



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

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

### CHRISTMAS MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL – TIME CHANGE

Midnight Mass has been changed to Mass During the Night at **10:00 p.m.** on Sunday, December 24 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will preside. Carols will be sung by the Cathedral's choir beginning at 9:30 p.m. Other Cathedral Christmas Mass times remain unchanged: Christmas Vigil Masses – December 24 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Bishop Joseph Binzer presiding at 5:00 p.m.); Christmas Day Masses – December 25 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. **Please utilize the bulletin announcement provided on page 18.**

### *PRIESTLY FORMATION OFFICE*

### ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION FOR PRIESTS

The Advent Day of Reflection for Priests has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton, Ohio. We are pleased to have Fr. Anthony Brausch, Vice Rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, as our speaker.

### ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY INITIATIVE

In cooperation with various other offices of the Archdiocese, we have arranged for Father Sean Kilcawley of Integrity Restored to give a presentation for priests who are interested in learning more about effective ministry to those addicted to pornography. We have scheduled this event

for **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at the Bergamo Center, Dayton.** We will begin at 11:00 a.m., have a presentation followed by a working lunch and will be finished around 2:30 p.m. (This will be a good opportunity to get a basic introduction to this ministry. Father Kilcawley intends to return to the Archdiocese in the last week of June for a 4/day intensive workshop.)

### **WINTER/SPRING PRIEST RETREAT**

The Winter/Spring Retreat for Priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has been scheduled for Monday, February 26 starting at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 2, 2018 at Maria Stein. Fr. Matthew Summe, LC, will be our speaker. A flyer will be mailed in the near future.

### **VOCATION OFFICE**

#### **SAVE THE DATE: DINNER FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN DISCERNMENT**

Are you a Pastor, a Parish Young Adult Minister, 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 March 14, 2018. This will be an opportunity 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.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR**

- **February 3-4, 2018:** World Day for Consecrated Life
- **April 22, 2018:** World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- **April 28, 2018:** Transitional Diaconate Ordination
- **May 19, 2018:** Priesthood Ordination

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

- December 10-14: Online Advent Retreat
- December 14: Chosen Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations
- December 14-18: Silent Discernment Retreat with Regnum Christi
- January 3-7: Winter Vocation Retreat with the Nashville Dominicans
- January 14: Holy Hour for Vocations at the Athenaeum
- February 10-11: Winter Discernment Retreat with the Ann Arbor Dominicans

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND MISSION PROMOTION**

### **CHANGES COMING TO CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS**

Responding to feedback we have received from priests and parishes, Clergy Communications will feature a revamped, shorter format starting with the January 2018 edition. Further, starting with the February 2018 edition, we will distribute Clergy Communications electronically only. If

you do not already receive Clergy Communications via email, you will need to sign up at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/clergy-communications-subscribe>. You won't want to miss it!

## **DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

### ***CHANCERY OFFICE***

#### **2018 OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DIRECTORY (OCD) UPDATE**

As mentioned in November 2017 Clergy Communications, parishes, organizations and institutions will now update their information online for the 2018 OCD. The process for rolling out the new online update system was delayed by the publisher as they worked to make sure the new system operated smoothly. It now appears to be ready. On December 1, 2017, letters were postal mailed directly from the *The Official Catholic Directory* ® P.J. Kenedy & Sons to each organization within the diocese with simple and easy-to-follow instructions for using the OCD Online Update System. The letter and the online update system includes an OCD support phone number and email address where system users can have issues/questions addressed. **The deadline for parishes, institutions and organizations to update their listing information online is December 31, 2017.**

#### **OCTOBER COUNT 2017**

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

### ***OFFICE FOR CONSECRATED LIFE***

#### **VOCATION POSTER 2017**

Two posters were mailed to each parish in early October. I hope you have yours and that they are posted in a prominent place in your church and, if you have one, your school. I have a few extra posters if somehow you were missed. About half of the women and men on the poster are from parishes in the Archdiocese and the other half are here in the Archdiocese for a portion of their formation. What about periodically having an intercession at your Sunday Masses praying for the women and men on the poster? This might encourage parishioners to stop and take a look at the poster. If one of the women or men is from your parish, perhaps pray for her or him specifically. Would you consider putting a picture of the poster in your church bulletin and/or on your website? If so, I am able to email you a photo ([mkerber@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mkerber@catholiccincinnati.org)). Help raise awareness of the Consecrated Life today.

#### **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION**

December 9 and 10 are right around the corner! If you are looking for some ideas on how to share information around this collection, please visit: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/religious/rfr/>. You will find a picture of this year's billboard and TV spot as well as a fact sheet from NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office). Two parishes have requested a picture of the 2017 billboard to use in their bulletin. What a great idea! Or, you might place it on your website. If you would like a photo, email me

at: [mkerber@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mkerber@catholiccincinnati.org). Thank you in advance for your support of this still much needed collection.

