



CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

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

May God Bless You In The New Year



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and its churches, schools, and other institutions are committed to faithfully managing the financial resources entrusted to them. To fulfill the mission of the Church, we must consistently perform our work in an ethical manner. We pledge to measure our conduct against the highest standards of canon and civil law.

There are many procedures in place within the Archdiocese to help ensure accountability and transparency. Each parish is required to have finance and parish pastoral councils and to make an annual financial report to parishioners. The Archdiocese Central Offices publishes on its website an audited annual report and benefits from the expertise and oversight of its Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and Archdiocesan Finance Council.

Since 2008 a **financial misconduct hotline** has been made available for employees, parishioners, volunteers, vendors and other interested parties to report suspected misconduct at any level. The hotline is administered by EthicsPoint, an independent company. The person reporting has the opportunity to remain anonymous.

I gratefully extend heartfelt appreciation for your interest in our ministries and consistent support. Let us continue to work together to become better stewards in the Lord.

ANIMALS AND PARISH FESTIVALS

It has come to my attention that some parish festivals in the Archdiocese have involved live animals in inappropriate ways that do not reflect Church teaching about their place in God's creation. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2416) says:

Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory. Thus men owe them kindness. We should recall the gentleness with which saints like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Philip Neri treated animals.

Please keep this in mind as you finalize arrangements for your next festival.

PRIESTLY FORMATION OFFICE

THE REVISED ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

A reminder: The mandatory date for using the revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* is December 30, 2016. If you were unable to attend one of the workshops earlier in the fall, you may want to take advantage of a video of the workshop with Fr. Jim Bessert. Because the material from the workshop is copyrighted, we are not at liberty to place the video in the public domain. You will need to email either Karen Kane (kkane@catholiccincinnati.org) or Kathy Schmidt (kschmidt@catholiccincinnati.org) and we will email the You Tube video link to you.

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SPRING:

- **The Winter/Spring Retreat** for priests will be at Maria Stein March 6 – 10, 2017. We are pleased to have Father Shawn McKnight of the Diocese of Wichita Kansas as our retreat master. Fr. McKnight has a doctorate in Liturgy from the Institute of Sant' Anselmo. He has seminary teaching and administrative experience. He has also served as the Director of the USCCB Office of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. He is currently a pastor of a large parish in the Diocese of Wichita.
- **The Multi-Day Convocation for Priests** will take place **June 19 - 22, 2017** at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Dublin, Ohio. Registration information will be coming in the future months.

VOCATION OFFICE

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE – FEBRUARY 5, 2017

The World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in parishes during the weekend of February 4-5. Please visit <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm> for prayers of the faithful to include at all masses that weekend. You may also view a prayer card for consecrated life and consider praying that prayer with your parishioners before mass begins.

NEW CHILDREN'S PRAYER TO KNOW MY VOCATION

We have produced a new prayer card for children in grade schools. On the front of the card features an image of Jesus with children with the text "Who has God made me to be?" On the back, the prayer reads, "Dear Jesus, I know You love me. I know You have a plan for me. I know You want me to be a saint. Help me listen for Your voice. Help me know who You want me to be. Help me say yes to Your call. I love You Lord and I thank you. Amen." These cards are available free of charge to all parishes and schools to disperse to every student in their religious education programs. You can call Wayne Topp at 513.421.3131x2891 or use our new online order form (see details below).

NEW PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS SPANISH VERSION

The Vocation Office has recently printed the archdiocesan Prayer for Vocations in Spanish. The card is the same size and features the same image and text of the current English archdiocesan prayer card with all text translated into Spanish. These cards are available free of charge to all parishes and schools. To order, call Wayne Topp at 513.421.3131x2891 or use our new online order form (see details below).

NEW ONLINE VOCATION MATERIALS ORDER FORM

The Vocation Office now offers a very simple way of ordering vocation-related materials for your parishes, religious communities, schools or homeschool communities. Simply go to the Vocation Office website at <http://www.cincinnati vocations.org/> and click on the Resources button in the right sidebar, then click on “Vocation Materials Order Form” link. *If you have ordered materials and have not received your order, please know that we are awaiting a new shipment of some of our materials and we will send all materials at the same time to save on shipping costs.*

SAVE THE DATE: DINNER FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN DISCERNMENT

Are you a pastor, a parish young adult minister, or a campus minister who knows a young woman you think may have a call to the Consecrated Life? If your answer is “yes,” consider inviting her and accompanying her to a gathering at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lebanon on April 26, 2017. This will be an opportunity to be with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, to meet young women in one of the varied consecrated life options present in the Archdiocese, to meet with other young women considering this call and to meet vocation ministers. Further details will be available along with how to register. For now, please consider whom you might invite and mark your calendar.

JANUARY 2017/FEBRUARY 2017 EVENTS TO ANNOUNCE

Please see the Bulletin Announcements section for more information on each of the following:

- **January 2-9:** Spiritual Exercises with Regnum Christi
- **January 12-16:** Vocation Discernment Retreat with Regnum Christi
- **January 15:** Holy Hour for Vocations at the Athenaeum
- **January 20:** Vigil Praise at the Athenaeum
- **February 5:** World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
- **February 9:** CHOSEN: Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations
- **February 11-12:** BE NOT AFRAID: Discernment Retreat for women
- **February 17-19:** Fathers of Mercy Come and See Retreat
- **February 18:** Run for the Call Square Dance

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

- ❖ World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life: February 5, 2017
- ❖ National Catholic Sisters Week: March 8-14, 2017 (part of Women’s History Month)
- ❖ Marian Dinner (St. Francis de Sales, Lebanon): Wednesday, April 26, 2017
- ❖ Diaconate Ordination (Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains): Saturday, April 29, 2017
- ❖ Religious Brothers Day: May 1, 2017
- ❖ World Day of Prayer for Vocations: May 7, 2017

❖ Priesthood Ordination: Saturday, May 20, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES

CHANCERY OFFICE

CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS INDEX 2016

The *Index* for the 2016 *Clergy Communications* is included with this mailing.

