



CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

100 E Eighth Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Congratulations and God’s abundant blessings to the nine men ordained on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

ACTION REQUIRED

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 27-28, 2026

Your parishes’ contributions to the Peter’s Pence Collection allow the Holy Father to support victims of war and natural disasters and others most in need of assistance. **This second collection is to be taken the weekend of June 27-28, 2026.** The collection is sent to the Pastoral Center for forwarding for the designated purpose. Please send the proceeds from the collection to the attention of the Finance Office in the week following the collection. More information is available at www.usccb.org/peters-pence/collection.

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR 2026-2027 CONSECRATED LIFE POSTER

Diocesan Priests, if you know of women or men from your parish who are, or who are going to be, in formation in a religious community, please submit this information by [clicking on this link](#) no later than **July 31**. The Office for Consecrated Life needs this information to produce the 2026-2027 poster of men and women in formation for Consecrated Life. The poster includes both those who are receiving formation in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and those in formation who are from the archdiocese.

REMINDER: PLEASE SEND IN MCP AND WMS DONATION PROCEEDS

Has your parish sent in its **2025 Missionary Co-op Plan (MCP)** collections and parishioners’ donations and envelopes from **World Mission Sunday (WMS) of October 2025**? Mission dioceses really count on these funds, so please prioritize mailing in these proceeds.

Please check with your staff and have them clearly indicate which past mission donations are for the MCP group **OR** for WMS of last year. Please mail these to: Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. Our fellow Catholics in 1,150 mission dioceses and missionary organizations deeply appreciate your spiritual and financial support!

If you have any MCP or WMS questions, contact [Melonise Knight](#) (513.263.6681).

OPTIONAL

EMBER DAY RETREAT JUNE 5

Registration is open! Ember Day is a retreat for high school men aged 15-19. The day will include Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Dennis Schnurr, sports, talks, and food. It's an opportunity for high school boys to meet the seminarians and learn more about vocation, priesthood, and fatherhood. Friday, June 5 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. Hosted by the Cincinnati seminarians and Fr. Michael Willig. [Register here](#). Please share the bulletin entry found on page 6.

VERSO L'ALTO SUMMER XC RACE CHALLENGE

On Friday, August 7, the Verso l'Alto Track Club and the archdiocese Vocations Office will be hosting the Verso l'Alto Summer XC Challenge, a two-mile race specifically featuring our Catholic high schools! The schedule will include High School Boys and Girls Races, as well as a Men's/Women's Open. Located at Corwin Nixon Park in Mason. Race website and registration can be found [here](#). Contact [David Adamitis](#) for more details. Please share the bulletin entry found on page 6.

ALL ARE INVITED! EVENING PRAYER WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY FOR SYNOD 2027

Please join Archbishop Robert G. Casey and other members of the faithful at Evening Prayer for the opening convocation of Synod 2027 on the occasion of the 205th Anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati – **Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church** (6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, OH 45459). Reception to follow. RSVP is not required. Please share the bulletin entry found on page 6 to invite your parishioners.

SYNOD 2027 LUNCH & LEARN – JUNE 11 AND JUNE 16

What is a synod? Why is our archdiocese holding one now? What do we hope to accomplish? How can I get involved? The answers to these and more questions will be the subject of two "Lunch & Learn" webinars expressly for parish leaders and staff members to be held 12:00-1:00 p.m. on [Thursday, June 11](#) and [Tuesday, June 16](#). No RSVP is required but calendar invites can be found via the two linked pages. The content will be the same in each webinar. Lunch is on you. Please join us!

61ST ANNUAL MELCHIZEDEK OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Priests and deacons of the archdiocese are invited to play in this year's Melchizedek Open, which will be held at the Pipestone Golf Club, 4344 Benner Road, Miamisburg, Ohio on **Monday, July 27, 2026**. Registration is at noon with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. As usual, following the outing (and for non-golfers), there will be a cash bar social around 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner. It's a great way to build fraternity. **RSVP by Saturday, July 11**. If you have any questions, please contact [Deacon Mike Erb](#) (513.237.8888). [Click here to download the registration form for the outing](#).

CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT GREAT AMERICAN – TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Please join us, and invite your parishioners to join us, at Catholic Family Night at Great American Ballpark on **Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026**, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Cincinnati Reds will play the Milwaukee Brewers that evening at **6:40 p.m.** Discounted tickets are now on sale through Reds ticketing at this link: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Archdiocesecincinnati22>. Promotional assets will be coming soon. In the meantime, please share the bulletin entry found on page 6 to invite your parishioners.

Like last year's game, Catholic Family Night will include several in-game activities featuring members of our local Catholic community. More details will be announced soon.