## **OFFICE OF THE DIACONATE**

### **DEACON JIM WOESTE ASSIGNED TO ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH**

At the request of Reverend Bernard Weldishofer, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Morrow, Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr has assigned Deacon Jim Woeste to serve there as deacon. His assignment became effective November 21, 2017. We pray that God will continue to bless Deacon Woeste in his ministry to God's Church and the people of St. Philip the Apostle.

## **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 TRAINING SESSIONS**

Attention Facilitators: VIRTUS training sessions must be three hours in length. There is no training completed at the local parish or school that takes the place of the required three hours. If a location wants to add site specific training, this is added to the three hours. Training sessions

should have a minimum of 10 individuals scheduled. Individuals must attend the whole training session to get credit. Special training sessions for individuals with special needs and unforeseen situations can be given with prior approval of the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Coordinator.

## **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

### **401(k) MAILING TO ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES**

The 401(k) Plan *Summary of Important Provisions* booklet was mailed to all eligible 401 (k) employees at the beginning of December. This annual mailing highlights the features, rights and restrictions of the Plan, outlines any changes to the Plan and any fee changes. Eligible employees are encouraged to review their 401(k) accounts on a regular basis. To access the Plan website type Retire.53.com into your web browser or eligible employees can call the Fifth Third Participant Services line at 866.258.4777. Additional information is also available on the Archdiocesan Employee Benefits website: <http://benefits.catholiccincinnati.org/401-k-plan>. Please direct questions to Charlotte Carpenter 513.421.3131x2852 or [ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:ccarpenter@catholiccincinnati.org).

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Just a reminder that the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements were due by December 1, 2017. 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 PASTORAL LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION**

### ***OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS***

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** An Advent Communal Reconciliation Service is available on the ODWS website. Go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/LP-Advent-Christmas-2017-for-Cycle-B-revised.pdf>.

## **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**December 8** falls on a Friday this year and is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States.

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULING**

**Christmas Eve/Day: Sunday, December 24 ~ Monday, December 25, 2017:** The Fourth Sunday of Advent will be observed on Saturday evening, December 23, and Sunday morning, December 24, 2017. Christmas is to be observed Sunday evening, December 24 and Monday, December 25, 2017. There is an obligation to participate at Mass for **both** the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas this weekend. Attendance at one Mass **does not** fulfill both obligations. Parishes might consider schedule adjustments this weekend due to the added Masses for Christmas.

**New Year's Eve/Day: Sunday, December 31 ~ Monday, January 1, 2018:** The Feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated the weekend of December 30/31, 2017. Monday, January 1, 2018, Mary, the Holy Mother of God, remains a holy day; however the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated in 2018. A Mass scheduled in the evening on Sunday December 31, in anticipation of the January 1 Holy Day, does not fulfill the Sunday obligation for the Feast of the Holy Family. However, if your parish celebrates a regular Sunday evening Mass, it may be celebrated as the Sunday obligatory Mass, and the Feast of the Holy Family with holy day Masses only be celebrated on Monday.

Parishes are asked to make a special effort to inform the faithful of these calendar advisories and circumstances pertaining to Christmas and New Year this year.

For further clarification, please go to the USCCB Committee for Divine Worship website, February 2017 newsletter:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/newsletter/upload/newsletter-2017-02.pdf>.

## **RITE OF ELECTION**

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will take place on the First Sunday of Lent, **February 18, 2018**. The reservation and information forms for the Rite of Election will be posted on the ODWS and RCIA websites on Friday, December 15. The reservation forms will be due no later than Monday, January 15. Please remember that seating is on a first come, first served basis.

## **TIME FOR THE EASTER VIGIL**

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states that the Easter Vigil is to be celebrated in darkness. Therefore, in 2018 the Easter Vigil may begin at 8:30 p.m. or later.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! NEOPHYTE MASS**

The Neophyte Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains on Sunday, April 15 at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Joseph Binzer presiding. This is a wonderful opportunity to further celebrate with those who were initiated at the Easter Vigil, along with those completing initiation or being received into the Full Communion of the Church.

## THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Scheduled for Tuesday after the Second Sunday of Lent, **February 27, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- **Lex Orandi, Lex Vivendi, Lex Credendi:** Mondays, February 19, 26, March 5, 12 at Church of the Assumption, Mt. Healthy, OH, 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Presenters: Fr. Larry Tensi and Ms. Karen Kane. For more information and registration, go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Lex-Orandi-Assumption-2018-Flyer-Registration-Form.pdf>.
- **Lay Leaders of Prayer – RESCHEDULED for Spring 2018!** Thursday, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17 at St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville, OH. Completion of this workshop qualifies for three hours of catechist certification. For more information and registration, go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Lay-Leaders-of-Prayer-2018-Flyer-with-Registration.pdf>.

### ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The ODWS annual calendar of events is available at: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Upcoming-events-2017-2018-3.pdf>.

### LECTOR WORKBOOKS AND SOURCEBOOKS

With the start of the new liturgical calendar year, you will want to be sure to order the LTP **2018 Lector Workbooks** and **Sourcebooks for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2018**.