OFFICE FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A person's name is important. We like our name spelled correctly, be it Ann or Anne or Carol or Carole. It's affirming when someone remembers our name. We name parishes, schools and offices which are meant to identify their purpose in most instances. It dawned gradually that the name, Office of Religious, no longer described the function of the office well. Pope Francis declared 2015 The Year of Consecrated Life. In late October, an International Meeting for Episcopal Vicars and Delegates for Consecrated Life was held in Rome. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati now has two Public Associations of the Faithful, Children of Mary and Regnum Christi; a Consecrated Virgin Living in the World, a woman in formation and an inquirer; a member of a Secular Institute discerns with women and men who may wish to make a Private Vow. Archbishop Schnurr approved the name change (Office for Consecrated Life) on November 29. It will take some time to implement the change.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

This collection took place in most parishes the weekend of December 10 and 11. Thank you for the ways in which you raised awareness of the needs of women and men religious in the Archdiocese and throughout the United States. You hung the posters, included an envelope in your parish envelope boxes, spoke to the need or invited a woman religious to do so and more. The people of the Archdiocese are always so generous, I'm sure this year will be no different. Information regarding our donations to the collection will be available at the end of March or early April.

OFFICE OF THE DIACONATE

SENIOR STATUS

Deacons Bob Collins and Tony Gagliarducci have petitioned Archbishop Schnurr for Senior Status. The Archbishop accepted both deacons' petitions and placed them in Senior Status. Deacon Collins' status was effective as of November 17, 2016. Deacon Gagliarducci's status will be effective January 1, 2017. The Archbishop thanked Deacon Collins and Deacon Gagliarducci for their years of service to the Archdiocese and to their parishes.

Deacon John Quattrone has petitioned Archbishop Schnurr for Senior Status. He has requested that it be deferred so that he may continue in active ministry at St. Ann Parish. The Archbishop accepted his petition and deferred Deacon Quattrone's Senior Status on December 1, 2016.

Thank you, Deacons Gagliarducci, Collins and Quattrone for your service to God and his Church.

DEACON CANDIDATES

Please keep the twenty-one deacon candidates in your prayers. The men have completed their first semester of formation training, which included the Rite of Candidacy on November 20. The class will resume formation on January 14, 2017. The next milestone will be the Institution of Lectors, which will take place at the Covington Cathedral Basilica on February 12 at 10:00 a.m.

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BACKGROUND CHECK / CHILD PROTECTION REQUIRMENTS

All “clergy,” “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.

All new employees must complete both manual and an electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM® at time of employment with no further requirement for a manual fingerprint completed in the future. This was effective March 1, 2015. Current employees must sign up for an electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM® within five years of their last manual fingerprinting or December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. This requirement was effective January 1, 2014. **Remember:** Manual fingerprints are completed once and not required again for Youth Protection purposes. The electronic check is completed once and it is done.

Important note: The State of Ohio has additional requirements for selected occupations which are not addressed by the *Decree*. Individuals should contact the Schools Office for assistance.

All new regular volunteers must complete an electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM®. Current regular volunteers must sign up for electronic background checks through SELECTiON.COM® within five years of their last manual fingerprinting or December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. This requirement was effective January 1, 2014. **Remember:** The electronic check is completed once and it is done.

All clergy and employees who have contact with youth must have a B.4 Form completed, submitted to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and approved prior to having contact with youth.

All clergy, employees and regular volunteers must stay current (less than three behind) on the monthly VIRTUS bulletins. This requirement was effective July 1, 2014.

VIRTUS® ACCOUNTS CLEANUP

The electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM® became mandatory on January 1, 2014. Individuals who had manual fingerprints (BCI or FBI) completed in 2012 are required to complete the electronic check in 2017. Individuals who had manual fingerprints completed in 2013 are required to complete the electronic check in 2018.

The Safe Environment Office will be identifying individuals who are **significantly out of compliance** and will be inactivating their accounts on the following schedule.

February 2017 – We will start inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed January – June 2014 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com.

March 2017 – inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed July – December 2014 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com.

April 2017 – inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed January – June 2015 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com.

May 2017 – inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed June – December 2015 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

HEALTH CARE PLAN CHANGES FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

In October, the Healthcare Advisory Committee met to review Plan results for the past fiscal year and to strategize for the future. The Plan consultants presented the Committee with updates on cost-containment measures, claims costs and financial results from the prior fiscal year. New premium rates, plan designs and employee contributions were explored. After consideration of the information, the Committee made recommendations for plan year 2017-2018 to Archbishop Schnurr. After taking the suggestions under advisement, Archbishop Schnurr made the following decisions to be effective July 1, 2017:

1. There will be a 2.5% increase to the locations and to the employees. This translates to single health insurance premium: from \$651 to \$667 per month billed to the location and family insurance premium billed to the location from \$1,516 to \$1,553 per month.
2. The employee contribution will increase from \$32 to \$33 single and from \$75 to \$77 family per month.
3. The Deductible will increase from \$425 to \$470 single and \$850 to \$940 family.
4. Annual Out-of-Pocket (OOP) will change: single \$2,300 to \$2,430; family \$4,600 to \$4,860.

Questions: Charlotte Carpenter, 513.421.3131 x2852

From the desk of the Senior Auditor

COULD THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL?

Your parish has a raffle with tickets sold for \$5 and a grand prize of \$10,000. You realize that you need to obtain the winner's name, address and their tax identification number (normally on

a Federal Form W-9) because the winnings are at least \$600 AND 300 times the wager (\$5 x 300 or \$1,500).

Since the winner supplies you with this information, you only need to withhold federal tax at 25% (\$10,000 x .25 or \$2,500) instead of 28% if the winner does not give you their tax identification information. You know that Federal income tax withholding is required when raffle winnings are more than \$5,000 AND at least 300 times the amount wagered. You pay the winner \$7,500, giving them a W-2G showing winnings of \$10,000 and tax withheld of \$2,500. You keep the \$2,500 to remit to the Internal Revenue Service. You know that non-payroll tax liability of \$2,500 or greater must be deposited using the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) monthly or semiweekly separately from any payroll taxes.

