



CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

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

ACTION REQUIRED

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ONE-DAY CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS

The convocation will be Thursday, October 18, 2018 at Incarnation Parish, Centerville.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE PRIESTS' ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Anniversary Dinner will be Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Bergamo Center in Dayton.

ASH WEDNESDAY 2018 COLLECTION

The collection to aid the Church in Central & Eastern Europe or the Church in Africa will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Please send the collection money to the Archdiocesan Finance Office in a timely manner for forwarding to the USCCB office. Be sure to designate which collection fund the monies should go towards, Central & Eastern Europe or Africa.

TESTING FOR LEAD IN THE WATER AT SCHOOLS

We need to ensure that all of our schools are lead free. If you have **not** already had this testing done, please have it completed by March 2, 2018. If you **have** completed testing, please send your results to Stacey Longbottom at slongbottom@catholiccincinnati.org.

OHIO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

On January 1, 2018, the Ohio minimum wage increased to \$8.30 per hour. The minimum wage increase is the result of a constitutional amendment passed by voters in November 2006. Please make sure that none of your employees are being paid less than \$8.30 an hour beginning January 1, 2018. Contact Rob Reid at 513.421.3131x6611 with any questions.

RITE OF ELECTION

Sunday, February 18, 2018 – 3:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Dayton; 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati. Click [here](#) for Deanery assignments.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Order resources now** at the ODWS [website](#).

DATE/TIME FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is on **March 31**. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states that the Easter Vigil is to be celebrated in darkness. Therefore, this year the **Easter Vigil must begin at 8:30 p.m. or later**. For information on celebrating the Triduum in parish clusters and pastoral regions, click [here](#).

MCP (MISSIONARY CO-OP PLAN) COLLECTIONS

The 2018 MCP assignments are coming to your parish soon. Please mail the 2017 and older

collections to the Mission Office **now**, indicating which year the funds were collected. Send to: Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th St. Cincinnati, OH 45202. Contact Melonise Knight at: mknight@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2631 with questions.

OPTIONAL

WINTER/SPRING PRIESTS' RETREAT

This retreat will take place at Maria Stein, Monday, February 26, beginning at 5:30 p.m., through lunch on Friday, March 2. Father Matthew Summe, LC will be our speaker. The retreat is entitled "Encountering the Lord in My Life and Ministry". Use the flyers to register, or contact the Priestly Formation Office at 513.421.3131x2651 or sfrohmiller@catholiccincinnati.org.

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR PRIESTS

This Day of Reflection will take place 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15 at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton. Father Matthew Gamber, SJ, will be our speaker. You will receive a flyer in late February.

ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY MINISTERIAL TRAINING FOR PRIESTS'

A multi-day intensive training workshop dealing with the pastoral problem of pornography addiction will be offered June 25 through June 28 at the St. Anne Retreat Center in Melbourne, KY. Father Sean Kilcawley, STL, will be conducting this workshop which is sponsored by *Integrity Restored*. Register at the *Integrity Restored* [website](#). The Priestly Formation Office will reimburse priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for the program. The priest's parish or institution should pay the room and board.

CALLED BY NAME

Please encourage the young men and women in your parish to consider the vocation to the consecrated life. Follow-up by sending their names and contact information to Fr. Schmitmeyer at dschmitmeyer@catholiccincinnati.org or call him at 513-421-3131x2890.

INVITATION TO R U CALLED? DINNER:

Please invite young women from your parish to join you at the second [R U Called? Dinner](#) for Young Women Discerning Consecrated Life on Wednesday, March 14th. [Register here.](#)

INVITATION TO WELCOME WEEKEND

This year's welcome weekend at the Athenaeum is taking place on April 13-14. Please invite college age men from your parish to consider joining us for this weekend retreat with our seminarians. Those interested can call the Vocation Office or [register online](#).

CELEBRATE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

This year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations is coming up on Sunday, April 22. Please [consider celebrating with your parish](#) and sending home vocation related materials with your families. You can [order online](#) all the materials you may need.

HELP A BUDDY OUT

As previously announced, we are now distributing Clergy Communications **electronically only**. If you know of a colleague who has not yet signed up to receive Clergy Communications via email, please direct him or her to this [page](#). Thank you!

REMINDER! COMING TO A PARISH NEAR YOU...

We are working on developing a centralized communication database for all Archdiocesan offices, parishes, schools, and institutes. To help inform the direction of this initiative, we will be holding seven “listening sessions” throughout the Archdiocese, as shown below. Please plan on participating in at least one of these to have your voice heard and needs included.