*A Workbook of Lectors and Gospel Readers 2018* (Lector Workbooks)

1-4 copies \$11.00 each\*

5-49 copies \$10.50 each\*

50 + copies \$10.00 each\*

*Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2018* (Sourcebooks)

Single copy \$ 13.50 \*

2-4 copies \$ 10.50 each\*

5+ copies \$10.00 each\*

\* The drop shipment fee (to have publications sent directly to your parish) has increased to \$4.00. The cost of your order will include this fee, plus shipping and handling.

Please note that all annual publication orders must be submitted in writing. Simply send an email to Kathy Schmidt at [kschmidt@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:kschmidt@catholiccincinnati.org) with your name, parish name and address, and the item(s) and quantity you are ordering.

To see all annual publications for sale, please visit our web site:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/2018-annual-publications-for-order/>.



## **ARE YOU RECEIVING THE ODWS E-NEWS?**

If you have not signed up for the ODWS newsletter, you can do so by visiting: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/worship/join-our-email-newsletter/>.

## **OFFICE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

### **NEW BROCHURE FOR ENGAGED COUPLES: PREPARING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE**

Every parish has been mailed the 2018 Archdiocesan Engaged Retreat (Pre-Cana) Schedule along with a new brochure that you may choose to give to your engaged couples. Additional copies of the brochure and schedule can be obtained at no charge by emailing [familylife@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:familylife@catholiccincinnati.org).

### **FULLY ENGAGED TRAINING DVDS**

All clergy and marriage preparation couples who were unable to attend a live training event for Fully Engaged (an alternative to FOCCUS): training DVDs are available for use in your parish. Contact Fully Engaged to order training DVDs at: <http://www.getfullyengaged.com/contact/>.

### **WITNESS TO LOVE ONLINE TRAINING**

All clergy or parish leaders who were unable to attend a live training event for Witness to Love may be trained online using the following discount code: **cincy2017**.

Please go to: <https://witnessstolove.org/product/parish-certification-course-license-individual/> and enter the code: **cincy2017** into the coupon code line when checking out. (The discounted cost for an online training will be \$55 instead of \$135). The online training includes three hours of core content and three hours of bonus content. It also includes a digital training manual, email templates, bulletin announcements, personalized follow-up from a parish support leader and all printed materials, including the couple's workbook and the mentor handbook.

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION BASED ON THE CATECHUMENATE**

The Office for Marriage & Family Life is available to assist parishes in reworking your marriage preparation process so that it more closely resembles a catechumenal process. This involves looking at marriage preparation from the perspective of the engaged couple: meeting them where they are and accompanying them on a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, His Church, and one another. The goal is for the engaged couple to perceive marriage preparation as a unified whole rather than a disjointed set of steps. They will grow to understand and embrace the beauty of Christian marriage as they are welcomed and accompanied into the full practice of the faith with the parish community.

Contact Dan Thimons at [familylife@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:familylife@catholiccincinnati.org) or 513.421.3131x2621 for more information.

### **CANA II**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has developed a couple-led Second-Marriage preparation program (Cana II) that is designed specifically for engaged couples where one or both have been previously married. The dates and locations for Cana II 2018 are:



January 20, 2018 - Lange Estate, Transfiguration Center for Peace & Renewal, Ludlow Falls  
February 17, 2018 - Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Morrow  
May 19, 2018 - Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Morrow  
October 6, 2018 - Lange Estate, Transfiguration Center for Peace & Renewal, Ludlow Falls

## ***OFFICE FOR MISSION AND PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES***

### **COMBAT XENOPHOBIA IN ADVENT/LENT! HOW RECENTLY HAS A MISSIONARY SPOKEN IN YOUR SCHOOL OR PSR?**

At this time in history, Pope Francis especially urges us to more inter-religious and cultural dialogue as well as respect for immigrants and refugees, i.e., Lampedusa Island, the border with Mexico, etc. The Holy Father also reminds us to share our love for Jesus locally and globally. In our archdiocese, we are blessed to have missionaries back from, or who are originally from, Mexico, Central and South America, Caribbean, Appalachia, U.S. Southwest, Chile, Uganda, etc. They are more than willing to share their love for the Lord and respect for others by telling their experience and stories to your students and adult groups. Let the Mission Office help your PSR director, adult education leader, and school principal organize a visit or longer program this Advent or Lent with our missionaries. Contact Teresa Phillips at: [mission@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mission@catholiccincinnati.org) or 513.421.3131x2632.

### **DON'T FORGET TO MAIL IN YOUR MISSION SUNDAY AND MCP COLLECTIONS**

On behalf of the 1000+ mission dioceses that benefit from your Mission Sunday collection of October 22, and on behalf of missionaries who visited your parish through a Missionary Co-op Plan (MCP) ....THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Thank you so much for your kindness and hospitality to them as many serve in very difficult situations.

