



*Wishing you the gift of **Faith**,
the blessings of **Hope** and
the **Peace of His Love**
this Christmas.*

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

PRIESTLY FORMATION OFFICE

THE REVISED ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

A reminder: The mandatory date for using the revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* is December 30, 2016. If you were unable to attend one of the workshops earlier in the fall, you may want to take advantage of a video of the workshop with Fr. Jim Bessert. Because the material from the workshop is copyrighted, we are not at liberty to place the video in the public domain. You will need to email either Karen Kane (kkane@catholiccincinnati.org) or Kathy Schmidt (kschmidt@catholiccincinnati.org) and we will email the You Tube video link to you. The video link should be available by December 1, 2016.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

The Advent Day of Reflection for Priests will be on Thursday, December 1 at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton. Our presenter will be Father Thomas Thompson, S.M. of the Marian Library of the University of Dayton. The day begins with coffee at 10:15 a.m. The program goes from 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. At the end of the day there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SPRING:

- **The Winter/Spring Retreat** for priests will be at Maria Stein March 6 – 10, 2017. We are pleased to have Father Shawn McKnight of the Diocese of Wichita Kansas as our retreat master. Fr. McKnight has a doctorate in Liturgy from the Institute of Sant' Anselmo. He has seminary teaching and administrative experience. He has also

served as the Director of the USCCB Office of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. He is currently a pastor of a large parish in the Diocese of Wichita.

- **The Multi-Day Convocation for Priests** will take place **June 19 - 22, 2017** at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Dublin, Ohio. Registration information will be coming in the future months.

VOCATION OFFICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PRAYER TO KNOW MY VOCATION

We have produced a new prayer card for children in grade schools. On the front of the card features an image of Jesus with children with the text "Who has God made me to be?" On the back, the prayer reads, "Dear Jesus, I know You love me. I know You have a plan for me. I know You want me to be a saint. Help me listen for Your voice. Help me know who You want me to be. Help me say yes to Your call. I love You Lord and I thank you. Amen." These cards are available free of charge to all parishes and schools to disperse to every student in their religious education programs. You can call Wayne Topp at 513.421.3131x2891 or use our new online order form (see details below).

NEW PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS SPANISH VERSION

The Vocation Office has recently printed the archdiocesan Prayer for Vocations in Spanish. The card is the same size and features the same image and text of the current English archdiocesan prayer card with all text translated into Spanish. These cards are available free of charge to all parishes and schools. To order, call Wayne Topp at 513.421.3131 x2891 or use our new online order form (see details below).

NEW ONLINE VOCATION MATERIALS ORDER FORM

The Vocation Office now offers a very simple way of ordering vocation related materials for your parishes, religious communities, schools or homeschool communities. Simply go to the Vocation Office website at <http://www.cincinnati vocations.org/> and click on the top banner or click on the Resources button in the right sidebar, then click on "Vocation Materials Order Form."

ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS/CATECHISTS/YOUTH MINISTERS

Vocation Awareness lesson plans are still available! Each year, the Vocation Office makes available complete Vocation Awareness lesson plans for teachers of all grade levels, both in Catholic schools and in PSR programs. These educational materials can be used anytime throughout the school year. All parishes and schools have access to those materials at www.vocationlessons.com with access code: CinciVocations513. Please make a plan to view and use these materials in the 2016-2017 school year.

SAVE THE DATE: DINNER FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN DISCERNMENT

Are you a pastor, a parish young adult minister, or a campus minister who knows a young woman you think may have a call to the Consecrated Life? If your answer is "yes," consider inviting her and accompanying her to a gathering at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lebanon on April 26, 2017. This will be an opportunity to be with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, to meet

young women in one of the varied consecrated life options present in the Archdiocese, to meet with other young women considering this call and to meet vocation ministers. Further details will be available along with how to register. For now, please consider whom you might invite and mark your calendar.

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017 EVENTS TO ANNOUNCE

Please see the Bulletin Announcements section for more information on each of the following:

- **December 4-8:** Daughters of Charity Online Discernment Retreat
- **December 7:** Advent Lessons and Carols at the Athenaeum
- **December 8:** Monthly Holy Hour for Consecrated Vocations with the Children of Mary
- **December 27-January 13:** Legionaries of Christ Winter Discernment Program
- **December 28-January 2:** Legionaries of Christ Test Your Call Retreat
- **December 30-January 2:** Christmas Games at Sacred Heart Apostolic School
- **January 2-9:** Spiritual Exercises with Regnum Christi
- **January 12-16:** Vocation Discernment Retreat with Regnum Christi
- **January 15:** Holy Hour for Vocations at the Athenaeum
- **January 20:** Vigil Praise at the Athenaeum

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

- ❖ World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life: February 5, 2017
- ❖ National Catholic Sisters Week: March 5-11, 2017 (part of Women's History Month)
- ❖ Marian Dinner (St. Francis de Sales, Lebanon): Wednesday, April 26, 2017
- ❖ Diaconate Ordination (Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains): Saturday, April 29, 2017
- ❖ Religious Brothers Day: May 1, 2017
- ❖ World Day of Prayer for Vocations: May 7, 2017
- ❖ Priesthood Ordination: Saturday, May 20, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES

CHANCERY OFFICE

OCTOBER COUNT 2016

There are still several parishes that have not returned their October Count. Please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

MAJOR COLLECTION DATES 2017 - 2020

The listing for the special collection dates and major feasts for the years 2017 – 2020 is now posted on the Chancery Office website at http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/collection_dates_major_feasts17_20.pdf.