SACRED MUSIC INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, JULY 22-24, 2026 – REGISTRATION OPEN “Bridge of Beauty and Faith: Sacred Music in the Midst of Renewal” will be held July 22-24, 2026 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary & School of Theology. Registration for the conference, which includes options for both lodging and no lodging, is now open. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE UPDATE FOR YOUR ATTENTION

There are two Safe Environment Office updates relative to background checks that will take effect this summer. Please note the information below and put it in your bulletins as well, using the bulletin entry found on page 7.

1. Selection.com has informed the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that, effective July 1, 2026, the fee for the initial online/electronic background check required for all new employees and volunteers will **increase from \$25 to \$30.**
2. The Safe Environment Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati continually reviews its procedures to ensure the highest standards of child protection. As part of these ongoing efforts, and in alignment with U.S.C.C.B. recommendations, we are expanding our background check protocols.

In addition to the ongoing quarterly updates from the SELECTION.com database, **all electronic background checks will now require renewal every five years.**

Any individual who is SafeParish trained and has a background check older than five years will need to renew their background check.

In the coming weeks/months, these individuals will receive an email from SafeParish with instructions on how to complete the renewal. This message will include detailed steps of the process.

Please check Spam or Junk folders if you do not receive an email from SafeParish and your electronic background check was completed more than five years ago.

Please note:

- A **\$20 fee** will be charged by SELECTION.com.
- In some cases, **additional county clerk fees may apply.**

We appreciate your continued commitment to creating a safe environment for all. If you have any questions, please contact your local safe environment coordinator.

PRIESTS’ ANNIVERSARY DINNER – SAVE THE DATE

The Priests’ Anniversary Dinner is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026 at a **new location**, the Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering. We will be honoring priests from the ordination classes of 2001, 1986, 1976, and 1966.

CONVOCATION OF PRIESTS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE - SAVE THE DATE

The Convocation of Priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is scheduled for Friday, October 23, 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville. More information to come.

PRIESTS LOOKING FOR HOUSING?

For priests looking for housing, there are a few 2-room suites available at the Archbishop's House in Norwood. The suites are recently renovated with new electric and plumbing. Furniture can be provided if needed. Parking is available. For more information, please reach out to Suzanne Arnold at 513.531.6279 or oll@fuse.net.

MASS HELP NEEDED AT DUPREE HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Deupree House Senior Living Retirement Community, located at 3939 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati would like to have a priest celebrate Mass on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested and/or would like more information, please contact Sr. Sally Duffy at 513.207.4773.

FALL RETREAT FOR PRIESTS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE – SAVE THE DATE

The Fall Retreat for priests of the archdiocese will be held at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, Monday - Friday, Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 2026. Reverend Peter Heasley, S.Th.D. from New York will be the presenter. More information to come.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION – SAVE THE DATE

The Advent Day of Reflection for priests of the archdiocese will be held at the Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal in Ludlow Falls on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. More information to follow.

LETTERS OF SUITABILITY - REMINDER

If a priest is traveling to another (arch)diocese to exercise priestly ministry, a letter of suitability is required. The Chancellor's Office kindly asks that you request such letter far enough in advance to allow ample time to review records and prepare it. The preferred method of delivery is by postal mail. When requesting a letter of suitability, please provide the Chancellor's Office with the following information:

- Name of church or venue where you will be providing ministry
- Reason for your visit (e.g. wedding, funeral, (con)celebrating Mass, retreat, etc.)
- Address of the church or venue
- (Arch)diocese where the church or venue is located
- Date(s) of your visit

The above information can be submitted in an email to Chancellor@catholicaoc.org. Or, submit the information by filling out a [Letter of Suitability Form](#) located on the Chancellor's Office webpage. If you have any questions, please contact [Lisa Weber](#) (513.263.3342) in the Chancellor's Office.

BEACONS OF LIGHT: FAMILY UNITY DISCERNMENT

If you have not yet done so, please read the [new letter from Fr. Jan Schmidt](#), Director of Pastoral Vitality, and watch the video message from Archbishop Casey about the importance of Family Unity Discernment. Please share the letter and video with your Family Pastoral Council, Family Leadership Team, and any other parish leaders involved in the planning process in your parish.

PRAENOTANDA

Keep up with news for liturgical and sacramental ministers – clergy, Directors of Worship, Music Directors, OCIA coordinators, worship commission members, and others – by subscribing to *Praenotanda*, the news email of the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments. Get signed up [here](#) and receive timely news about the liturgical life of our local Church.

ONBOARDING

If you have hired or appointed someone to have overall responsibility for Communications for your Family of Parishes, please notify [Jennifer Schack](#) (513.263.6618) so that Jennifer can provide that person with an overview of the resources and collaboration opportunities available.

Likewise, if you have hired a new business manager or other employee with Human Resources responsibilities, please notify [Rob Reid](#) (513.263.6611) and he will be happy to come to your location and provide an archdiocesan HR orientation and onboarding. The HR topics covered would include: HR Website Navigation, FMLA and Leaves of Absence, Policies and Procedures, Hiring Issues, Harassment and Discrimination, Termination, HR Best Practices.