Tues. Feb. 6	IHM, Anderson Township – Heritage Hall	10:00-11:30 a.m.
Wed. Feb. 7	Incarnation, Centerville – Room 103A	10:00-11:30 a.m.
Wed. Feb. 7	St. Peter, Huber Heights – Ries Center	1:30-3:00 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 13	Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe – Parish Hall	10:00-11:30 a.m.
Thurs. Feb. 15	St. Ignatius, Monfort Heights – Hilvert Center	1:30-3:00 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 20	St. Bernadette, Amelia – Stievenard Hall	1:30-3:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 21	Holy Redeemer, New Bremen – Parish Hall	10:00-11:30 a.m.

Please RSVP, and direct any questions, to Karen Cromer (kcromer@catholiccincinnati.org).

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES LENTEN PROGRAMS

Parishes participating in CRS Rice Bowl are encouraged to share their Global Solidarity events, such as soup suppers or speakers, with the wider Archdiocesan community. Details are posted on the Catholic Social Action [website](#) about participating parishes and the countries they are showcasing. Catholic Relief Services is spotlighting Iraq, Nicaragua, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Malawi, and the United States this Lent. If you have traveled to those foreign countries and would be willing to speak about your experience, the Catholic Social Action Office would like to meet you. Please call 937.224.3026x5018 or email csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK (FEBRUARY 7-14, 2018)

This is a collaborative campaign to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a culture that fosters strong marriages. Parish resources (bulletin insert, preaching resource, and websites) to celebrate National Marriage Week can be found [here](#).

PROJECT RACHEL CONTACT INFORMATION CARDS

Cards from the Respect Life Office with the Project Rachel phone number were mailed to you in case you need them during The Light Is On For You campaign. If you need more cards, call us at 513.470.5241x2624. For information on Project Rachel, see our [website](#).

40 DAYS FOR LIFE EVENTS

Invite your parishioners to sign up for a Vigil Hour at either the Dayton or Cincinnati 40 Days for Life events. Use the bulletin announcement from the Bulletin Entry section. For more information go to <https://40daysforlife.com/>.

PRIEST NEEDED FOR MASS AT DAYTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION!

The Archdiocese Prison Ministry team provides Mass weekly at the two men’s prisons in the

Archdiocese, and would like to do so for the women at Dayton Correctional. If you are interested in helping, please click [here](#) for further information.

ENCOUNTER – FEBRUARY 3 (IN DAYTON) AND FEBRUARY 10 (IN CINCINNATI)

This event, open to high schoolers, seeks to gather groups of disciples from across the Archdiocese for an evening of worship, a powerful testimony, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and accompaniment. Visit <https://viacatholic.org/encounter> for more information.

TRAINING CAMP – FEBRUARY 21 (IN CINCINNATI)

Training Camp is a day for Spiritual Liaisons to gather and hear witness from one another, while also learning practical ways to apply new ideas to ministry. For more information, please visit <https://viacatholic.org/trainingcamp>.

AWAKE JR. HIGH RALLY – MARCH 3 (CINCINNATI) AND MARCH 10 (DAYTON)

In partnership with NET Ministries, this youth rally seeks to accompany 6-8th graders through an event that will provide opportunities for fellowship, worship, and encounter. For more information, please visit <https://viacatholic.org/awake/>.

UPPER ROOM – MARCH 13 (DAYTON), MARCH 14 (CINTI), MARCH 20 (BOTKINS)

Upper Room provides opportunity to enjoy each other's company and talk about what's happening within our own lives and ministries. FREE lunch provided! For more information, please visit <https://viacatholic.org/upperroom/>.

LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER WORKSHOP APRIL-MAY 2018

St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Completion of this workshop qualifies for three hours of catechist certification. For details and registration, click [here](#).

ABIDE – JUNE 13-17, 2018

Through personal accompaniment, Abide forms and commissions high school youth to root their lives in Christ through His Church, and to share this Christian joy with others as missionary disciples. **Registration now open!** Visit [here](#) to learn more.

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS NEWSLETTER

Click [here](#) if you would like to receive the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments newsletter.

ADD MORE DEPTH AND MEANING TO YOUR LENTEN EFFORTS

Help your parishioners and students understand and feel the sufferings of Christ and the joy of Easter by inviting a returned missionary to share and dialogue with your people this Lent. Let them bring the World Mission Rosary and the prophetic witness of our local and global church. Contact Teresa Phillips at: mission@catholiccincinnati.org or 513 421.3131x2632.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The first application period deadline for Catholic Education Foundation 2018-2019 K-8 tuition aid grants was January 31, 2018. Completed applications are currently being processed and determination letters will be mailed to applicants by mid-February. Awarded grants can be redeemed at any Catholic school in the Archdiocese. In mid-March, schools will be mailed the

names of all awarded students who marked that school as their primary choice. Payment for grants will be mailed to schools in the fall of 2018, following final verification of enrollment.

