



# Communique'

[www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org)  
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## CHANCERY OFFICE

On November 17, 2020 Pope Francis appointed Reverend David J. Bonnar the 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Youngstown.

The Mass of Ordination and Installation will take place on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Due to limitations imposed by the current pandemic, the number of invitations has been severely restricted. You are invited to watch the ceremony via live stream on our diocesan website at [doy.org/media/cathedral](http://doy.org/media/cathedral) live stream at 2:00 p.m.

A rebroadcast on ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel is scheduled on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 12:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.

### CHURCH OVERSEAS COMBINED COLLECTION

The Church Overseas Combined Collection will be held the weekend of January 24, 2021. This four-in-one collections include: Catholic Relief Services, Holy Father/Peter's Pence, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and the Church in Latin America. Please see bulletin announcements for the weekends of January 16-17, January 23-24 and January 30-31 are included in this month's *Communique* attachments.

### CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

On August 1, 2020 Monsignor Siffrin promulgated the *Safe Environment Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults*. This new policy replaces our 2008 *Child Protection Policy* and will be effective on November 1, 2020. Over the coming months we will begin to gradually update our procedures. Please watch for communications from your local Compliance Officer and feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

All Employees in our parishes, schools, and institutions are now required to be compliant regardless of their level of contact with children or vulnerable adults.

Volunteers who work alone with vulnerable adults, or who regularly minister to vulnerable adults in their homes or at health care facilities, or who are responsible for vulnerable adults on behalf of a parish, school, or institution are now required to be compliant. Please review the *Safe Environment Policy* for more details and contact my office if you have any questions.

1. Compliance Requirements

A. *Updated Authorization & Verification and Acknowledgement Forms*

All Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Persons in Formation, and Employees, and those Volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must review a paper or electronic copy of the *Safe Environment Policy* and **electronically** sign the Authorization & Verification Form and Acknowledgement Form on their VIRTUS account page. (*Coming Soon*)

B. Fingerprinting and Background Checks

All Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Persons in Formation, and Employees, and those Volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must obtain a BCI or BCI/FBI background check. Any Webcheck location may be used and locations can be found at [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov).

**Background check requirements** are included in this month's Communique attachments.

Background checks **must** be sent directly to the Safe Environment Coordinator at the Diocese:

Catholic Diocese of Youngstown  
Attn: Safe Environment Office  
144 West Wood Street  
Youngstown, OH 44503

As of January 20, 2020, background checks completed on or after this date for other agencies, employers, dioceses, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown unless a copy is also sent directly to the Safe Environment Coordinator by BCI&I.

C. *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Class*

All Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Persons in Formation, and Employees, and those Volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must complete the *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* in-service class.

Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) for a schedule of VIRTUS in-service classes and to register in either English or Spanish.

**Until the threat of covid-19 has subsided, individuals are permitted to take the VIRTUS course online.**

Child protection in-service courses from other agencies, employers, dioceses, Scouts, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown.

2. Updating Information

Compliance Officers must submit updates for current and new employees and volunteers as they complete child protection compliance requirements on a Compliance Checklist. **A person is not compliant until the Safe Environment Coordinator receives a Compliance Checklist noting the dates that the requirements were fulfilled.** For the Compliance Checklist, email [dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org).

3. Reporting Child Abuse

If you or someone you know has been abused at any time by a priest, deacon, religious, seminarian, person in formation, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Youngstown, or if you believe that abuse has occurred or is currently occurring, contact civil authorities and also Mr. Dominic Colucy, Safe Environment Coordinator/Victim Assistance Coordinator, (office) 330-744-8451 x293 or (response line) 330-718-1388.

4. Questions or Concerns

For more information about the Diocese of Youngstown Safe Environment Policy, contact by mail: 144 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503, phone: 330-744-8451 x293; fax: 330-744-5099; or e-mail: [dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org).

## **CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK OF YOUNGSTOWN (CTNY)**

1. Local Programming on the Ecumenical Television Channel:

**Live stream ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel at [doy.org/Media/ETC-TV](http://doy.org/Media/ETC-TV) Live Stream.**

**Live stream The Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect David Bonnar at [doy.org/Media/Cathedral](http://doy.org/Media/Cathedral) Live Stream January 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

**REBROADCAST of The Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect David Bonnar on ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel on Thursday, January 14 at 12:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.; and, Saturday, January 16 at 12:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

2. Radio Programming Wineskins

*Wineskins* airs every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WKBN 570 AM in Youngstown, WRQX 600 AM in Salem at 7:30 a.m., WILB AM Canton 1060/WILB FM 89.5 Youngstown/WILB FM 94.5 Canton at 9:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Listen to *Wineskins* on the diocesan website by going to the “News and Media” bar, then, click on “Wineskins Audio Library.”

