



Your Local Expert  
in Medicare



## CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

100 E Eighth Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati*

### **ACTION REQUIRED**

#### **SAVE THE DATE FOR SPRING CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS**

A one-day Spring convocation for priests is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** (earlier than an in-person convocation, because priests will not have to drive to the convocation venue). Presbyteral Council has decided that the convocation will be virtual, due to COVID-19 concerns. The Priestly Formation Office sent out an email in mid-March with the link and other information to join the convocation by Zoom. The Presbyteral Council also decided that there will be two main topics for this convocation. The morning session will be a presentation and discussion on Racism, planned by the Peace and Justice Committee of the Presbyteral Council, **beginning at 9:30 a.m.** The afternoon session, led by Fr. Jan Schmidt, on *Beacons of Light*, **begins at 1:00 p.m.**

#### **NEW CLERGY SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS**

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

These programs will be held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. [Click here](#) for more information.

#### **SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS**

We have scheduled the one-day convocation for priests for Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at Incarnation Parish Center. Topic to be determined.

#### **SAVE THE DATE FOR 2022 MULTI-DAY CONVOCATION FOR PRIESTS**

Pending approval by Presbyteral Council, we have scheduled a multi-day convocation for priests for Monday, June 27 - Thursday, June 30, 2022. Topic and location to be determined.

## **PASTORS AND PARISH ADMINISTRATORS**

Please update the information for the materials you need for your parish for the **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** between now and July 23. This national collection is held annually in the second week of December. The form can be found on our website [here](#). Contact [Maria Reinagel](#), Office for Consecrated Life, if she can help you in any way,

## **OPTIONAL**

### **CONTINUING INTELLECTUAL FORMATION CONFERENCE (FOR PRIESTS)**

This is for any priest who wishes to attend. The theme is “The Wrath of God” and will be take place June 21, 2021 – June 24, 2021 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary & School of Theology. For more information, [click here](#).

### **VOCATIONS DIRECTOR AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL**

Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer, Director of Vocations, is available to come to your parish to preach on vocations at weekend Masses, celebrate school Masses, speak to the students in their classrooms, or speak to PSR classes, youth groups and young adult groups. If you would like to schedule a time, or if you know of a young man in your parish who may be discerning a vocation to the priesthood, please contact [Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer](#).

### **EMHC FORMATION: THIS HOLY AND LIVING SACRIFICE**

Please encourage your parishioners who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) or those who would like to become an EMHC to join us for virtual formation this spring. These free sessions will be offered online, in English and in Spanish, including some focusing on ministry to the sick, homebound, and hospitalized. [Visit the ODWS website to register](#).

### **CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL WITH THE CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH**

In honor of this historic moment, the **June issue** of *The Catholic Telegraph* magazine will be a special edition dedicated to Catholicism’s long history in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. We invite you to help us celebrate the bicentennial within the pages of our beautiful magazine by purchasing a congratulatory ad. We have many sizes and price options available, and we are happy to design your ad free of charge. **Ad deadline is May 1.** Please contact our advertising sales manager, Deacon Graham Galloway ([ggalloway@catholicaoc.org](mailto:ggalloway@catholicaoc.org)), for more information.

### **BEACONS UPDATE – SIGN UP FOR E-NEWSLETTER**

“Beacons Update” is now launched! This free newsletter is designed to keep the pastor, his staff and his parishioners informed of the latest on the Beacons of Light pastoral planning initiative. Priests have been signed up already. We urge all parish staff, other parish leaders and interested parishioners to [sign up here for the e-newsletter](#) as well. **Please share the notice in the Bulletin Entries section across all of your parish media.**

### **MISSION DIOCESES NEED EXTRA SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC**

The Mission Office will host its first-ever online auction to create mission awareness and raise funds for the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) from April 5 -10. Please see the Bulletin Entry section for an announcement to put in your parish bulletin.

## **YOUR PARISHES' MISSIONARY CO-OP PLAN REPRESENTATIVE**

Has your Missionary Co-op Plan (MCP) representative contacted you yet for a speaking date at your parish this summer? The Mission Office sincerely hopes you will continue to accept these MCP guest speakers as the pandemic has created so much more need in mission areas of our church. If you cannot host them physically at your parish, you could offer to read their appeal for them at specific weekend Masses. For questions and further information, email our MCP Coordinator, [Melonise Knight](#) or call her at 513.263.6681. Thanks for caring for the many needs of our global missionary church!