Then it happens! You get busy or you have turnover at your parish or school and you forget to send the \$2,500 to the Internal Revenue Service or file a Form 945 Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax for the raffle winnings.

This actually happened at one of our parishes for the federal tax withheld on festival raffle winnings in 2010. Much to the parish's surprise, they received a letter from the IRS in early 2016 (five years later!) pointing out that the IRS never received the \$2,500 in 2010 or a Form 945 reporting these winnings. The IRS now wanted interest and penalties for this oversight.

The parish wrote to the IRS asking for mercy, respectfully pointing out that they take tax compliance very seriously and that this was their first oversight. They paid the \$2,500 and interest of \$543.69 immediately and asked that the penalties be abated. The IRS decided that the parish's excuse that they were going through administrative changes due to the newly assigned pastor was not good enough and refused to waive the penalties of (1) \$562.50 for failure-to-file (2) \$250 for failure to make a proper federal tax deposit and (3) \$625 for failure-to-pay on a timely basis. Sadly, this oversight cost the parish interest of \$543.69 and total penalties of \$1,434.55

If your parish or school has raffles, please be sure to read and adhere to the reporting requirements in Chapter 6 of the IRS publication *Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming* that you can find on the IRS website or by Googling Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

STATUS OF DOL FINAL OVERTIME RULE

As you know, on November 22, 2016, a federal district court issued a preliminary injunction delaying the implementation of the United States Department of Labor's ("DOL") overtime rule scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016. At this point in time, it is unclear when the DOL's overtime rule (increase in salary level requirement from \$23,660 to \$47,476 annually to retain exempt status) might be implemented, if at all. However, it is possible that the overtime rule, as written, may be implemented at some point in the future.

This means that if you have employees who you were planning to convert from FLSA exempt to FLSA non-exempt status effective December 1 solely based on the increased salary level threshold, you will not need to do so. If you have already converted these employees to FLSA non-exempt status, then you can decide whether to convert them back to exempt status or to keep them as non-exempt pending further developments on the DOL overtime rule. If you have employees who you determined should be converted from FLSA exempt to FLSA non-exempt status based on their job duties, you should proceed with the re-classification of any such positions from exempt to non-exempt as such changes are not impacted by the court's ruling referenced above.

Please contact Rob Reid at 513.421.3131x6611, rreid@catholiccincinnati.org or Meg Paul at 513.421.3131x2841, mpaul@catholiccincinnati.org in the Department of Human Resources if you have any questions.

REVISED I-9 FORM

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a revised Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. The new form must be used starting January 22, 2017, but may be used immediately.

Every employer in the United States that hires an individual for employment must complete Form I-9. Employers and employees must complete their portions of the form. Form I-9 was last revised in 2013.

The new changes make the form easier to complete on a computer. There are drop down menus for dates and links to instructions. However, the form does not have an electronic signature line so it still must be printed and signed by hand.

Other changes include: removing the requirement that immigrants authorized to work have to provide both Form I-94 number and passport information; a new Citizenship/Immigration status field; and an area for additional information.

You can find the revised Form I-9 on the HR website under New Employee Forms/Information.

FEDERAL & STATE POSTER

All locations, regardless of size, are required to post the Federal & State Poster. In the past it was communicated to parishes that since the Archdiocese of Cincinnati displayed the poster this requirement covered all locations. This is not the case. It is your responsibility to have this poster displayed in a public location.

You can find companies that sell a combination poster. One location we have used is All In One Posters. You can access them online at <http://www.allinoneposters.com/Ohio-Federal-Combo-English.html> or call 1.800.273.0307. The cost is \$19.95.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching! We will be celebrating with Catholic schools across the United States during Catholic Schools Week (January 29-February 4, 2017)

Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers and support parishes provide. Many parishes join in the National Catholic Schools Week celebration by devoting a Mass to Catholic education. Schools start the week by inviting parishioners and community members to parish-centered events and school open houses that feature their outstanding academic programs, religious education and service opportunities.

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, January 31, 2017 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, Bishop Joseph Binzer will celebrate. Pre-Mass procession begins at 9:40 a.m.

Dayton & Northern Region: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at St. Peter Church, 6161 Chambersburg Rd., Huber Heights, Ohio 45424. Archbishop Schnurr 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 or 513.421.3131x2726. If you wish to concelebrate, we will need to hear from you by January 13, 2017.

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

Daily themes for Catholic Schools Week include:

Monday - In Our Community

A central aspect of Catholic education is learning the importance of service to others. When students take part in service activities—both local and beyond—they demonstrate the values and faith they gain through their Catholic education and learn how to make the world a better place.

Tuesday: Celebrating Your Students

Schools celebrate students during National Catholic Schools Week by planning enjoyable and meaningful activities for them and recognizing their accomplishments.

Wednesday: Celebrating the Nation

On National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, students, families, educators and other Catholic school supporters communicate the value of Catholic education to government leaders. They share information with leaders on the significant contributions Catholic schools make to the nation and their role in preparing students to be good citizens. They pray for the nation and recognize all those who serve it.

Thursday: Celebrating Vocations

By focusing on faith, knowledge and service, Catholic schools prepare children to use their God-given talents to the fullest later in life. National Catholic Schools Week offers an opportunity for students to explore the many life paths that enable them to use their talents well in the service of God and others — by answering the call to a religious vocation, by nurturing a family through sacramental marriage, by volunteering in church activities and charities, and/or by pursuing a career that makes the world a better place.

Friday: Celebrating Faculty, Staff and Volunteers

On this day, schools will honor teachers and principals as well as administrators and staff who support them in their important work and thank the parents, grandparents, alumni, parishioners and school board members who provide volunteer service.