The Current Issue Segment will feature: January 3: Fr. Jim Korda will speak with Thomas Maj, President of Cardinal Mooney High School, Part I; January 10: Fr. Jim Korda will speak with Thomas Maj, Part II; January 17: Dave Schmidt talks about Family Life; January 24: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. Jim King, Associate Superintendent of Schools; and, Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Mary Fiala, Superintendent of Schools.

Diana Hancharenko, Young Adult Minister at St. Angela Merici Church in Youngstown, will tell us about the Saints celebrated this month: January 3: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; January 10: St. Hilary; January 17: St. Marianne Cope; January 24: Conversion of St. Paul; and, January 31: St. Blaise.

The Interview Segment will include: January 3: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. James Kravec on the Coronavirus, Part I; January 10: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. James Kravec, Part II; January 17: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. James Kravec, Part III; January 24: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Geno Capone, author of “God Matters in Everyday Life,” Part I; and, January 31: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Geno Capone, author of “God Matters in Everyday Life,” Part II.

This month’s Music Segment is from the CD “A Hand To Hold” by David Kauffman from [goodforthesoulmusic.com](http://goodforthesoulmusic.com).

Deacon Michael Kocjancic, from St. Charles Church in Boardman, will give his reflections on the Sunday Scripture Readings: January 3: Epiphany of the Lord; January 10: Baptism of the Lord; January 17: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time; January 24: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; and, January 31: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

3. For an ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel Schedule for winter 2021, please contact CTNY at 330-533-2243, or visit [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org) and go to the “News and Media” bar and click on the ETC-TV schedule.
4. Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/CTNYoungstown](http://www.facebook.com/CTNYoungstown).

## CANONICAL SERVICES

### Tribunal In-Service Available

The Tribunal staff has made available an ongoing, in-service for pastors, associates, deacons, religious, directors of religious education, religious education coordinators and counselors in order to prepare them in facilitating pleas for nullity for persons within the community whose marriages have broken down and who may be seeking a second union recognized by the Church.

The in-service focuses on preparation of case histories, compilation of documents, witnesses and determining of the appropriate grounds of nullity. Covered also are other types of nullity procedures.

Size of the in-service is in small groups of between 8-12 participants and generally runs approximately two hours. The in-service is offered at either the offices of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Youngstown or at a parish in the Canton area.

Interested parties, who have not already registered or who need a “refresher” should call the Tribunal at (330) 744-8451, ext. 252, to have their names placed on the registrant list. You would then be contacted when there are at least eight registrants for a particular location.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVICES

### 1. WARM HEARTS FOR WARM HOMES (Formerly known as Keep the Kids Warm)

Catholic Charities’ annual “Warm Hearts for Warm Homes” campaign will be held the weekends of January 23 and 24 through January 30 and 31. This important winter collection aims to provide utility assistance during the cold winter months families with children, working poor adults and older adults on fixed incomes.

Parishes of the diocese are kindly asked to take up a special collection and publish information about Warm Hearts for Warm Homes in their bulletins for those interested in making a donation to this important effort. Bulletin inserts regarding Warm Hearts for Warm Homes are attached to this issue of *Communique*.

For more information, contact Nikole Baringer at 330-744-8451, ext. 323 or [nbaringer@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:nbaringer@youngstowndiocese.org).

### 2. January is Poverty Awareness Month

January is poverty awareness month. Over 34 million Americans live in poverty.

This means a heater in only one room of the house or thinking that \$10.00 an hour is a really good deal or deciding between food and prescriptions.

Poverty also means asking for assistance with clothing, food, shelter and other basic needs. However, poverty is more—much more—than not having enough money. It is coping with chronic hungry. It is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. It is not knowing how to read or not having a job. Poverty has many faces, and changes all the time.

Each January during Poverty Awareness month, the Catholic community takes a more visible and united stand against poverty. Here are some ways you can help:

- Pray for those who struggle with poverty;
- Visit our updated Dollar Days Wish List at <https://dollardays.com/ccdoj/wishlist.html> to purchase products that our clients need most;
- Contact a Catholic Charities Agency near you and volunteer your time to help;
- Donate taxable pantry items (cleaning products, paper towels, toilet paper, hygiene items, laundry soap, facial tissues) to a Catholic Charities agency nearest you.

<b>CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>
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## OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

### 1. Seminarian Posters and Prayer Cards

The new 2020-21 Seminarian Posters and Prayer Cards are in. Our seminarian interns should have already delivered them to all institutions. If you would like additional copies, please contact the vocations office: 330-744-8451 or by email at [skopp@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:skopp@youngstowndiocese.org).