ARCHIVES

SACRAMENTAL REGISTERS RETURNED

The sacramental registers from all eleven deaneries have been returned by the vendor to the parish of drop off and are ready to be picked up by the parishes, if they have not been picked up already. Thank you very much for your patience and cooperation in this important project.

THE CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH

The Catholic Telegraph is asking that anyone with a submission, regular column or story idea for the following month's edition, please notify our news/assignment editor, Sister Eileen Connelly OSU, (econnelly@catholiccincinnati.org) a month in advance of your target month. To the point: If you would like to see your news in the February edition, please get it to us no later than January 1. Sister Eileen will then assign you a due date for the finished item if you are making a submission. If you are asking for something to be covered, she will contact you with our coverage plan.

Items for the website can be submitted at any time to New Media Editor Greg Hartman (ghartman@catholiccincinnati.org). Thanks for your cooperation.

COMMUNICATIONS

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Remember, our online parish directory needs help in keeping the listings current. Please go to www.CatholicCincinnati.org and check out your parish in the directory by clicking on the three horizontal lines at the top right of the home page, and then "Find a Parish." If you see any mistakes, outdated information or even what appear to be software errors, please send an e-mail to Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org with the subject line DIRECTORY.

OFFICE OF THE DIACONATE

THANK YOU FOR THE GRACIOUS WELCOME – DEACON MARK MACHUGA

Since beginning my new appointment as Director of the Office of the Diaconate, I have been warmly welcomed into the position by many throughout the Archdiocese. Thank you to all of you. I am humbled and grateful to be selected as the Director by Archbishop Schnurr. It is with great enthusiasm that I place myself at the service of the Archbishop, and all of the priests, deacons, parish staff and laity of the Archdiocese. It has been wonderful to meet so many deacons already. I look forward to continuing to meet all deacons throughout the Archdiocese. Please feel free to contact me at mmachuga@catholiccincinnati.org or by phone at 513.421.3131 x2641.

DEACON CLASS OF 2019

The Permanent Deacon Class of 2019 has begun formation at the Athenaeum of Ohio. Twenty-one men from throughout the Archdiocese began their studies in the Fall Semester. On Sunday, November 20, these men were accepted into Candidacy by Bishop Binzer during the Rite of

Candidacy at the Athenaeum. Please keep these men and their families in your prayers as they continue their discernment throughout the next three years.

SENIOR STATUS

Deacons Charles Jenkins, Thomas Lynd and Lawrence Maag have petitioned Archbishop Schnurr for Senior Status. All three have asked to have Senior Status deferred so that they may continue in active ministry in their respective parishes. The Archbishop deferred Senior Status to all three deacons. Thank you, Deacon Jenkins, Deacon Lynd and Deacon Maag for your service to God and his Church.

IN MEMORIAM

On November 2, 2016 (All Souls Day), Deacon Johannes (Hans) Schade succumbed to his years-long battle with cancer. Hans was ordained to the permanent diaconate just seven months ago, on April 30, 2016 by Archbishop Schnurr. In his short time as an ordained deacon, he ministered in great joy to the people of St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish in Liberty Township. His Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, November 7, and was attended by over 20 deacons as well as 11 priests. Please keep the repose of the soul of Deacon Hans in your prayers, as well as comfort and peace for his wife, Dory, and their family.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

This collection takes place on the second weekend of December. This year it is on December 10-11. If you are looking for resources to help you speak to the need, go to www.retiredreligious.org. Seventeen billboards began appearing around the Greater Cincinnati area the week of November 7 and will remain up through the weekend of the collection. The 30-second TV Spot and a three-minute video about this collection can be found at: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/religious/rfr/>. For assistance, call Sister Marilyn Kerber, SNDdeN at 513.421.3131x2865 or mkerber@catholiccincinnati.org. Thank you in advance for your support of this collection.

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BACKGROUND CHECK / CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

All “clergy,” “employees” and “regular volunteers” as defined in the July 1, 2013 *Decree on Child Protection (Decree)* must receive an acceptable background check, and must attend a VIRTUS® Child Awareness Session on the *Decree* before they can have contact with children.

All new employees must complete both manual and an electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM® at time of employment with no further requirement for a manual fingerprint completed in the future. This was effective March 1, 2015. Current employees must sign up for an electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM® within five years of their last manual fingerprinting or December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. This requirement was effective January 1, 2014. **Remember:** Manual fingerprints are completed once and not

required again for Youth Protection purposes. The electronic check is completed once and it is done.

Important note: The State of Ohio has additional requirements for selected occupations which are not addressed by the *Decree*. Individuals should contact the Schools Office for assistance.

All new regular volunteers must complete an electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM®. Current regular volunteers must sign up for electronic background checks through SELECTiON.COM® within five years of their last manual fingerprinting or December 31, 2018, whichever is sooner. This requirement was effective January 1, 2014. **Remember:** The electronic check is completed once and it is done.

All clergy and employees who have contact with youth must have a B.4 Form completed, submitted to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and approved prior to having contact with youth.

All clergy, employees and regular volunteers must stay current (less than three behind) on the monthly VIRTUS bulletins. This requirement was effective July 1, 2014.

VIRTUS® ACCOUNTS CLEANUP

The electronic background check through SELECTiON.COM® became mandatory on January 1, 2014. Individuals who had manual fingerprints (BCI or FBI) completed in 2012 are required to complete the electronic check in 2017. Individuals who had manual fingerprints completed in 2013 are required to complete the electronic check in 2018.

The Safe Environment Office will be identifying individuals who are **significantly out of compliance** and will be inactivating their accounts on the following schedule.

January 2017 – inactivating any individual who has manual fingerprints (BCI or FBI) completed before 6/31/11 and not completed an electronic background check.

February 2017 – We will start inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed January – June 2014 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com.

