learn of their ministries and mission endeavors/needs. Maybe your youth group could use some funding support for their immersion/mission trip? Maybe your parish could consider a parish spiritual twinning relationship? Maybe a parishioner wants more information about missionary work? Maybe your Bible study, RCIA, or a parish committee wants to be inspired by the Holy Spirit’s

activity in mission locations? Contact him at 513.421.3131x2630 or e-mail mgable@catholiccincinnati.org.

HAVE A NOMINATION FOR THE SR. DOROTHY STANG AWARD FOR THIS YEAR OF MERCY?

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 wish to again present this award to a very limited number in our archdiocese at the end of the school year. It is especially appropriate for this Year of Mercy as Sr. Stang is such a model of mercy.

Nominees may be Catholic high school faculty members and parish religious educators, parish lay ministers or graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated the values of Sr. Dorothy Stang: solidarity with the poor, care for the Earth and a love for Jesus and his mission and/or application of Catholic Social Teaching in cross cultural service or teaching ministry. The nomination form can be found on our website at: www.catholiccincinnati.org. Search for the Mission Office through the Ministries & Offices page. Nominations are due by mid-April, 2016. Please send them to: Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th St. Cincinnati. OH, 45202.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS:

March

- **Universal:** That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.
- **Evangelization:** That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

April

- **Universal:** That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.
- **Evangelization:** That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

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

DIRECTOR OF SPORTS MINISTRY CONFERENCE Wednesday March 30 – Friday April 1, 2016: Come hear from Dr. Perez de Camino, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, President of the USCCB and Archbishop of Louisville, KY, Bishop Thomas Paprocki, bishop of Springfield, IL and author of “Holy Goals for Body and Soul”, along with numerous Catholic university and

high school presidents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and current directors of sports ministry. From 1:00 p.m., March 30 to 12:00 noon on April 1 at the Athenaeum of Ohio. For more information and registration, visit: <https://www.sportsleader.org/2016/01/register-for-sportsleader-director-of-sports-ministry-conference>

Around the Corner in April:

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:

- **CHOSEN: Heroes of God's Mercy Video Contest, for 6th-8th grade youth:** Create a 3-5 minute video featuring your class, your school, your friends, your athletics team, your Boy Scout , Girl Scout or AHG troop, or your family showing how you KNOW MERCY and SHOW MERCY! For details visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/chosen/video-contest/>
- **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, 2:00-4:30p.m., Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains.** Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Pius XVII religious emblems and adult recognitions will be awarded at this special ceremony, followed by a social in the undercroft.
- **CHOSEN, Saturday Evening, April 16, 2016, for 6th-8th Grade Youth.** This Saturday evening event at LaSalle High School for 6-8th graders and their parents includes prayer, music, adoration, 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. 2015 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. For more details and registration, please visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/chosen/>

Coming Up This Summer:

- **LAUDATE, June 13-16, Bergamo Conference Center, Dayton:** LAUDATE is a 4-day, 3-night immersion in music ministry for youth involved or seeking to be involved as music ministers in Catholic parishes or schools. They will participate in a variety of forms of liturgical prayer, learn principles of liturgy and music ministry, and hone their musical skills in voice and/or the instrument of their choice. For details and registration please visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry/services/youthleader/laudate/>

- **Rooted in the Vine, June 26-July 1:** If you're looking for a life-changing immersion experience for high schoolers, this is it – an extended Catholic social teaching retreat in inner-city and rural venues that will deepen their call to missionary discipleship during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. For more information, please visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry/services/youthleader/rootedinthevine/>
- **Other Summer Opportunities:** See the O.N.E. section for information on ABIDE and N.E.T. D-Week.

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

CRS *One on the Journey* Solidarity Prayer Walk: Contact Monica Sellers at msellers@catholiccincinnati.org to schedule the Catholic Relief Services' *One on the Journey* Solidarity Prayer Walk. To view the beautiful and compelling artwork that was created by CRS, visit [One on the Journey](#). We can provide the 20" by 30" canvasses, easels and accompanying prayer books at no cost to parishes or schools that wish to use the display and solidarity prayer walk.