### 2. Vocation Director at Your Parish

Diocesan Vocation Director Fr. Scott Kopp is coordinating his calendar for high school and college visits and Masses. If you have a special youth ministry, parish, or vocational event, consider asking him to attend or speak. 330-744-8451 or by email at [skopp@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:skopp@youngstowndiocese.org).

### 3. Come and See Weekends

All plans for seminary visits are still tentative as we work our way through the pandemic.

### 4. Seminarian Visits to Your School or Parish

As you make plans for the reopening of school in the fall or when things hopefully reopen fully in the Spring, please remember all of the seminarians we have currently studying in our diocese. They are all willing and available to come and speak at your parish or school. To schedule one, please contact Father Scott Kopp at 330-744-8451 or by email at [skopp@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:skopp@youngstowndiocese.org).

### 5. Seminary Field Trips

Please remember that our diocese has an established relationship with St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland. Because of its close proximity to our diocese, consider taking a day for young men and women to have a field trip to St. Mary's. Children from 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades can find out firsthand what life is like in a seminary. Depending on when your tour is arranged, we hope to have a Youngstown seminarian guide the tour. This is a great opportunity for kids in our Catholic schools, CCD programs and youth ministry programs. Hopefully there will be renewed opportunities for these visits at some point this new school year. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call the Vocation Office at 330-744-8451.

### 6. Vocation Intercessions and Bulletin Blurbs for January

Attached to the Communiqué are vocation intercessions and bulletin blurbs for the month of January. Please use these in your bulletins and at Mass to help promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in your parish community and school.

7. Vocations Social Media

Facebook: doyvocations

Website: [www.doy.org/vocations](http://www.doy.org/vocations)

**OFFICE OF VOWED RELIGIOUS**

1. World Day for Consecrated Life

Please mark your calendars. On Sunday, February 7, 2021, the Church of Youngstown will celebrate the gift of religious life at St. Columba Cathedral, at the 10:30 a.m. liturgy. Bishop Bonnar has been invited, but cannot confirm any engagement dates until after his Installation on January 12, 2021. All religious who have or are currently living and or working in the diocese are encouraged to attend. Parishes are encouraged to send representatives of youth to join in the celebration. Due to the pandemic, no social will follow the liturgy this year.

2. Retirement Fund for Religious

On behalf of the 30,000 retired religious nationwide, thank you to all who participated in the Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal. Special thanks to pastors who graciously conducted the Appeal in your parishes, to the Religious presenters who spoke with conviction and genuine concern, and to all who listened and generously responded to this pressing need in the Church. May God abundantly bless each of you. – The RFR Committee

3. Religious Jubilee Celebration

Please stay tuned for more information on this event. We are still in the planning stages.

4. Religious Returning or New to the Diocese

If you know of any religious sisters, brothers, or priests, who are new or returning to the diocese, and are living, working, or studying within the diocese, kindly ask them to contact this office at (330) 744-8451, ext. 238 or 237.

**DEVELOPMENT/STEWARDSHIP**

1. NEW One-Time Gift Direct Mail Program

The Office of Development & Stewardship is pleased to offer a NEW program for parishes and schools to solicit one-time gifts through direct mail services to parishioners, donors, and friends. We develop the content (either a letter or a brochure), have them printed, and you tell us who to send them to! For more information, contact Luke Politsky at [lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org](mailto:lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 x298.

2. Life & Estate Planning Seminars

NOW is the time to plan a Life & Estate Planning Seminar. End of life issues and estate planning are discussed in a one-hour presentation. Participants are encouraged to remember their parish, a Catholic school, or favorite Catholic cause in their plan. The seminar is FREE! For more information, contact Luke Politsky at [lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org](mailto:lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 x298.

3. In-Pew Offertory Envelopes

Enhance your evangelization and stewardship efforts with custom in-pew offertory envelopes to welcome visitors and invite them to share their gifts with the parish. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at [lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org](mailto:lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 x298.

4. Endowments with the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation

You are invited to *Leave a Legacy* for your parish, Catholic school, or Catholic ministry by establishing a perpetual endowment fund within the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation. The income from these funds is available to the designated parish, school, or ministry, and is restricted to the purpose(s) which the donors establish. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at [lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org](mailto:lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 x298.

5. Increased Offertory Programs and Capital Campaigns

Contact us TODAY to plan a Parish Increased Offertory Program or Capital Campaign for 2021. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at [lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org](mailto:lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 x298.

6. Stewardship Thoughts for parish bulletins are attached.

**PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

1. Intercessions for Life and Pro-Life Bulletin Briefs

Recommended intercessions and bulletin briefs for January 2020, prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, may be found at <https://www.respectlife.doy.org/word-of-life> and on the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life page of [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org).