WORKING STUDENT GUIDELINES

This document is intended to provide school administrators and pastors information about employment of students **during** and **after** school and **throughout** the summer months. Students under the age of 18 are considered minors and may not work at anything that is hazardous or injurious to their health and well-being, including: activities involving flammable substances, gases, vapors or fumes; activities involving driving a school bus, motor van or any motor-propelled vehicle. [Click here](#) for full document.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611 or [Emily Niehaus](#) at 513.263.3352 in the Department of Human Resources.

2026 CMA UPDATE

Congratulations and thank you! Pledges to the 2026 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) have now exceeded \$7,500,000! As of May 21, just over \$7.53 million has been pledged to the appeal from 18,960 households. Of the amount pledged, \$6.4 million has been received in payments. We extend a special "thank you" to pastors, parochial vicars, parish staff, and volunteers who have helped to promote this year's Appeal.

Updated totals for the CMA, including parish progress, and all resources can be found at: <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/stewardship-and-giving/cma-resources>. Use the password "cma2007".

2026 CMA MINISTRY STORIES TO SHARE

Below are links to a few stories recently published to help show the impact of the ministries funded through the CMA. Please share on social media, parish websites, and email newsletters.

- *CMA Donor Feature Story:*
A LASTING GIFT OF JOY
<https://catholicaoc.org/news/cma/lasting-gift-of-joy>
- *CNE Encuentro Feature Story:*
AN UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER
<https://catholicaoc.org/news/cma/an-unexpected-encounter>
- *Catholic Charities Feature Story:*
WHERE DIGNITY IS NEVER IN SHORT SUPPLY
<https://catholicaoc.org/news/cma/where-dignity-is-never-in-short-supply>

For a printed version of these stories to use as bulletin inserts, please email [Kiera Gibbons](#).

CMA 2027 – SAVE-THE-DATES

- **Announcement Weekend:** January 23 & 24, 2027
- **Commitment Weekend:** February 6 & 7, 2027

UP-TO-DATE ARCHDIOCESE LOGOS AND MARKS

Current renditions of the archdiocese coat-of-arms, as well as selected other archdiocese marks and images, are available for download on the [Media Assets page](#) of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati website. Please ensure that you and your team are using the correct versions of these marks. Thank you!

AVAILABLE TO PREACH AT YOUR PARISH AND/OR SCHOOL

Fr. Michael Willig wants to preach on vocations in as many parishes and schools as possible each year. Father will take a normal Sunday Mass schedule and any confession times you regularly offer on the weekends. Please call or email [Fr. Michael Willig](#) (513.263.3390) to set up a weekend.

BULLETIN ENTRIES

YOU ARE INVITED TO EVENING PRAYER WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY FOR SYNOD 2027 -

Please join Archbishop Robert G. Casey and other members of the faithful at Evening Prayer for the opening convocation of Synod 2027 on the occasion of the 205th Anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati – **Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church** (6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, OH 45459). Reception to follow. RSVP is not required.

CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT GREAT AMERICAN BALLPARK! - You are invited to join

Archbishop Casey and Catholics from across the archdiocese at Catholic Family Night at Great American Ballpark on **Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026**, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Cincinnati Reds will play the Milwaukee Brewers that evening at **6:40 p.m.** Discounted tickets are now on sale through Reds ticketing at this link: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Archdiocesecincinnati22>.

EMBER DAY RETREAT JUNE 5 - Registration is open! Ember Day is a retreat for high school men aged 15-19. The day will include Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Dennis Schnurr, sports, talks, and food. It's an opportunity for high school boys to meet the seminarians and learn more about vocation, priesthood, and fatherhood. Friday, June 5 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. Hosted by the Cincinnati seminarians and vocation director Fr. Michael Willig.

Register here: <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/ember-day-june-5>.

VERSO I'ALTO SUMMER XC RACE CHALLENGE - On Friday, August 7, the Verso I'Alto Track Club and the archdiocese Vocations Office will be hosting the Verso I'Alto Summer XC Challenge, a two-mile race specifically featuring our Catholic high schools! The schedule will include High School Boys and Girls Races, as well as a Men's/Women's Open. Located at Corwin Nixon Park in Mason. Race website and registration can be found at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Mason/VersoIAltoSummerXCChallenge>.

Contact David Adamitis at adamitisdavid@gmail.com for more details.

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CELEBRATE YOUR JUBILEE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY - Couples celebrating jubilee anniversaries (25th, 50th, 55th, 60th, etc.) in 2026 are invited to Mass with Archbishop Casey on November 15 (Cincinnati) or November 21 (Dayton). Family members are welcome to attend as well, and a special blessing will be offered for the jubilarian couples. Couples should RSVP online by November 2 at www.catholicaoc.org/goldenjubilee.

