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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

FALL CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS – REGISTER NOW

Presbyteral Convocations will be held the week of November 9, as listed below. [Register for the convocation](#) here by Wednesday, November 4. We will be calling you if you are not registered by then! If you are an active priest but are unable to attend the convocation for your deanery, you may participate on one of the other dates. If for some reason you are absolutely unable to attend any of the four dates, you are asked to notify Archbishop Schnurr personally. Retired priests are invited and encouraged to attend. Zoom links will be provided the week before the convocations. The convocations will begin at 1:00 and conclude by 6:00 p.m. each of the following days:

- Monday, Nov. 9: Cathedral, St. Lawrence, and St. Margaret Mary deaneries
- Tuesday, Nov. 10: Springfield, Sidney, and St. Mary's deaneries
- Wednesday, Nov. 11: St. Francis de Sales, St. Martin, and St. Andrew deaneries
- Thursday, Nov. 12: Hamilton, Dayton South, and Dayton North deaneries

CLERUS CINCINNATENSIS

As was noted in October, a new edition of the *Clerus Cincinnatiensis* is planned for distribution during 2021 to celebrate the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Bicentennial. By now all parishes should have received an email from the Archbishop's office with the parish's current listing from the 2012 *Clerus*. Please take the time to carefully review your entry and update as needed. This will be a fillable form that you will submit electronically after completing. **The deadline for completion is December 1, 2020.** If you have any questions, please contact [Linda Heidi](#) in the Archbishop's Office at 513.263.6612.

OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DIRECTORY (OCD) ONLINE UPDATES – DEADLINE NOV. 13

The Official Catholic Directory online updating is now available at <https://ocdedits.com/login> for your organization's review. All parishes, schools, and organizations must carefully review, update, and submit your listing for inclusion in the 2021 Edition. Your organization's OCD Contact Person for reviewing/updating your organization in the directory should have received an email by now from The Official Catholic Directory. We are told the emails were sent out between October 14-20. **Please refer to the email for instructions.** The subject line for the email is: "Update your OCD 2021 tax record online." **All parishes, schools, and organizations MUST update the information and submit by the deadline, November 13.** After the deadline, the portal will be closed. If you have questions, please email [Lisa Weber](#) in the Chancellor's Office or call her at 513.263.3342.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPRING CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS

A one-day Spring convocation for priests is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, at Incarnation Parish. The main topic is Racism.

NEW CLERGY SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

- Newly Ordained Priest Formation (for priests ordained in 2018, 2019 and 2020):
June 7, 2021 through June 21, 2021
- Recent Pastor Formation (for first-time pastors appointed in 2018, 2019, and 2020 and ordained 2006 and after):
June 14, 2021 through June 17, 2021

These programs will be held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology.

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Our parishes will hold the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection December 12-13. In 2019, our Archdiocese raised \$650,000 in support of the Retirement Fund for Religious, which has provided financial and educational assistance to religious communities here and across the country. As this year's appeal will be hampered by limited parish attendance, we are asking pastors to **announce the Retirement Fund for Religious from the pulpit so as to reach the virtual audience** often comprised of older parishioners who are our greatest supporters. Please see below for the suggested announcement:

Parish Appeal/Pulpit Announcement for December 12-13:

In good times and bad, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

PLEASE ADD THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS TO YOUR PARISH ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM

If possible, please add the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) as an option for your parish's online giving platform and include a reminder in printed or electronic parish communications. Visit retiredreligious.org/materials to access downloadable resources, such as bulletin announcements and social media posts.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Just a reminder that the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements are due by December 1, 2020. Each year individuals who hold decision making or policy setting positions or who purchase equipment, supplies or other goods must sign the form. All Disclosure Statements must be kept in a confidential file at your location under lock and key. If you have any questions regarding this reminder, please contact [Rob Reid](mailto:Rob.Reid@archdiocese.org) at 513.263.6611. Please [click](#) for the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement.

OPTIONAL

VOCATIONS DIRECTOR AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL

Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer, Director of Vocations, is available to come to your parish to preach on vocations at weekend Masses, celebrate school Masses and/or speak to the students in their classrooms, or

speak to PSR classes, youth groups and young adult groups. If you would like to schedule a time, or if you know of a young man in your parish who may be discerning a vocation to the priesthood, please contact [Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer](#).