If you have not already done so, please mail into the Mission Office your Mission Sunday collection and form as well as any funds that have been collected this past year or last year to benefit the visiting missionaries through the MCP. Please indicate which year those funds were collected. Send them to: Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Any questions? Contact Melonise Knight at: [mknight@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:mknight@catholiccincinnati.org) or phone 513.421.3131x2631.

### **PLAN AND LEAD EVEN BETTER, SAFER, HOLIER JOURNEYS AND MISSION TRIPS...AND REDUCE HAZARDS**

Attention pastors, principals, parish/school staff and volunteers who plan or lead immersion/service trips with youth, high school and college campus ministers, service coordinators, parish twinning leaders and other trip planners. With advice from you and others, various offices of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati have developed rules, guidelines and travel tips that deal with insurance/liability coverage, solid religious motivations, child protection, and safety considerations for youth AND adults. Please go to [www.catholiccincinnati.org](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/risk-management/coverage/trips-domestic-international/); Risk Management Office; Insurance Coverages; then Trips; or directly access the information at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/risk-management/coverage/trips-domestic-international/>.

## ***OFFICE FOR RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES***

### **THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT**

The USCCB has supported this common-sense legislation that in many polls 60% of Americans also support. This legislation, which prohibits abortion after 20 weeks gestation on the grounds that fetuses can feel pain by that point, passed the House of Representatives on October 3, and is now in Committee in the U.S. Senate as S.1922. Encourage your parishioners to contact our Senators and urge them to vote yes on this legislation. Please see the announcement in the bulletin section below, that directs people to the website:

<https://www.humanlifeaction.org/action-center>.

### **MARCH FOR LIFE YOUTH AND ADULT TRIPS!**

If you want to go on Archdiocesan busses to the January March for Life in Washington, DC, we are organizing a trip designed for high school youth and a family/adult trip as well. The teen trip leaves the evening of **Thursday, January 18** and returns the morning of **Saturday, January 20, 2018**. The adult/family trip leaves in the morning on **Thursday, January 18**, returns in the evening on **Saturday, January 20, 2018**, and includes a tour of the JPPI center. More information on both trips may be found at [www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/m4life/](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/m4life/).

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE**

Each year, the National Night of Prayer for Life takes place from 9:00 p.m. December 8 until 1:00 a.m. December 9. The National Prayer for Life is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a full 20 decades of the Rosary, a prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer and hymns. We invite all parishes to consider organizing a local prayer event if they can, using resources provided at [Nationalnightofprayerforlife.org](http://Nationalnightofprayerforlife.org). If your parish cannot organize a special event, please invite your parishioners to simply pray a rosary on their own somewhere in that time frame. We have, in the bulletin section, a special bulletin announcement you can use for this, which you are free to adapt to fit your parish situation.

### **ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH 9 MONTHS IN THE WOMB WITH CHRIST**

If you haven't been using our 9 months of monthly justice reflections and weekly reflections on Christ's fetal development in your bulletins since March, please consider using the last four weeks and the last month's reflections in these upcoming weeks of Advent. Check out our website at [www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/nine-months-with-christ-in-the-womb/](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/nine-months-with-christ-in-the-womb/) for more information. Available in both English and Spanish!

## ***OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP***

### **VOCARE**

We are delighted to have more than 220 Archdiocesan Parishes and Catholic Schools engaged in Vocare, all whom have designated and registered their Vocare Administrator (VA). If you are among those who have not designated a Vocare Administrator, please know your students are not receiving the advantages of the new Catechetical Certification resources. We will be reaching out shortly to encourage you to register and afford your catechists and teachers these online faith

formation resources. Please follow the steps below to find out more about the role of the VA and how to designate a person for this very important position.

1. For the qualifications for the Vocare Administrator, go to:  
<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/The-Vocare-Administrator-Final-1.pdf>.
2. For the form with which you designate your Vocare Administrator, go to:  
<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Appoint-New-Vocare-Administrator.pdf>.
3. Email your form to: [VocareSupport@CatholicCincinnati.org](mailto:VocareSupport@CatholicCincinnati.org).
4. Call with any questions: 513.421.3131x2710.
5. The **Vocare Administrator** may be a staff member, such as your school Principal, Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate, or other parish staff. He or she must be comfortable working in a digital environment. Realizing that parish staff are already very busy, if no qualified staff member is available for this task, any qualified volunteer whom you deem appropriate for this ministry is entirely acceptable.
6. If you or your Administrator did not participate in the **online webinar training sessions for Vocare**, please take time to view these practical “how-to” overviews of welcoming, recruiting, and logging in those called to teach the Catholic faith in your Catholic school and parish religion program. Please encourage your Administrator to do the same if he or she has not already!
  - a. For a Youtube video on “How Does Certification in Vocare Work?” go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIFuVe2OVKw>.
  - b. For a Youtube video on “What Does the Vocare Administrator Do?” go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMoenwvZ02M>.

