



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE**



LOVE IN ACTION

A Principle of Beacons of Light

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Fall!

September is here, the temperatures have cooled, the kids are back to school, football has returned, and the PSL* is back on the menu. It's my FAVORITE season.

It's been a really hard couple of weeks in the world, and we join our prayers with the folks in Minnesota, Afghanistan, the Holy Land, Sudan, and all others who are suffering. May God's peace and healing be with them all.

There's a LOT happening in the coming month so I'll keep this short so you have more time to explore the rest of the newsletter.

Please note:

- It's the season for **Pilgrimages of Hope**. There are several Care for Creation iterations in the coming weeks and one racial justice iteration on Sat. September 13.

- The Southeastern **Catholic Rural Life** group has their annual Farm Mass planned for this Friday, 9/5, and a retreat planned for Sat. 9/13.
- We're planning an **Interfaith Prayer Service** to stand in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee community. It's on Sunday, September 28, at 3:00pm at First Unitarian Church.

Look for details on all of these (and more!) below.

Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

We humbly ask that you continue to pray for us. 2025 continues to be a challenging year, and your prayers - and engagement! - will make our success possible. God help us!

If there's anything that we can do to support the work happening in your community, please let us know. We're trying to be more present to families of parishes, especially during the Beacons of Light process, and we'd love to (re)connect with you and work to build up God's kingdom of peace, justice, and kinship in your corner of the kingdom.

We will continue to send out Action Alerts encouraging everyone to bring their voice and power to bear on important issues.

We wish you a wonderful September, and - as always - we look forward to seeing you soon as we continue to stand up for justice, solidarity, and equity.

Peace and all good,
Tammie, Sr. Christine, Jill, Glen, & Andrew

**Pumpkin Spice Latte*



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PILGRIMAGES OF HOPE FOR CREATION

Join the **Archdiocese of Cincinnati** as Pilgrims of Hope for Creation! Catholic communities across the U.S. are organizing local pilgrimages as sacred opportunities to pray for the grace to encounter Christ in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth, and one another.



SAT
SEPT 06
9 AM

Cincinnati Virtual Pilgrimage
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
701 E Columbia Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45215

SAT
SEPT 13
9 AM

Dayton NW Pilgrimage
Aullwood Audubon Nature Center
1000 Aullwood Rd, Dayton, OH 45414

SAT
SEPT 27
9 AM

Cincinnati Pilgrimage
Mill Creek and Lick Run Greenway
Exact location TBD

SAT
OCT 04
9 AM

Dayton East Pilgrimage
Mount Saint John
4435 E. Patterson Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45430

SAT
OCT 11
9 AM - 4 PM

Laudato Si' Conference
Xavier University, Health United Building
1723 Cleoney Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45212



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For more information, contact Jillian Foster
jfoster@catholicaoc.org

For more on Pilgrimages of Hope go to
www.catholicpilgrimsofhope.org

[Registration and
Information Here:](#)

*these pilgrimages will
not be on foot





CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

Southeastern Catholic Rural Life Retreat Day

Catholic Rural Life, St. Mary Deanery, and the Catholic Social Action Office are offering a day long retreat **"Mass-Misa-Mission: The Eucharist as the Source of all Mission"** on ***Saturday, September 13th*** from **9:30am-4:00pm**.

The retreat will be held at **The Dragonfly Village** (previously known as Chatfield Edge or the Ursulines of Brown County) 20918 St. Rte.251, St Martin, OH 45118. Fr. Steve Pawelk of Glenmary Home Missioners will lead the retreat. The deadline to register is Friday, 9/5. Cost is \$10.

Register and learn more here:
<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/crl-2025-retreat-day> - or contact [Sr. Christine](#).

Farm Mass

You are invited to join us for an outdoor Mass, supporting farmers, gardeners and rural life, at the former Sub District #6 Schoolhouse on Friday, September 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The Schoolhouse, now a Bed and Breakfast owned by Jim and Joan Burge, is located at 1399 Brown Road, Wilmington OH 45177. Archbishop Casey will be the main concelebrant. The Mass is being sponsored by the Holy Saints of God Family of Parishes and will be celebrated rain or shine. Please bring a chair and a snack to share.