March 2017 – inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed July – December 2014 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com.

April 2017 – inactivating anyone who had manual fingerprints completed January – June 2015 and did not complete an electronic check through Selection.com.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

401(K) MAILING TO ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

A mailing went to all 401(k) eligible employees at the beginning of December entitled “*Summary of Important Provisions.*” This is an annual mailing that is sent out to all participants outlining any changes to the Plan or any fee changes. Please encourage eligible employees to review their 401(k) accounts on a regular basis. Retirement planning is so important. The Plan

website is <https://53.retirementpartner.com/login.do> or contact Fifth Third Participant Services line at 866.258.4777. If there are any questions on the mailing, contact Charlotte Carpenter 513.421.3131x2852.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

In light of the Presidential election results and the potential uncertainty surrounding the viability of the DOL Final Overtime Rule, we are recommending that parishes maintain the status quo regarding FLSA classification (i.e., exempt or non-exempt) for the following positions:

- Director and/or Coordinator of Religious Education
- Director and/or Coordinator of Youth Ministry

The reasoning behind this recommendation for the above positions is the potential application of the ministerial exception identified in the Hosanna-Tabor case, as well as, in some cases, the potential application of the teacher exemption found in the FLSA regulations.

Please contact Rob Reid at 513.421.3131x6611, rreid@catholiccincinnati.org or Meg Paul at 513. 421.3131x2841, mpaul@catholiccincinnati.org in the Department of Human Resources if you have any questions.

FEDERAL & STATE POSTER

All locations, regardless of size, are required to post the Federal & State Poster. In the past it was communicated to parishes that since the Archdiocese of Cincinnati displayed the poster this requirement covered all locations. This is not the case. 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. You can access them online at <http://www.allinoneposters.com/Ohio-Federal-Combo-English.html> or call 1.800.273.0307. The cost is \$19.95.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Just a reminder that the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements are due by December 1, 2016. Each year responsible individuals who hold decision making or policy setting positions or who purchase equipment, supplies or other goods, must sign the form. The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement can be downloaded at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Conflict-of-Interest-Disclosure-Statement.pdf>. As in the past, only Disclosure Statements that have potential conflicts of interest listed must be sent to the Director of Human Resources. All other 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 at 513.421.3131x6611.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES

TUITION ASSISTANCE

The initial availability of tuition assistance flowing from the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign through the Catholic Education Foundation will begin with the school year 2017-2018. Schools will begin actively recruiting and enrolling students in late January 2017, surrounding the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Applications for tuition assistance will be gathered beginning in December 2016 so that families will learn of assistance that may be available when they visit the schools. Communication and direction about the programs and procedures are included in the Bulletin Announcement section for inclusion in your parish bulletins beginning as early as December 1, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: If you are looking for the Worship Office website on the AOC front page, we are now listed under “Divine Worship and Sacraments.”

THE REVISED ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

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VATICAN INSTRUCTION ON CREMATION

In late October the Vatican released a new instruction on cremation, <https://fdlc.org/content/rise-christ-proper-practices-burial-cremated-remains>. For the most part, this recent statement is a reiteration of the Vatican’s 1997 directives when the United States Catholic Church received an indult that allows for cremated remains to be present at the Funeral Mass. The new Vatican instruction reminds Catholics of the dignity of the body and the preference for burial of the body as the first option. It states, “By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body...” (3). Thus, the directive on **burial** of cremated remains is highlighted in both the 1997 indult and the current Vatican instruction. Burial of the cremated remains is to take place immediately following the funeral liturgy or shortly thereafter. The Church reiterated that cremated remains may *not* be kept in the home or sprinkled in a garden or at sea. The instruction provides very cogent reasons for this directive and will prove helpful when explaining this to the faithful. It is worth reading the entire instruction. A Catholic News Service article may be helpful, as well. Go to: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-explains-that-cremated-bodies-may-not-be-scattered-44196/> Finally, the ODWS has a very helpful brochure on cremation that you

may want to provide to your congregation or bereaved families. To review it, go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/publications-for-order/the-church-and-cremation/>.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

An Advent Communal Reconciliation Service is available on the ODWS website. Go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Advent-Christmas-Preparation-Aid-2016-for-Cycle-A.pdf>.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8 will fall on a Thursday this year and is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States.

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will take place on the **First Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2017**. The reservation and information forms for the Rite of Election will be posted on the ODWS and RCIA websites on Friday, January 6. The reservation forms will be due no later than Friday, February 3. Please remember that seating is on a first come, first serve basis.

LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

The date will be the **Tuesday after the Second Sunday of Lent, March 14, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

TRIDUUM WORKSHOP: Preparing Three Great Days will take place on January 20 and 21, 2017 (snow dates of January 27 and 28). Watch the Office of Divine Worship and Sacraments website for more information.

LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI: This popular workshop will take place every Monday in March (6, 13, 20, 27) from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church in Hyde Park. For more information, please visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Lex-Orandi-St.-Mary-Hyde-Park-2017-Flyer.pdf>.

ANNUAL LITURGICAL NOTES CALENDAR

The liturgical notes calendar is posted on the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments' website. Please go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Liturgical-Calendar-notes-2017.pdf>.

AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE: A WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE FOR COUPLES

This new Archdiocese of Cincinnati publication is now available. To order this or other publications, please visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/publications-for-order/>.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE WORSHIP OFFICE E-NEWS?

If you have not signed up for the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments' newsletter, you can do so by going to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/join-our-email-newsletter/>.

