



Communiqué

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

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Editor's note: Suggested announcements, suitable for bulletins and adaptable for social media, are indicated with an outlined box. Please see the attachments for full-page flyers for select events.

CHANCERY OFFICE

DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE SYNOD

On October 17th, Bishop David Bonnar and the Diocese of Youngstown celebrated the Opening Mass of the diocesan phase of a worldwide “Synod on Synodality.” Consultations, listening, and dialogue have now begun in our diocese, and this process will continue in steps leading to the Synod of Bishops in 2023. All are invited to learn more and participate in this synod: visit www.doy.org/SynodalPath/ for more information and to fill out an online form and reflection tool. Responses are required by November 30, 2021.

The word “Synod” means to “journey together,” and the theme for this Synodal process is: “Communion, Participation, and Mission.” In his homily for the Opening Mass, Bishop Bonnar said that this Synod “is the continuation of Pope Francis’ missionary dream seeking to bring the Good News to the world, especially to the peripheries with the hope of bringing renewal to the Church, a renewal that breathes new life and change into the Church from the Holy Spirit.”

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION

The Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal will take place in most parishes November 13-14, 2021. The collection will be on November 20-21, 2021. Information packets have been sent to pastors and religious presenters. All religious presenters should have contacted your pastors by now. Kindly do so ASAP if you have not had the opportunity thus far. For further information, or if you are in need of materials, please contact the Office of Vowed Religious at 330-744-8451 ext. 238. **Images and other digital resources** can be found at <https://retiredreligious.org/materials/> - including these announcements, which can be adapted to note the name of your speaker and other details relevant to your parish: *[Continued on next page]*

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Week before the Collection: Week of the Speaker/Appeal

(Most Parishes: November 13-14)

Religious Retirement Fund Appeal: Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, “I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith.” Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week’s second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. You can also give online at www.doy.org. Please be generous.

Week of the collection

(Most Parishes: November 20-21)

Religious Retirement Fund Appeal: Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today’s second collection. You can also give online at www.doy.org

Week after the collection

Religious Retirement Fund Appeal: Religious give thanks. A sister writes, “Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible.” Thank you for supporting last week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection, or by giving online at www.doy.org. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL RED MASS

Bishop David J. Bonnar invites all men and women involved in the Legal and Judicial Profession across the six counties of Northeast Ohio to join in prayer for their important work for the common good of our local communities and society. All judges and attorneys, particularly those who are Catholics are encouraged to attend the Twenty-fifth Annual Red Mass on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021**, in St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, Ohio, at 12:10 p.m. For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin at (330) 744-8451, ext. 225. Responses are appreciated by November 1, 2021.

Please see flyer in this month’s attachments.

Additional public engagements with Bishop Bonnar this month can be found under “Miscellaneous,” including the Eucharistic Congress sponsored by Our Lady of Peace Parish in Ashtabula and Portage County Dinner & Doctrine.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. Who needs to be compliant?
 - A. All active clergy, religious, seminarians, and persons in formation are required to be compliant.
 - B. All employees in parishes, schools, and institutions, including the Diocesan Central Offices, are required to be compliant regardless of their level of contact with children or vulnerable adults.
 - C. Any volunteer who has unsupervised access to a child or vulnerable adult, or who works directly with a child or vulnerable adult, or who is responsible for a child or vulnerable adult on behalf of the Diocese, must be compliant.

2. Compliance Requirements

- A. Signed Authorization & Verification and Acknowledgement Form submitted to local Compliance Officer.

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 sign the Authorization & Verification Form and Acknowledgement Form. A signed copy must be submitted to your parish, school, or institution Compliance Officer.

- 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.

Background checks are only valid for five years and must be renewed to maintain compliance. Any Webcheck location may be used and locations can be found at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

Background check requirements and codes 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 Account and *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 create a VIRTUS account with the Diocese of Youngstown and 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/Vulnerable Adult protection in-service courses from other agencies, employers, dioceses, Scouts, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown.

3. 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.** Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) to find the Compliance Checklist.

4. Reporting Child/Vulnerable Adult 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.

Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) to find our most up-to-date *Reporting Requirements and Procedures* in English and Spanish.