Saturday: Celebrating Families

Parents, guardians and other family members play a vital role in Catholic education. Not only do they volunteer at the school, they instill values and expectations for academic excellence in their children at home. We acknowledge the role of families in Catholic education and celebrate their contributions to the success of our schools on the last day of National Catholic Schools Week and all year long.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

The initial availability of tuition assistance flowing from the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign through the Catholic Education Foundation will begin with the school year 2017-2018. Schools will begin actively recruiting and enrolling students in late January 2017, surrounding the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Applications for tuition assistance will be gathered beginning in December 2016 so that families will learn of assistance that may be available when they visit the schools. Communication and direction about the programs and procedures are included in the Bulletin Announcement section for inclusion in your parish bulletins beginning as early as December 1, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION

OFFICE FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN PASTORAL MINISTRIES

ARCHBISHOP KARL J. ALTER SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for submitting applications for the Archbishop Karl J. Alter Scholarship is **Wednesday, April 19, 2017**. The Archbishop Alter Scholarship Fund was established in 1964 to

promote African American Catholic leadership. Its purpose is to assist graduating senior high school students in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati who are African American and Catholic to attend a college or university. A scholarship recipient may choose to attend a parochial, private or public institution. The Archbishop Alter Scholarship is a four-year renewable grant (paid twice a year.) Scholarship candidates are urged to attend a four-year college/university. Scholarship candidates who choose to attend a two-year college or university will be considered. A scholarship candidate must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average in order to renew the scholarship.

For more information, please contact Deacon Royce Winters of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at 513.421.3131x2640, or <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/african-american-catholic-ministries/>.

PROMOTING PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

On **Tuesday, February 28, 2017**, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Xavier University – Institute for Spirituality and Social Justice, Bellarmine Chapel and Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio sponsors “Embracing Intercultural and Racial Diversity In Our Institutions.” There are three separate events, all on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, on the Xavier University campus:

- Eucharistic Liturgy: Promoting Peace In Our Communities, 4:00 p.m. at Bellarmine Chapel. The Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr will preside and the Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, will be the homilist
- Invitation Only - dinner and conversation with 100 guests from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Xavier University – “Embracing Intercultural and Racial Diversity In Our Institutions”, 5:30 p.m. – 6:45p.m. at the Cintas Center
- A public event entitled, “Carrying Out Our Prophetic Ministry In Times of Racism and Violence,” 7:00 p.m. at the Cintas Center. Archbishop Kurtz will deliver the keynote address.

For more information, please contact Deacon Royce Winters of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at 513.421.3131x2640, or visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/african-american-catholic-ministries/>.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

The National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family was founded in 1989 by Rev. James Goode, OFM. The National Day of Prayer is celebrated the first Sunday of February during the Celebration of Black History Month.

Let us pray. God of Mercy and Love, we place our African American and African Families before you today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians, grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as your children to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a

healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and show the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

For more information, please contact Deacon Royce Winters of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at 513.421.3131x2640 for more information, or visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/african-american-catholic-ministries/>.

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: If you are looking for the Worship Office website on the AOC front page, we are now listed under “Divine Worship and Sacraments.”

RITE OF ELECTION

*The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will take place on the **First Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2017**. The reservation and information forms for the Rite of Election will be posted on the ODWS and RCIA websites on Friday, January 6. The reservation forms will be due no later than Friday, February 3. Please remember that seating is on a first come, first serve basis.*

LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

The date will be the **Tuesday after the Second Sunday of Lent, March 14, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

REMINDER - VATICAN INSTRUCTION ON CREMATION

Last October the Vatican released a new instruction on cremation, <https://fdlc.org/content/rise-christ-proper-practices-burial-cremated-remains>. It is worth reading the entire instruction. Basically, the Church is reaffirming what has been our understanding since 1997. The Church still prefers burial of the body; however, understands the pastoral need for cremation. Thus, the instruction continues to allow for cremated remains to be present at Mass. The most significant points are the theological reasons for burial of the cremated remains, and explanation of why the Church does not accept sprinkling of ashes, keeping ashes at home, etc. This Catholic News Service article may be helpful as well: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-explains-that-cremated-bodies-may-not-be-scattered-44196/> Finally, the ODWS has a very helpful brochure on cremation that you may want to provide to your congregation or bereaved families. To review the brochure and place an order, go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/publications-for-order/the-church-and-cremation/>.

ANNUAL LITURGICAL NOTES CALENDAR

The liturgical notes calendar is posted on the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments' website. Please go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Liturgical-Calendar-notes-2017.pdf>.

THE REVISED *ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY*

The mandatory date for using the revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* is December 30, 2016. If you were unable to attend one of the workshops earlier in the fall, you may want to take advantage of a video of the workshop with Fr. Jim Bessert. Because the material from the workshop is copyrighted, we are not at liberty to place the video in the public domain. You will need to email either Karen Kane (kkane@catholiccincinnati.org) or Kathy Schmidt (kschmidt@catholiccincinnati.org) and we will email the You Tube video link to you.

AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE: A WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE FOR COUPLES

This new Archdiocese of Cincinnati publication is now available. To order this or other publications, please visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/publications-for-order/>.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

TRIDUUM WORKSHOP: Preparing Three Great Days will take place on January 20 and 21, 2017 (snow dates of January 27 and 28). For information and registration, please visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Triduum-Workshop-January-2017-Flyer.pdf>

LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI: This popular workshop will take place every Monday in March (6, 13, 20, 27) from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church in Hyde Park. For more information, please visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Lex-Orandi-St.-Mary-Hyde-Park-2017-Flyer.pdf>.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE WORSHIP OFFICE E-NEWS?

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

OFFICE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

RETROUVAILLE: HELPING COUPLES HEAL AND RENEW MARRIAGE

The Retrouvaille Program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of 6-12 post-weekend sessions over three months. It provides the tools to help put your marriage in order again. The main emphasis of the program is on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. For a current list of 2017 Retrouvaille dates visit www.retrouvaille.com.

MINISTRY TO THOSE WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTION AND THEIR FAMILIES

Courage offers a safe and supportive place for those with same-sex attraction to share their thoughts and feelings. Courage is a small group model of support to assist participants in living a life of chastity and fullness in the Church. For more information regarding Courage in the

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, email courage@catholiccincinnati.org (Cincinnati), couragenorth@catholiccincinnati.org (Dayton & North), or leave a voicemail at 513.488.1291.