## ***OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION***

### **CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC: INCREASE**

For those involved in Evangelization Ministry – Join us for Contagiously Catholic: Increase. Our goal is simple: Ever increasing communion with Christ. Taking place on **Wednesday, December 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Coldwater, OH.**

Join us for:

- Shared Prayer and Lectio Divina
- Guest Speaker: Rev. Alexander Witt: The role of Liturgy for the Apostolate
- Lunch \*recommend \$5 donation
- Adoration

Register at: <https://goo.gl/forms/jAgUUGEAOUfpENQt1>.

## **CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC: EVANGELIZING SMALL GROUPS WORKSHOP**

Everyone says that small groups are integral to evangelization. Yet often we become discouraged when small groups have a short shelf life, or they become insular. Join us for one of two full day workshops to learn practical skills in facilitating an effective evangelization small group that encourages on-going conversion and consistently reaches new people. This workshop is for Pastoral Ministers who are interested in training others in evangelizing small groups and for any small group facilitator interested in making their group more evangelizing. The dates of the workshops are:

**Saturday, January 13, 2018** from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Jesuit Spiritual Center, Milford  
**Saturday, January 20, 2018** from 9:00 am – 4:00 p.m. at Maria Stein Spiritual Center

Cost: \$15 (includes materials and lunch). For more information and to register go to: <http://www.contagiouslycatholic.com/an-inspiring-and-energizing-program/resources/>.

*\*This workshop is free of charge for all current Contagiously Catholic Parish Alliance Parishes thanks to the generosity of donors to the [Catholic Ministries Appeal](#).*

## **CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE: BE A MAN!**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Taft Theater, Cincinnati**

The Cincinnati Men's Conference is back and will be hosted at Cincinnati's gorgeous Taft Theatre! The Catholic Speakers Organization, CMG Booking, and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati have teamed up to bring back America's first Catholic Men's Conference ever organized and produced. Both organizations are more than excited about the spiritual benefit the conference will bring to the greater Cincinnati community. What is equally exciting is the speaker lineup for the event, where some of the most renowned Catholic speakers were honored to join the roster. Everyone is welcome to attend no matter what religious belief or where you are in your journey of faith.

The Theme of the 2018 conference is *"Be A Man! What It Means To Be A True Christian Man In Today's Society"*. The day will feature lectures from four different speakers pertaining to being the best version of a man we can be via true Christian ideals giving us the tools to become the best brother, son, father, spouse, manager or leader to our fellow man. How are we expected to act as good Christian men in today's modern society and what are the non-negotiables for good Christian men trying to be authentic examples of Christ to the rest of the world?

There will also be a very special recognition ceremony honoring the original team of men who created and organized the first Catholic Men's Conference ever. Did you know that Cincinnati was the first city to put on what we know today as a Catholic Men's Conference? Those men will be in attendance and will be recognized for their incredible contributions to the Catholic community and evangelization as a whole.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to: <https://www.cmgbooking.com/cincinnati-mens-conference>.

## **CONTAGIOUSLY CATHOLIC ALLIANCE**

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.

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.

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

## **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)”

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.

For more information on School of Faith, go to [www.schooloffaith.com](http://www.schooloffaith.com) or contact John Leyendecker at [john@schooloffaith.com](mailto:john@schooloffaith.com).

## **PROMOTE YOUR EVANGELIZING PARISH EVENT**

Do you have an evangelization event or program that you would like to get the word out about? We would like to help through our outreach webpage [www.stirintoflame.org](http://www.stirintoflame.org). Send us information about the event and we will add it to our “What’s Stirring” calendar. Send your information to Sean Ater at [sater@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:sater@catholiccincinnati.org).

## **OFFICE FOR YOUTH EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP**

### **ENCOUNTER**

Gatherings that allow youth ministers to encounter Jesus Christ in Adoration and to invite their teens to pray with them. 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. Encounter is a free event. By the time this publication is distributed, the Dayton Encounter event probably will have taken place, but the Cincinnati location is coming up on **Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at The Underground in Cincinnati**. Visit [viacatholic.com/encounter](http://viacatholic.com/encounter) for more information.

### **RENEWAL**

Renewal is coming up on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Dayton, OH** with Msgr. Frank Lane. Renewal is a day retreat for

youth ministers, campus ministers, and volunteers that happens at the end of each semester. In short, it is a chance to rest in the Lord through silent prayer, talks, Mass, Adoration, Confession, and fellowship. Visit [viacatholic.com/renewal](http://viacatholic.com/renewal) for more information.

## **NOVA**

In a culture blinded by pornography, if we do not address the porn-issue, we're not actually evangelizing. Join us for a powerful day of presentations by Fr. Sean Kilcawley, Diocesan Director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Lincoln and program director for Integrity Restored, as we dig into the issue of pornography, its deep effects on the human person, what Theology of the Body has to say about it, and approaches and strategies for intervention.