2. Marriage Preparation Engaged Couple Retreat Day

The next diocesan-sponsored one-day marriage preparation retreat days for engaged couples will be held Saturdays, January 9 and February 6, both at St. Columba Cathedral Hall, Youngstown. Reservations are required. Social distancing protocols will be followed. Registration information may be found at [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org); go to the “Ministries” drop-down menu and press on “Pro-Life, Marriage & Family Life.”

For more information on these, and other opportunities for marriage preparation formation, contact [dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451, ext.272.

3. January 22, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." Additional information and resources may be found at <https://www.respectlife.org/january-22>.

4. Masses for Life – NOTE: Changes have been made to the dates and times of the Masses for Life

Each year in January we recall the infamous Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade that effectively legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States. Our diocese hosts Masses for Life as a prayerful reminder that we “must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.”

- Saturday, Jan. 23, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul Parish, North Canton (241 S. Main St.);
- Saturday, Jan. 30, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown (154 W. Wood St.);
- An additional opportunity to pray for life: Friday, Jan. 29, at 12:10 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral (prior to the “Local Observance of Roe v. Wade” held by Mahoning County Right to Life at the Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building in Youngstown at 1:00 p.m.).

Each Mass for Life will include a Blessing of Children in the Womb. All are welcome – no reservations needed. For more information contact [dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 ext.272.

5. Do You Know Someone Who is Expecting a Child?

If you know someone who is expecting a child, invite her and her family to attend one of the Masses for Life:

- Saturday, Jan. 23, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul Parish, North Canton (241 S. Main St.);
- Friday, Jan. 29, at 12:10 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown (154 W. Wood St);
- Saturday, Jan. 30, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown (154 W. Wood St.).

At each Mass there will be a special Blessing of Children in the Womb. All are welcome – no reservations needed. For more information contact [dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 ext.272.

6. Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage

In January our nation remembers the infamous 1973 Supreme Court decisions Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Since then more than 60 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, while the lives of their parents have been shattered. Each year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops call for "Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage" taking place this year from January 21 until 29. More information may be found at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com).

7. 2021 March for Life and Related Events – Alternative Options (UPDATED)

COVID-19 has necessitated making alternative plans regarding the National March for Life in Washington DC and events normally associated with it. Included in the attachments section of this Communique is an UPDATED list of options for groups and individuals to stand united for Life and educate themselves on the need to protect life from the moment of conception until natural death. As additional details are learned, updated versions of this list may appear on the webpage of the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life at <https://doy.org/ministries-2/pro-life-marriage-family-life/> in the "Upcoming Events" box. For more information contact [dschmidt@youngstowndioocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndioocese.org) or 330-744-8451 ext. 272.

8. FOCCUS Training & Refreshers

Item #3 of the Marriage Preparation Policy of the Diocese of Youngstown calls for "a pre-marriage inventory tool" such as FOCCUS (which is the most widely used in our diocese). FOCCUS is offering facilitator training on their Catholic edition via Zoom on the following dates and times:

- January 16 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm;
- February 11 from Noon to 4:00 pm;
- March 13 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm;
- April 8 from Noon to 4:00 pm;
- May 8 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
- June 10, from Noon to 4:00 pm.

The cost is \$115 per individual (& spouse attends free) and includes one FOCCUS Manual and one REFOCCUS Manual and shipping.

Similarly, FOCCUS is offering "refresher training" via Zoom for those already certified as facilitators, on the following dates and times:

- January 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- February 9 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- March 9 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- April 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- May 4 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- June 8 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

The cost is \$39 per individual (& spouse attends free) but does not include manuals. For more information or to register contact FOCCUS at [foccus@foccusinc.com](mailto:foccus@foccusinc.com) or 877-883-5422.

9. National Marriage Week Materials from the USCCB  
Below are links to materials from the USCCB that can be used to promote National Marriage Week (February 7-14). This year's theme from USCCB is: "To Have, To Hold, To Honor." More materials will be forthcoming.

[Flyer/Bulletin Insert](#) (English) for parishes, diocesan newspapers, etc.

[Flyer/Bulletin Insert](#) (Spanish) for parishes, diocesan newspapers, etc.

[Preaching Resource](#) for all diocesan clergy

[Prayers of the Faithful](#) for parishes

[At-Home Marriage Retreat](#) (English) for all married couples

[At-Home Marriage Retreat](#) (Spanish) for all married couples

[Parish Resource](#) to Promote NMW 2021 for diocesan and parish leaders

10. Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.”