2016 OHIO YOUNG ADULT SUMMER INSTITUTE, Eagle Eye Ministries, August 6-14 at The Holy Spirit Center: The retreat begins on Saturday, August 6, with two days of hiking and camping, then on to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood through Sunday, August 14. Here we will focus on the theme: "***Justice: The First and Necessary Step to Mercy.***" Along with prayer, Adoration, recreation and quiet time as part of the daily schedule, we will be led in philosophy and theology classes by religious from the Community of St. John. Details and registration: <http://www.eagleeyeministries.org/ohio-eesi>

Mark Your Fall Calendars:

November 12, 2016 Immersion Trip Summit: Attention parish/school staff and volunteers who plan or lead immersion/service trips with youth, high school and college campus ministers, service coordinators, parish twinning leaders and other trip planners: Attend and get the most current information from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Directors of Risk-Management, Mission, Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Finance on insurance/liability coverage issues, child protection and safety considerations for youth AND adults, etc. PLUS, share best/worst practices with your colleagues.

OFFICE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY

More and more parishes are being approached by Latino Catholics seeking the sacraments and assistance in celebrating traditional events such as the quinceañera (celebration of a girl's fifteenth birthday) and of some devotions like the Feast of Guadalupe and the Stations of the

Cross. The Hispanic Ministry Office wants to help parishes in their efforts to respond to these requests. The Office will regularly list retreats for couples, days of reflection, and marriage preparation opportunities to be offered in Spanish and at central locations that welcome parishioners from any archdiocesan location. Some things, like the quinceañera, are available in Spanish and in English. Let us know if we can help you minister to this great population of our Archdiocese. Please contact Fr. Louis Gasparini at 513.421.3131x2663 or email lgasparini@catholiccincinnati.org or Karla Eysoldt at 513.448.8994 or email keysoldt@catholiccincinnati.org.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS



CATHOLIC SPORTS MINISTRY CONFERENCE PRESENTED BY SPORTSLEADER

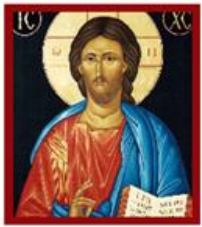
All clergy, and up to two personnel from each Archdiocese of Cincinnati parish, elementary school and high school are invited to attend, **free of charge**, a major conference on Catholic Sports Ministry to be held at the **Athenaeum of Ohio / Mount St. Mary's Seminary, March 30-April 1, 2016**. Clergy, DRE's, youth ministers, volunteers, school principals, athletic directors, coaches, teachers or Sports Booster members are invited to learn more about how to deepen Catholic identity through an exciting new ministry known as **Sports Leader**. This is a great opportunity to learn current best sports ministry practices from schools and parishes across the Midwest. The Director of the Vatican Office of Church and Sports, Dr. Santiago Perez Camino, will keynote at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, in the Bartlett Center. This evening session at the seminary is free and open to the public. For your free registration and conference details, please visit, <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SportsMinistryConferenceFlyer.pdf> Please forward this link to anyone on your staff whom you feel would benefit from this conference: principals, catechetical leaders, athletic directors, youth ministers, coaches, etc. for their free registration.

FORMED® Adult faith formation, digital or otherwise, does not teach itself. Pastors, staff and volunteers should collaborate on how best to engage your parishioners with this powerful virtual catechetical library. Check out our monthly interactive, current approaches to offering FORMED in our webinars at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis/formed/>. Also available for viewing are the "How To Rollout **FORMED**," and "Youth Ministry on **FORMED**."

- **RCIA Ministry on FORMED** is scheduled for March 9, 2016, 3:00 p.m. Hear directly from catechists using **Symbolon** in the RCIA ministries. Link to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8639911065293886977> to register.

- **Marriage & Family Ministry using FORMED** is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 3:00 p.m. Join us for a closer look at **Beloved: the Meaning and Mystery of Marriage** and additional content on **FORMED** for use in marriage and family ministry. Link to <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7431291600158997505> to register.

