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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**

#### **CLERUS CINCINNATENSIS**

**Thank you** to those parishes that have responded with their updated parish entry for the 2021 *Clerus*. However, many parishes have still not responded. Original notices were sent via email during the month of October. Second reminder emails were sent during November. If you have not received, or have accidentally deleted the email, please email [Linda Heidi](#) in the Archbishop's Office or call her at 513.263.6612. **The deadline for completion has been extended to December 8, 2020.**

#### **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**
- Continuing Intellectual Formation – (for all priests) Theme – “The Wrath of God”.  
**June 21, 2021 – June 24, 2021.**

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

#### **PARISH APPEAL/PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DECEMBER 12-13**

Please use the following script, or something similar to it, to promote the Retirement Fund for the Religious appeal December 12-13. Thank you!

*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 PROMOTE THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS TO YOUR PARISH**

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. Please see the Bulletin Entries section.

## **OHIO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE**

On January 1, 2021, the Ohio minimum wage will increase to \$8.80 per hour. The minimum wage increase is the result of a constitutional amendment passed by voters in November 2006. The amendment requires the Ohio minimum wage to increase on January 1 of each year by the rate of inflation. The increase is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the prior 12-month period as of September 30, 2020. As a result of this increase, please make sure that none of your employees are being paid less than \$8.80 an hour beginning January 1, 2021. For questions about this increase, contact [Rob Reid](#) 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](#) 513.263.3341.

## **OHIO & FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT COMBINATION POSTER**

All locations, regardless of size, are required to post the Federal & State Employment Poster. 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](#) (714-521-7720). The cost is \$19.95. A laminated poster is \$21.95.

## **OPTIONAL**

### **THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ADVENT**

*The Catholic Telegraph* is very excited to inform you that The Ultimate Guide to Advent is now live! The guide is free, downloadable and filled with everything from faith traditions to favorite recipes, events for families, movie and music recommendations and more. It's interactive, with links to click, gifts to buy, coloring pages to print and prayers to pray. [Click here to get your guide](#). And please promote this to your parishioners – see the Bulletin Entries section.

### **BEACONS OF LIGHT EMAIL LIST**

You may recall from the Presbyteral Convocation that we are planning to begin monthly communications about Beacons of Light early in the new year. Priests will automatically be included in the e-newsletter distribution list of these monthly updates, but hope that parish staff, other parish leaders and interested parishioners will sign up for the e-newsletter as well. [Sign up here](#) and please share the notice in the Bulletin Entries section across all of your media.

### **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, 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](#).

### **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. There is still time to register. Please contact [Sarah Frohmiller](#) at 513.263.6651.

## **BICENTENNIAL MARIAN PILGRIMAGE**

Help us celebrate the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati with the longest Marian Procession in the United States! The Pilgrimage begins Sunday, May 16, 2021 with a Mass at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Russells Point in the Northern area of the Archdiocese. From there, a small group of pilgrims will begin this historic pilgrimage with a special statue of Our Lady of Fatima, blessed by Archbishop Schnurr for this occasion. The pilgrimage will last for 33 days, making stops at parishes in every deanery of the Archdiocese, and will be highlighted by four cornerstone family events. The pilgrimage will end at the steps of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on the day of the bicentennial, Saturday, June 19, 2021 where the Archbishop will re-consecrate the Archdiocese to Jesus through Mary. Please see our [WEBSITE](#) and [FLYER](#) for route and event details.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### ***NEW ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITES – IMPORTANT REMINDERS***

As previously announced, the archdiocese has revamped 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. We have launched a new public-facing site (<https://catholicaoc.org/>) and a site for parish, school and other ministry resources (<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/>). The two new sites are linked to each other.

Two potential action items result from this:

- If your website currently links to anything on the old archdiocese website, that link will need to be reset to link to the appropriate new page.
- This year's 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](https://catholicaoc.org/report-misconduct)) and Restoring Trust page ([catholicaoc.org/restoring-trust](https://catholicaoc.org/restoring-trust)).