- Tuesday, January 9, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Caserta Center, St. Boniface Parish
- Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Athenaeum of Ohio

Visit [viacatholic.com/nova](http://viacatholic.com/nova) for more information.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES**

### **ATTENTION: PASTORS WITH PARISH SCHOOLS**

**SB 85 (or HB 200) is proposed legislation that we are watching very carefully in the Catholic Schools Office. It will most likely be changed as support is garnered throughout the state. In its current form, it could benefit many of our Catholic schools. We will keep you updated in the upcoming months.**

### **SENATE BILL 85 & HOUSE BILL 200 – OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS**

House Bill 200 creates a new statewide income based scholarship, the Ohio Opportunity Scholarship, is being considered by the Ohio Legislature. This scholarship is for students to use towards K-12 education at a chartered nonpublic (private) school. The scholarship's maximum amount is \$5,000 for grades K-8 and \$7,500 for high school per year. Families with a combined income up to 400% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) are eligible for this scholarship.

This bill combines the current income based (Expansion) and failing school model based (Ed Choice) along with the Cleveland Scholarship into one program.

Current recipients of Ed Choice and Cleveland Scholarships are automatically eligible for the new full scholarship amount. Jon Peterson and Autism Scholarships are unchanged.

This bill expands eligibility to all grades from 200% FPG (current Expansion rate) to 400% FPG. Example: A family of four with an income of \$98,400 would qualify for half of the scholarship amount.

Presently, the Catholic Schools Office is researching the impact this legislation would have on our school families. Additional information will be provided to pastors about this scholarship in the near future.



## **CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Catholic Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for 2018-2019 elementary school tuition assistance scholarships. All scholarships are needs-based and can be used at any Catholic elementary school within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Awards range from \$250 to \$1,000 per student.

How to apply: [www.catholicbestchoice.org](http://www.catholicbestchoice.org)

Deadline: January 31, 2018

Amount: Up to \$1,000 per child

The Catholic Education Foundation scholarship program became a reality in 2017-2018 through the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign. Due to the generosity of your parish, the Catholic Education Foundation will again be able to offer over \$2,000,000 in financial aid! For more details and to apply visit: [www.catholicbestchoice.org](http://www.catholicbestchoice.org).

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### ***CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHWESTERN OHIO***

#### **HELP OTHERS LEARN ENGLISH**

Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers for our fall education session of ESL and GED classes. We are looking for teachers and childcare help for Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Want to improve your Spanish speaking skills? Everyone is invited to join us on Saturdays for Intercambio, a Spanish-English language exchange, and beginner Spanish classes!

For more information, please call Brett Hamm at 513.672.3772, or fill out a volunteer application at [www.ccswoh.org](http://www.ccswoh.org).

#### **FOOD PANTRY IN SHARONVILLE**

Catholic Charities is expanding its Food For All program and serving the Sharonville area. This part of Hamilton County is an area of high need and few food options. Partnering with Sharonville United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities will be providing food once a month to those in the area.

Distribution of food will take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 3751 Creek Rd. Sharonville United Methodist church from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Catholic social teaching asks us to create opportunities for mutuality with both volunteers and the poor. Come out and encounter each other and be transformed by the interaction.

Volunteers are needed to help unload and give out food. Please sign up to volunteer at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YC2936H> or email LaTonya Ginyard [LGinyard@ccswoh.org](mailto:LGinyard@ccswoh.org).

## ***CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE***

### **WORLD DAY OF PEACE MASSES: JANUARY 1, 2018**

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 Ascension Parish (2025 Woodman Dr., Kettering) at 10:00 a.m. Join us for this much-needed opportunity to pray for life, dignity, creation and peace in our world!

### **CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COLLECTION: THANK YOU!**

Many thanks for everyone's generous support for the annual CCHD collection on November 18 - 19. Numerous parishes throughout the Archdiocese once again hosted funded agencies as speakers and found effective ways to share the stories of how CCHD funds are put to use to overcome poverty. CCHD is one of our greatest tools for embracing the Church's World Day of the Poor, instituted by Pope Francis just this year! To learn how CCHD dollars are being used in the Archdiocese, please visit [www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction).

## **DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP**

### **STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT STAFF CHANGES**

Michael Vanderburgh recently accepted a position with St. Vincent de Paul in Dayton. His last day at the Archdiocese is December 1. We sincerely thank Michael for his 10 years of service as Stewardship Department Director and wish him much success in his new role.

Until a search process for a new director can be completed, Archbishop Schnurr has named David Kissell the Interim Director of Stewardship. Please use the contact information below to reach the Stewardship Department regarding the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA), One Faith, One Hope, One Love (FHL) campaign, and/or general stewardship related items or questions:

David Kissell, *Interim Director*

PH: (513) 421-3131 ext. 2881

Email: [david@CatholicAppeal.info](mailto:david@CatholicAppeal.info)

Helen Fahey, *Director of Leadership Giving*

PH: (513) 421-3131 ext. 5062

Email: [helen.fahey@1faith1hope1love.org](mailto:helen.fahey@1faith1hope1love.org)

Leslie Odioso, *Donor Relations Manager*

PH: (513) 421-3131 ext. 2234

Email: [leslie.odioso@1faith1hope1love.org](mailto:leslie.odioso@1faith1hope1love.org)

Nancy Dragan, *Campaign Assistant*

PH: (513) 421-3131 ext. 2230

Email: [nancy.dragan@1faith1hope1love.org](mailto:nancy.dragan@1faith1hope1love.org)

## **CMA STATISTICS & PARISH PROGRESS**

Totals for this year's CMA, including parish progress, continue to be available at [www.CatholicAppeal.info](http://www.CatholicAppeal.info) under the "Info for Parish Staff" link – **the password to access this section is: cma2007.**

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2018 CMA – KEY WEEKENDS**

**Announcement Weekend** – January 20/21, 2018

**Commitment Weekend** – February 3/4, 2018

*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 28.