A second application period is now open and will run through the end of February. Families can continue to apply through FACTS Grant and Aid Management. Information concerning the second application period was mailed to locations at the end of January. Please contact the Catholic School Office with any questions.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CHRISM MASS

Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m., Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MARCH 27, CHRISM MASS DINNER

For all priests of the Archdiocese, provided by the Serra Club. Details will be coming soon.

LITURGICAL PRACTICES DURING THE FLU SEASON

For information on liturgical practices during the flu season, click [here](#) to read the Archdiocesan statement.

LENTEN REMINDERS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 14, and Good Friday, March 30 are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast, that is, limited to a single full meal. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (canons 97, 1252).

“Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind.” (Constitution on the Liturgy, No. 110)

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. To paraphrase Pope John Paul II: the obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or “substantially,” the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

CONFIRMATION AND THE FACULTY TO CONFIRM AT THE EASTER VIGIL

For priests who have been granted the faculties of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, these are the instructions for the Faculty to Confirm as found in the Pagella, Clerus Cincinnatiensis, Volume XII, No. 1, pages 260-261. The mandate is given to all priests in the Archdiocese:

1. to baptize and confirm in accordance with canon 883.2 persons who are no longer infants whom the priest judges suitable for Catholic baptism;

2. to admit into full communion with the Catholic Church and to confirm in accordance with canon 883.2 previously baptized persons who are no longer infants whom the priest judges suitable for admission to the Catholic Church;

3. to readmit into full communion with the Catholic Church and to confirm in accordance with the response to the Pontifical Commission for the Interpretation of the Decrees of the Second Vatican Council, April 25, 1975, persons beyond infancy who were baptized Catholic but not confirmed and who later became an apostate or a heretic, whom the priest judges suitable for readmission to the Catholic Church. (If you have any questions about whether or not someone later became an apostate or a heretic, please call the Chancery.)

Priests do **not** have the faculty to confirm a baptized but never confirmed Catholic who simply has not been active in the practice of the faith without becoming a member of another Church and now desires to be confirmed and be actively involved in the Church's life. In these cases, individual delegation of the archbishop is needed. Priests can seek such delegation in writing from the Chancery, giving reasons why the delegation is sought, the name of the person to be delegated, the name of the candidate, and the intended date of the ceremony. Please request the faculty to confirm in ample time to receive it before the Easter Vigil. Also, if you have more than one parish, please include the name of the parish where the Confirmation will take place.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Please see www.ccswoh.org/cansupport for our support group calendar and presentation locations. Call 513.869.4483 if you have any questions or have caregivers needing help.

EATING IS A MORAL ACT: WHY THE FARM BILL MATTERS TO ALL OF US

"Eating is a Moral Act" will take place on Sunday, February 11 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 pm at Guardian Angels Church in Mt. Washington. Help influence Congress to craft a just and equitable Farm Bill that respects Christian principles. National Bread for the World Deputy Director Christine Meléndez Ashley will offer the keynote, followed by comments from St. Vincent de Paul, a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipient, and farmers. Please RSVP to 513.421.3131x2660.

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (PBMA) MEETINGS

The Department of Human Resources will present at the upcoming 2018 PBMA meetings on March 21 and May 16. Scheduled topics include Interviewing and Hiring and Harassment/Discrimination.

CREATED MALE AND FEMALE: AN OPEN LETTER FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Recently, leaders of various faith communities drafted an open letter highlighting the importance of recognizing the truth of sexual difference. This ecumenical letter can found [here](#).

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL

St. John the Evangelist, West Chester, February 23-24, 2018. Click [here](#) for information.

VOCARE INFORMATION FOR NEW PARISH CATECHISTS

The Office for Evangelization and Discipleship, in launching **Vocare**, has repeatedly indicated

that there would need to be 'tweaks' along the way. We have an important tweak *for new parish catechists only* that will simplify implementation of Vocare. Click [here](#) to read more.

2018 CMA – KEY APPEAL WEEKENDS

Commitment Weekend – February 3/4, 2018 // Follow-up Weekend – February 10/11, 2018

CMA OVER-GOAL REBATE PAYMENTS

For the 2017 Appeal, 96 parishes will be receiving rebate payments for exceeding their CMA parish goal (*note: rebate payments are based on the actual amount paid towards the total pledged*). A total of \$445,350 will be paid in over-goal rebates.

To see if your parish went over-goal for the 2017 CMA, go to www.CatholicAppeal.info – click on the “Info for Parish Staff” box in the top right corner (the password to access this section is cma2007). The report is titled “2017 Goal-to-Date.pdf”.

Rebate payments will be made by electronic funds transfer from our Finance Office this month. For questions regarding over-goal/rebate payments, contact David Kissell at 513.421.3131x2881 or email david@CatholicAppeal.info.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 28 – FEBRUARY 3

We celebrate our 113 Catholic Schools throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati during the week of January 28 – February 3. Thank you to all who make our schools rich ground for evangelization of our Catholic faith blessing our students with an excellent Catholic education.