From an Archdiocese of Cincinnati parishioner using **FORMED**: “*Thumbs up on FORMED! My 92 year old mother and I have been enjoying the programs and movies. The depth of detail provided within small time slots is efficient and effective. Mom is currently watching the series on Peter. She views the sessions during her breakfast and lunch and She can’t wait to give me updates. I am experiencing a ‘re-awakening’ through Symbolon. Thank you for introducing this to our parish.*”



RELIGION GRADED COURSE OF STUDY

Pastors and Catechetical Leaders, the recently revised Graded Course of Study for Religion is ready for implementation in the fall of 2016. It is very important that all catechetical leaders attend one of several scheduled meetings for an Overview. There is no charge and attendance will count as a Skill for catechetical leader certification. Please link to

http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/GCS_TrainingForCatLeaders.pdf for the April schedule of trainings.

CREA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! **CREA Professional Development Day**, featuring **Dr. Jane Regan**, nationally recognized expert on adult faith formation, Chair of the Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry and Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, will present on current theory, trends and practices in Adult Faith Formation. Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Cooper Creek Convention Center, Blue Ash, Ohio. All are welcome, especially clergy, staff, and ministers who are working to evangelize and catechize adults in your communities. Please do not let cost prevent you from attending. Please see the registration form for scholarship contact information. Link here to register:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CREA2016.pdf>.

CHRIST AT THE CENTER...

The infusion bulletin for Easter Sunday – The Ascension, March 26, 2016 – May 8, 2016, is included with this mailing. The **Spanish** edition is also included.

OFFICE OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

ENCOUNTER CINCINNATI

All high-school youth are invited to attend Encounter Cincinnati taking place at the Underground (1140 Smiley Ave., Cincinnati, OH) on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. The event typically ends by 9:45 p.m. We are averaging almost three hundred high school participants so we have a high demand for Confession from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. We are in need for more priests to hear Confessions. Contact Luke Carey, if interested, at lcarey@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2734.

NET MINISTRIES

- NET Retreats are still available for this school year. Any available dates are being offered at a discounted price. To schedule your retreat, contact Catherine Lopez at catherinel@netusa.org
- NET Ministries Summer Retreat (Discipleship Week) is now open for all young people in high school or going into high school. Visit www.netusa.org/dweek for more information.

FOCUS SHARE

Within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Archbishop Schnurr has granted permission for FOCUS Share – a parish-based evangelization effort connected with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). The goal of FOCUS Share is to offer a message of hope and tell the story of missionary activity with the Catholic faithful – stories of conversions, vocations, and the ways in which the Holy Spirit is changing the lives of young men and women on campuses across the United States. **There is no financial request or second collection;** instead the FOCUS priest comes to share good news, gather prayer intentions, and offer free evangelization resources.

Please consider inviting FOCUS to your parish for a weekend of your choice – they will send a Roman Catholic priest in good standing to cover Masses and Confessions and will handle all visit logistics and paperwork within the archdiocese. If you need to take a weekend away or would like to bring this program to your parish, please contact Sarah Harris who is available to answer questions and assist in scheduling at sarah.harris@focus.org or 303.630.1888, or visit www.focus.org/share.

St. John Paul II charges us to “never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged.” Join us as we embrace his charge and as we **spread a message of hope**.

Watch the FOCUS Share video including a local priest who has participated in FOCUS Share <https://youtu.be/DktqK4hx1Eo>

IGNITE YOUR HEART, KEEP IT BURNING CONFERENCE: A DAY OF RENEWAL WITH SCOTT AND KIMBERLY HAHN

April 16, 2016 at McAuley High School Auditorium, 600 Oakwood Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45224 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. All are invited to an exciting, Spirit-filled day with Dr. Scott and Kimberly Hahn. The day starts with Mass at 8:00 a.m. celebrated by Cincinnati Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Binzer, and includes Reconciliation, rich worship in music, and a boxed lunch. Please register at www.igniteyourheart.org.

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.

What is 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 at sater@catholiccincinnati.org. For more information go to: www.contagiouslycatholic.com/evangelization-training/parish-alliance/

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 or contact Luke Carey at lcarey@catholiccincinnati.org.

SPORTS & EVANGELIZATION WITH VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE DR. SANTIAGO PEREZ DE CAMINO: FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Athenaeum of Ohio / Mount St. Mary's Seminary Chapel. Come hear Dr. Santiago Perez de Camino, Director of the Vatican Office of Church and Sport of the Pontifical Council of the Laity, on the topic of Sports, Evangelization and the Universal Church. Please see the flyer included with this mailing.

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. Contact Sean Ater at sater@catholiccincinnati.org.