OFFICE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

BROCHURES AVAILABLE TO HELP COMBAT THE PLAGUE OF PORNOGRAPHY

New from the USCCB!! The USCCB has published five new brochures in the "Create in Me a Clean Heart" series. These brochures are intended not only for those struggling with a pornography addiction, but also spouses, parents, priests and all who minister to families. Topics include:

- The role of priests in ministering to those struggling with a pornography addiction
- Help for parents seeking to raise chaste children in a pornographic world
- Hope for married couples when a spouse is struggling with pornography
- Healing from a pornography addiction

These new brochures can be ordered at: <http://store.usccb.org/Create-In-Me-A-Clean-Heart-Series-s/2199.htm>.

DO YOU HAVE PARISHIONERS LOOKING FOR A CATHOLIC COUNSELOR?

Catholic Therapists.com www.catholictherapists.com is a private independent resource provided to help those seeking counseling find a local qualified therapist of the Catholic faith. You may also wish to encourage counselors in your parish to list their practice on the www.catholictherapists.com website.

2017 ARCHDIOCESAN PRE-CANA DAY

Please note that there will be a few small changes to the Archdiocesan Pre-Cana day beginning in January for all locations (Cincinnati, Dayton, and Sidney). The changes are as follows:

1. We hope to have a priest give a talk on an understanding of the wedding vows followed by a warm invitation to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the lunch period. This is similar to what occurs in the Diocese of Columbus where it is not unusual for the Confession line to last over an hour at Pre-Cana. Please contact the Office for Marriage & Family Life if you are available to assist with confessions during the lunch period.
2. Following a brief general introduction to Natural Family Planning (NFP), there will be an optional breakout session in the afternoon which will cover Class 1 of the Couple to Couple League's (CCL) three-part NFP class series. Couples choosing this breakout will receive CCL's Natural Family Planning books and materials at no additional cost. They will be encouraged to register for and complete CCL classes 2 and 3 on their own. You may consider asking engaged couples to attend this afternoon NFP breakout session.

OFFICE FOR MISSION AND PONTIFICAL SOCIETIES

THANKS FOR MAILING IN MISSION SUNDAY AND MISSIONARY CO-OPERATION PLAN (MCP) COLLECTIONS

The Mission Office is grateful to all parishes that have already sent in their Mission Sunday donations and those from Mission Co-operation Plan (MCP). We also thank those parishes who have reviewed their records to find donations that had not been mailed to our office. If your parish has not, please do so and mail them **DIRECTLY** and **addressed** to the Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202 as they need to be properly recorded in the Mission Office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith.

Also, as a very important reminder, the Missionary Cooperation Plan begins each year in January, so please be sure your donation is in from this year to keep the confusion of recipient to a minimal. Questions? Call Melonise Knight at 513.421.3131x2631.

PLANNING FOR LENT?

Following are some suggestions on how to promote Evangelization & Mission in your RCIA, School, and Religious Education:

- Invite the Mission Office to speak about lay mission opportunities, short or long term in the U.S. or overseas. Pray for our missionaries and mission vocations with the **World Mission Rosary**. They are available at the Mission Office with prayer guides. Let us introduce them to your school or adults.
- Collect sacrifices, prayers, and funds for the Holy Father's **Missionary Childhood Association** and have your students become more aware of children in our mission dioceses needing schools, clinics and orphanages. Our office has educational material resources for you. Call Teresa Phillips at 513.421.3131x2632.
- **Invite a returned missionary or Catholics of various cultures** like Vietnamese, Ugandans, Mexicans, Filipinos, etc. to share their inspiring insights about their heroes/saints, their Lenten customs, their love for Mary, Jesus and the Church. Examples are: Teachers like AnhVu are back from Vietnam and Kathy Kremer is returned from Cambodia ready to speak and inspire your school or adults programs about their mission work.
- Invite the Mission Office or other parishes to speak to your parish council about parish twinning. Sisters of Divine Providence in Kentucky, Franciscans in the Southwest U.S., and parishes in Central America, Africa and Asia are open to twinning partners.

For more information on any of these possibilities, contact Teresa Phillips at 513.421.3131x2631 or Mike Gable at 513.421.3131x2630 at the Mission Office or email mission@catholiccincinnati.org.

HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER 2016 MISSIONARY INTENTIONS

Universal: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization: That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

OFFICE FOR RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES

MARCH FOR LIFE – DEADLINE FOR FEES IS DECEMBER 5

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Adult Only Buses for the March for Life will leave on Thursday morning, January 26, 2017 and return on Saturday evening January 28. Registration and fees for the trip are due December 5, 2016. For more information go to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/life-issues/abortion/march-for-life-3/> or call Colleen Gerke at 513.421.3131x2624.

The deadline for registration and fees for Archdiocese of Cincinnati Youth Buses are also due December 5, 2016. For more information go to <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/life-issues/abortion/march-for-life-3/> or call Colleen Gerke at 513.421.3131x2624.

AMORIS LAETITIA: THE PASTORAL RESPONSE IN ACCOMPANYING FAMILIES IN FAITH

If you have not already signed up for these webinars, the first two series were excellent. It is not too late to join in the last two.

- Theme 3 (November 6 - December 7): Assisting Families in Discerning God's Movement, presented by Julianne Stanz, Director of New Evangelization, Diocese of Green Bay
- Theme 4 (January 8 - January 25): Engaging for Mission, presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington

Register for each panel at: www.strongcatholicfamilies.org/amoriswebinar/. This Strong Catholic Families Webinar Series is presented in partnership by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

PROJECT RACHEL – DATES FOR 2017

- Support Group – 8 weeks - Cincinnati - Tuesdays in January – February
- Day of Reflection (anyone suffering loss from abortion) – Cincinnati – Saturday, February 25
- Retreat for Women (who are post-abortive) – Dayton – March 24-26, 2017

Please call the Office for Respect Life Ministries for details at 513.421.3131x 2624.

OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

THE AMAZING PARISH CONFERENCE

MARCH 13-15, 2017 | ATLANTA, GEORGIA

You Can Bring More People to Christ and His Church!

I know that you are dedicated to building a robust parish life that helps people grow in their faith, so I want to share with you an incredible opportunity. The mission of Amazing Parish is to support pastors and their parish leadership teams as they strive to live Christ's great commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations." This spring they are inviting pastors and their leadership teams to focus on a clear vision for parish leadership and gain the tools they need to implement it. Learn from business and Church leaders such as Matthew Kelly, Jeff Cavins, Curtis Martin, and Patrick Lencioni how to lead your parish in a way that will bring more souls to Christ! In addition, Amazing Parish is offering every priest and parish leader a free e-copy of New York Times best-selling author Patrick Lencioni's book *The Better Pastor*, a fable that tells the story of one priest who recognized the obstacles his parish leadership was facing and how he overcame them.

Members of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Central Offices plan to attend this conference in March. We would like to invite Parish Teams to join us! Fr. Jan Schmidt, Director of Pastoral Life and Evangelization, has attended this conference in the past and would be happy to answer any questions. For your convenience, a flyer for the event is included with this mailing. Register at <http://amazingparish.org/>.

ENCOUNTER DAYTON | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016

All high-school youth are invited to attend Encounter Dayton taking place at Chaminade Julianne High School (505 S. Ludlow Ave. Dayton OH 45402) on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

7:00 p.m. - Doors open for Encounter at Chaminade Julianne High School

7:15 p.m. - Music/Event Begins

8:00 p.m. - Keynote by Megan Deaton, and Adoration

(Confession and Prayer Ministry available)

9:30 p.m. - Small Groups

10:00 p.m. - Dismissal

Encounter gathers teens from parishes and schools from across the Dayton area (and beyond) for an evening of worship, dynamic talks, Eucharistic Adoration, the opportunity for confession, and fellowship. For more information about Encounter, please visit www.encounterd Dayton.org or contact Luke Carey at lcarey@catholiccincinnati.org.

SCHOOL OF FAITH: BUILD CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP AT YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Lifelong education and formation in missionary discipleship is very important for our Catholic School teachers. These individuals are ministers of the faith, or catechists, and "The call to the ministry of the catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. (NDC 54.8)."

It is for this reason that Archbishop Schnurr has endorsed the School of Faith and invited them to minister in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. School of Faith is a program of adult catechesis designed to provide doctrinal and spiritual formation for Catholic school teachers, administrators, spiritual mentors and individuals. Its purpose is to lay the theological foundation upon which an authentic Catholic culture can be developed. It is comprehensive in its content, but always with the goal of explaining the faith in a simple and engaging way.

The mission of School of Faith will be to provide ongoing doctrinal and spiritual formation for Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati through catechetical programs that stress the call to prayer, virtue, and holiness of life. This formation not only benefits the teachers themselves, but also equips them to build a solid Catholic environment in our Catholic schools.

The School of Faith is currently ministering in the following schools:

- St. Ignatius Loyola
- St. James, White Oak
- St. Andrew/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Purcell Marian High School
- St. Jude
- Our Lady of the Visitation

For more information on the School of Faith, go to www.schooloffaith.com or contact John Leyendecker at john@schooloffaith.com.

ARE YOU READY TO BUILD A CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC PARISH?

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office for the New Evangelization, in partnership with the Evangelical Catholic, is offering a unique service to parishes committed to becoming completely mission-oriented.

Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance

A Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance is a partnership between the parish and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office of the New Evangelization. With the help of the Evangelical Catholic, we will mentor you to be equipped to implement a strategic process of evangelization.

What makes the Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance Different?

- This is not about implementing a new program, or giving you a plug and play manual for evangelization. This is about equipping parish leadership with the vision, the skills, and the motivation to create a culture for evangelization.
- We are not offering an easy solution or easy answers. Successful Parish Alliances will find themselves hard at work! This will change the way your staff works and how you use parish resources. We promise that it will get messy because evangelization is messy.
- A Parish Alliance is a major investment of time and resources from the Office of the New Evangelization. Instead of trying to do everything for everybody we have made a strategic decision to work very hard with a few parishes at a time. In the long run, we know that this will be the best use of our time.

What will this cost us?

The cost for the Parish Alliance is being paid through the annual Catholic Ministries Appeal and is therefore free to parishes. A Parish Alliance will require a significant commitment of time, energy, and personnel. We can only work with a select number of parishes at this time, so it will be very important that parishes are prepared and informed.

Who else is doing this?

1. St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Liberty Township
2. Our Lady of Grace Parish, Dayton
3. Queen of Martyrs Parish, Dayton
4. Coldwater Cluster Parishes, Coldwater
5. St. Cecilia Parish, Cincinnati

If you are interested, please contact Sean Ater at sater@catholiccincinnati.org. For more information go to www.contagiouslycatholic.com/evangelization-training/parish-alliance/.

FOCUS SHARE

Within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Archbishop Schnurr has granted permission for FOCUS Share – a parish-based evangelization effort connected with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). The goal of FOCUS Share is to offer a message of hope and tell the story of missionary activity with the Catholic faithful – stories of conversions, vocations, and the ways in which the Holy Spirit is changing the lives of young men and women on campuses across the United States. **There is no financial request or second collection;** instead, the FOCUS priest comes to share good news, gather prayer intentions, and offer free evangelization resources.