Saturday, September 13, 2025
from 2- 4 pm
Vigil Mass following at 4 pm

**Pilgrimage begins and ends
at Saint Charles Center,
2860 U.S. 127, Carthagena, Ohio**

*If the weather is
prohibitive, the
pilgrimage will take place
entirely inside St. Charles.*

In 1833, John Randolph, a Virginia politician, died. He was the owner of 383 slaves. In his will, he said, "I give and bequeath to all my slaves their freedom, heartily regretting that I have ever been the owner of one.", and he directed \$8,000 of his fortune (over \$250,000 today) be used to purchase land for these now freed slaves to live. This land was in Mercer County, OH. In 1846, the freed slaves arrived in Cincinnati and then took three canal boats up to New Bremen to claim their land. They were met in New Bremen by an armed mob of German settlers who would not let them off the boats. They said, "Resolved. That we will not live among Negroes, as we have settled here first, we have fully determined that we will resist the settlement of blacks and mulattoes in this country to the full extent of our means, the bayonet not excepted." The people were forced back down the canal. They eventually dispersed and settled in Shelby and Miami counties. To the best of our current knowledge, these people were never given what was owed to them.

Over 175 years later, efforts are being made to remember the lives of those people and mourn how unjustly and dishonorably they were treated. One of these efforts is a traveling art exhibit - called "Freed Will: The Randolph Freedpeople from Slavery to Settlement" - coordinated by the National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center in conjunction with the Ohio History Connection.

In honor of the Feast of St. Peter Claver, patron saint of slaves, the Archdiocese's Anti-Racism Task Force has organized a pilgrimage to view both this exhibit and three other notable sites. The pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday, September 13, at the St. Charles Center in Carthagena, starting at 2:00pm**. Following the pilgrimage there will be a mass (4:00pm) and light supper. All are encouraged to attend and invite other to join.

For more information, you can [click here](#). Registration is not required but greatly appreciated so appropriate accommodations and food can be planned. For any questions, please contact [Andrew](#).



Interfaith Prayer

in Solidarity with Immigrants & Refugees

Sunday, September 28, 3:00pm

First Unitarian Church

536 Linton St, Cincinnati, 45219



Scan here for more information



PRAY FOR
peace

SHARE THE JOURNEY

A CONCERT FOR COMPASSION

raising money to help organizations working with refugees and immigrants at our borders and in our communities.

Sunday September 28

7:00pm

First United Church of Christ
5808 Glenview Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45224

HELPING THESE CHARITIES



for more info

<https://sharethejourney.love>



DONATE NOW



Grey Larson & Cindy Kallet



Vallimar & Frank Jansen



Serenity Fisher & The Cardboard Hearts
& Maxwell Pierson



Emcees
Michael Johnathon Elaine Diehl

Business Canvassing for Immigrant Rights

If you're interested in being proactive in supporting our immigrant and refugee community members, here's an opportunity.

Folks will be trained to go out into the community and encourage small and medium businesses to stand in solidarity - in legal ways - with their refugee and migrant employees, customers, and neighbors.

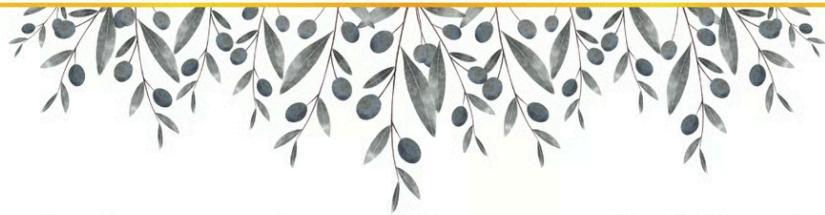
If you're interested, please contact Andrew. We will be scheduling training sessions in the coming months.



The Archdiocese of Cincinnati presents

Creating a Hope-filled Future Together

A Laudato Si' Conference



Join us for a day of connection, education, and creating a more hopeful future for our Earth.

Saturday October 11, 2025

9:00am-4:30pm



Keynote:

Gail Worcelo, SEC

Xavier University,
Health United Building
1723 Cleneay Ave, Cincinnati



For more information, contact Jillian Foster at jfoster@catholicaoc.org



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati



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Sisters of the
Precious Blood

Sisters of
Mercy



Hermanas de la
Misericordia

Click [here](#) to sign up for updates or [here](#) to get more information.