### ***NEW HOME FOR VOCATION VIEWS***

With the launch of the new archdiocese websites, described above, Vocation Views can now be found on the [Vocations Office resource page](#).

### ***DEACON GRANTED SENIOR STATUS***

Deacon Richard Gallenstein, ordained on April 28, 2007, has been granted Senior Status effective November 16, 2020 from his assignment as a deacon at The Community of the Good Shepherd in Loveland.

### ***GUIDANCE ON PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTEERS***

We have received numerous inquiries from parishes regarding volunteers and whether they can receive any form of payment or reimbursement for expenses. Especially this time of year, a parish may want to pay a volunteer as a “thank you” for being loyal to the parish. Please read the recommended guidelines on payments to volunteers [here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](#) at 513.263.3341.

## **TERMINATION/UNEMPLOYMENT WORKSHEET**

When completing the Termination/Unemployment Worksheet, if it is a voluntary separation, under the line of contesting unemployment, you should check the “yes” box rather than the “no” box. If you have any questions, please contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611.

## **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS LITURGY PREPARATION**

You'll find resources to assist in preparing the liturgies of Advent and Christmas, including strategies for a healthy and reverent Christmas Eve/Day, [on the ODWS website](#).

## **SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD (JAN 24)**

Celebrate the 2nd annual Sunday of the Word of God in your parish. [Explore resources from the U.S. Catholic Bishops here](#).

## **“CHAMPIONS OF MERCY”**

On Tuesday, November 10, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio hosted a virtual, online event to 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. A recap of the event can be found on Catholic Charities website at [www.ccswoh.org/champions-of-mercy-2020/](http://www.ccswoh.org/champions-of-mercy-2020/).

## **KEY WEEKENDS FOR THE 2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA)**

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

## **2021 CMA – VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

Due to health concerns of in-person meetings, this year's CMA training workshops will take place on Zoom. These workshops are for pastors, parish staff, CMA chairs and anyone helping with the CMA. Content for both dates is the same. Here are the dates and times of the workshops:

- Thursday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m.

To register, visit: <https://www.aocstewardship.org/cmatraining>. For more information or questions about the CMA, please email [Matt Reinkemeyer](mailto:Matt.Reinkemeyer@catholicoc.org) or call him at 513.263.6672.

## **BULLETIN ENTRIES**

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

*Week before the collection, December 5-6:*

**HELP OUR ELDERLY RELIGIOUS, RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS** - In good times and bad, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, as seniors, they pray for an aching world. 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. You may donate in the parish on December 12-13 or by mail at Office for Consecrated Life, Attn. Maria Reinagel, 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Cincinnati, 45202. Please make your check payable to Archdiocese of Cincinnati/ RFR. You can also donate online here: [www.Catholicaoc.org/rfr](http://www.Catholicaoc.org/rfr).

*Week of the collection, December 12-13:*

**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. You may donate in the parish on December 12-13 or by mail at Office for Consecrated Life, Attn. Maria Reinagel, 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Cincinnati, 45202. Please make your check payable to Archdiocese of Cincinnati/ RFR. You can also donate online here: [www.Catholicaoc.org/rfr](http://www.Catholicaoc.org/rfr).

*Week after the collection, December 19-20:*

**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.

**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ADVENT** - The 2020 edition of The Ultimate Guide to Advent from *The Catholic Telegraph* is now available! The guide is free, downloadable and filled with everything from faith traditions to favorite recipes, events for families, movie and music recommendations and more. It's interactive, with links to click, gifts to buy, coloring pages to print and prayers to pray. Please visit [thecatholictelegraph.com/advent-guide](http://thecatholictelegraph.com/advent-guide) to get the guide delivered to you free via email.