5. 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.

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. #GIVINGTUESDAY

#GivingTuesday is one of the largest giving days and one of the most successful social media campaigns all over the world. You can participate and make a difference for Catholic Charities by visiting www.ccdoy.org on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Sponsorships are available. Also, join us on #GivingTuesday for a Zoom Q&A with Catholic Charities’ Executive Directors.

Proceeds from #GIVINGTUESDAY will help support the many programs and services offered by Catholic Charities. YOU are a light in the darkness! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

2. Season of Giving

Catholic Charities offers seasonal solutions to poverty. There are so many ways to get involved with Catholic Charities during this Season of Giving which begins on November 1 and runs through December 31.

- PRAY for those in need in our communities, Diocese and in our country.
- VOLUNTEER your time and talents to various projects and events.
- SEND a gift that gives back this Christmas through our Christmas Gifting Program. You make a gift; we send a customized greeting card to the recipient(s) of your choice. Visit www.ccdoy.org for more information. (available after November 1)
- READ our semi-annual newsletter to see what’s happening at Catholic Charities.
- FOLLOW us on social media.

3. Catholic Campaign for Human Development
(This information is provided for the consideration of pastors and leaders, especially related to CCHD-funded community grants, as well as for the purpose of parish publicity.)

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic and anti-poverty program of the bishops of the United States. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. CCHD offers a hand up, not a hand out. CCHD was created with two goals in mind: to raise money to support self-help projects that address the causes of poverty; and to educate the Catholic community and the general public about poverty, its causes, effects and the rationale for the Church's involvement in working for justice. For more information visit www.usccb.org/cchd/ and www.ccdoy.org

This year we celebrate 50 years of the gift of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and all are invited to pause with grateful hearts, full of recognition that all good gifts come from God.

A special prayer and flyer (two pages total) is included in the attachments for this issue of Communique. An unformatted text-version of the prayer is also provided in the attachments.

CCHD funded programs enable all people to work together for long-range solutions to poverty in the area of social and economic development, housing, health, education and communications. To learn more, please also view the flyer included with this issue of Communique. Local Community Grants are available. If you feel that your organization may qualify for a CCHD funded community grant, contact Jennifer Lucarelli at 330-744-8451, or email jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.

4. Catholic Relief Services, Operation Rice Bowl

The Diocese of Youngstown will once again participate in Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services' (CRS), beginning on Ash Wednesday. This program is designed to help Catholics live out the Lenten themes of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Operation Rice Bowl is an integrated process for individuals, families and faith communities to live out their Lenten journey. Catholics are asked to abstain from one meal a week throughout Lent, while praying for peace and justice, and learning more about poverty here in the United States and throughout the world. Educational materials are available from parishes for those who wish to participate. The money saved from the meal not eaten each week is then collected and given to your local parish during Holy Week in order to respond to the needs of hungry families and individuals throughout the world and in the six county area of the Diocese of Youngstown.

Catholic households continue to be very generous with their contributions to Operation Rice Bowl. In 2021, we collected \$47,385. Seventy five percent (75%) of the collection is sent to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official overseas development and relief agency of the United States Catholic Bishops. Twenty five percent (25%) remains in the Diocese of Youngstown and is used to address hunger and poverty in our local communities.

Please update your materials order for the 2022 Lenten Season. *[Continued on next page]*

[Continued from previous page] Please update your materials order for the 2022 Lenten Season. A CRS postcard was recently mailed to parishes, asking you to update parish orders for Rice Bowl materials. Please review your parish needs, and return your results directly to CRS. November 11, 2021 is the last day for parishes to decrease or cancel orders for 2022 Rice Bowl materials. New orders or increased orders can be placed through Ash Wednesday. Call 1-800-222-0025 or visit crsricebowl.org/order to place new orders.

This year (2021), 57 parishes participated in the CRS Rice Bowl Collection. Parish participation is essential to those who rely on the services made available through these funds.

Thank you for your participation.

5. Catholic Charities Regional Agency

You are invited, but please don't come! We are offering you a way to support Christina House, a program of Catholic Charities Regional Agency, without buying tickets; without going out and worrying about staying safe; without having to search for a parking spot.