## **NOMINATIONS FOR THE "SPIRIT OF SR. DOROTHY STANG AWARD"**

High school leaders and teachers, as well as pastors, are invited to nominate a graduating high school student or a faculty member for this great honor in recognition of their efforts of sharing their faith and their work with the poor and social justice and/or for the environment. For a nomination form and details, email [Sr. Eileen Connelly](#) at the Mission Office or call 513-263-6682. **Nomination deadline is April 23.**

Pastors will be invited to nominate parishioners for the Sr. Dorothy Stang Award later this year to be awarded around World Mission Sunday, October 24.

## **CENTURY FARM AWARD APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 30**

Catholic Rural Life of the St. Marys and Sidney Deaneries is now accepting applications for the 2021 Catholic Century Farm Award. The deadline is April 30. Families who have farmed the same land for 100 years or more are eligible for the registry. Century Farm Families will be recognized as part of the Rural Urban Farm Mass. For more information, [click here](#).

## **PASTORAL FORMATION DAY**

**April 15, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Mark your calendar for our virtual Pastoral Formation Day, entitled, *Re-imagining the Secular Saint: Forming the Laity with a New Vision for Missionary Discipleship*. This is for all parish staff involved in catechesis, formation, and evangelization. [Click here for more info](#).

## **NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE**

**November 18-20, 2021; Indianapolis, IN.** The [National Catholic Youth Conference](#) (NCYC) is working with local health authorities, businesses and hotels to ensure the safest NCYC experience for an estimated 10,000 participants this summer. A virtual experience will also be available. The archdiocese will have buses picking up from Cincinnati, Dayton and Sidney/North for the trip. Tickets go on sale in May and start at \$450, which includes two nights in a downtown hotel, transportation, and conference fees. For specific information on joining the archdiocese go to our [Events page](#). Please note, there are a list of important dates on our website for NCYC leaders. You can also find out more information in our [NCYC Letter](#).

## **SAVE THE DATE! 56TH ANNUAL MELCHIZEDEK OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Priests and Deacons of the Archdiocese are invited to play in this year's Melchizedek Open, which will be held at the Pipestone Golf Club, 4344 Benner Road, in Miamisburg, Ohio, on **Monday, August 2, 2021**. Save the date! Registration is at noon with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM. As usual, following the outing (and for non-golfers), there will be a Cash Bar Social, beginning at 6:00 PM, followed by a meal. It's a great way to build fraternity. To download the registration form, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please email [Deacon Tim Helmick](#) or call him at 513.535.7869.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### ***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – APRIL 25***

Sunday, April 25 is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This would be a wonderful Sunday to preach on vocations and also to include prayers of the faithful for people to prayerfully discern their vocations. [Vianney Vocations](#) has a lot of great resources to help parishes celebrate this day.

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

Deacon Dennis Berry, ordained on April 27, 2013, has been granted Senior Status effective April 1, 2021, from his assignment as a deacon at Good Shepherd Parish in Loveland. Deacon Berry retains his faculties as a deacon of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the title of deacon.

### ***MASS STIPENDS - SOME PRACTICAL DIRECTION***

[Click here](#) for some direction regarding Mass stipends. Please retain this information in the parish office for easy reference. Any questions that you may have can be addressed to the [Chancery Office](#), or call 513.315.3342.

### ***SAFEPARISH – NEW CHILD PROTECTION PLATFORM STARTING JULY 2021***

Please see the Bulletin Entry section for an announcement we ask you to consider putting in your parish bulletins. The Safe Environment Office would like to start getting the word out to all parish volunteers about the upcoming switch from VIRTUS to the new child protection platform called SafeParish effective July 2021.

### ***GUIDELINES FOR NON-RENEWAL/REDUCTION-IN-FORCE***

To ensure proper procedure is followed, the Department of Human Resources wants to remind all schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati considering a reduction in force or non-renewal of staff to review the [guidelines](#) that are in place.

Schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati strive to provide the highest level of instruction to all students. However, should economics, decrease in school enrollment, or other conditions necessitate a reduction for non-renewal of staff, school administrators will provide a standard and objective approach for reducing the size and/or composition of their teaching staff consistent with student educational needs and teacher reduction and non-renewal guidelines. A reduction in force report must be prepared by the school administrator and sent to the Director of Human Resources and the School Office Regional Director for review. Parishes considering a reduction in force of non-school employees should only send a report to the Director of Human Resources.