Everyone in a parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

This year, as the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) by Pope St. John Paul II, we are invited to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. This nationwide effort entitled “Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service” is sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

To learn more about how your parish can take part in this effort contact our diocesan Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family at [dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org) or 330-744-8451 ext. 272, or visit [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com).

11. Annual White Mass for all Health Professionals Including Mental Health Workers

The Annual White Mass – celebrating and recognizing the ministry and work of those in the health professions – will be held on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Columba located at 154 W. Wood St. in Youngstown. More details to come. For more information call 330-744-8451 ext.272 or contact [dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org).

## **OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

1. New Year 2021 – Time for Evangelization

Parish communities reaching out during the darkness of winter and the sorrows of the precious year can re-awaken the Light of Christ in the New Year 2021 with a fervent hope and zeal for the Gospel! Parishioners still waiting to feel safe returning to the worshipping community can be emailed or phoned with a new year greeting. Young people can be encouraged to approach their work and academics with an increased witness to their faith in Christ. Persons always eager to place their gifts and talents at the service of the community can be invited to create messages of hope for the neighborhood. Families can participate in sharing their unique successes in dealing with the many facets of the previous year through their reliance on faith.

The time to reconnect and keep connected the parish community is now! Resources and additional ideas may be found at [catechistcafe.weebly.com](http://catechistcafe.weebly.com).

## 2. Co Workers in the Vineyard

Over 15 years ago, in 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, a resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry. This document has influenced the recognition and affirmation of the role of the laity in relation to professionally engaged, academically prepared, and personally suitable to serve the Catholic Church in a varieties of ministries. Parish Ministers are members of the parish staff, along with the Pastor, and serve full time and part time in religious education, evangelization, youth ministry, young adult ministry, and other pastoral ministries. There is an expectation for appropriate formation and experience of individuals seeking these positions. If you have ever considered becoming prepared to work in lay ecclesial ministry, please contact the Office of Religious Education for discernment and possible next steps. The Church needs you!

## 3. New Books in the Diocesan Library

Bless Us, O Lord: A Family Treasury of Mealtime Prayers. Hamm, Robert M. Ave Maria Press, 2020. Complete with original and traditional blessings, this resource offers parents and caregivers the perfect words for every occasion-from observing saint feast days and liturgical seasons to celebrating a child's birthday or first day of school to remembering the life of a loved one.

Healthy caregiving: Perspectives for Caring professionals in Company with Henri Nouwen. O'Rourke, Michelle. Twenty Third Publications, 2020. Healthy Caregiving is an encouraging, reflective resource for professionals working in a care sector, including health care, social work, chaplaincy and other similar professions. Infused with the wisdom of Henri Nouwen, Michelle O'Rourke helps caregivers to become more intentional and wholistic in how they respond to those they care for every day. With her expertise in Nouwen's writings, Michelle is able to incorporate Henri's insights from his work in both spirituality and psychology, inspiring readers as they explore fresh perspectives to feed their souls, and find new meaning in their work.

Ponder Contemplative Bible Study Year B. Leonard-Fleckman, Mahri. Liturgical Press, 2020. Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study is a three-volume series designed to accompany hearers and preachers of the Word as they pray with and ponder the Sunday readings throughout the liturgical year. The Sunday readings are provided, along with brief commentary, engaging reflections, and clear guidance on how to use this resource alone or with a group.

River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey. Prejean, Sister Helen. Random House, 2019. The nation's foremost leader in efforts to abolish the death penalty shares the story of her growth as a spiritual leader, speaks out about the challenges of the Catholic Church, and shows that joy and religion are not mutually exclusive. Sister Helen Prejean's work as an activist nun, campaigning to educate Americans about the inhumanity of the death penalty, is known to millions worldwide. Less widely known is the evolution of her spiritual journey from praying for God to solve the world's problems to engaging full-tilt in working to transform societal injustices. Sister Helen writes about the relationships with friends and mentors who have shaped her over the years.

4. Online Bachelor's Degree in Ministry and Theology from Loyola New Orleans

Did you know that Loyola University New Orleans now offers a Bachelor's Degree in Ministry and Theology totally online? The program requires two or more years of full-time work or volunteer experience for admission, allows students to transfer up to 90 credit hours of coursework from accredited colleges and universities, and requires 120 credits for completion. To learn more, visit <http://cnh.loyno.edu/lim/ba-ministry-and-theology> or email Joan Lawson, LIMEX liaison, at [jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org).

5. Master's Degree or Certificate in Ministry and Theology from Loyola New Orleans

We are currently gathering a list of interested persons for a possible Fall 2021 LIMEX learning group. Many LIMEX graduates currently minister in Religious Education or Pastoral Ministry. This local program features a small group format in which participants meet for one day/evening per week for about 3 hours or so. This discussion-centered learning includes extensive reading assignments each week. To learn more, visit <http://cnh.loyno.edu/lim/study-options> or email Joan Lawson, LIMEX liaison, at [jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org).