Please consider inviting FOCUS to your parish for a weekend of your choice – they will send a Roman Catholic priest in good standing to cover Masses and Confessions and will handle all visit logistics and paperwork within the archdiocese. If you need to take a weekend away or would like to bring this program to your parish, please contact Sarah Harris who is available to answer questions and assist in scheduling at sarah.harris@focus.org or 303.630.1888, or visit www.focus.org/share.

St. John Paul II charges us to “never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged.” Join us as we embrace his charge and as we **spread a message of hope**.

Watch the FOCUS Share video including a local priest who has participated in FOCUS Share <https://youtu.be/DktqK4hx1Eo>.

NEW EVANGELIZATION REFLECTION

The New Evangelization has been described as being new in ardor, new in methods, and new in expression. Consider having Sean Ater facilitate a conversation with your parish leaders on how your parish will respond to the call for a new evangelization. The format of this reflection is flexible but will lead participants to consider new methods and expressions for evangelization.

The goal of this reflection is to inspire a new ardor for evangelization for those in parish ministry. This reflection would be appropriate for parish staff, Pastoral Council, Evangelization Committees, or other key parish leaders. Contact Sean Ater at sater@catholiccincinnati.org.

WEB RESOURCES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

www.ContagiouslyCatholic.com This webpage will offer ways for pastors, parish leadership, and parishioners to become informed and equipped as Missionary Disciples. The site will highlight resources, workshops, blogs, and events sponsored by the Office of the New Evangelization and partner offices and organizations working to build a culture of witness in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

www.Stirintoflame.org This is an outreach webpage sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and managed jointly by the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis and the Office of the New Evangelization. This webpage is a resource for reaching those who are curious about the Catholic faith or are open to growing in their Catholic faith.

OFFICE FOR YOUNG ADULT EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP OFFICE FOR YOUTH EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Important: There is far more information on youth and young adult opportunities on our website than we are able to include here. Visit our websites:

- Young Adult Ministry: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/young-adult/>
- Youth Ministry: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry>

FOR YOUR SPRING CALENDAR:

2017 YOUTH MINISTERS RETREAT WITH FR. NATHAN CROMLY

Fr. Nathan Cromly is an extraordinarily gifted preacher and retreat master and founder of Eagle Eye Ministries. He will be leading a retreat for youth ministry leaders from **Monday evening March 6 through Tuesday afternoon March 7, 2017**, at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood. Commuters and those desiring overnight accommodations are welcome. Please plan on attending! Mark your calendars now, with more details on the way. To learn more about Fr. Nathan and Eagle Eye Ministries, visit: <http://www.eagleeyeministries.org/>.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHWESTERN OHIO

CAREGIVER RESOURCE GROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have had past caregiving experience or are a retired professional, the Caregiver Assistance Network, a program of Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio, needs you! Caregiver Resource Groups meet once a month for an hour and a half in Hamilton, Clermont, Butler, and Warren Counties. Training is provided and the time commitment is about three to four hours per month. If you have a listening ear and would like to help those who need support and compassion, call Angie Homoele at 513.672.3834 or visit www.ccswoh.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer.

SEWING CLASS ITEMS NEEDED

Catholic Charities Refugee Program has restarted their sewing class. They are in need of the following items: left handed dress shears, a cart for moving around sewing machines, extension cords, ironing board and iron with steam. Sewing machines will be given as rewards at the completion of the classes. If you would like to make a donation, please drop off items at 7162 Reading Rd., 6th floor. For questions contact Rachel Weirs at 513.672.3749 or rwiers@ccswoh.org.

CAREGIVER RESOURCE FEATURE PRESENTATION

Everything But the House - presented by Beverly Spoonamore on Sunday, December 4, 2016 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EBTH will talk to caregivers about downsizing and how they can help with this overwhelming process. EBTH is an online estate sales company. Sellers do not need to know how to use a computer. Location of presentation: 703 Compton Road Cincinnati, OH 45231.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

ANNUAL FAIR TRADE SALE: DECEMBER 3!

Colorful nativity scenes celebrating the Holy Family along with flowing scarves, intricately designed jewelry, innovative home décor and gourmet food are waiting to become gifts for your family and friends. Make your selections at the Fair Trade and International Artisan Sale Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the University of Dayton's River Campus, 1700 S. Patterson Blvd., across from the Historic Carillon Park. Shoppers can also browse the booths of parish, religious groups and other organizations supporting missions and development efforts and people who have resettled in the Dayton area. Throughout the day lively music gives shoppers an opportunity to watch performers share traditional dances from cultures around the world. Weavers of Justice, a collaborative of Dayton area parishes, coordinates the sale through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Catholic Social Action Office. For more information, contact the Catholic Social Action Office at csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org or 937.224.3026.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE MASSES: JANUARY 1, 2017

The Archdiocese will again celebrate two Masses on the Solemnity of Mary in commemoration of the World Day of Peace on New Year's Day. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will preside at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains at 11:00 a.m.; and Bishop Joseph Binzer will preside at St. Christopher Church (435 E. National Road, Vandalia) at 11:00 a.m. The theme designated by the Holy Father for this upcoming World Day of Peace is "Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace." Join us for this much-needed opportunity to pray for life, dignity, creation and peace in our world!

COMMEMORATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION THROUGH STUDY, PRAYER AND SERVICE

On October 31, Pope Francis celebrated a joint liturgy with the Lutheran World Federation in Lund, Sweden to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Why would Catholics want to recognize such an occasion? Among many other answers, it is because we are all on the journey towards unity in Jesus Christ, and both faith communities don't want to lose sight of this

ultimate goal. It's important to understand what differences remain, while at the same time our success in overcoming several key, theological areas of disagreement since the Reformation is worthy of celebration. Furthermore, in an increasingly secularized culture and a divided world, we can be stronger together than apart in evangelizing our shared faith in the Gospel. (As Saint John XXIII exclaimed, "More unites us than divides us.")