DEEPENING COMMUNION IN A POLARIZED WORLD

November 4-6, 2025 | St. Meinrad, IN

Designed for Catholic theologians, students of theology, and Church leaders, this convocation brings together recognized leaders from differing perspectives to model healthy discourse, seek common ground, and make recommendations for how to build unity in a deeply divided Church.

[Click here for more information.](#)



A Vision for Love in Action: Becoming Communities of Salt & Light

Is your family of parishes ready to take your visioning for Love in Action to the next level? The Department of Life, Dignity, & Charity is offering a 3-part series **[Love in Action](#)** opportunity to help your parish family Love in Action team understand why this vision is important, how this vision has developed in the history of the Church, what are the larger and small local organizations with which your parish can cooperate, and how to build on what you already have going on in your parishes (along with your resources of time, talent, and treasure) to create a growing vision of Love in Action in your parish family. This series is only offered on the deanery level so we invite you to ask your pastor if he is interested in bringing this series to your deanery and how he might work with the other pastors and families in his deanery to bring it to fruition.

If you would like more information, please contact Mary Anne Bressler at mbressler@ccswoh.org.



Eucharistic Year of Mission

Inspired by the Christ in the Eucharist and following the Eucharistic Congress, we are celebrating a Eucharistic Year of Mission. To showcase the amazing work of Catholics in the Archdiocese, we launched a webpage, www.catholicaoc.org/yearofmission, to promote several events, programs, and stories of mission and action. For this Year of Mission, we are:

- Relaunching the 2015 Food for All Campaign, which includes a year-long food drive and letter-writing opportunity to promote the Farm Bill
- Promoting Parish Ministry Fairs and the Love in Action principle of Beacons of Light
- Year of Mission stories in the *Catholic Telegraph*

Please visit [the website](http://www.catholicaoc.org/yearofmission) for more details and information. Contact Jillian Foster at jfoster@catholicaoc.org with any questions.



Advocacy Opportunities

Proposed Legislation to Prohibit State-Funded Death: HB 72 & SB 134

Legislation has been introduced into both Ohio chambers which would prohibit state funding of intentional termination of human life at any stage and circumstance in Ohio. This first-of-its-kind legislation reinforces current law banning state funding for abortion, abolishes the death penalty, and expands protections against assisted suicide by linking these prohibitions together in Ohio Revised Code.

Click the bill numbers below for summaries and status updates on each bill:

- **House Bill 72:** sponsored by [Representative Adam Mathews](#) (R-Lebanon) and [Representative Jean Schmidt](#) (R-Loveland)

- **Senate Bill 134**: sponsored by [Minority Leader Nickie Antonio](#) (D-Lakewood) and [Senator Steve Huffman](#) (R-Tipp City)

Click [here](#) to read the letter from the OH bishops to all OH legislators advocating for support for these bills.

Reach out to your legislators and encourage them to support these bills!

Support Religious Workers and the Communities They Serve

An increasing number of priests, religious sisters and brothers, and others serving the Church throughout the United States will be forced to abandon their ministries if policymakers do not act soon. Unfortunately, many parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions have already had to part with men and women who served them for years because of challenges with the Religious Worker Visa Program.

The bipartisan [Religious Workforce Protection Act \(RWPA\)](#) (S. 1298/H.R. 2672), recently introduced in both chambers of Congress, would provide relief for religious workers in this situation and further the free exercise of religion in the United States for the benefit of all Americans.

[Act now!!](#)

Help Communities Affected by Climate Change

Urge Congress to support the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

[Urge Congress](#) to address the impact of climate change by providing robust funding for poverty-reducing international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2024 budget, especially for the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.



From the Respect Life Office

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of Respect Life Ministries

Assisted Suicide is Bad and Dangerous Idea

The deadly and dangerous practice of assisted suicide is now legal in 11 states (Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Main, New Jersey, New Mexico and Delaware) and Washington, DC. For years, promoters of assisted suicide have worked to advance their agenda in every state they can, referring to it as “**END-OF-LIFE-CARE**”.

According to a **2024 GALLUP POLL**, 66% of Americans believe doctors should be allowed to assist patients commit suicide for terminal patients living in severe pain who request it. While “severe pain” is part of the narrative of why it is needed, that is actually not the reason it is typically requested in practice, and that is only one of several reasons why physician-assisted suicide should not be a solution to the problem of suffering with terminal illness.