6. Religious Education Certification for Catechists and Teachers

A new listing of the Religious Education Certification Opportunities for Catechists and Teachers for January through April is available at Catechist Cafe. Core courses, general courses, parish-sponsored, college/university-hosted, and other regional organizations are included in the list of online and onsite sessions. Visit <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/catechist-courses.html> (at [catechistcafe.weebly.com](http://catechistcafe.weebly.com), hover on "For Catechists" for "Catechist Courses").

These diocesan online courses will begin in the new year:

*Finding Peace and Letting Go of Stress*, GENERAL course, 6 Hours

January 18 - February 6, 2021

Online Facilitator: Nicky Uerling

Contact Nicky by email for password: [nuerling@stmichaelcanfield.org](mailto:nuerling@stmichaelcanfield.org)

Fee \$15 + online book purchase

*Elementary Catechesis*, CORE course, 10 hours

January 18 - February 22, 2021

Online Facilitator: Marcy Fessler

Contact Marcy by email for password: [marcy-stpatricks@neo.rr.com](mailto:marcy-stpatricks@neo.rr.com)

Fee: \$25, includes book

*Practice Makes Catholic*, GENERAL course, 10 hours

January 25 - March 1, 2021

Online facilitator: Joan Lawson. Contact Joan by email for password: [jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:jlawson@youngstowndiocese.org)

Fee: \$25, includes book

## 7. Online Learning Centers

These online learning centers have winter offerings. *Contact the Office of Religious Education for information about catechist certification hours for these and other courses, webinars, and other online catechist formation opportunities. Visit CatechistCafe/For Catechists/Catechist Courses for connections to these learning centers and courses:*

- The Boston College Crossroads online program is offering these courses that begin in January:

*History Of The Church: Telling Our Stories*

*Creed: What We Believe*

*Grace And Commitment: The Laity*

- The University of Notre Dame Satellite Theological Program has 30 courses beginning January 4, including:

*Ecclesiology*

*Jesus Christ Yesterday and Today*

*The Papacy*

*Faith and Science: The Catholic Approach*

*The Intercultural Church: Theological Foundations and Pastoral Practices*

And these in Spanish, also beginning January 4:

*Introducción a los Cuatro Evangelios*

*La Iglesia Intercultural: Fundación Teológica y Práctica Pastoral*

- The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation from the University of Dayton has more than 30 courses beginning January 3, including:

*Advanced Catholic Social Teaching*

*Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing*

*Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Faith Formation*

*On the Call to Holiness (Gaudete Et Exsultate)*

*Study of the Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*

## OFFICE OF WORSHIP

### 1. Liturgical Directives for the Celebration of Mass during the Pandemic

The Liturgical Directives/Guidelines for the Resumption of Public Mass published in early June remain in effect. Updates and revisions to the guidelines/directives will be issued as needed. Parishes are to follow any new directives and mandates issued by the Governor of Ohio or local officials within your jurisdiction. The wearing of face coverings for all liturgical ministers and especially during the distribution of Holy Communion is required.

2. Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass during the Pandemic

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Youngstown and all other Catholics in the diocese and especially those who are sick, or at high risk of becoming sick continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice. The Easter Duty obligation is extended for a period of one year from the end of the Easter Season 2020.

3. Sunday of the Word of God

On September 30, 2019, a Motu proprio Apostolic Letter "*Aperuit illis*" issued by Pope Francis established the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the "Sunday of the Word of God." This year, January 23/24, 2021 will be designated as "Sunday of the Word of God" and is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God. Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis explains the celebration has "ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity." Parishes are invited to find ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. For more resources:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god>

4. A Year of Saint Joseph

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter about Saint Joseph and has declared a "Year of Saint Joseph" to be observed from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The letter, *Patris corde* ("a Father's heart") was released on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

The Pope writes:

*"After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church," Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer." Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death."*

A full text of the letter can be found at:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html). In the coming weeks, resources will be provided to celebrate this important year (when the liturgical day allows) and for use outside Mass.

5. Rite of Election – February 21, 2021

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continued Conversion of Candidates is scheduled on the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021 at Saint Columba Cathedral at 1:30 p.m. and at Saint Joseph Church, Canton at 6:00 p.m. Information regarding the submission of names of catechumens and candidates will be sent in the coming weeks.

6. Easter Vigil – April 3, 2021

The Easter Vigil will be on Saturday, April 3, 2021. The *Roman Missal* states that, “*the entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall...*” Furthermore, the Priest Policy Handbook states that the Easter Vigil “*is not to take place at the time of the ordinary anticipated Mass for Sunday,*” (cf. Faculties and Permissions, Section V, pg. 10). In the Diocese of Youngstown, sunset on April 3, 2021 will be at **7:51 p.m.** and the end of civil twilight will be at **8:19 p.m.** Two years ago Bishop Murry instituted a diocesan starting time for the Easter Vigil throughout the diocese of 8:00 p.m. or later. This starting time respects the current liturgical guidelines and diocesan policy. Furthermore it makes the Easter Vigil distinctive from the ordinary anticipated Mass for Sunday and alleviates any confusion among parishes. **Therefore the Easter Vigil is not to begin before 8:00 p.m.** *Please note that because daylight savings time begins each year in early March, the recommended start time of Easter Vigil will never be before 8 p.m.*

7. Liturgical Directory

The Liturgical Directory contains valuable information about Liturgy Committees; liturgical minister formation guidelines; guidelines for the celebration of sacraments; music in liturgical celebrations; and art and architecture directives. The directory can be accessed and downloaded from the diocesan website by clicking on “Worship” under the “Ministries” tab.

## **OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

1. Youth Ministers Virtual Epiphany Party on January 6

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, adults serving in youth ministries are invited to socialize, network, pray and share ideas during an adapted YM Epiphany Party, online from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Bring your own beverage and something that symbolizes what made your Christmas season so special.

Please RSVP to Cindee at < [ccase@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:ccase@youngstowndiocese.org) > for the log-in information. (And to whoever has the “white elephant” from past Epiphany Parties, please bring it along!)

2. “Cultivating a Culture of Encounter for Adolescent through Evangelization, Catechesis and Faith Community” - Youth Ministry Online Training Course 2 coming soon

**“Fundamentals of Evangelization and Catechesis with Adolescents”** (YMOT 2-A) will begin with an orientation week, January 18-24, 2021, then active coursework January 25 – February 14. Read, watch videos, and participate in discussions on your own time within the timeframe. This module can earn you ten religious education certification hours for basic certification in Adolescent Catechesis. Cost: \$40 includes Coursebook and online materials.

**“Forming a Consequential Faith”** (YMOT 2-B) will run February 22 – March 14. Again, students Read, watch videos, and participate in discussions on their own time within the timeframe. This module can earn you ten general religious education certification hours. Cost: \$40 includes Coursebook and online materials.

Instructors for both are Bob Barto and Cindee Case. See flier and registration form in the Attachments of the December Communique or download from:

<https://youngstownoyyam.weebly.com/ymot--youth-ministry-online-training.html>

3. *Momentum: Gen Z: Protagonists in the Church and the World - January 12*

Who are this next generation of young people? What new attitudes, hopes, desires, and gifts do they bring to the conversation about the convergence of life and faith? And perhaps most importantly, how well are our current ministry structures and models empowering them to be the protagonists and leaders that Pope Francis has invited them to become? On Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, join ministry colleagues from across the country to examine, discuss, and reflect on these questions.

For more information, visit: [https://nfcym.org/calendar-event/momentum-gen-z-protagonists-in-the-church-and-world/?rsvp\\_sent=1](https://nfcym.org/calendar-event/momentum-gen-z-protagonists-in-the-church-and-world/?rsvp_sent=1)

NOTE: Yes, this falls on the same day that Bishop-Elect Bonnar will be ordained and installed... you can either join live outside of the diocesan celebrations or watch the recordings at a later time, so it may still be very much worth it for you!

4. Eagle of the Cross Awards – Nominations accepted through February 12

If you know an outstanding high school junior or senior in our diocese, be sure to nominate him/her for the 2021 Eagle of the Cross Awards. Pandemic protocol/state health department orders permitting, recipients will be honored on Wednesday, April 14 in Youngstown, and all nominees receive a certificate of acknowledgement.

The form can be found in the attachments of this Communique and has been posted at: <http://youngstownoyyam.weebly.com/eagle-of-cross-awards.html>

Nominations are **DUE by 3 p.m. ET on Friday, February 12** (please mail by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>).

5. National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) 2021

The NFCYM has decided to move forward with plans for the November 18 – 20, 2021 NCYC in Indianapolis. However, they do not anticipate getting planning details to dioceses for a couple more months. Look for information in April.

6. Parish Youth Ministry Report Forms are Due January 31

Parish Coordinators/Directors for Youth Ministry are reminded to complete and submit the annual Parish Youth Ministry Report posted at <http://youngstownoyyam.weebly.com/key-forms.html> by January 31, 2021 for the 2020 year. This form, in addition to providing necessary information to the diocese, can be a useful tool for evaluating your current youth ministry efforts and to plan for the future. Thank you to those who have already submitted the report!

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
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**ST. COLUMBA CATHEDRAL -- LIVE STREAM**

Doy.org/Media/Cathedral Live Stream

- Thursday, December 24, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 11:30 p.m. Choir & 12 Midnight Mass
- Friday, December 25, 2020 @ 10:30 a.m.

*Please see flyer in this month's attachments for the Mass of Ordination & Installation for Bishop-Elect David J. Bonnar on January 12, 2021.*

**VIRTUAL CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT**

*If one of your new year's resolutions is to be a better father, here is some help.* Join the Catholic Men's Fellowship for the fourth **"virtual" Catholic Man Night**. The next "Man Night" is on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**. We will be presenting the fourth session in the Knights of Columbus "Into the Breach" series. These professionally produced videos focus on various aspects of authentic Catholic manhood. This next video is titled **"Fatherhood"**. What example are you giving to your children and grandchildren?

The Man Night will be a "Zoom meeting" and last about an hour. Go to our website **CMFDOY.org** for the link to the meeting. You can attend via computer or phone; with or without video. See you on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**CATHOLIC EXPONENT**

Publication dates and special sections for the Exponent are as follows: Dec. 25 – Christmas Greetings; Jan. 8 – Wedding & Marriage/Finance and Investment; and Jan. 22 – Seniors – Living 50+/Catholic Schools Week. The normal deadline for each issue is 12 days before the publication date. We try to get late information into the issue, but are sometimes limited by lack of available space.

Due to mail delivery schedules, some of our subscribers receive their papers on Saturday or even Monday, instead of Friday. If you have a big event planned for the weekend the paper is published, we recommend submitting items for publication in the previous issue so that everyone will have the information in a timely manner.

The Exponent is your source for doctrinally sound news stories, features, and commentary, keeping you up to date on local events such as the installation of Bishop-elect David Bonnar as the diocese continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. To subscribe, call 330-744-5251 or email [exposubscriptions@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:exposubscriptions@youngstowndiocese.org) to request subscription information.

Thank you for supporting your diocesan newspaper.

<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>
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	<u>January</u>
<i>Rev. Thomas C. McNally</i>	1/00
<i>Rev. Joseph A. Malik</i>	2/96
<i>Rev. Werner E. Hackert</i>	4/62
<i>Rev. Joseph A. Feicht</i>	4/65
<i>Rev. Edward D. Novotny, CPPS</i>	4/71
<i>Deacon Thomas Rohr</i>	4/10
<i>Rev. Richard Maro</i>	5/92
<i>Deacon Michael Roberts Jr.</i>	5/17
<i>Rev. Patrick Mahar, OP</i>	6/52
<i>Rev. Daniel Crowley, OP</i>	6/97
<i>Rev. Msgr. Breen Malone</i>	8/86
<i>Rev. William E. Degan</i>	9/61
<i>Rev. John Sargent</i>	9/05
<i>Rev. Joseph Gallagher</i>	10/46
<i>Rev. John J. Murphy, OP</i>	10/59
<i>Rev. Francis J. Bogacz</i>	12/78
<i>Rev. Sergius Kafka, OFM</i>	12/82
<i>Deacon Enrique Santiago</i>	12/16
<i>Rev. Daniel Kulesa</i>	12/19
<i>Rev. Gottlieb J. Pawlewicz</i>	13/65
<i>Rev. Warren Braun</i>	14/97
<i>Rev. Herbert J. Cook</i>	15/66
<i>Rev. Msgr. William P. Maxwell</i>	15/85
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Davidson</i>	16/52
<i>Rev. William O'Neil</i>	16/97
<i>Rev. John Sudock</i>	17/65
<i>Rev. Msgr. John Ashton</i>	17/20
<i>Rev. Paul A. Bagley, OP</i>	18/62
<i>Rev. Paul J. Buchholz</i>	18/64
<i>Rev. John Andrecic</i>	21/96
<i>Rev. Aloysius C. Sutter</i>	22/65
<i>Rev. Henry J. Cibulka</i>	22/74
<i>Rev. John S. Bialek</i>	23/57
<i>Rev. John P. Gallagher</i>	23/74
<i>Rev. Ignatious Staniszewski, SSP</i>	24/15
<i>Deacon Stephen Pytlik</i>	25/95
<i>Rev. Leo A. Dempsey</i>	26/60
<i>Rev. George J. Rourke, OP</i>	27/65
<i>Rev. John Gardner</i>	29/81
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Stephen Kocis</i>	30/52
<i>Rev. Herbert Maximillian, CPPS</i>	30/67
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. William S. Nash</i>	31/65
<i>Rev. George Franko</i>	31/20