Many families experience pain when a loved one chooses to become actively involved in the homosexual lifestyle. Questions arise that only other families experiencing the same pain and loss can address. EnCourage brings family members together to share their struggle and find support with one another. For more information regarding EnCourage in the Archdiocese, email encourage@catholiccincinnati.org.

NEW PARISH MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RESOURCE!

United In Love, United In Christ is a six-part marriage enrichment series inspired by St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. The six sessions draw couples into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. For more information or to order materials visit <http://faithandmarriage.org/>.

OFFICE FOR MISSION AND PONTIFICAL SOCIETIES

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH OUR CHURCH IN MISSION! 2017 MCP ASSIGNMENTS COMING, 2016 MISSION COLLECTIONS DUE

Your parishioners' donations empower so many fellow Catholics around the world to build up their own communities of faith, service and hope in Jesus' name. So please check to see if your parish has mailed in your donations for your missionary guest speaker for our annual Archdiocesan Mission Co-operation Plan (MCP). Also, have your parishioners' envelopes and donations from the past October 23 World Mission Sunday collection been sent?

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 2017 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.

WHAT COULD YOUR PARISH, PSR, SCHOOL DO FOR MISSION THIS LENT?

- To promote mission vocations and global awareness, why not invite a returned missionary to speak to your youth group, parish, school or religious ed classroom?
- Why not teach and offer the World Mission Rosary with representatives of various cultures leading various decades?
- Could students support the Holy Father's Missionary Childhood Association? Many educational resources available, i.e. www.mcakids.org.

- Could your RCIA group invite a representative from the Mission Office to speak at one of your meetings?
- Ever consider a parish twinning partner to expand your parish's heart?

For more information, please contact Teresa Phillips at 513.421.3131x2632 or mission@catholiccincinnati.org.

**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.

OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

CHRIST AT THE CENTER...

The infusion bulletin for Ordinary Time, January 15, 2017 – February 26, 2017 is included with this mailing. The Spanish version is also included with this mailing

OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

**UPCOMING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALPHA FORMATION
WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI**

What Is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Getting Alpha Started - Launch Alpha effectively:

- Understanding our Culture • Why Alpha Works • How Alpha Works • Small Group Training
- Inviting Guests to Alpha

January 7, 2017

Catholic-Run Alpha Training, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration link:

https://alphausa.secure.force.com/default/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a1v1a000000NzTVAA0.

Location: Ascension Catholic Church 2001 Woodman Dr. Kettering, OH 45420

January 21, 2017

Ecumenical-Run Alpha Training, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration link:

https://alphausa.secure.force.com/default/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a1v1a000000NzRjAAK.

Marriage Course Training, 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. (Only register if not attending full day.)

Registration link:

https://alphausa.secure.force.com/default/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a1v1a0000000VwAAK.

Location for both events: Ginghamburg Methodist Church Discipleship Center, 7695 S. County Rd 25A, Tipp City, OH 45371

January 23, 2017

Catholic-Run Alpha Training, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration link:

https://alphausa.secure.force.com/default/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a1v1a0000000O0t5AAC

Location: St Matthias Catholic Church, 1050 W. Kemper Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45240

For more information, contact Joshua Danis at joshuadanis@alphausa.org at 937.760.4929.

THE AMAZING PARISH CONFERENCE MARCH 13-15, 2017 | ATLANTA, GEORGIA

You Can Bring More People to Christ and His Church!

I know that you are dedicated to building a robust parish life that helps people grow in their faith, so I want to share with you an incredible opportunity. The mission of Amazing Parish is to support pastors and their parish leadership teams as they strive to live Christ's great commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations." This spring they are inviting pastors and their leadership teams to focus on a clear vision for parish leadership and gain the tools they need to implement it. Learn from business and Church leaders such as Matthew Kelly, Jeff Cavins, Curtis Martin, and Patrick Lencioni how to lead your parish in a way that will bring more souls to Christ! In addition, Amazing Parish is offering every priest and parish leader a free e-copy of New York Times best-selling author Patrick Lencioni's book *The Better Pastor*, a fable that tells the story of one priest who recognized the obstacles his parish leadership was facing and how he overcame them.

Members of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Central Offices plan to attend this conference in March. We would like to invite Parish Teams to join us! Fr. Jan Schmidt, Director of Pastoral Life and Evangelization, has attended this conference in the past and would be happy to answer any questions. Register at <http://amazingparish.org/>.

SCHOOL OF FAITH: BUILD CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP AT YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Lifelong education and formation in missionary discipleship is very important for our Catholic School teachers. These individuals are ministers of the faith, or catechists, and "The call to the ministry of the catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. (NDC 54.8)."

It is for this reason that Archbishop Schnurr has endorsed the School of Faith and invited them to minister in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. School of Faith is a program of adult catechesis designed to provide doctrinal and spiritual formation for Catholic school teachers,

administrators, spiritual mentors and individuals. Its purpose is to lay the theological foundation upon which an authentic Catholic culture can be developed. It is comprehensive in its content, but always with the goal of explaining the faith in a simple and engaging way.

The mission of School of Faith will be to provide ongoing doctrinal and spiritual formation for Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati through catechetical programs that stress the call to prayer, virtue, and holiness of life. This formation not only benefits the teachers themselves, but also equips them to build a solid Catholic environment in our Catholic schools.

The School of Faith is currently ministering in the following schools:

- St. Ignatius Loyola
- St. James, White Oak
- St. Andrew/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Purcell Marian High School
- St. Jude
- Our Lady of the Visitation

For more information on the School of Faith, go to www.schooloffaith.com or contact John Leyendecker at john@schooloffaith.com.

ARE YOU READY TO BUILD A CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC PARISH?

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office for 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?

1. St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Liberty Township
2. Our Lady of Grace Parish, Dayton
3. Queen of Martyrs Parish, Dayton
4. Coldwater Cluster Parishes, Coldwater
5. St. Cecilia Parish, Cincinnati

If you are interested, please contact Sean Ater at sater@catholiccincinnati.org. For more information go to www.contagiouslycatholic.com/evangelization-training/parish-alliance/.