Instead you will help provide shelter, provide case management and offer emotional support to victims of domestic violence from the comfort of your own home. A "non-event" saves time, resources, and keeps us all safe at home. This also helps us to be better stewards of the donor dollar. Your gifts will support domestic violence services, education and prevention. Give the gift of safety, and peace of mind.

Christina House, a program of Catholic Charities Regional Agency, offers emergency shelter of victims of domestic violence. Once in shelter care, a case manager works with the victim and helps to access available services in the county. Additional support services include legal advocacy, counseling and transportation. Other services include a 24-hour crisis line, outreach, community awareness and response to hospital calls for rape and sexual assault.

Please consider a donation today. Make checks payable to Catholic Charities and mail to: Catholic Charities, "Christina House", 144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503, or give online at www.ccdoy.org.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA OFFICES

CATHOLIC EXPONENT

Publication dates and special sections for the Exponent are as follows: Oct. 29 – Salute to Veterans/Christmas Gifts; Nov. 12 – Christmas Gifts/Holiday Catering; Nov. 26 – Christmas Recipes/Christmas Gifts.

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, Monday or even Tuesday 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 Catholic school programs and parish events, as well as the news of the Church across the country and around the globe.

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

Thank you for supporting your diocesan newspaper.

CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK OF YOUNGSTOWN (CTNY)

1. Local Programming on the Ecumenical Television Channel:

Live Stream at doy.org/etclive-2/ the Feast of All Saints at 12:10 p.m. November 1, 2021; and the Feast of All Souls at 12:10 p.m. November 2, 2021, both at St. Columba Cathedral

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* at www.doy.org by going to the “News and Media” bar, then, click on “Wineskins Audio Library.”

The Current Issue Segment will feature: November 7: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Fr. Jack Lavelle in the Bishop’s Corner; November 14: Fr. Jack Lavelle on Life Issues (Euthanasia); November 21: Jennifer Lucarelli talks about Catholic Charities; and, November 28: Fr. Jim Korda talks with Shelia Triplett from the First Friday Club.

Ron Puhalla, a member of Holy Family Church in Poland, will tell us about the Saints celebrated this month: November 7: Saint Margaret of Scotland; November 14: St. Edward the Confessor; November 21: St. Bridget of Sweden; October 24: and, November 28: Ss. Isidore and Maria de le Cabeza.

The Interview Segment will include: November 7: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Fr. Jack Lavelle in With a Father’s Heart, Part II, Segment 2; November 14: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Fr. Jack Lavelle in the series With a Father’s Heart, Part II, Segment 3; November 21: Fr. Jim Korda and Bishop David Bonnar in the series With a Father’s Heart, Part IV, Segment 1; and, November 28: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Bishop David Bonnar in the series With a Father’s Heart, Part IV, Segment 2.

This month’s Music Segment is from the CD “Child of God,” by Lorraine Hess.

Fr. Matt Roehrig, SSP, from the Society of St. Paul in Canfield, will give his reflections on the Sunday Scripture Readings: November 7: Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time; November 14: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time; November 21: Jesus Christ, King of the Universe; and, November 28: First Sunday of Advent.

3. See the newest of CTNY Local Programming on the Internet by linking to doy.org and click “News and Media” bar, then click on “CTNY Media Gallery.” DVD copies of all local productions are available through CTNY for a nominal fee. Please contact CTNY at 330-533-2243.

4. Like CTNY on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTNYyoungstown.

OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

1. Parishes and other diocesan entities who receive inquiries from the media, especially about sensitive topics, are asked to consult with Justin Huyck, Coordinator of Media Relations: (330) 744-8451, ext. 320; jhuyck@youngstowndiocese.org
2. Please also kindly inform the Office of Media Relations when your programs, initiatives, and ministries are featured in the news media.
3. The Office of Media Relations is available to consult on news releases regarding events and initiatives. Processes will continue to be developed to assist these efforts.