To these ends, Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton (Steubenville Diocese) and Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunty (Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) released a "Joint Statement to Encourage Study, Prayer and Service in Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation." In it, they state:

Remarkably this commemoration has become an ecumenical observance, focusing on the continued pursuit of unity in Jesus Christ for which He himself prayed... It will involve moments of thanksgiving, repentance, and commitment, placing at the center the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Activities of study, prayer and service will be taking place throughout the Archdiocese between now and October 31, 2017. Among them, we encourage parishes to utilize and look out for:

- Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2017: The theme for the week will focus on the anniversary, and it is appropriately titled, "Reconciliation - The Love of Christ Compels Us." Please visit the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interfaith Institute (a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement) for prayer and worship materials, educational resources, and so much more. Go to: www.geii.org.
- Catholic-Lutheran Study Groups, anytime from January 18 to Oct. 31, 2017: During the Commemoration Year, we are encouraging Catholic and Lutheran churches to form small, joint study groups (7-12 participants each) to explore the foundations and experiences of each other's faith. The main document being used will be *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017*, released by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation. Such study groups can serve as a meaningful Lenten activity!
- Other resources and activities in development include a speaker's bureau, traveling historic exhibit, joint prayer services and social ministry opportunities. Stay tuned!

We encourage Catholic parishes to consider reaching out to nearby ELCA Lutheran congregations now to explore forming study groups. By January 1, the Catholic Social Action Office and Commission will share recommended study materials for these groups. Maps will also be available that can help facilitate Catholic-Lutheran church pairings. Please stay tuned for these resources, or contact us at any time for more information at csa@catholiccincinnati.org; 513.421.3131x2660 in Cincinnati, or csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org; 937.224.3026 in Dayton. Also, visit <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/ecumenical-and-interfaith-relations/> to download the Archbishop's full statement and related items.

U.S. CATHOLIC NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK: JANUARY 8 -14, 2017

“Creating a Culture of Encounter” - For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis’ call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: “For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.”

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious of their intentions. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support.

To access resource to promote this important week, visit: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/index.cfm>.

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

CMA STATISTICS & PARISH PROGRESS

Totals for this year’s CMA, including parish progress, continue to be available at www.CatholicAppeal.info under the “Info for Parish Staff” link – **the password to access this section is: cma2007.**

2017 CMA – REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Regional Training Workshops for the 2017 CMA will be taking place in late November / early December. These workshops are for pastors, parish staff, CMA chairs, and anyone helping with the CMA. Each workshop is identical to the others. Dates, times, and locations are listed below:

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 (*Dayton & Northern Area*)

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00a.m. St. Peter Parish, Huber Heights
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Holy Redeemer Parish, New Bremen

Thursday, December 1, 2016 (*Cincinnati Area*)

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Athenaeum of Ohio/Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary
Bartlett Pastoral Center
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. St. Ignatius Parish

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 (*Cincinnati/Middletown/Dayton Area*)

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Monroe

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2017 CMA – KEY APPEAL WEEKENDS

Announcement Weekend – January 21-22, 2017

Commitment Weekend – February 4-5, 2017

Please Note: There will be a weekend in between Announcement and Commitment Weekends to allow for Catholic Schools Week celebrations in parishes, which begin on Sunday, January 29, 2017. CMA materials and resources will be arriving at parishes in mid-December. All resources and information will also be available at www.CatholicAppeal.info. For more information or for questions, contact David Kissell at 513.421.3131x2881 or email david@CatholicAppeal.info.

MISCELLANEOUS

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS AT THE ATHENAEUM

Advent Lessons and Carols will be held on **Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati 45230. This inspiring annual service, on the eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, includes the reading of seven scripture Lessons with Advent Carols and Marian hymns sung by the **Athenaeum Chorale and the Mount St. Mary's Seminary Schola**. All are welcome and admission is free. Standing-room-only audiences are anticipated so guests are encouraged to arrive early. Doors to the chapel open at 7:00 p.m.

THE ATHENAEUM OF OHIO 50%-OFF TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FOR ALL LAY STUDENTS CONTINUES SPRING SEMESTER

Registration for the Athenaeum of Ohio spring semester opened on November 2, 2016, with classes beginning January 9, 2017. During the spring semester, we will continue the 50%-off tuition scholarship for all lay students as part of the *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign commitment. We offer daytime, evening and Saturday classes with graduate and non-degree options. Graduate programs in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Biblical Studies and Catholic Studies are available at the main campus in Mt. Washington (Cincinnati) and the Non-degreed Certificate option is offered in Montfort Heights and Dayton in addition to the main campus. Take one class or begin a degree program. All classes are designed for busy adults with an outstanding faculty, supportive staff and flexible components. The Tribunal Training course for those preparing to serve as procurator advocates will be offered on the main campus beginning in April. Registration for that course also began on November 2. Call Dr. Susan McGurgan (LPMP Director) at 513.231.1200 or Fr. David Endres (Academic Dean) at 513.231.2223 for more information or go to our web site, www.athenaeum.edu.

Please submit articles for the January *Clergy Communications* by December 16, 2016.
Thank You.

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**.

Website: www.CatholicCincinnati.org Email: Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT SHEET

MINISTRY TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (REPORTING) - The Archdiocese of Cincinnati regards child abuse in all its forms as a serious matter. If you are or have been abused by an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese, or are aware of abuse currently taking place, please contact Ms. Cherie Groman, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse, at 513.263.6623, or 1.800.686.2724x6623. **This is a confidential, dedicated line to accept calls related to child abuse by employees or volunteers.** In addition, be sure to notify the survivor's secular legal authorities.