WEB RESOURCES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

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 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

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. The next presentations will be on Friday, March 4 at St. Anthony of Padua Parish and Saturday, March 5 at St. Columbkille Parish.

NOMINATE A CHAMPION OF MERCY

Acts of Mercy occur in our parishes, schools, health care facilities and communities every day. Let's celebrate these wonderful people. 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 award recipients will receive \$1000 each, which will be donated to the charities of their choice. Nominations are due by May 21, 2016 at www.ccswoh.org/ChampionofMercy. Nominate those deserving in your parish today.

SU CASA HISPANIC CENTER

Su Casa invites you to a special evening where we will recognize community leaders and hear from clients how your support is bringing hope and improving their lives. 17th Annual Auction & Awards Dinner, Wednesday, April 20, at the Cintas Center at Xavier University Campus. Reception at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please go to www.ccswoh.org/sucasa/AwardDinner.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

RALLY FOR HOPE

Saturday, March 12 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The rally begins at Holy Family Parish in Price Hill, located at 3006 West 8th St., Cincinnati

The Archdiocese is joining with other faith and community groups to organize a rally and prayer walk in Cincinnati to renew the U.S. Catholic bishops' call for comprehensive immigration reform and to urge the Administration to not target non-criminal families and unaccompanied children in their recent enforcement priorities. The event will include an ecumenical prayer service, stories from local migrants, a walk through the neighborhood and a call to action consistent with the U.S. bishops' Justice For Immigrants campaign. Join us!

For more information, contact Catholic Social Action at 513.421.3131x2660 or csa@catholiccincinnati.org. To learn more about Church teaching on migration, please visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

A WALK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE ON GOOD FRIDAY

The need to welcome refugees, to earn a living wage, to obtain income equality to access healthy food and a lack of human dignity, will be among the crosses and issues shouldered during the 2016 Walk for Justice and Peace on Good Friday, March 25.

The annual walk with its 14 symbolic stops begins at noon at the Old Courthouse at Third and Main Streets and moves through the east side of downtown Dayton. The walk is held rain or shine. Each year 14 issues are chosen to correspond with the 14 Stations of the Cross. Participants reflect both on new and ongoing social justice issues. New this year are the social justice issues of welcoming refugees, particularly Syrian refugees, and income inequality.

The Walk for Justice and Peace on Good Friday is an ecumenical tradition in Dayton lasting about two hours and ending at the river by the First Baptist Church, 111 W. Monument St.

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 and Greater Dayton Christian Connections.

CRS RICE BOWL

Your Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl donations are doing good work around the world in 100 countries and also helping to alleviate poverty and hunger here at home. CRS asks the Archdiocese to distribute 25 percent of the money collected in the Rice Bowl program to organizations that alleviate poverty and hunger.

With the help of Rice Bowl coordinators and in-parish promoters of Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic Social Action Office was able to distribute funds to 48 agencies in all of the Archdiocese's 11 deaneries as well as four regional organizations. To learn more about those organizations, click [CRS Rice Bowl | Archdiocese of Cincinnati](#)

Turning in your CRS Rice Bowls

Consider planning a meaningful collection ritual to end the CRS Rice Bowl program for this Lent. For ideas, please visit <http://www.csricebowl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Coor-Guide-5-Steps-Collect.pdf>.

Checks can be written to the Archdiocesan Finance Office, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 with a memo noting CRS Rice Bowl donations. Parishes should send in their donations by mid-June because one check is written to CRS Rice Bowl at the end of June.

Apply for a 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. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/catholic-relief-services/challenge-grant/>

CRS COLLECTION

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up in our Archdiocese on the weekend of April 9 and 10, 2016.

With your donations the Catholic Relief Services Collection aids six organizations in:

- Assisting refugee resettlement through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.
- Providing international humanitarian relief and development through **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.
- Offering legal assistance to struggling immigrants through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.
- Reaching people through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.
- Advocating through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.
- Responding to natural disasters through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.

Please turn in the Catholic Relief Services Collection **by Monday, June 13**, so that the agencies who depend on the collection can put the money collected this year to use in 2016. The Archdiocesan Finance Office writes one check at the end of June for the collection. Please submit your collection to the Archdiocesan Finance Office, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. **Please note on the memo line that the money is for the Catholic Relief Services Collection.** The Archdiocesan Finance Office writes one check at the end of June for the collection.

LOCAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

Are you familiar with an organization that is empowering low-income families to tackle the root causes of poverty? If so, the organization may be eligible to apply for a local Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000. To access the application forms and view lists of organizations currently receiving local CCHD funds, please go to

www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction and click on the CCHD links on the side menu. Or contact us at 513.421.3131x2660. Applications should be postmarked by March 18, 2016.

CENTURY FARM REGISTRY APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31

Catholic Rural Life of St. Marys and Sidney Deaneries is now accepting applications for the 2016 Catholic Century Farm Registry. Deadline is March 31. Families who have farmed the same land for 100 years or more are eligible for the registry. Century Farm Families will be recognized as part of the Rural Urban Mass. Information and an application for the registry are available online on the Catholic Social Action pages under Rural Life Ministry. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/rural-life-ministry/>

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 Christians throughout the world who are persecuted for the faith, may they be freed from fear and anxiety and strengthened in their courageous witness, and may peace come to their troubled lands, *we pray to the Lord...*

MISCELLAENOUS

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

For over 40 years, the Archdiocesan lay formation program has prepared adult Catholics to serve families, parishes and communities as missionary disciples, pastoral ministers and everyday evangelists. Evening and Saturday classes, flexible formation components and an outstanding faculty allow your parishioners to fit theological studies and spiritual formation into a busy adult schedule. The program fulfills requirements for applying to the permanent diaconate and classes count toward archdiocesan catechetical certification. Graduates of the Non-Degreed Certificate option may receive 24 credit hours towards an Associate's Degree at Chatfield College.

As you identify and encourage future deacons, catechists, bereavement ministers, formation directors and parish volunteers, please invite them to explore how lay Catholic studies through the LPMP can help them prepare for new opportunities as they discern and respond to God's call. Locations for 2016-17 include the Main campus, St. Ignatius and Pilarczyk Center.

The following information meetings will be held outlining program options, components, application process and fees:

Dayton: Archbishop Pilarczyk Center located at 1436 Needmore Road on March 19 at 10:00 a.m., April 6 at 7:00 p.m., or April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Cincinnati: Main Campus, 6616 Beechmont Avenue on February 27 at 10:00 a.m., March 15 at 7:00 p.m., or April 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Call 513.231.1200 or email Dr. Susan McGurgan at smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu for more information.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Sunday, March 13, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, located on the Athenaeum campus in Cincinnati at 6616 Beechmont Avenue. Support the Holy Hour for vocations to the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. 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!** Phone: 513.231.2223 or visit our website at www.athenaeum.edu

PRIEST MINISTRY POSITION

Mercy Health West Park Senior Living and Rehabilitation is interested in having a priest live at their facility to provide for daily mass and other sacramental needs. A reduced rent will be considered. West Park is located on the West Side of Cincinnati/ St. Teresa of Avila Parish boundary. Inquiries please contact Chaplain Sally Koester 513.347.8236 or sxkoester@mercy.com.

**Please submit articles for the April *Clergy Communications* before March 18, 2016.
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).

RETIRO MATRIMONIAL - El 16 de Abril del 2016, De 8:30 am – 4:00pm. Donde: Iglesia de St. Susanna, 616 Readind Rd Mason, Ohio 45040. Se aceptan parejas que vivan en unión libre, parejas preparandose para Matrimonio y parejas que estén casadas por lo civil ó por la Iglesia. Para más información contacte a: Padre Ariel Pico Pinon (914) 482-0915 ó zaaminik@gmail.com y Karla Eysoldt (513) 448-8994 ó keysoldt@catholiccincinnati.org.

INTO THE BREACH - Saturday, March 19 (The Feast of St. Joseph), 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., The Good Shepherd Catholic Montessori, 4460 Berwick St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45227. Join us for a morning of inspiring speakers, fervent prayer, and strong fellowship as we seek to grow as Christian men who live their fatherly, spousal, and brotherly love in the image of the True Man, Jesus Christ. Keynote speakers are Rev. Paul J. Keller, O.P., S.T.D. and Andrew J. Sodergren, Psy. D. To read Bishop Olmstead's letter "Into the Breach", click [here](#) or visit www.IntotheBreach.net. For registration Email Dan Teller (dteller@gscmontessori.org) or call The Good Shepherd Catholic Montessori (513-271-4171)
For more information, go to www.gscmontessori.org.

