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CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

100 E Eighth Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

ACTION REQUIRED

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS FOR YOUR MCP VISITING MISSIONARIES

The Mission Office is grateful to all pastors who are accommodating our Missionary Co-op Plan (MCP) guest speakers ... true Catholic solidarity.

Please remember that once the donations are collected at your parish for your MCP guest speaker, they need to be sent promptly to: **Mission Office, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202**. You are requested **not** to send these collections to the Finance Office or directly to the missionary organization, but rather to the Mission Office to be properly recorded for Vatican records. Please indicate clearly if these donations were collected in 2024 or 2025. Questions? Contact our MCP Coordinator, [Melonise Knight](#) (513.263.6681), at the Mission Office.

OPTIONAL

SYNOD 2027 "CONVERSATIONS IN THE SPIRIT" REGISTRATION PAGE LIVE JULY 15

Engaging in a **Conversations in the Spirit** listening session is the primary means by which most Catholics will contribute to a fruitful outcome for Synod 2027. Participants will join others across our archdiocese in prayerfully considering what the Holy Spirit is asking of our Church at this time, thereby assisting Archbishop Casey as he establishes pastoral priorities for the future.

About 60 Conversations in the Spirit sessions will take place between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. Starting Wednesday, July 15, please urge your parishioners to register at the following link: <https://catholicaoc.org/conversations>. Please utilize the bulletin entry found on page 6 and the promotional materials available on the Catholic Social Media platform.

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 7.

DAYS/OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH ON VOCATIONS/ HIGHLIGHT PRIESTHOOD IN 2026

- August 4 - Feast of St. John Vianney, patron of priests
- September 27 - Priesthood Sunday
- November 4 - Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians
- November 1-7 - National Vocation Awareness Week

CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT GREAT AMERICAN – HONORARY CAPTAINS ARCHBISHOP CASEY AND BISHOP IFFERT

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.**

This year, all pregame festivities will highlight local Catholics from both the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Covington. Together, we will celebrate Love in Action in our communities. A special on-field ceremony ahead of the game will recognize individuals serving at both Catholic Charities organizations and Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley. The National Anthem will be sung by the choir of Church of the Resurrection Parish in Cincinnati. The first pitch ceremony will include Fr. Michael Willig pitching to his brother, Fr. Jacob Willig. Archbishop Robert G. Casey and Bishop John C. Iffert will serve as Honorary Captains.

Join us at the ballpark by purchasing discounted tickets for the Sept. 5 game through Reds ticketing at the following link: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Archdiocesecincinnati22>.

Digital promotional materials for Catholic Family Night can be found in Catholic Social Media under Resources. Additional promotional videos will be shared on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati social media channels leading up to the game. If you need assistance with Catholic Social Media, please reach out to Taylor Motley at 513.263.3383 or tmotley@catholicaoc.org.

Additionally, please share the bulletin entry found on page 7 to invite your parishioners.

2026 CAREGIVER RECOGNITION NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Nominate a volunteer and/or professional caregiver from your Family of Parishes. Clergy and staff are encouraged to select caregivers to represent their Family of Parishes at the 22nd annual Caregiver Mass scheduled for Sunday, November 22, 10:00 a.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. **Nominations are due by Friday, September 25, 2026.** Submit nominations here: [2026 Outstanding Caregiver Nomination Form – fill out form](#), email nominations to can@ccswoh.org or call the Caregiver Assistance Network at 513.869.4483.

PROJECT RACHEL HOSTING A ONE-DAY RETREAT

Project Rachel is hosting a one-day retreat for women who have lost a child to abortion on Saturday, August 8 in Cincinnati. See bulletin entry on page 9 for more details and to share for advertising purposes. [Click here to download a flyer](#) for advertising this retreat. Additional resources for promoting Project Rachel at your parishes can be found [online here](#). Clergy specific resources can be found here: [Project Rachel Clergy Resources - Archdiocese of Cincinnati](#) (Password: Jer3117).

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NOMINATION FOR THE SPIRIT OF SR. DOROTHY STANG AWARD BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

The Mission Office invites our pastors to offer the name of a person, family, or parish organization that lives out some of the values of our own Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN of Dayton. Maybe your parish twinning leader? Sr. Dorothy was martyred in the Amazon region of Brazil in 2005 while defending struggling peasant farmers and the rainforest. **Pastors may forward one person's or family's or parish group's name to the Mission Office and we will email you a nomination form.** The form is due to the Mission Office by Friday, September 18. Once approved, we will mail you an attractive Sr. Dorothy Stang award certificate. We ask that the pastor present the award on the weekend **before** World Mission Sunday, October 18. Questions? Contact [Dr. Mike Gable](#) (513.263.6680), Mission Office, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

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 detailed instructions on how to complete the renewal.

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.