OFFICE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Daily Advent Video Reflections

Beginning on November 28, the Diocese of Youngstown will post on Facebook and Twitter Daily Advent Reflection videos recorded by Catholic leaders around the diocese. (They will also be available on the DOY YouTube Channel.) These will be great for your own personal use during the season and to share with your fellow parishioners, family members, and friends.

Twitter: @DOYoungstown

<https://twitter.com/DOYoungstown>

Facebook: "Catholic Diocese of Youngstown"

<https://www.facebook.com/DOYoungstown>

YouTube: "Catholic Diocese of Youngstown" Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKwcSOhoUOePs1qJjTGlgxA>

2. Social Media Profiles for parishes, Catholic schools, agencies and offices

Catholic institutions in the Diocese of Youngstown are asked to complete a brief Social Media Profile so that we know what is currently being used around the diocese, and to help network those seeking support in various areas. Thank you to the 33 parishes/offices that have already done so! Click on the link to complete:

<https://forms.gle/CeXEPBw65YP1cWgD8>

3. Private Facebook Group for DOY Social Media Networking

A private Facebook group ongoing networking regarding social media can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2882358088720802>

This is a great place to share resources, ask questions and meet others around the diocese doing social media for their parishes, schools, offices and agencies.

4. #iGiveCatholic Social Media Strategies Virtual Meetings

Please visit the Office of Development and Stewardship for information on the two virtual meeting opportunities to discuss #iGiveCatholic Social Media Strategies on November 3 and 4.

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

1. Advent Day of Recollection

An Advent Day of Recollection will be held on Wednesday December 15, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for priests. Rev. John Thomas Lane SSS, pastor of St. Paschal Baylon and a member of the Blessed Sacrament Community in Highland Heights, Ohio will be the featured presenter. The title of the day is "The Word Became Flesh and Dwells Among Us." A location and more details will be coming soon. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

2. Homily Preaching Workshop for Clergy – Save the Date!

Save the Date! – Homily Preaching Workshop for Clergy – Monday, March 14, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Individual Practicum Groups on Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

1. Seminarian Posters and Prayer Cards

The Seminarian Poster and Prayer Card for 2021-22 is currently being designed. They will be passed out to parishes, schools, and other institutions soon.

2. Vocation Director at Your Parish / School

Diocesan Vocation Director Fr. Scott Kopp has a weekly cycle of visiting our 6 Catholic high schools. If you have a special youth ministry, parish, retreat, 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

Weekend visits to the seminary are reopening. Dates to be announced soon. Please contact the vocation office to schedule yours: 330-744-8451 or by email at skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

4. Seminarian Visits to Your School or Parish

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 November

Attached to the Communiqué are vocation intercessions and bulletin blurbs for the month of November. 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. Diocese of Vocations Social Media

Website: www.doy.org/vocations
Facebook: doyvocations

8. *If you have not already seen it, the poster for National Vocations Awareness Week is in the attachments.***OFFICE OF VOWED RELIGIOUS**

1. World Day of Consecrated Life

World Day for Consecrated Life liturgy will be celebrated at St. Columba Cathedral on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Be sure to mark your calendars for this annual diocesan celebration of Consecrated Life.

2. New and Returning Religious

This is a reminder for any religious (involved in ministry, student, or retired) who is new, or has recently returned to the Diocese of Youngstown, and has not yet contacted the Office of Vowed Religious, to kindly do so as soon as possible. Please also note that there are some new requirements for our Child Protection Policy. Please call (330) 744-8451, ext. 238 or e-mail sjcandidi@youngstowndiocese.org

3. Retirement Fund for Religious – See Under “Chancery Office” above.

4. Religious Jubilee Celebration

If it is safe to gather in person, the Diocese of Youngstown plans to celebrate the jubilees of those religious who generously served the people of this diocese on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at Holy Family parish in Poland, Ohio. God willing, we will honor the Jubilarians from 2021 and 2022. The day would begin at 1:15 p.m. with registration and a social. Ursuline Sister Regina Rogers will be our presenter. In addition we will have a catered dinner, concluding with Holy Mass at 4:30 p.m. and a group photo.