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>.

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.

OFFICE FOR YOUTH EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Brad Bursa has joined the Archdiocese as Director of the Office for Youth Evangelization and Discipleship. He was formerly Director of Youth Ministry at St. Gertrude Parish in Madeira. He will be joined by Matt Reinkemeyer, Associate Director for Missionary Outreach, and Rod Dunlap, Associate Director for Sports Ministry. Matt and Rod both come from positions in youth ministry – Matt at St. Margaret of York and Rod at St. John the Baptist, Dry Ridge. Monica Sellers will continue to serve as Administrative Assistant for this new Office.

ENCOUNTER CINCINNATI | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

All high-school youth are invited to attend Encounter Cincinnati taking place at The Underground (1140 Smiley Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45240) on Saturday, February 4, 2017.

6:30 p.m. - Doors open for Encounter
7:00 p.m. - Music/Event Begins
8:00 p.m. - Keynote by Fr. Chris Geiger and Adoration
(Confession and Prayer Ministry available)
9:30 p.m. - Small Groups
10:00 p.m. - Dismissal

Encounter gathers teens from parishes and schools from across the Cincinnati area (and beyond) for an evening of worship, dynamic talks, Eucharistic Adoration, the opportunity for Confession, and fellowship. For more information about Encounter, please visit www.encountercincinnati.com or contact Brad Bursa at bbursa@catholiccincinnati.org.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHWESTERN OHIO

WELCOME THE STRANGER NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK

The Catholic Church has been welcoming immigrants to the United States since the nation's founding and has been integral in helping integrate into American culture. Join Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio and MARCC during National Migration Week for an interfaith

panel discussion on the plight of the migrant in today's society. The gathering begins at **5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12**, at Hebrew Union College 3101 Clifton Ave, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220. The event is free and open to the public. Register at <https://welcomethestranger.eventbrite.com>.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CAREGIVER RESOURCE FEATURE PRESENTATION

“The Caregiver’s Challenge: Taking Care While Giving Care” will be presented by Angie Homoelle, Caregiver Assistance Network Coordinator, on **Thursday, January 19, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Come receive support with the challenges of caregiving and gain valuable information on community resources. Caregivers will receive encouragement in their struggle to maintain balance and tips for taking care while giving care. Join us for a Caregiver Support Group immediately following (10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) Location: Central Connections (Cohen Brothers conference room), 3907 Central Ave., Middletown, OH 45044. **Contact us:** Careline: 513. 869.4483.

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR FOR REFUGEE PROGRAM

Catholic Charities is seeking a volunteer who would work closely with our housing specialist, and be trained to lead the workdays that occur the first and third Saturdays of each month at the refugee donation warehouse. The volunteer would be responsible for overseeing donation drop-off and sorting, and leading volunteers in home set up/move-ins. For information on this volunteer role, contact Katie at khannah@ccswoh.org or 672-3715. For other volunteer options, go to: <https://ccswoh.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer/>.

INSTRUCTOR LIMITED LITERACY ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

Catholic Charities is looking for Volunteers to work with adults with four years of schooling or less who are learning English. They help students to learn English vocabulary and communication skills. Duties include helping teach basic critical thinking skills, reading, writing and “numeracy” (arithmetic). There are three levels of ESOL volunteers could teach, level 1 being primarily for clients with no English background, and limited literacy. Volunteers must be Virtus trained. (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) For information on this volunteer role, contact Katie at khannah@ccswoh.org or 513.672-3715.

SAVE THE DATE

Su Casa, a ministry of Catholic Charities is celebrating 20 years of service. On Thursday, April 27, 2017 the 18th Annual Su Casa Hispanic Center Awards Dinner will be held at Xavier University’s Cintas Center. Questions? Email RSVPSuCasa@ccswoh.org.

CAREGIVER RESOURCE GROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have had past caregiving experience or are a retired professional, the Caregiver Assistance Network, a program of Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio, needs you! Caregiver Resource Groups meet once a month for an hour and a half in Hamilton, Clermont, Butler, and Warren counties. Training is provided and the time commitment is about three to four hours per month. If you have a listening ear and would like to help those who need support and compassion, call Angie Homoelle at 513.672.3834 or visit www.ccswoh.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer.

SEWING CLASS ITEMS NEEDED

Catholic Charities Refugee Program has restarted their sewing class. They are in need of the following items: left-handed dress shears, a cart for moving around sewing machines, extension cords, ironing board and iron with steam, industrial-style sewing machines, and regular sewing machines to be given as rewards at the completion of the classes. If you would like to make a donation, please drop off items at 7162 Reading Rd., 6th floor. For questions contact Rachel Weirs at 513.672.3749 or rwiers@ccswoh.org.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

WORLD DAY OF PEACE MASSES: JANUARY 1, 2017

The Archdiocese will again celebrate two Masses on the Solemnity of Mary in commemoration of the World Day of Peace on New Year's Day. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will preside at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains at 11:00 a.m.; Bishop Joseph Binzer will preside at St. Christopher Church (435 E. National Road, Vandalia) at 11:00 a.m. The theme designated by the Holy Father for this upcoming World Day of Peace is "Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace." Join us for this much-needed opportunity to pray for life, dignity, creation and peace in our world!

DEATH PENALTY ADVOCACY

After a three-year delay in executions in Ohio, the State is poised to resume executions again on January 12. Since then, Pope Francis, in his address to the U.S. Congress, affirmed the U.S. Bishops' call for an end to the use of the death penalty.

In his appeal for clemency on behalf of the Ohio bishops to the Governor, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr writes: "The Catholic Church believes that the death penalty is an unnecessary and systemically flawed form of punishment."

Parishioners can send a note to the Governor or order postcards by visiting Ohioans to Stop Executions, an organization co-founded by the Ohio Catholic bishops, at www.otse.org. Other resources are also available at this website.

COMMEMORATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION THROUGH STUDY, PRAYER AND SERVICE

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18-25

On October 31, Pope Francis celebrated a joint liturgy with the Lutheran World Federation in Lund, Sweden to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Why would Catholics want to recognize such an occasion? Among many other answers, it is because we are all on the journey towards unity in Jesus Christ, and both faith communities don't want to lose sight of this ultimate goal. It's important to understand what differences remain, while at the same time our success in overcoming several key, theological areas of disagreement since the Reformation is worthy of celebration. Furthermore, in an increasingly secularized culture and a divided world, we can be stronger together than apart in evangelizing our shared faith in the Gospel. (As Saint John XXIII exclaimed, "More unites us than divides us.")

To these ends, Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton (Steubenville Diocese) and Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt (Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) released a “Joint Statement to Encourage Study, Prayer and Service in Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.” In it, they state:

Remarkably this commemoration has become an ecumenical observance, focusing on the continued pursuit of unity in Jesus Christ for which He himself prayed... It will involve moments of thanksgiving, repentance, and commitment, placing at the center the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Activities of study, prayer and service will be taking place throughout the Archdiocese between now and October 31, 2017. Among them, we encourage parishes to utilize and look out for:

- Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2017: The theme for the week will focus on the anniversary, and it is appropriately titled, “Reconciliation - The Love of Christ Compels Us.” Please visit the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interfaith Institute (a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement) for prayer and worship materials, educational resources, and so much more. Go to: www.geii.org.
- Catholic-Lutheran Study Groups, anytime from January 18 to October 31, 2017: During the Commemoration Year, we are encouraging Catholic and Lutheran churches to form small, joint study groups (7-12 participants each) to explore the foundations and experiences of each other’s faith. The main document being used will be *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017*, released by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation. Such study groups can serve as a meaningful Lenten activity!
- Other resources and activities in development include a speaker’s bureau, traveling historic exhibit, joint prayer services and social ministry opportunities. Stay tuned!

We encourage Catholic parishes to consider reaching out to nearby ELCA Lutheran congregations now to explore forming study groups. By January 1, the Catholic Social Action Office and Commission will share recommended study materials for these groups. Maps will also be available that can help facilitate Catholic-Lutheran church pairings. Please stay tuned for these resources, or contact us at any time for more information at csa@catholiccincinnati.org; 513.421.3131x2660 in Cincinnati, or csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org; 937.224.3026 in Dayton. Also, visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/ecumenical-and-interfaith-relations/> to download the Archbishop’s full statement and related items.

U.S. CATHOLIC NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK: JANUARY 8 -14, 2017

“**Creating a Culture of Encounter**” - For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis’s call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. At their November General Assembly, the

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asserted, “Serving and welcoming people fleeing violence and conflict in various regions of the world is part of our identity as Catholics. The Church will continue this life-saving tradition.”

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious of their intentions. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support.

To access resources to promote this important week, including homily helps, sample intercessions, prayers and more, visit: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/index.cfm>.

Also, the Catholic Social Action Office will have advocacy postcards available to urge Congress to support reforms that affirm the dignity of immigrants and refugees. If your parish would like hardcopy postcards of this action alert for parishioners to sign, you can request a limited number of them from the Catholic Social Action Office at csa@catholiccincinnati.org.

In addition, events are also being organized by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Catholic Charities and other local agencies. Please visit www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction to learn more.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL OPPORTUNITIES

You won't need a suitcase for this trip, but you will have an opportunity to travel with the “Taste and See Journey,” fashioned by the Archdiocese's Catholic Relief Services Committee for this Lent. Parishes participating in CRS Rice Bowl are encouraged to share their Global Solidarity events, such as soup suppers or speakers, with the wider Archdiocesan community. Catholics will be encouraged to not only attend their home parish global solidarity events, but also to “travel” to neighboring parishes to learn more about a featured country. Paper “passports” will be issued and travelers can get a stamp or a sticker to commemorate their visit to another parish and country. Details will be posted in late January about the participating parishes and the countries they will be showcasing on the Catholic Social Action website www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction.

Catholic Relief Services is spotlighting India, Zambia, El Salvador, Mexico, Ethiopia and the city of Honolulu, Hawaii this Lent. If you have traveled to these places and would be willing to speak about your experience, the Catholic Social Action Office would like to meet you. Please call Pam Long at 937.224.3026x5018 or email plong@catholiccincinnati.org.

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA) NEWS & NOTES

Materials for the 2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) were shipped to parishes in mid-December. All resources are also available at www.CatholicAppeal.info under the “Info for Parish Staff” section – the password to access this section is “cma2007.”

2017 CMA – KEY APPEAL WEEKENDS

Announcement Weekend – January 21-22, 2017

Commitment Weekend – February 4-5, 2017

Please Note: There will be a weekend in between Announcement and Commitment Weekends to allow for Catholic Schools Week celebrations in parishes, which begin on Sunday, January 29, 2017. For more information or for questions, contact David Kissell at 513.421.3131x2881 or email david@CatholicAppeal.info.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHAPEL ITEMS NEEDED

A religious community contacted the Chancery inquiring whether parishes or institutions that have chapel items such as statuary, candle holders, etc. would be willing to donate them for their chapel use. If you have such items and are willing to donate them, please contact the Chancery Office. Any chapel items would be appreciated.

AUDITIONS FOR THE ATHENAEUM CHORALE

The Athenaeum Chorale will be holding auditions for the Spring 2017 season **starting on January 3, 2017**. All singers over 18 years of age are welcome to audition. Spots for all voice parts are available.

Beginning its thirty-seventh season, the Athenaeum Chorale was founded in the fall of 1980, and has continued to inspire listeners and worshippers in performances of great choral masterworks and the sacred liturgical repertoire. The Chorale sings for approximately eight liturgical events per year, most of which occur in the Athenaeum's beautiful Italian Romanesque Chapel of St. Gregory the Great. Sung Vespers liturgies comprise the main offering of the year's schedule. Each service includes choral repertoire from a variety of periods and traditions.

The upcoming Spring season will include works by Renaissance masters and Ralph Vaughan Williams for both a Lenten and Easter Solemn Vespers in March and April. Rehearsals begin on February 19, 2017.