SENIOR CLERGY LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE

The next Senior Clergy Luncheon is scheduled for **Friday, September 11, 2026**, at the Bartlett Center, Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230. More information will be provided in August. Questions? Please contact [Sarah Frohmiller](#) (513.263.6651).

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.

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.

OTHER WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLERGY

St. Mary's Seminary & University, located in Baltimore MD, offers several workshops throughout the year such as Pronunciation for Pastors: A Program for International Priests, Custom Designed Priests' Sabbaticals, New Pastor Program (November 2-6, 2026), and Retreats. For more information, contact info@stmarys.edu.

Lingua Professional Services offers classes for clergy whose first language is not English. They can help those who want to do better in comprehension and speaking English. There is also help for clergy who would like to be able to communicate in Spanish. The Priestly Formation Office can assist with tuition up to \$2,000.00 for continuing education. For more information, contact info@linguaprofessionalservices.com or gina@linguaprofessionalservices.com.

Short course for Chaplains, but all priests are welcome, on Ethical and Religious Directives for medical issues. This course is offered through the National Catholic Bioethics Center. This course will help clergy understand medical issues our parishioners must come to understand with Catholic Faith to guide their decisions. This is an on-line course at your own pace. For more information, email INFO@NCBCenter.org.

Saint Meinard Seminary & School of Theology offers workshops and personalized sabbaticals. For more information about their offerings email www.saintmeinrad.edu/priests-ongoing-formation, or call 812.357.6439.

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.

DEACON GRANTED FACULTIES

Deacon Gregory Siebenaller has been granted faculties in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati by Archbishop Robert G. Casey on June 4, 2026. Deacon Siebenaller was ordained in the Diocese of Toledo, OH on September 18, 2021. He and his wife, Carol, moved to Cincinnati in February 2025. He will serve at the Our Lady of Peace Family of Parishes – Holy Family, Middletown; Holy Name of Jesus, Trenton; Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe.

ACTIVE PARISH STEWARDSHIP: GRATEFUL DISCIPLES

Grateful Disciples is a process of formation and planning for stewardship coordinators/point persons or core teams. Grateful Disciples begins with a foundational exploration of the vision of stewardship as a prayerful, living response to God's grace in our lives. The process highlights six key steps in bringing this vision to life in the Family of Parishes and among parishioners. Grateful Disciples training includes a series of virtual meetings on a day and time determined by participants. A fall Grateful Disciples cohort is forming now. [Learn more or express interest.](#)

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: NEW RITUAL TEXTS AND TIMELINE

The Church will receive a new English translation of *The Liturgy of the Hours* over the coming years. A timeline of publication of each volume, schedule for pre-ordering, and more information can be found on the [ODWS website](#).

PARISHIONERS PLANNING A MISSION OR PARISH TWINNING VISIT?

Please contact [Bill Maly](#) (513.263.3354) of the Finance & Accounting Office for advice and guidelines to design a safe and responsible trip.

NEED SUBSIDIES FOR MISSION OR PARISH TWINNING TRIPS?

Thanks to some donors, the Mission Office has limited funds to help defray costs for such trips. For subsidy applications, contact [Dr. Mike Gable](#) (513.263.6680), Mission Office Director.

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](#) (513.263.6611) or [Emily Niehaus](#) (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 \$7,600,000! As of June 18, just over \$7.68 million has been pledged to the appeal from 19,170 households. Of the amount pledged, \$6.7 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".

CMA MASSES OF THANKSGIVING

Archbishop Casey will celebrate three regional Masses of Thanksgiving for the CMA this summer. Dates, times, and locations of the Masses are listed below:

- Sunday, July 12 – Holy Angels in Sidney at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.
- Saturday, August 1 – Church of the Incarnation in Centerville at the 5:00 p.m. Mass
- Sunday, August 2 – St. Antoninus in Cincinnati at the 10:00 a.m. Mass

2026 CMA MINISTRY STORIES TO SHARE

To view this year’s CMA feature stories and videos, which highlight the CMA ministries and their work, visit: <https://catholicaoc.org/news/cma>.

Thank you for sharing these stories and videos on social media, parish websites, and email newsletters. For a printed version of these stories to use as a bulletin insert, please email [Kiera Gibbons](mailto:Kiera.Gibbons@catholicaoc.org).

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!

BULLETIN ENTRIES

TO THE BULLETIN EDITOR: Please use the below announcement in bulletins beginning July 18-19.

WHERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING US? - As part of Synod 2027, Archbishop Casey invites each of us to participate in a **Conversations in the Spirit** listening session. Participants will join others across our archdiocese in prayerfully considering what the Holy Spirit is asking of our Church at this time, thereby assisting Archbishop Casey as he establishes pastoral priorities for the future. There are approximately 60 sessions scheduled between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. Register today at <https://catholicaoc.org/conversations>.

CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT GREAT AMERICAN BALLPARK 2026! - You are invited to join Archbishop Casey and Bishop Iffert of the Diocese of Covington and Catholics from across our region 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.** Ahead of the game an on-field ceremony will recognize local Catholics who put Love into Action. The first pitch ceremony will include Fr. Michael Willig pitching to his brother, Fr. Jacob Willig.

Join us at the ballpark by purchasing discounted tickets for the Sept. 5 game through Reds ticketing at the following: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Archdiocesecincinnati22>.

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 at:

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

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

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

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDER SHORT- OR LONG-TERM SERVICE OR LAY MISSIONARY WORK IN THE U.S.A. OR OVERSEAS?

- Are you over 16 or under 75? Single? Married? Family? There are nearly 100 Catholic organizations seeking volunteers for all sorts of service: agriculture & mechanic work, arts & music, building trades, business & administration, computer work, community organizing, religious/school education, elderly outreach, engineering, mental & health care, refugee services, pro-life ministries, social/racial justice work, youth ministry ... **AND MORE!** **Check out the CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER NETWORK** at: www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org. For advice and possible limited subsidies, contact Dr. Mike Gable, Mission Office Director, Archdiocese of Cincinnati at mgable@catholicaoc.org or 513.263.6680.

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 Sunday, November 15 (Cincinnati) or Saturday, 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 Monday, November 2 at www.catholicaoc.org/goldenjubilee.

SAINTLY SEVEN - JULY EVENT - This month we host the fourth event in our series on the Sainthood Seven – the seven African American candidates for sainthood. The first three events – featuring Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Mother Mary Lange, and Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton – were wonderful, and we look forward to celebrating Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman on Tuesday, July 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sisters of the Precious Blood (4560 Denlinger Rd., Trotwood). All sessions are in person as well as livestreamed. Check out www.tinyurl.com/SaintlySevenAOC2026 for more information.

CELEBRATE COMPASSIONATE SERVICE - Catholic Charities USA's People of Hope Museum Tour is coming to Cincinnati! Step inside the People of Hope Museum, a nationwide storytelling experience that brings to life more than 40 powerful video stories of neighbors helping neighbors through Catholic Charities agencies. It is a free immersive, mobile exhibit open to the public! Come be inspired. Come be moved. Come see hope in action. Hosted by Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio on Thursday July 16, 1:00-7:00 p.m., and Friday, July 17, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Located in front of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center at 50 East Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOUTHWESTERN OHIO/ SU CASA—
CLASES DE EDUCACION DE PADRES**

Espero que se encuentre bien. Este es un recordatorio amistoso sobre nuestras próximas Clases de Educación para Padres en Español, que se llevarán a cabo del **13 de julio al 17 de agosto** (6 semanas).

Detalles de la clase:

- Modalidad: En línea a través de Zoom
- Costo: \$80 (pago único)
- Idioma: Español

Los temas incluirán:

- Desarrollo normal del niño
- Expectativas realistas
- Alternativas a la disciplina física
- Habilidades de comunicación/
- Habilidades para resolver problemas
- Habilidades para afrontar y manejar el estrés

Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en comunicarse con Priscilla Reyes al 513.867.7076 o 513.800.5387 (celular). Esperamos saber de usted, ¡y no dude en referir a un amigo!

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING CAREGIVER FOR RECOGNITION TODAY! - Caregiver Masses honor all those who work or volunteer as a caregiver – helpful family members and friends, nurses and physicians, dietary staff and lab workers, social workers and home health aides, those who volunteer at healthcare facilities, retirement communities and in parishes. These Masses aren't just for Catholics. People from all faiths are welcome. You can nominate an individual for this year's Mass and reception here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/q70NuT3ggf>, email nominations to can@ccswoh.org or call the Caregiver Assistance Network at 513.869.4483. **All nominations are due by 9/25/26.** The 22nd Annual Caregiver Mass is scheduled for November 22, 10:00 a.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains.

TO THE BULLETIN EDITOR: For the below announcement, JPEG of artwork can be found [online](#); scroll to the bottom for high quality options.

DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING AFTER ABORTION: DAYTON AREA ON AUGUST 8 - Have you or someone you know suffered from the loss of a child to abortion? We invite any woman who has experienced this loss to join us for a one-day retreat on Saturday, August 8. This event offers women a safe and confidential space to share their experiences, reflect on their past, and offer their futures to Christ who makes all things new. A trained priest, counselor, and volunteer who has experienced healing after abortion will be present to accompany participants. The event exact location and details will be shared after completing the registration process. You can register for this event by calling 513.784.0531, emailing ProjectRachel@catholicaoc.org, or by going to www.ProjectRachelOhio.org. All communications are kept in strict confidentiality.

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.



SECOND EDITION

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