REPORTING FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT - In a spirit of good stewardship, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has instituted a financial misconduct hotline to allow employees, volunteers, vendors and other interested parties to report what they believe to be financial misconduct at any level – parish, deanery or Archdiocese. As an additional safeguard, the hotline is administered by an independent third-party company, EthicsPoint. You may report a concern on this hotline either by calling one of EthicsPoint's trained specialists at 1.888.389.0381 or by visiting the website www.ethicspoint.com. There is also a link on the Archdiocesan website, www.CatholicCincinnati.org, under Ministries and Offices > Finance Office > "To Report Financial Misconduct." (on menu on left-hand side of page) > "File a Report" (at top of page).

DECEMBER 4-8: DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT - Join us for this online discernment retreat as it fits in your schedule from wherever you are! Contact Sister Virginia Ann Brooks, D.C., at sistervirginiaann.brooks@doc.org or 812.963.7559. Visit our website www.daughters-of-charity.com/retreats.

DECEMBER 7: ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS - Join the Athenaeum Corale (which includes the voices of several of our seminarians) as they lead an evening of scripture and song. The evening is free to attend and begins at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Gregory the Great Chapel.

DECEMBER 8: MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR CONSECRATED VOCATIONS - CHOSEN: Monthly Holy Hour for those discerning a vocation or praying for vocations – December 8, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, OH. Sponsored by the Archdiocese Vocation Office and the Children of Mary. This event will take place every second Thursday of the month. Come and bring a friend!

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 13: WINTER DISCERNMENT PROGRAM WITH LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST - The Legionaries of Christ offer a two-week discernment program for all men who are considering a priestly vocation as a Legionary of Christ. To get more information about this free program (\$100 suggested donation, but not necessary for entrance to the program), visit www.legionvocations.org or contact Fr. John Curran, LC at jcurran@legionaries.org or 203.530.6908.

DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 2: TEST YOUR CALL RETREAT - The Legionaries offer a four-day retreat for all men discerning a priestly vocation. During this four-day retreat men will have the opportunity to learn more clearly how to discern their vocation and will have plenty of

time for prayer and talking with other seeking a similar path. All interested men are asked to contact Fr. John Curran, LC at jcurran@legionaries.org or 203.530.6908.

DECEMBER 30 - JANUARY 2: CHRISTMAS GAMES AT SACRED HEART APOSTOLIC SCHOOL - This high school seminary program hosts a yearly opportunity for young men and their dads to join in three days of fun and prayer as they learn more about the Apostolic school and explore their vocations. For more information or to register, contact Fr. Ronald Conklin at rconklin@legionaries.org or 219.575.0567.

JANUARY 2-9: SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT WITH REGNUM CHRISTI - Regnum Christi, a community of lay consecrated women, is hosting a week-long prayer opportunity on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius for all women exploring a call to consecrated life. This retreat will take place in Oxford, OH. For more details contact Adrienne Rowles at arowles@regnumchristi.net.

JANUARY 12-16: VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN WITH REGNUM CHRISTI - Regnum Christi, a community of lay consecrated women is hosting in Atlanta, GA a five-day discernment retreat for women discerning a call to consecrated life. For more details contact Adrienne Rowles at arowles@regnumchristi.net.

JANUARY 15: HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS AT THE ATHENAEUM - The Athenaeum of Ohio and the seminarians of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West will be hosting a holy hour for vocations on Sunday, January 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to join in prayer in the St. Gregory the Great chapel.

JANUARY 20: VIGIL PRAISE - Once again, the Athenaeum is hosting Vigil Praise, an opportunity for people of all ages, including families, to come together for Eucharistic Adoration and fellowship. The evening is free and begins at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Gregory the Great chapel.

TUITION ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PARISH BULLETIN -



The One Faith, One Hope, One Love campaign designated a significant portion of the funds raised to help families with Catholic school tuition assistance. The tuition assistance awards will begin with the 2017-2018 school year. Applications will be accepted beginning in December 2016. Visit www.CatholicBestChoice.org for more information.



ANNUAL FAIR TRADE SALE: DECEMBER 3 - Colorful nativity scenes celebrating the Holy Family along with flowing scarves, intricately designed jewelry, innovative home décor and gourmet food are waiting to become gifts for your family and friends. Make your selections at the Fair Trade and International Artisan Sale Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the University of Dayton's River Campus, 1700 S. Patterson Blvd., across from the Historic Carillon Park. Shoppers can also browse the booths of parish, religious groups and other organizations supporting missions and development efforts and people who have resettled

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CARE FOR CREATION SAMPLE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Archdiocese Climate Change Task Force is providing sample bulletin announcements once a month that include a sample prayer/reflection, quote from the Holy See, and energy-saving/care for creation tip. Please feel free to use these as appropriate.

Prayer/Reflection: Most generous, most merciful God, help us to model our lives in your love and bounty to the benefit of others. Open our eyes to the needs of the brothers and sisters who are struggling with life issues. Bless us in our endeavors, we pray.

Quote from the Holy See (as we end the Jubilee Year of Mercy): "Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven." - Pope Francis @Pontifex, June 2013

Care for Creation Tip: Winter offers a time to reflect on endings and even death...our own, our loved ones. In caring for the earth and in wanting to give one last gift to those left behind, we might consider a green burial. There are many options: Direct placement in the ground using a willow basket and a shroud; cremation with a biodegradable urn; embalming with eco-friendly fluids; using coffins constructed of wood. All these options have been approved by the Archdiocese. If you would like to learn more about these options, or other options, visit the Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society at www.cccsohio.org.