If you have any questions, please contact [Rob Reid](#) at 513.263.6611 or [Meg Paul](#) at 513.263.3341.

### ***NO PARISH/SCHOOL EVENT TO INVOLVE FIREARM OR WEAPONS***

Archdiocesan schools and parishes are not permitted to host, sponsor, or participate in events that sell, raffle, or shoot guns.

Examples of events that are prohibited include Turkey Shoots, trap shooting, raffling of weapons.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati purchases insurance for various types of coverages. These reinsurers will NOT provide any insurance coverage for a parish/school sponsored event that involves firearms or weapons.

### ***“ZOOM AND SEE DISCERNER SERIES”***

The “Zoom and See Discerner Series” is open to young adults ages 20-35 who seriously desire to discern God’s will for their lives. This series is the last Tuesday of each month on Zoom and provides the tools for discernment. Please register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

### ***RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY VIRTUAL GATHERING***

Join the National Religious Brothers Day Virtual Gathering, Saturday, May 1, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. EDT. The afternoon will include prayer, reflections by younger brothers and small group conversation. To learn more and register for this free gathering, [click here](#).

### ***CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOUTHWESTERN OHIO—DISCOVER MERCY***

As we begin to see the possibility for gathering in person over the coming months, perhaps your parish staff or committees are considering options to re-energize your community through learning and service. If so, consider inviting Catholic Charities for a presentation on the many ways in which we are serving, enlightening and empowering the community—and have been throughout the pandemic. Let’s join together to create a culture of encounter with all of our brothers and sisters! To learn more, visit our website, [www.ccswoh.org](http://www.ccswoh.org), or contact [Mary Anne Bressler](#), Parish and Community Engagement Coordinator at 513.672.3714 to discuss ways in which CCSWOH can partner with your parish.

### ***CRS COLLECTION RESOURCES & AFTER LENT IDEAS***

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up in our Archdiocese on the weekend of April 17 and 18. Please use the resources below to promote this important collection in your parish.

- [The Archbishop's letter](#)
- [Bulletin announcements](#) for the week before, the week of the collection and the week after the collection, [a bulletin insert](#), and a [bulletin cover](#).
- A [Parish Appeal](#) and a [Parish Resource Guide](#).
- You can email [Sara Seligmann](#) or call her at 513.546.3143 with any questions or concerns.

### ***CRS RICE BOWLS- AFTER LENT IDEAS AND TURN IN***

- Host a virtual prayer service at the end of Lent and remind your community of the ways they can give their CRS Rice Bowl gifts.
  - If you have an online Community Giving page, invite families to make their donations during the prayer service, and watch your community get closer to reaching its goal!
- Schedule a designated date, time and location for your community to turn in their CRS Rice Bowl donations if they do not want to give online or via mail.
- Visit the [CRS resource page](#) for more ideas or email [Sara Seligmann](#) or call her at 513.546.3143 with any questions or concerns.
- **Send all collected funds to Catholic Relief Services Attn: CRS Rice Bowl P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, MD 21297-0303**

### ***JOB OPENING AT THE PASTORAL CENTER***

The Center for the New Evangelization is seeking a Bilingual Administrative Assistant to support the “Marriage and Family” and “Hispanic Evangelization” teams. You can find out more about the position by going to [Administrative Assistant III \(Bilingual\) - Archdiocese of Cincinnati \(catholicaoc.org\)](#). This is a great job for the right individual! Please see the Bulletin Entries section.

## **SACRED OILS: CUSTODY AND CARE**

You can find guidance on proper custody and care of the sacred oils [on the ODWS website](#).

## **LITURGICAL GUIDANCE: WORSHIP TOGETHER SAFELY**

You can always find the most up-to-date [guidance on worship and sacraments](#) during this time of public health concern on the [website of the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#). In addition to general guidance, you will find guidance on specific topics including Christian Initiation, live-streaming, and more.

## **2021 CMA UPDATE: PLEDGES EXCEED THE \$5 MILLION GOAL!**

**Congratulations and thank you!** Pledges to the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) have now exceeded the \$5,000,000 goal! As of March 29, just over \$5.07 million has been pledged to the appeal from 21,500 households. Of the amount pledged, just over \$4 million has been received in payments. We extend a special “thank you” to pastors, parish staff, and volunteers who have helped to promote this year’s Appeal.