### **INTRODUCING BEACONS OF LIGHT: PASTORAL PLANNING FOR OUR THIRD CENTURY -**

Archbishop Schnurr has announced the next phase of pastoral planning, called "Beacons of Light." The process is designed to foster vital parish life throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, leading all to radiate Christ in our homes, places of work, schools, parishes and the wider world. Sign up at <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons#newsletter> to receive the free Beacons of Light e-newsletter which will provide monthly prayers, reflections and planning process updates beginning January 15, 2021.

**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. 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. For more information, contact Stephanie Ramsey at 513.331.0358 or [skb\\_steph@yahoo.com](mailto:skb_steph@yahoo.com).

***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 513.331.0358 or [skb\\_steph@yahoo.com](mailto:skb_steph@yahoo.com).

***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/>.

***CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENT*** - The Catholic Education Foundation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is once again providing needs-based tuition assistance grants to elementary school students for the 2020-2021 school year. Applications will be accepted through February 8, 2021. For more information and to apply, please visit [www.catholicbestchoice.org](http://www.catholicbestchoice.org).

***"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 a.m. 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](http://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](mailto:dsarell@ccswoh.org). Your participation and prayers are welcome.

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HEART OF MARY RESPITE AND COMPANION SERVICES*** - Tired of COVID? Would you like to make someone's day? Are you looking for a way to connect with others who share your interests? We are looking for volunteers to help with two new programs at Catholic Charities. We need help making phone support calls to Heart of Mary Respite and Companionship clients. We also need class leaders for Powerful Tools for Caregivers, an evidence-based self-care class for caregivers. Both volunteer opportunities can be safely done remotely with all materials and training provided. Call 513.535.2291 for more information or use the link to apply to become a Heart of Mary phone support specialist or PTC class leader today! <https://tinyurl.com/CCSWOHSCSS>.

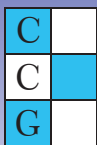
***PARENT PROGRAMS*** - Do you feel like your kids are out of control or maybe you just need a little guidance on fine tuning your parenting skills? Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio offers Parenting Programs that can help you in either area. Some classes are only offered two or three times a year 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](mailto:pbolden@ccswoh.org).



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 7:30 PM SOLEMN VESPERS** - Join Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology "LIVE" on Monday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. for First Vespers for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with music by members of the Athenaeum Chorale and Mount St. Mary's Latin Schola. This event will include the chanting of the psalms and canticles of Evening Prayer for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Patroness of the Seminary. The concert will feature Marian and Advent motets with brief scriptural meditations. This event will be online only and broadcast via [www.athenaeum.edu/live](http://www.athenaeum.edu/live).

**SPRING REGISTRATION: SIGN UP TO EXPLORE YOUR FAITH** - Open registration at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology for the 2021 spring semester runs through December 11 with online and in person classes available. Late registration continues from December 12 until classes begin on January 4. For more information email [registration@athenaeum.edu](mailto:registration@athenaeum.edu) or call 513.231.1200.

**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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## CUSTOM COLUMBARIA

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*Our columbarium system is patent pending*

### 1. Stainless-Steel

- Our columbarium unit is built out of all stainless-steel plates and custom aluminum extrusion.

### 2. Ceramic Inks

- We use ceramic inks to print on 3/8" thick glass, which is then tempered into the glass surface.

### 3. Tempered Safety Glass

- The front, back, and sides are all typically, 3/8" safety glass. Tempering makes the glass five times stronger. The strength of tempered glass makes glass an excellent alternative to granite, and provides more versatility and choice of expression for customers.

### 4. Capstone

- Our capstone can be built using either granite or 3/8" thick tempered safety glass if a lighter weight option is desired.

### 5. Base

- The base of our unit can either be built using granite or concrete depending on the client's preference.

### 6. Security

- Each niche is protected by specialty stainless-steel security screws, and is also individually removable. In addition, each unit is protected from the elements by a silicone gasket.

## INSCRIPTION Options



Inscriptions engraved on the aluminum extrusion.



Inscriptions engraved on the glass niche front.



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