GOSPEL WORKSHOP

Barring further problems from the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Matthew Genung will present the workshop on the Gospel of Mark at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology on Wednesday, November 4, from 9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and at St. Joseph Parish Life Center in Wapakoneta, Ohio on Thursday, November 5, from 9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If we are unable to gather in person for the workshops, we hope to do one via webcast. By now, you should have received the flyer. Register by using the flyer or contact [Sarah Frohmiller](#) at 513.263-6651.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION FOR PRIESTS

The Advent Day of Reflection for priests will be on Wednesday, December 2, at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton, Ohio. Our speaker will be Fr. Earl Fernandes, giving a presentation entitled “Here I am, Lord. Send me”. Coffee will be available at 10:15 a.m. with Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:45 a.m. and the program following. There will be a catered lunch, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance. The day ends about 2:30 p.m. Watch for a flyer. To register contact [Sarah Frohmiller](#) at 513. 263.6651.

BACK TO MISSION SERIES – NEXT WEBINARS ON TUES., NOV. 3 & 17

Please block your calendar for **Tuesday, November 3, 1:30-3:00** and plan to participate in the next Back to Mission webinar. The topic is Financial Stewardship and Giving: ways to increase financial contributions at your parish and areas to focus on for year-end giving. Register now for this free webinar at the [Back to Mission resources page](#). Please also block your calendar for **Tuesday, November 17, 1:30-3:00** for the following webinar which will be on Hispanic Ministry.

WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE

We live in divided times, and our faith calls us to rise above the vitriol and harsh language to be people of compassion and healing. To aid us in this work, we are partnering with Braver Angels and their [With Malice Towards None](#) program. Prior to the election, please consider this online 40 min. training, [Depolarizing Within](#). Following the election, we will be holding sessions that help us process the results and move forward together. Please contact [Andrew Musgrave](#) if you're interested in participating or have any questions.

AMAZING PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM REUNION

The Amazing Parish Conference was held in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in May 2019. More than 40 archdiocesan parishes took part in this conference. Since then, many parish leadership teams have been formed and are working to establish the building blocks of an “amazing parish.” Wherever a team is in that process, or even if they never got off the ground or missed the Conference all together, *we invite all Pastors and their Leadership Teams* to gather for a day of sharing what is working well, what is a struggle, and what insights can be gleaned from the experience of other Pastors and Leadership Teams. This is not just a day for Amazing Parish teams. **Any parish leadership team looking for insight into the Amazing Parish model is invited to this event.** See our [FLYER](#) for more information and register for the event [HERE](#).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on Saturday, November 7, at 11:00 a.m. for the 175th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral. During the Mass, the insignia granted in virtue of the cathedral's designation as a minor basilica will be blessed.

NEW ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITES – TUES., NOV. 3

As discussed during the September 22 Back to Mission session, the archdiocese is revamping its web presence to more joyfully and beautifully Radiate Christ, simplify navigation, modernize functionality and segregate information intended for the public from information intended for parishes, schools and other ministries. **On Tuesday, November 3**, we will: (1) retire our current website (<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/>); (2) launch a new public-facing site (<https://catholicaoc.org/>); and (3) launch a site for parish, school and other ministry resources (<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/>). The two new sites will be linked to each other. Please be aware that part of any new website launch is a post-launch punch list of items to be corrected. We will address each identified item quickly.

Two potential action items result from this:

- If your website currently links to anything on the archdiocese website, that link will need to be reset to link to the appropriate new page.
- The recent USCCB onsite safe environment audit strongly recommended that the website of every parish and school link to the new Report Misconduct page (catholicaoc.org/report-misconduct) and Restoring Trust page (catholicaoc.org/restoring-trust).

2020-21 CATHOLIC DIRECTORY & BUYERS' GUIDE

The *2020-21 Catholic Directory & Buyer's Guide* is produced and currently shipping. If you have not already placed your order, you may do so by contacting [Karen Cromer](#) at 513.263.6633.

VOCATION POSTER 2020 HAS BEEN SENT

Please display the Vocation poster prominently to support vocations to consecrated life, especially during National Vocation Awareness Week, November 1-7. If somehow your parish or school was missed, please email [Maria Reinagel](#) or call her at 513.263.6683.

DEACON ASSIGNMENT

Deacon Michael Muse, ordained on April 27, 2019, has been appointed to St. Margaret of York Parish, Loveland, effective October 6, 2020.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES FOR "A PANDEMIC CHRISTMAS"

You can find resources to assist in the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord during this time of public health concern on the [website of the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#). Topics include scheduling, communication, hospitality, music ministry, sustained collections, and more.

MAJOR COLLECTION DATES 2021 - 2024

The listing for the special collection dates and major feasts for the years 2021 – 2024 is now posted on the Office of the Chancellor website. [Click here](#).