FOOD FOR ALL - Nutritious, affordable food is not readily available to every person in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Hunger exists in our communities. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Highland Counties. Interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry, or learning more about hunger in our area? **Our newest pantry, located in Middletown, serves food on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Volunteers are welcome!** Contact April Hoak, Food for All coordinator, at 513.672.3720 or ahoak@ccswoh.org.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio is seeking volunteers for our World Refugee Day celebration on Saturday, June 13. Volunteers are needed on Friday, 2:30-5:00 p.m. to assist with setup and on Saturday for three different shifts: (1) to assist setting up the event space to ensure everything is ready before the guests arrive; (2) helping while families are on site; and (3) distributing produce, helping families onto the buses, and clean-up duties. To learn more, visit <https://ccswoh.volunteerhub.com/vv2/> or contact Volunteer Coordinator Tonicia Green at 513.672.3836 or tgreen@ccswoh.org.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE - Have you ever cared for a loved one with chronic illness or disability? Do you wish someone would have shared with you all the things you had to learn the hard way from experience? Did you feel blessed to have a support system that carried you through? You can be there for someone else! Bring hope to those in need by volunteering with Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio's Caregiver Assistance Network programs. Enrich your life as well as the lives of others by mentoring current caregivers, co-facilitating caregiver support groups, co-leading Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes, or helping people living with dementia participate in our Creative Connections program. All volunteers will receive training and support. We offer monthly new volunteer training for Peer Mentors and Support Group Facilitators. We also offer leader training for Powerful Tools for Caregivers, which this year will be held June 11-12, 2026. For more information, please contact Angie Homoelle at 513.672.3834 or can@ccswoh.org. The Caregiver Assistance Network is a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, funded through the Council on Aging.

POSITIVE PARENTING SKILLS PROGRAM - Join this 6-week parenting series offered through Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, which is designed to strengthen family relationships and reduce everyday challenges. Learn positive discipline, boost your child's confidence, manage stress, and gain practical tools you can use at home right away. Because confident parents raise confident kids! **Zoom classes are held each Monday evening all year round (excluding holidays)**. Email Patsy Bolden at pbolden@ccswoh.org for more information.

SAINTLY SEVEN SERIES, JUNE EVENT - This month the archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office will host the third in the series of events on the "Saintly Seven" – the seven African American candidates for sainthood. The first two events – featuring Venerable Pierre Toussaint and Venerable Mother Mary Lange – were wonderful, and we look forward to celebrating Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton on **Monday, June 29, 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Parish in Milford**. Bishop Joseph Perry from Chicago, the postulator (leader) of the cause for Fr. Tolton, will be joining in person to present. All sessions in the series are held in person as well as livestreamed. For more information, go to www.tinyurl.com/SaintlySevenAOC2026.

LADIES OF CHARITY TREASURE MART - On Saturday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., the Cincinnati Chapter of Ladies of Charity will host its 45th annual Treasure Mart at St. Gertrude Parish Center, 6543 Miami Avenue, Madeira. All funds raised provide critical support to the neediest of our neighbors throughout the archdiocese. Buyers will find great bargains, just in time for back-to-school shopping!

MEN INQUIRING ABOUT THE PERMANENT DIACONATE - Any man who may be discerning a possible vocation to serve the Church as a Permanent Deacon should contact Deacon Mark Machuga, Director of the Office of the Diaconate, to discuss the discernment process, prerequisites, and the formation cycle. Deacon Mark can be reached at 513.263.6641 or deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org.

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



JESUIT
Spiritual Center
 at MILFORD

SERVING ALL PEOPLE SEEKING GOD

For over 95 years, the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford has enriched the spiritual lives of those seeking God with life-changing retreats rooted in the Ignatian spiritual tradition.



WHAT WE OFFER

YOUTH MINISTRY

Did you know that the Jesuit Spiritual Center is one of the only Jesuit retreat center in the United States with a dedicated Youth Ministry Team? Our team host retreats here on our campus, and they also travel to schools and parishes both within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and beyond.

SACRED SPACE

Our buildings are available to host as retreat spaces for your group. All people seeking a sacred environment to grow closer to God are welcome here.

ADULT RETREATS

We provide a variety of retreats, including guided weekends led by experienced retreat directors, themed retreats for various seasons of the spiritual life, and personally directed retreats ranging from one day to eight days.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Our team of spiritual directors, who are rigorously trained in the Ignatian spiritual tradition, are available to help you or someone you know discern how God is working in your life.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A RETREAT OR PARTNERING WITH US TO FURTHER YOUR OWN MINISTRY? CONTACT US TODAY!



(513) 248-3500



www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com



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 Milford, OH 45150