**CMA materials and resources will be arriving at parishes in mid-December.** All resources and information will also be available at [www.CatholicAppeal.info](http://www.CatholicAppeal.info).

**Please submit articles for the January *Clergy Communications* by December 15, 2017.**  
**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](http://www.CatholicCincinnati.org). Email: [Communications@CatholicCincinnati.org](mailto: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 Mr. Brian Spears, 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 the spirit of good stewardship, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has instituted a financial misconduct hotline to enable 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/](http://www.ethicspoint.com/). There is also a link on the Archdiocesan website, [www.CatholicCincinnati.org](http://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).

**NEW TIME FOR CHRISTMAS MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL** - Christmas Mass During the Night on Sunday, December 24 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains will be celebrated at **10:00 p.m.** with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr presiding. **Please note that Mass will NOT be celebrated at Midnight.** Carols will be sung by the Cathedral's choir beginning at 9:30 p.m. Other Cathedral Christmas Mass times remain unchanged: Christmas Vigil Masses – December 24 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Bishop Joseph Binzer presiding at 5:00 p.m.); Christmas Day Masses – December 25 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**DECEMBER 10-14: ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN** - The Daughters of Charity are offering an Advent retreat for all young women who are discerning their call to the religious life. Retreat participants will receive retreat materials electronically and will meet via skype or phone with a spiritual guide for daily reflections on the Advent season and discernment. All women ages 18-40 who are interested are asked to contact Sr. Virginia Ann Brooks, D.C. at [sistervirginiaann.brooks@gmail.com](mailto:sistervirginiaann.brooks@gmail.com) or 812.963.7559. To register for the retreat visit: [called2.be/AdventR17](http://called2.be/AdventR17).

**DECEMBER 14: CHOSEN: MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS** - CHOSEN: Monthly Holy Hour for those discerning a Vocation or praying for Vocations is taking place on December 14, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, OH. Sponsored by the Archdiocese Vocations Office and the Children of Mary. Chosen: Every 2nd Thursday of the Month. Come and bring a friend!

**DECEMBER 14-18: REGNUM CHRISTI SILENT VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT** - Young women are invited to a discernment retreat led by the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi in Atlanta, GA. For more information about the retreat or to sign up contact

[arolwes@regnumchristi.net](mailto:arolwes@regnumchristi.net) or visit them on Facebook, YouTube or at [www.consecratedwomen.org/](http://www.consecratedwomen.org/).

**JANUARY 3-7: VOCATION RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN** - The *Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia* in Nashville, TN, are hosting a five day retreat for young women ages 17-30 seriously discerning their call to the religious life. For more information or to register for this retreat contact Sr. Peter Marie at 615.256.0147 or [vocation@op-tn.org](mailto:vocation@op-tn.org).

**JANUARY 14: HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS** - The seminarians at Mount St. Mary's Seminary invite all to join them in a special holy hour for vocations on January 14 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the St. Gregory the Great chapel. Please come and join us in prayer.

**FEBRUARY 10-11: DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN** - The *Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist* are hosting a Vocation Discernment Retreat for young women, ages 16-33, in Ann Arbor, Michigan on February 10-11. The retreat features Eucharistic Adoration, conferences and talks, and fun with the Sisters! The cost of the weekend is \$35. Register online at <https://www.sistersofmary.org/>.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018: DUBLIN, IRELAND** - Join Colleen and Deacon John Gerke for a Pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families in August 2018. After taking part in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in 2015, we are looking forward to joining families from around the world at the 2018 World Meeting of Families in Dublin Ireland. Philly was a powerful and transformational experience. Men and women from around the world witnessed the goodness of family life and the power of the family to transform the culture. Speakers and attendees shared inspirational stories of family life and various Church opportunities supporting families. We invite you to join us in being inspired, renewed and equipped with tools to serve Catholic families. Contact us at [gerkecolleen@gmail.com](mailto:gerkecolleen@gmail.com) or call 513.641.0147x808.

**CATHOLIC SPONSORED DIVORCE CARE** - 13 weeks, held on Thursday evenings, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. from **January 11 to April 12** at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 6245 Wilmington Pike, Centerville, OH. Cost: is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. For more information, or to register, call Marcelle Toma at 937.312.1157 (not a texting number) or [mtoma@woh.rr.com](mailto:mtoma@woh.rr.com).

**THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT** - The USCCB has supported this common-sense legislation that in many polls 60% of Americans also support. This legislation, which prohibits abortion after 20 weeks gestation on the grounds that fetuses can feel pain by that point, passed the House of Representatives on October 3, and is now in committee in the U.S. Senate as S.1922. Please contact our senators and urge them to vote yes on this legislation. See the website: <https://www.humanlifeaction.org/action-center>.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE** - Each year, the National Night of Prayer for Life takes place from 9:00 p.m. on December 8 until 1:00 a.m. on December 9, bridging the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe (patroness of the unborn). The National Prayer for Life is one means of responding

to Our Lady's call to pray the Rosary for peace, which includes leading our nation away from a culture of death and toward respect for all life from conception until natural death. If you are able, please join this national effort by praying the Rosary (a full 20 decades if you are able), sometime between 9:00 p.m., Friday, December 8 and 1:00 a.m., Saturday, December 9. Learn more at [www.Nationalnightofprayerforlife.org](http://www.Nationalnightofprayerforlife.org).

**MARCH FOR LIFE ADULT/FAMILY TRIP!** - If you want to go on Archdiocesan busses to the January March for Life in Washington, DC, we are organizing a trip designed for adults and families. The adult/family trip leaves in the morning on **Thursday, January 18**, and returns in the evening on **Saturday, January 20, 2018**, and includes a tour of the JPPII center. Cost, including bus and two nights in a hotel, is only **\$295** per person for double occupancy (two beds). For a family sharing one room the cost is even less per person! More information may be found at [www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/m4life/](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/respect-life-2/m4life/). Registration deadline is December 11.

**PROJECT RACHEL** - Project Rachel is a ministry of the Archdiocese that serves anyone who has experienced a loss of a child due to abortion. There are a variety of ways persons can engage in this ministry for healing from a recent loss or a loss that occurred decades ago: one-on-one conversation with a peer, consultation with a priest (we can accommodate a need for consulting in Spanish), a day of reflection for anyone who has experienced loss (mother, grandparent, father, sibling, friend, etc.) support groups and retreats for mothers who lost their child due to abortion. Check out our website at [www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel) or call the Project Rachel Help Line at 513.784.0531 for information. All conversations and emails are confidential. Upcoming dates: Day of Reflection **January 27, 2018** in Cincinnati and a weekend retreat in the Dayton/Northern area **March 9-11, 2018**.

**CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE: IT'S BACK!** - Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Taft Theater, Cincinnati from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Cincinnati Men's Conference is back and will be hosted at Cincinnati's gorgeous Taft Theatre! The theme of the 2018 conference is "Be A Man! What It Means To Be A True Christian Man In Today's Society." For more information and to purchase tickets go to: <https://www.cmgbooking.com/cincinnati-mens-conference>.

**WORLD DAY OF PEACE MASSES: JANUARY 1, 2018** - 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 Ascension Church (2025 Woodman Dr., Kettering) at 10:00 a.m. Join us for this much-needed opportunity to pray for life, dignity, creation and peace in our world!

#### **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** - During this holy season of remembering the Incarnation, let us always be mindful that we have been blessed with the fruits of God's creation. So let us in turn, bless



others. May we be especially generous to our brothers and sisters in need, and may we protect God's great gift of Creation so that future generations may also be blessed by its abundance.

**Quote from the Holy See** - “A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon.

Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors (such as volcanic activity, variations in the earth's orbit and axis, the solar cycle), yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity.” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no.23)

**Care for Creation Tip - Christmas Dinner:** If you're expecting a big crowd, ask a family member to bring extra dishes and utensils so you can cut down on the use of disposable products. Use cloth napkins too! Have reusable containers on hand to package leftover food for relatives to take home, and plan for ways to use leftover food in other recipes. Before the festivities begin, consider turning down the thermostat – all of the cooking, baking, and guests are likely to warm it up on their own!

**TOB PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS AT RUAH WOODS** - Understanding God's plan for our lives is essential in today's culture. Ruah Woods is offering programs and classes for youth and adults alike, in order to help men and women live their vocation to love, according to God's plan, as informed by the Theology of the Body. A variety of Theology of the Body courses, programs, and retreats are offered all throughout the year! Be sure to check out Ruah Woods' 2018 programming schedule by visiting: <https://www.ruahwoods.org/learning/> or keep up to date on Facebook by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/Ruah-Woods-139688472722021/>.

**RUAH WOODS PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES: NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!**  
Ruah Woods Psychological Services (RWPS) exists to serve God's people by integrating the Catholic faith with the best of psychological science. RWPS has recently welcomed two highly trained, doctoral-level psychologists, Dr. Joe Molitor and Dr. Michael Murphy, who have been a wonderful addition to the team and are eager to serve the people of God. They are accepting new patients immediately. If you are looking to refer someone in need of healing, or would like more information about the providers of RWPS, please visit: [www.RWpsych.org](http://www.RWpsych.org) to learn more or call 513.407.8878 to schedule an appointment.