MERCY AND FORGIVENESS - In this Year of Mercy the Incarnation Respect Life Committee invites you to join us for two events:

- ***Mercy, Forgiveness and the Reality of Abortion: Through the Eyes of the Mothers, Families and the Community*** - Hear a panel discussion on the ripple effect of abortion and the affirmation that God's healing love is available to all. - March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Incarnation Church Parish Center Room 104.
- ***Healing Service for the Loss of an Unborn Child*** - This service ministers to anyone who has experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. The

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. - April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center Chapel. "The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face."

A DAY OF RENEWAL WITH DR. SCOTT AND KIMBERLY HAHN - The Hahns, known around the world, are coming to Cincinnati to help IGNITE YOUR HEART – AND KEEP IT BURNING. This Catholic Conference will be at McAuley High School on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Please join us for a rich day of spiritual growth. For more details and to register go to www.igniteyourheart.org

RALLY FOR HOPE - Saturday, March 12 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00p.m. and beginning at Holy Family Parish in Price Hill (3006 W. 8th St., Cincinnati). The Archdiocese is joining with other faith and community groups to organize a rally and prayer walk in Cincinnati to renew the U.S. Catholic bishops' call for comprehensive immigration reform and to urge the Administration to not target non-criminal families and unaccompanied children in their recent enforcement priorities. The event will include an ecumenical prayer service, stories from local migrants, a walk through the neighborhood and a call to action consistent with the U.S. bishops' Justice For Immigrants campaign. Join us! For more information, contact Catholic Social Action at (513) 421-3131, ext. 2660, or csa@catholiccincinnati.org. To learn more about Church teaching on migration, please visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

A WALK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE ON GOOD FRIDAY - The need to welcome refugees, to earn a living wage, to obtain income equality to access healthy food and a lack of human dignity, will be among the crosses and issues shouldered during the 2016 Walk for Justice and Peace on Good Friday, March 25.

The annual walk with its 14 symbolic stops begins at noon at the Old Courthouse at Third and Main Streets and moves through the east side of downtown Dayton. The walk is held rain or shine. Each year 14 issues are chosen to correspond with the 14 Stations of the Cross. Participants reflect both on new and ongoing social justice issues. New this year are the social justice issues of welcoming refugees, particularly Syrian refugees, and income inequality.

The Walk for Justice and Peace on Good Friday is an ecumenical tradition in Dayton lasting about two hours and ending at the river by the First Baptist Church, 111 W. Monument St.

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 and Greater Dayton Christian Connections.

CRS RICE BOWL - Your Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl donations are doing good work around the world in 100 countries and also helping to alleviate poverty and hunger here at home. CRS asks the Archdiocese to distribute 25 percent of the money collected in the Rice Bowl program to organizations that alleviate poverty and hunger.

With the help of Rice Bowl coordinators and in-parish promoters of Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic Social Action Office was able to

distribute funds to 48 agencies in all of the Archdiocese's 11 deaneries as well as four regional organizations. To learn more about those organizations, click [CRS Rice Bowl | Archdiocese of Cincinnati](#)

CENTURY FARM REGISTRY APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31 - Catholic Rural Life of St. Marys and Sidney Deaneries is now accepting applications for the 2016 Catholic Century Farm Registry. Deadline is March 31. Families who have farmed the same land for 100 years or more are eligible for the registry. Century Farm Families will be recognized as part of the Rural Urban Mass. Information and an application for the registry are available online on the Catholic Social Action pages under Rural Life Ministry. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/rural-life-ministry/>

CARE FOR CREATION SAMPLE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS - *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: All-loving God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as sisters and brothers, harming no one. Amen.

Quote from the Holy See: A Christian who doesn't safeguard creation, who doesn't make it flourish, is a Christian who isn't concerned with God's work, that work born of God's love for us.
Pope Francis, February 9, 2015

Caring for Creation Tip: Lent's Meatless Fridays -- Why not continue this practice throughout the year? Going meatless just once a week can help reduce our carbon footprint and save precious resources like fresh water and fossil fuel. At the same time, it may reduce our risk of chronic preventable conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity.