



Communique'

www.doy.org
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503-1081
330-744-8451 fax 330-742-6448

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CHANCERY OFFICE

LETTERS OF SUITABILITY

Please note that no priest or deacon may exercise ministry within the Diocese of Youngstown without being granted faculties/permission by the bishop. It is the obligation of the pastor of the parish where ministry or speaking engagement will occur (or other responsible person outside a parish setting) to insure that the visiting cleric has obtained a letter of suitability. Without such a letter, the Diocese, the parish or school and the pastor or president could become legally liable should any wrongdoing occur.

The visiting cleric himself should ask his bishop or religious superior to send a letter of suitability to Bishop Bonnar. Letters of suitability are to be sent from one bishop/superior to another, not directly to a parish, since it is the bishop who is responsible for determining a cleric's suitability for ministry.

If you have any questions, please contact Msgr. John Zuraw, Chancellor

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.

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.

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.

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 Live Stream.

Live Streaming of World Day for Consecrated Life at 10:30 a.m. at doy.org/Media/Cathedral Live Stream. Rebroadcast on Tuesday, February 9 at 11:00 a.m. & 8:30 p.m., and Thursday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. & 8:30 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: February 7: Fr. Jim Korda will speak with Sr. Patricia McNicholas, OSU, on Beatitude House; February 14: Brother Dominic Calabro, SSP, talks about the Biblical Year; February 21: Nancy Voitus talks about Catholic Charities; and, Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Mary Ellen Burke on the Catholic Nurse Association.

Brother Augustine Condon, SSP, from the Society of St. Paul in Canfield, will tell us about the Saints celebrated this month: February 7: St. Josephine Bakhita; February 14: Ss. Cyril and Methodius; February 21: St. Polycarp; and, February 28: St. Katherine Drexel.

The Interview Segment will include: February 7: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Geno Capone, Part III; February 14: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. Tim Collins, Part I; February 21: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. Tim Collins, Part II; and, February 28: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Dr. Tim Collins, Part III.

This month's Music Segment is from the CD "Rock of Ages, Hymns and Faith" by Amy Grant.

Fr. Jack Lavelle, pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Niles, will give his reflections on the Sunday Scripture Readings: February 7: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; February 14: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; February 21: First Sunday of Lent; and, February 28: Second Sunday of Lent.

3. For an ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel Schedule for winter 2021, please contact CTNY at 330-533-2243, or visit 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/CTNYyoungstown.

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 to 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. A flyer and bulletin inserts regarding Warm Hearts for Warm Homes are attached to this issue of *Communique*.

Donations can also be made online at <https://15181.thankyou4caring.org/WH4WH>.

For more information, contact Nikole Baringer at 330-744-8451, ext. 323 or nbaringer@youngstowndiocese.org.

2. First Step to Service

Catholic Charities is looking forward to another project through our First Step to Service program. As a reminder, First Step to Service is a diocesan-wide service learning opportunity for Catholic Schools sponsored by Catholic Charities. This initiative provides students with opportunities to learn more about their call as Catholics and as Christians to care for those in need by engaging in educational activities on various topics related to the work and ministry of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities has available a Poverty Awareness/Homelessness Awareness Activity for students in grades K-6 grades.

The book we have chosen for this project, *Fly Away Home*, considers the reality of homelessness from a child's perspective. A flyer about the book is attached to this issue of the *Communique*. Catholic Charities has also developed discussion questions for use in the classroom to explore some of the themes found in the book.

A participation form is also attached. We are limiting copies of the book to one per K-6 classroom. Please return completed participation forms as soon as possible.

We look forward to another project together as our Catholic school students continue to learn the value and importance of service to the less fortunate.

3. CRS Rice Bowl

Lent begins February 17.

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.

For information or resources, visit <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

Local Rice Bowl grants will be available in April 2021. More information to follow.

For more information regarding the local CRS Rice Bowl collection or the local Rice Bowl grants, contact Nikole Baringer at 330-744-8451, ext. 323 or nbaringer@youngstowndiocese.org with questions.

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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.

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.

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.

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 6th thru 12th 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 February

Attached to the Communiqué are vocation intercessions and bulletin blurbs for the month of February. 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

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

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

2021 Annual Bishop's Appeal

Considering the recent ordination and installation of Bishop Bonnar, a modified timeline is being considered, though the 2021 Appeal will begin during Lent. Information will be communicated with pastors and parishes in a timely manner as soon as decisions are made regarding the start date of the Appeal. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngtowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

OFFICE OF 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 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 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 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 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 or 330-744-8451 x298.

6. Stewardship Thoughts for parish bulletins are attached

PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
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OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

1. Intercessions for Life and Pro-Life Bulletin Briefs

Recommended intercessions and bulletin briefs for February 2020, prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, may be found at <https://www.respectlife.org/word-of-life> and on the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life page of 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, February 6 and March 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; 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 or 330-744-8451, ext.272.

3. 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

For more information contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451, ext.272.

4. 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. Bishop David J. Bonnar will preside. Because of COVID-19 restrictions participants need to RSVP by calling 330-744-8451 ext.272 or emailing dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org to ensure that there is sufficient space with social distancing.

5. 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:

- 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:

- 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 or 877-883-5422.

Note: Training is also available in Spanish.

6. 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.

We are encouraged 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 or 330-744-8451 ext. 272, or visit www.walkingwithmoms.com.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. EVANGELIZATION Stirs the Heart

Parish communities are called to keep the Light of Christ shining in the hearts of those who are gathered, as well as those waiting to gather. Take advantage of the feast of St. Valentine to call, email, or send caring messages of faith and hope. Invite the youth and children to design handmade cards that can brighten a lonely and dreary winter day.

Participate in sharing good news stories, promote random acts of kindness, organize a virtual Mardi Gras Celebration, or prepare a Lenten calendar for parishioners with a variety of common prayers. Be prepared with a message of welcome and invitation for persons who may participate in Ash Wednesday services. A small gift for a Lenten reminder, or an appropriate adult formation flyer will convey the message “we’ve been waiting for you, and so happy to see you!”

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. Featured Books in the Diocesan Library

A Course in Desert Spirituality: Fifteen Sessions with the Famous Trappist Monk. Merton, Thomas. Liturgical Press, 2019. Thomas Merton's sessions with the young monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani showcase Merton's brilliant ability to survey the key figures and synthesize their writings, inspiring his listeners and readers with what it means for the spiritual life.

Like its companion volume, A Course in Christian Mysticism, this book is a collection of fifteen lectures that get to the heart of Merton's belief that monastic wisdom and spirituality are applicable for everyone. This compact volume allows anyone to learn from one of the twentieth century's greatest Catholic spiritual teachers.

The study materials at the back of the book, including additional primary source readings and thoughtful questions for reflection and discussion, make this an essential text for any student of Christian desert spirituality.

Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti of the Holy Father Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship. Pope Francis. Twenty Third Publications, 2020. Pope Francis first greeted the world with the words fratelli e sorelle - “brothers and sisters” - following his election to the papacy. In this encyclical, he continues to address all men and women as his brothers and sisters, calling us to consider what our common brotherhood requires of us. al letter Fratelli tutti of the Holy Father Francis on fraternity and social friendship.

When God Winks at You: How God Speaks Directly to You Through the Power of Coincidence. Rushnell, Squire. MJF Books, 2006. The author shares stories of how he believes God communicates directly and personally with people through what he calls "godwinks," the small, unexplainable coincidences that occur in life.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption. Stevenson, Bryan. Spiegel & Grau, 2015. The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice.

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.

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.

6. Religious Education Certification for Catechists and Teachers

A new listing of the Religious Education Certification ONLINE Opportunities for Catechists and Teachers was mailed in early January is available on 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/>, hover on "For Catechists" for "Catechist Courses."

*Registration is available at Catechist Café for these diocesan **online** courses starting soon:*

Practice Makes Catholic, GENERAL course, 10 hours

January 25 - March 1, 2021

Online facilitator: Joan Lawson

Fee: \$25, includes book

Sacred Fire, GENERAL COURSE, 12 hours

February 8 - March 22, 2021

Online facilitator: Maureen Hall

\$15 fee plus online book purchase

People of the Light, GENERAL COURSE, 16 hours

February 8 – March 29, 2021

Online facilitator: Sister Therese Ann Rich, OSU

\$20 fee

People of the Passion, GENERAL COURSE, 10 hours

February 15 – March 29, 2021

Online facilitator: Carla Hlavac

\$25 fee 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:*

- The Boston College Crossroads online program is offering these courses that begin in late January and mid-February:
 - Grace and Commitment: The Laity
 - Catholic Social Teaching: Living Faith in Our Social Context
 - Lent 2021: Reflecting Together
 - Sacraments: The Fabric of Catholic Life
 - The Church: People of God on a Mission
- The University of Notre Dame Satellite Theological Program has these courses beginning on February 15:
 - Catholic Social Teaching
 - History of Christianity: The First Five Centuries
 - Pastoral In God's Image: The Mystery of Creation
 - Liturgical Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours
 - Faith and Science: Origins and Belief
- The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation from the University of Dayton has registration open now for more than 30 courses that begin on February 21, including these:
 - Bioethical Issues, Including Care for the Aging and Support for Families
 - Conscience
 - Disability in Parish Life: An Overview
 - Galatians
 - Understanding Culture in Ministry: Building Bridges

Check Catechist Café/For Catechists/Catechist Courses for FREE online learning opportunities from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, McGrath Institute for Church Life, the Jewish-Christian Dialogue, and others.

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 150th 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. 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. 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. 10th).

2. National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) 2021

The NFCYM has decided to move forward with plans for the November 18 – 20, 2021 NCYC in Indianapolis. Theme: Ablaze.

The NFCYM stated: NFCYM is working closely with officials of the city of Indianapolis and the Marion County, Indiana, health department to develop virus mitigation and response plans specifically for NCYC. Only with their approval will NFCYM open the doors to the 2021 NCYC. If you have previously participated, the 2021 NCYC will look and operate a little differently. What should be unmistakable in the experience is our commitment to the NCYC mission: to provide a distinctly Catholic environment in which participants are invited to encounter Christ, experience Church, and be empowered for discipleship.

There will be a discussion regarding NCYC concerns, suggestions, protocols, etc. during the NFCYM Annual Membership Meeting in February. Look for information in April.

3. Parish Youth Ministry Report Forms were 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> ASAP as they were due 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!

4. Mental Health First Aid (Youth) – Date Finder survey

In the January 8 edition of the YM Update email, Contacts for Youth Ministry were invited to help select a date for a one-day training. Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This 6 ½ hour training gives adults the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents and transition aged youth (ages 12 -21) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

If you are interested and have not yet already completed the brief survey, please do so ASAP:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGPSIR8tJHcBRW-yc5sK28l0liLnY_a-5qlj1do7qrfazZnA/viewform?usp=sf_link

MISCELLANEOUS

CATHOLIC EXPONENT

Publication dates and special sections for the Exponent are as follows: Jan. 22 - Seniors - Living 50+/Catholic Schools Week; Jan. 29 - Bishop Bonnar special issue; Feb. 5 - Careers & College Guide/American Heart Month; and Feb. 19 - Health care.

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 rather than 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 informative, reliable, and doctrinally sound news stories, features, and commentary – keeping you up to date on local events such as the March for Life.

To subscribe, call 330-744-5251 or email exposubscriptions@youngstowndiocese.org to request subscription information.

Thank you for supporting your diocesan newspaper.

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK: CHALLENGE TO END HUNGER

In a grassroots effort to combat the food insecurity in our area, the Catholic Sisters in all of the NE counties of Ohio (Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Stark, Portage, Ashtabula) are inviting other faith-based organizations, schools and agencies to participate in a Food Insecurity Challenge for one week in March.

This *voluntary* initiative will be advertised in these counties in order to make a concerted effort to assist our neighbors in need. Several ways of participating are listed on the attached flyer. Please feel free to pass it along to other groups.

IN MEMORIAM

	<u>February</u>
<i>Rev. John Spitale</i>	1/07
<i>Rev. Robert J. O'Dea</i>	2/85
<i>Rev. Daniel Cipar</i>	2/18
<i>Deacon Albert Jaskiewicz</i>	3/03
<i>Rev. David Menegay</i>	3/17
<i>Rev. Peter Hyland</i>	5/49
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Ralph C. Kotheimer</i>	5/69
<i>Rev. Msgr. Michael Ronik</i>	5/16
<i>Rev. Robert Flynn</i>	6/01
<i>Rev. Albert DePascale, CPPS</i>	6/01
<i>Rev. Joseph Dervan</i>	8/60
<i>Rev. Stephen Horvath</i>	8/10
<i>Rev. Leo H. Collins</i>	10/54
<i>Rev. John Schmidt</i>	10/03
<i>Rev. Hippolyt Deesy</i>	12/64
<i>Rev. Bernard Hawkins, MSC</i>	13/95
<i>Rev. William Petrunak</i>	13/10
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo Schindwein</i>	14/65
<i>Rev. Msgr. Branimir Radetic</i>	15/03
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alfred Manning</i>	17/54
<i>Rev. Edward P. Franko</i>	17/67
<i>Rev. Msgr. Cyril A. Adamko</i>	17/14
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. John G. Hamrak</i>	18/65
<i>Rev. Berthold Schuh, MSC</i>	18/82
<i>Rev. Joseph G. Beene</i>	18/92
<i>Rev. Leo Vogt, CPPS</i>	19/53
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Tondra</i>	19/68
<i>Rev. Martin Matulik</i>	19/98
<i>Deacon Russell Brode</i>	19/16
<i>Rev. John L. Maurer</i>	20/62
<i>Rev. Thomas M. Spisak</i>	20/03
<i>Rev. Joseph Bresnyak</i>	21/58
<i>Very Rev. Robert G. Moorhead</i>	22/59
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Walter Martin</i>	22/77
<i>Rev. William Witt</i>	22/11
<i>Rev. John P. Cunningham</i>	23/89
<i>Deacon Robert Rapp</i>	23/15
<i>Rev. Donovan Mulert, MSC</i>	24/00
<i>Rev. John T. McFarland</i>	25/61
<i>Rev. Hugh F. Gallagher</i>	25/88
<i>Rev. Paul Gubser</i>	25/06
<i>Rev. Bonaventure A. Babik</i>	27/86
<i>Rev. Leo Horner</i>	28/86