Updated totals for the CMA, including parish progress, can be found at [www.aocstewardship.org/cma/](http://www.aocstewardship.org/cma/) under the “CMA Info for Parish Staff” section – the password to access this section is “cma2007.”

Have questions about the CMA? Email [Matt Reinkemeyer](#) or call him at 513.263.6672.

## **BULLETIN ENTRIES**

### **MISSION DIOCESES NEED EXTRA SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC... ONLINE AUCTION -**

Mark your calendars for **April 5 -10** and **Mission: Possible!** The Mission Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will be offering its first ever online auction to create mission awareness and raise funds for the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS). With these funds, PMS builds seminaries and convents, provides training for catechists, and supports hospitals, schools, and orphanages. Your support will help bring God's love, hope, and peace to all of His children, especially the poor who have suffered the most during the pandemic. Our auction will feature gorgeous items reflective of the cultures where our missionaries serve and where we have twinning partnerships, themed baskets for your home or to pamper yourself, gift cards for local retailers, and beautiful handmade crafts. There will be something for everyone! Please plan on bidding and spreading the word about this exciting event. We'll start loading the auction items soon. To register and for a preview, visit <https://www.32auctions.com/MissionPossible2021>.

**HELP WANTED AT THE ARCHDIOCESE PASTORAL CENTER** - The Center for the New Evangelization is seeking a Bilingual Administrative Assistant to support the “Marriage & Family Evangelization” and “Hispanic Evangelization” teams. This is a great job for the right person! Find out more and apply at <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/jobs/administrative-assistant-iii-bilingual>.

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

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



**ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS: NEW CHILD PROTECTION PLATFORM** - In July 2021 the archdiocese will be moving to SafeParish as the new platform for Child Protection training and compliance. SafeParish is an organization that specializes in training and education solutions for organizations world-wide. They have 20+ years of experience in providing child safe environment training programs. SafeParish will continue to work with our current background check provider – Selection.com. All training and background information in your current VIRTUS account will be transferred to SafeParish. No new live training through SafeParish will be required if you have completed live child protection training through VIRTUS. Ongoing child protection training will still be required for all volunteers and employees and will consist of quarterly interactive video-based training instead of monthly bulletins. As the archdiocese moves closer to the conversion date, additional information regarding your new SafeParish account will be provided. If you have questions, please contact your parish's Safe Environment Coordinator.

**ARE YOU DISCERNING YOUR VOCATION?** - Join us for the **"Zoom and See" Discerner Series**. Build relationships and community with others on a similar spiritual journey and discover what your discernment could look like. Sponsored by the Office for Consecrated Life of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, it takes place the last Tuesday of each month, 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Check us out on Instagram at #Cincyconsecrife. Register at <https://forms.gle/R2Bi5MFDyv4eWeVL6> or contact Maria Reinagel at [mreinagel@CatholicAOC.org](mailto:mreinagel@CatholicAOC.org) or 513.263.6683.

**MEET AND GREET FOR DISCERNERS APRIL 27** - Are you trying to discover God's plan for your life? Are you called to marriage? Consecrated life? Possibly the diaconate? For the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Vocation Ministers are hosting a "How Did you Know?" panel discussion featuring a variety of vocations. Meet and Greet for Discerners April 27 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. To register, go to [www.tinyURL.com/cincyvocations](http://www.tinyURL.com/cincyvocations).

**5TH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY CELEBRATED ON MAY 1, 2021** - This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the good news that is the Religious Brother! There are 95 religious brothers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Celebrate and show appreciation to these brothers for the gifts, charism, and rich history that is the vocation of the Religious Brother on May 1, 2021. Please visit [www.religiousbrothers.org](http://www.religiousbrothers.org) to download prayers, prayer services, reflections, and other resources to celebrate Religious Brothers Day.

**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!** - Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio is recruiting **volunteers to serve as mentors** to refugee youth ages 15-24. Work with refugee youth to promote social and civic engagement and support academic and vocational advancement. Volunteers must be 18 or older and willing to commit 2 hours a week. No foreign language skills required. Contact Donald Foley at 513.672.3824 or [dfoley@ccswoh.org](mailto:dfoley@ccswoh.org) for more information. **Affordable housing needed** for refugees resettling in the Greater Cincinnati area. For more information, contact Annie Scheid at 513.672.3784 or [ascheid@ccswoh.org](mailto:ascheid@ccswoh.org).

**HEART OF MARY RESPITE AND COMPANION SERVICES** – This service provides non-medical support in the home from reliable, trained volunteers so caregivers can take care of other responsibilities or have time to relax or pursue other interests. This service helps caregivers take a needed break to revitalize, so they can continue caring for their loved one in the home. Volunteer duties primarily depend on the level of activity of the client. Some volunteers provide safety and security for clients who are homebound; others provide companionship, emotional support, and a caring presence; and others will do an activity for those clients who like to stay busy. **Currently we**

are only providing Phone Reassurance for our homebound clients. These phone calls provide a friendly voice to those who may feel isolated and cut off from their community and friends/family. To become a volunteer please visit the link at Better Impact: <http://bttr.im/bm17f> or contact Stephanie Slack, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator at Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, 513.535.2291.

**2021 SU CASA VIRTUAL GALA** - Su Casa Hispanic Center, a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, will be holding its annual gala virtually again this year. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 PM. The theme for this year's event is "Building a Welcoming Community for All" and the event will include a chat box, raffles, trivia questions, gift basket online auction, client stories, and so much more. To register, visit [www.ccswoh.org/su-casa-virtual-gala/](http://www.ccswoh.org/su-casa-virtual-gala/).

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT** - Are you concerned about an aging parent? Is your spouse depending on you more and more due to their chronic illness? Do you have siblings or adult children who are struggling? Caregiver groups provide helpful resource information, understanding and encouragement. Consider joining a caregiver group or taking our caregiver self-care class so you can get the support you need! Caregiver groups are always open to new members and provide powerful tools for caregivers. Classes are starting in April and May. Please call Angie Homoele at 513.672.3834 or visit [www.ccswoh.org/programs/caregiver-assistance-network/](http://www.ccswoh.org/programs/caregiver-assistance-network/) for our current calendar and more information. Sponsored by the Caregiver Assistance Network, a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio funded through the Council on Aging and the National Community Care Corps.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR SUMMER CLASSES at MTSM** - Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology will be offering two summer classes online and in-person (listed below). Learn more at [www.athenaeum.edu/academics/registrar/](http://www.athenaeum.edu/academics/registrar/).

**THEOLOGY OF EVANGELIZATION | DR. ALAN MOSTROM | MAY 17 TO JUNE 16 ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 7:00 TO 9:40 PM** - This course takes a systematic, historical, and practical approach to the theology of evangelization. We consider what the Christian obligation to evangelize reveals about the Trinity, Christ, the mission of the Church, the moral life, and last things. After considering the theological foundations of evangelization we survey the history of evangelization from a variety of perspectives – personal, diocesan, and missions to evangelized nations. Finally, the course synthesizes the theology of evangelization and the history of evangelization with the aim of developing concrete strategies for evangelization today.

**CARMELITE MYSTICISM | DR. TRACY JAMISON | MAY 18 TO JUNE 17 ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 7:00 TO 9:40 PM** - An overview of the spiritual life will be presented and discussed according to the mystical doctrines of Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint John of the Cross, as synthesized by Blessed Titus Brandsma, O.Carm., and Blessed Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus, O.C.D., who describe and understand spiritual development as the ordinary outcome of the consistent practice of the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Basic practical norms for a truly devout Catholic practice of vocal, mental, and contemplative prayer will be introduced and explained.

**MINISTRY TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (REPORTING)** - The Archdiocese of Cincinnati regards child abuse in all its forms as gravely sinful and criminal. Anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse by a legitimate member of the clergy or hierarchy, employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese should first report the abuse to the appropriate secular legal authority and then to Ms. Teresa Maley, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse of the Archdiocese, at 513.263.6623 or 1.800.686.2724 ext. 6623.



# Questions About Medicare? We Have Answers.



## Local Advisors. Expert Advice.

At RetireMEDiQ, we offer you Medicare guidance and help you find the right plan for your needs and budget.

### Talk to us and find out:

- Which Medicare plan is right for you
- Why enrolling now could save you time and money
- How you can access your Medicare benefits and keep working

*...and much more!*

Join over 50,000 local retirees who have trusted us to be their mentors in Medicare.



Visit [retiremediq.com/tct](https://retiremediq.com/tct) to learn more