PARISH LOOKING FOR ITEMS

If any parish or organization has a surplus of any of the following items: two pairs of candlesticks of about 5-ft height, a hymn board, a lectern, or four spotlights/projector lights. Please call Sacred Heart Parish, Dayton at 937.224.3904.

BULLETIN ENTRIES

INFORMATION FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING EVENTS IS POSTED ON THE [VOCATION OFFICE WEBSITE](#):

February 8: CHOSEN: Holy Hour for Vocations with the Children of Mary

February 10-11: Discernment Retreat for Young Women with the Ann Arbor Dominicans

February 16-18: Come and See Mission Trip with the Glenmary Home Missioners

February 16-18: Vocation Weekend with the Dominican Friars, Eastern Province

February 17: Called to Love Vocation Retreat with the Sisters of St. Joseph the Worker

March 2-4: Duc in Altum Discernment Retreat with Dominican Sisters Immaculate Conception Province

March 9-11: Jesu Caritas Weekend with the Nashville Dominicans

March 11: Cast Your Nets at Sacred Heart in McCartyville

March 14: RU Called? Dinner for Women Discerning Consecrated Life with Bishop Binzer

April 13-14: Welcome Weekend at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West

April 28: Transitional Diaconate Ordination at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains

May 19: Priesthood Ordination at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains

SU CASA HISPANIC CENTER SEEKING VIRTUS-TRAINED CHILD CARE VOLUNTEERS - Su Casa Hispanic Center, a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, is seeking VIRTUS-trained volunteers to provide care to children while their parents attend English and GED classes. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. For more information, please contact Brett at 513.672.3772 or bhamm@ccswoh.org. Fill out a volunteer application at ccswoh.org to start volunteering in the new year!

ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: THE IRENE GUT OPDYKE STORY, MARCH 7, 2018 - Jeannie Opdyke Smith will share the powerful story of her mother, Irene Gut Opdyke, a Polish Catholic woman who risked her life to save Jews during the Holocaust, on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Seton High School in the Performance Hall. RSVP to www.holocaustandhumanity.org/event/one-person.

WAY OF THE CROSS/WAY OF JUSTICE: MARCH 30, 2018 - Join a collaboration of faith-based groups for an engaging prayer experience that connects the suffering of Jesus with the suffering brought about by injustice in our day. The Good Friday (3/30/18) event begins at noon on Fountain Square. Contact Catholic Social Action at csa@catholiccincinnati.org or 513.421.3131x2660 for more information or to volunteer.

PRAYER/REFLECTION - Good and gracious God, help us to heed your call to a profound interior conversion: a conversion whereby our encounter with you is apparent in our relationship to the naturally created world around us.

QUOTE FROM THE HOLY SEE - "[T]he ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion...an 'ecological conversion,' whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in [Christians'] relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no.217)

REGISTER NOW FOR LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI WORKSHOP - Thursdays during Lent, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at Assumption Church, Mt. Healthy. Join us for reflection on the Mass through prayer, song, preaching, and sharing. See how our Sunday liturgy connects to our everyday living. Families are welcome; children grades 1-6 attend a program geared for them. For workshop details and registration, go to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Lex-Orandi-Assumption-2018-Flyer-Registration-Form.pdf>.

HELP END ABORTION - The next 40 Days for Life campaign in both Cincinnati and Dayton runs February 14 – March 15. Go to <https://40daysforlife.com> for locations and more information. Please join us!

PROJECT RACHEL - A ministry of the Archdiocese that serves anyone who has experienced the loss of a child due to abortion. Learn more at www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel.

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION, MARCH 3 - The Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery invite you to join them for a **Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 3** with

guest speaker Rev. Mr. Royce Winters. Contact Sr. Dorothy Schuette (dorothysosb@yahoo.com) or go to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Exodus-finding-God.pdf> for more information.

“EVOLUTION AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH” - Professor Stephen M. Barr will deliver the 5th Annual Conway Lecture in Catholic Studies at the University of Cincinnati on March 7 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Cinema in Tangeman University Center on UC’s campus. The topic this year is the Catholic response to the theory of evolution. Go to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Barr-Lecture-Poster-2018.pdf>.

ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF - Do you or someone you know have a child who is deaf, hard-of-hearing or has a communication disorder and is not currently attending their parish school? For over 100 years, **St. Rita School for the Deaf** has been providing educational opportunities to children with special communication needs in a safe, values-oriented environment. For more information, please visit www.srsdeaf.org or call 513.771.7600.

Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 - Chancery Office. Tel: **513.421.3131x2842**. Fax: **513.421.6225**.

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