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION & ENVELOPES

As reminder to pastors or parish staff, please mail your Mission Sunday donations AND your **envelopes** as soon as possible to: **Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th St. Cincinnati, OH, 45202.**

REMINDER FOR MISSIONARY CO-OP PLAN (MCP)

Please **do not** send these collections to the Archdiocese Finance Office or the missionary organizations as the Mission Office must record these donations for Vatican records. Instead, please mail in any remaining MCP collections to the same address, per above. Please indicate **which year** those funds were collected. New MCP selections are made in January 2021 and we wish to not confuse these collections with last year's donations. Thank you so much for your hospitality and generosity to these visiting missionaries as many serve in very difficult mission situations, and thanks for still having these collections even when the missionary was not able to come in person due to the COVID pandemic.

Any questions or comments on either or both of these collections? Email [Meloni.Knight](mailto:Meloni.Knight@archdiocese.org) or call her at 513.263.6681. If necessary, email [Dr. Mike Gable](mailto:Mike.Gable@archdiocese.org) or call him at 513.263.6680.

"CHAMPIONS OF MERCY" - SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio will host a virtual event, "Champions of Mercy," Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. This event will celebrate the tremendous outpouring of support from the community and the coming together of resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The works of mercy Catholic Charities provides to the poor and vulnerable are not possible without the partnership of other local agencies, parish communities and individuals, many of whom stepped up and exemplified sacrifice and above-and-beyond service to ensure that families had food, kept their housing and could seek new employment in face of these challenging times. This presentation will be spiritually uplifting and highlight local stories from southwestern Ohio. Join us for this free, online event on November 10 at www.ccswoh.org/champions-of-mercy-2020/.

LANGUAGE TO BE ADDED TO JOB DESCRIPTIONS

In an effort to further clarify our employees' work relationship with the Church, the Archbishop has requested that all at-will (i.e., non-teacher) job descriptions contain the following paragraph in the Working Environment section of job descriptions:

"Employees of _____ Catholic Church will have knowledge of the Catholic faith, a willingness to work for a Catholic, faith-based agency and adhere to the policies of _____ Catholic Church. Employees will not publicly oppose the teachings of the Catholic faith nor publicly advocate for any position in conflict with Catholic teaching or the specific positions of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with regard to Catholic teaching. This requirement includes any public speech, demonstration or writing including the use of social media or other digital technologies."

The HR Department strongly encourages the creation and maintenance of updated and accurate job descriptions for all positions. Please do not hesitate to contact [Rob Reid](mailto:Rob.Reid@archdiocese.org) 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](mailto:Meg.Paul@archdiocese.org) 513.263.3341 if you need assistance in this area.

2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA)

The Stewardship Department is starting to prepare the materials for the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Matt Reinkemeyer, Director of Development Operations, is collecting contact information so that he can effectively work with the parishes on the appeal. Please provide contact information for the CMA point person at your parish by emailing [Matt Reinkemeyer](mailto:Matt.Reinkemeyer@dioceseofcatholics.org).

Key Weekends for the 2021 CMA

- Announcement Weekend: January 23/24, 2021
- Commitment Weekend: February 6/7, 2021

BULLETIN ENTRIES

(Below are three consecutive bulletin announcements for the Retirement Fund for the Religious)

Week before the collection:

HELP OUR ELDERLY RELIGIOUS, RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS - In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please be generous.

Week of the collection:

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS - "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please be generous.

Week after the collection:

THANKS FOR GIVING! - "We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating last week.

MORE THAN EVER, YOUR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY DONATIONS ARE SO APPRECIATED - The Covid pandemic continues to reach into and create even more hunger and death in many of our 1000 mission dioceses. To offer support, please go to: www.givecentral.org/pontificalmissionsocieties. God bless you for your generosity to our fellow Catholics in mission dioceses worldwide.

ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAM AT CATHEDRAL BASILICA - Catholic in Recovery is a nonprofit organization that serves those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments – including alcoholism, drug addiction, pornography addiction, sex and relationship addiction, compulsive overeating and food addictions, gambling addiction, etc. Beginning this Sunday, The Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains offers this program, based on twelve-step recovery and the sacramental love and mercy provided by the Catholic Church, on Sundays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the Undercroft. Contact Stephanie Ramsey at 513.331.0358 or skb_steph@yahoo.com.

"SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT" - This prayer service welcomes all who are mourning a loss to pray, sing, reflect and share your need for healing and hope with the Lord. It will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 10:00 am at St. Francis Xavier Church, 611 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati. Everyone is welcome, so feel free to invite friends and family members. The service will be followed by a program in the Parish Center to assist people in "Getting Support for Grief and Loss during the Holidays."

SIGN UP TO PRAY A MINUTE - Do you believe in the power of prayer? Do you believe that our country is in desperate need of peace, justice and goodwill? If so, then go to www.PrayAMinute.com and pledge to pray just **one minute** more than you already do, every day, for the specific intention of peace, justice and goodwill. The site also contains inspiring reflections and useful prayer resources. Catholics from across the archdiocese are uniting in prayer from now until January 1, the World Day of Prayer for Peace, for the spiritual renewal of our country. Please join this movement!

SURVIVING DIVORCE - The Eastside Region is pleased to announce that registration for the winter session of Surviving Divorce: Hope & Healing for the Catholic Family is now open. Surviving Divorce is for newly separated and divorced individuals as well as those still struggling with issues many years later. The winter session takes place January 27 to April 28 on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at St. Cecilia Church in Oakley. Register at <https://eastsidefaith.org/surviving-divorce>. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Ramsey at skb_steph@yahoo.com or 513.331.0358.

ANGELICO CATHOLIC ARTS GUILD - Named for Blessed Fra Angelico, patron saint of artists, the Guild's mission is to enrich the faith and work of artists; to nurture a taste for goodness, a longing for truth, and a love of beauty; to deepen the artist's relationship with God; and to create networks of artists in friendships, collaborations and mentorships. If you are a Catholic artist in the greater Cincinnati area, please find out more at <https://angelicoproject.org/arts-guild/>.

"PRAYING IN SOLIDARITY" WEEKLY LIVE-STREAMED PRAYER SERVICE - Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio and the archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office invite you to join us every Monday at 11:00 am on Facebook Live to pray for the needs of our community. This weekly live-streamed prayer service on Catholic Charities' Facebook page, @CatholicCharitiesSWOhio, has been ongoing since March, combining elements of Scripture, Liturgy of the Hours, reflections on the Saints and Catholic Social Teaching, and Intercessory Prayers. Everyone is invited to submit prayer intentions at www.ccswoh.org/prayers, which will be added either by name or anonymously as you wish. Many prayers are also being incorporated in Spanish, with English translations shown in the Comments. Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers, who are interested in co-presenting the prayer service. Fluency in another language is welcome but not required. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Dan Sarell at dsarell@ccswoh.org. Your participation and prayers are welcome.

CAREGIVER RECOGNITION - November is National Caregiver Month. Take a moment to show your appreciation for the caregivers in your life. Join Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio via Livestream (www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org) on November 22 at 11:00 am for their annual Caregiver Mass at Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. They will recognize a small group of Outstanding Caregiver nominees and have a blessing at the end of Mass for all caregivers. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, the Order of Malta and Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains thank and honor all caregivers for their daily works of mercy. Caregivers needing support can call 513.672.3834 or email ahomoelle@ccswoh.org for information about support groups, workshops or community resources.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HEART OF MARY RESPITE AND COMPANION SERVICES

- This NEW program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio provides non-medical support in the home from reliable, trained volunteers so caregivers can take care of other responsibilities or have time to relax or pursue other interests. To make a lasting impact with those in our community, become a volunteer! Heart of Mary volunteers provide safety and security, companionship, emotional support and a caring presence for clients who are homebound. Volunteers are needed to serve in **Hamilton, Warren and Butler** counties for at least one 3-hour shift per week. To apply visit Better Impact at <https://tinyurl.com/CCSWOHSCSS> or call 513.672.3732.

FOOD FOR ALL - Hunger exists in our communities. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located to serve local families. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our pantries are changing to drive-thru pantries. We could use your help! Interested in serving? Please contact April Hoak, Food for All coordinator, at ahoak@ccswoh.org or 513.672.3720.

PARENT PROGRAMS - Do you feel like your kids are out of control or maybe you just need a little guidance on fine tuning your parenting skills? Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio offers Parenting Programs that can help you in either area. Some classes are only offered two or three times a year and others run all year round. Call or email to let us help you pick which class best fits your personal needs. Call 513.867.7072 or email pbolden@ccswoh.org.

NOVEMBER 8 AT 7:00 PM: SOLEMN VESPERS LIVESTREAMED - Join Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology on Sunday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. for Livestreamed Vespers featuring Mount St. Mary's Latin Schola and guest ensemble *Heri et Hodie* with music honoring the Faithful Departed at www.athenaeum.edu/live.

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.

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