Pain Not the Primary Issue

- While most people may view unbearable physical pain as an acceptable reason to request suicide, untreated pain is not in practice the top reason for people to utilize it, where it is legal. As an example, in a study on **OREGON PATIENTS**, the primary reasons for requesting death were things like “fear of poor quality of life”, “loss of independence” and the perception of being a “burden to others”. Actual pain did not hit the top five list. Contrast that **WITH THIS STUDY** about the first three years after Oregon permitted assisted suicide, which found that nearly half of patients who initially requested it changed their minds after being provided palliative care. Assisted suicide does nothing to help these psychological and emotional problems. It simply confirms that treatable depression is an adequate reason to end one’s life.

We Have a Profit-Driven Health Care System

- Turning assisted suicide into an acceptable method of “treatment” for illness, incentivizes our insurance system to promote what is quite obviously going to be the cheapest method of “treatment” for anyone. Some patients in **OREGON AND CALIFORNIA** have received word that their health insurance will pay for assisted suicide but will not pay for treatment that may sustain their lives. (Watch this **QUICK VIDEO** for one example.) Good palliative care, on the other hand, requires years of adequate training and a team of dedicated providers. Why spend the money on progressing that mode of treatment when the quick, easy and cheap treatment is to **JUST KILL THE PATIENT?**

Puts Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse and Coercion

- Once assisted suicide becomes an option, the pressure to accept it naturally increases. Even in the ideal circumstance, just feeling like one is a burden coupled with being told suicide is an option, easily becomes the reason. This is especially true among the elderly and disabled. The temptation to view your own family members as a burden also increases. It undermines the entire concept of true compassion for loved ones. Of course, it also makes it much easier for those who do not have the best interest of their loved ones in mind to put undue influence on them to ask for suicide, even if the patients don’t truly want it.

There are many more reasons why legalizing assisted suicide is a bad and dangerous idea. For further information, visit **USCCB.ORG/TOLIVEEACHDAY** and **PATIENTSRIGHTSACTION.ORG**, or watch my video podcast on the topic at **BEING PRO LIFE ASSISTED SUICIDE**. Suicide is always a tragedy. Let us not treat some suicides as beautiful and dignified. True care for our loved ones in the dying process does not include helping them actively end their lives. Instead, let us offer true compassion and mercy, and love them where they are.



From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

Fr. Charles Onumaegbu, Chaplain for Deaf Ministry

Elevate: Soar to New Heights!

As the doors open to a brand-new academic year at St. Rita's School for the Deaf, students, staff, and families are welcomed into a renewed spirit of growth, hope, and ambition under the inspiring Theme for 2025–2026 School Year: "Elevate: Soar to New Heights." Guided by the empowering words of Philippians 4:13... "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", this year promises to be one of transformation, courage, and collective achievement.

This year's theme serves as more than just an inspirational phrase. It is a call to action. At St. Rita's, where communication and connection are the cornerstones of learning, "elevate" reflects a commitment to lifting every student's potential, academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, in athletic arenas, or through community service, students are encouraged to rise above challenges and reach beyond expectations.

"To elevate" or "to soar" means to lift, to raise, and to inspire. At a school where diversity of language and learning styles is celebrated, the theme resonates deeply. Every student's journey is unique, and at St. Rita's, they are reminded that with faith and perseverance, there are no limits to what they can achieve.

The Campus ministry team chose this year's theme because it aligns so beautifully with the mission of St. Rita's School for the Deaf, believing in the power of each student to grow into who God has called them to be. 'Elevate' or soar reminds us that we are not alone, we rise together, supported by our community and strengthened by Christ.

Throughout the year, students and staff will participate in activities that reflect the theme by getting involved in class activities, monthly challenges, service projects, spiritual reflections, and recognition ceremonies that honor the many ways the community embodies elevation. Be it students making efforts in learning the American Sign Language or a class collaborating on a service initiative, every step forward is a flight toward new heights.

As banners, posters, drawings, and paintings with the theme fill the hallways and classrooms with uplifting energy, the message is clear: at St. Rita's, every voice matters, every success is celebrated, and every challenge is met with faith. With Christ as their strength, the entire school community is ready to soar.



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