All auditions will be held, by appointment, at the Athenaeum of Ohio, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230. If you would like to schedule an audition or have questions about the Chorale, please contact the Music Director: Ms. Mary Catherine Levri at mlevri@athenaeum.edu or 513-233-6138.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

We invite you to join us for a **Holy Hour for vocations to the priesthood at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2017** in the St. Gregory the Great Chapel at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, located on the Athenaeum campus at 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230.

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Mt 9:37-38

VIGIL PRAISE CINCINNATI: AN EVENING OF ADORATION AND WORSHIP

The seminarians of Mount St. Mary's invite you to join them in keeping vigil with the Lord in Adoration on Friday, January 20, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Athenaeum of Ohio. Father Eric Roush will preach on the call of the apostles from the Gospel of Mark and how the Lord continues to summon those whom He wants to send forth on His mission. Confessors will be available from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Come and join us as we praise and adore Him. Athenaeum of Ohio, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230.

**Please submit articles for the February *Clergy Communications* by January 20, 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).

JANUARY 12-16: VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN WITH REGNUM CHRISTI - Regnum Christi, a community of lay consecrated women is hosting in Atlanta, GA a five-day discernment retreat for women discerning a call to consecrated life. For more details contact Adrienne Rowles at arowles@regnumchristi.net.

JANUARY 13-15: CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY CROSS GRADUATE DISCERNMENT RETREAT - The Congregation of the Holy Cross welcomes male college graduates to a discernment retreat at Moreau Seminary on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, January 13-15, 2017. Contact the Office of Vocations at 574.631.6385 or email us at vocation@holycrossusa.org for more information.

JANUARY 15: HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS AT THE ATHENAEUM - The Athenaeum of Ohio and the seminarians of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West will be hosting a holy hour for vocations on Sunday, January 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to join in prayer in the St. Gregory the Great chapel.

JANUARY 20: VIGIL PRAISE - Once again the Athenaeum is hosting Vigil Praise, an opportunity for people of all ages, including families, to come together for Eucharistic adoration and fellowship. The evening is free and begins at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Gregory the Great chapel.

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE - World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Church on Thursday, February 2, 2017 and in parishes on the weekend of February 4-5, 2017. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

FEBRUARY 9: MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR CONSECRATED VOCATIONS - CHOSEN: Monthly Holy Hour for those discerning a Vocation or praying for Vocations – beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood OH. Sponsored by the Archdiocese Vocations Office and the Children of Mary. Chosen: Every 2nd Thursday of the Month. Come and bring a friend!

FEBRUARY 11-12: BE NOT AFRAID: DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN - The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist are hosting a discernment retreat for young women ages 16-33 who are discerning God’s call to the consecrated life. Come and explore the community life and Dominican spirituality while discerning who God has made you to be. The retreat takes place at Spiritus Sanctus Academy in Ann Arbor, MI and costs \$35. For more details: sjab@sistersofmary.org or vocations@sistersofmary.org.

FEBRUARY 17-19: COME AND SEE: FATHERS OF MERCY DISCERNMENT RETREAT - Single Catholic men, ages 18-40, are invited to explore the vocation to the priesthood with the Fathers of Mercy on February 17-19 at the Fathers of Mercy Generalate House in Auburn, KY. For more information or to register contact Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM at 270.542.4146x2 or vocations@fathersofmercy.com.

FEBRUARY 18: FAMILY-FRIENDLY SQUARE DANCE FOR RUN FOR THE CALL - Young adults from across Cincinnati are preparing a family-friendly square dance that will take place at Annunciation Parish in Clifton in the evening of February 18. The dance will benefit the Run for the Call fund, which provides emergency relief to seminarians to allow them to maintain their focus on the discernment of their vocation. Mark your calendars now and watch runforthecall.wordpress.com for more details.

TUITION ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PARISH BULLETIN -



The One Faith, One Hope, One Love campaign designated a significant portion of the funds raised to help families with Catholic school tuition assistance. The tuition assistance awards will begin with the 2017-2018 school year. Applications will be accepted beginning in December 2016. Visit www.CatholicBestChoice.org for more information.



DEATH PENALTY ADVOCACY - After a three-year delay in executions in Ohio, the State is poised to resume executions again on January 12. Since then, Pope Francis, in his address to the U.S. Congress, affirmed the U.S. Bishops’ call for an end to the use of the death penalty.

In his appeal for clemency on behalf of the Ohio bishops to the Governor, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr writes: “The Catholic Church believes that the death penalty is an unnecessary and systemically flawed form of punishment.” Parishioners can send a note to the Governor by visiting Ohioans to Stop Executions, an organization co-founded by the Ohio Catholic bishops, at www.otse.org.

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK: JANUARY 8-15 - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is currently working to promote humane migration policies towards refugees and immigrants that reflects our Catholic values. Join the U.S. Catholic bishops in support of protecting immigrants and refugees by sending an electronic postcard to Washington, DC asking that lawmakers ensure humane treatment towards migrants and refugees. The postcards may be sent from Justice for Immigrants' homepage at www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

INTERFAITH PANEL ON MIGRATION: JANUARY 12 - Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, the Archdiocese and the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati are hosting an interfaith gathering to share expert immigration insights. It will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, at Hebrew Union College (3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220). This event is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops National Migration Week and Pope Francis's World Migrant and Refugee Day on January 17. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Catholic Charities at 513.672.3702.

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: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning." Good and gracious God, may these words from the Earth Charter remind each of us of our interconnectedness. May they inspire us always to work towards the common good for all God's creation."

Quote from the Holy See: "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone."-- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* no. 202

Care for Creation Tip: Most communities have a Christmas tree recycle program. They pick up your tree at curb side at certain times in early January. But here are some other ideas... Take your tree to your backyard. It works as a great hiding place for birds, small animals, and outdoor creatures that are good for your garden. Add stringed popcorn and pine cones covered in peanut butter and bird seed and you feed those creatures and encourage them to stay in your garden. In the spring you can use the needles as mulch and garden paths and chop the branches for more mulch and borders.