DEVELOPMENT/STEWARDSHIP

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

1. 2021 Annual Bishop's Appeal

Thanks to the diligent work of our clergy and laity, we have attained over 90% of our \$4 million goal, either raised through gifts or pledges of support. Promotional videos on what the Bishop's Appeal supports are available on the diocesan YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Please remember that Annual Bishop's Appeal materials are shared digitally *only* with the diocesan email addresses within the @youngstowndiocese.org domain. For help with access to your diocesan email account or more information about the Annual Bishop's Appeal, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

2. 2022 Annual Bishop's Appeal

As we prepare for the 2022 Annual Bishop's Appeal, it is essential that our records be accurate for the mailings sent on behalf of Bishop Bonnar. We will be using ParishSOFT to manage all Appeal operations starting in 2022. To assist us in maintaining a current and accurate database, all parishes *not* using ParishSOFT should email a list of all registered parishioners to Peggy McMahon at pmcmahon@youngstowndiocese.org. Please refer to the memo that was sent to all parishes not using ParishSOFT in mid-August.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP

1. Life & Estate Planning Seminars planned for each deanery. Useful information is provided on a variety of topics, including end of life issues, and participants are encouraged to remember their parish, a Catholic school, or favorite Catholic cause in their plan. Promotional materials have already been shared for parishes to disseminate via bulletins and pulpit announcements. A short notice is also provided below, and please contact Luke Politsky for more information and promotional materials.

The Diocese of Youngstown has scheduled Life & Estate Planning Seminars for parishioners in each of our deaneries. End of life issues along with estate and cemetery planning are discussed in a one-hour presentation. The seminar is FREE! For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298, or visit doy.org/estateplanning.

Life & Estate Planning Seminars will be held at the dates, times, and locations below:

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30-8:00pm at St. Thomas the Apostle, Vienna
 Tuesday, October 26, 6:30-8:00pm at Holy Family, Poland
 Thursday, October 28, 6:30-8:00pm at St. Jude, Columbiana
 Thursday, November 4, 6:30-8:00pm at St. Joseph Calasanctius, Jefferson
 Tuesday, November 9, 6:30-8:00pm at St. Joseph, Austintown
 Thursday, November 11, 6:30-8:00pm at Immaculate Conception, Ravenna
 Tuesday, November 16, 6:30-8:00pm at Holy Family (St. Clement), Navarre
 Thursday, November 18, 6:30-8:00pm at Christ the Servant, Canton

2. #iGiveCatholic

#iGiveCatholic is the official Catholic initiative of Giving Tuesday, which is a national day of observance for making gifts to nonprofit organizations. Giving Tuesday is observed every year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, which this year is **Tuesday, November 30**.

Last year in our diocese, four parishes and one school raised nearly **\$78,000** total through this initiative. All parishes, schools, and ministries of the diocese will all be called on to participate this year, giving parishioners and donors the ability to make a one-time gift at the beginning of the Holiday Season.

Registration is live and open until November 3. Information has been sent to all Pastors, Administrators, Parish Leaders, School Presidents, and Principals, as well as all bookkeepers. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

3. One-Time Gift Direct Mail Program

Parishes and schools can 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@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

4. 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@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298

5. Diocese of Youngstown Foundation 2020 Annual Reports

The 2020 annual report of the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation is available on the diocesan website and in print by contacting Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

6. 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@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

7. *Stewardship Thoughts for parish bulletins are attached.*

PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

1. Pray for Dobbs

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities is encouraging participation in “Pray for Dobbs.” The Supreme Court case ***Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*** could impact the fate of millions of preborn children and their mothers. Join thousands of Catholics and Protestants uniting in prayer and fasting! Learn more and sign up for updates at www.prayfordobbs.com. Also, register at www.prayfordobbs.com to virtually join thousands of Catholics and Protestants across the country on November 18 at 8 PM (EST) as they come together in prayer.

The www.prayfordobbs.com website also contains resources, such as announcements, images, flyers and action ideas to promote this unique opportunity to unite in prayer.

2. Marriage Preparation Engaged Couple Retreat Day --- Note: Date Change

The next diocesan-sponsored one-day marriage preparation retreat days for engaged couples will be held Saturday November 20 in the social hall at St. Columba Cathedral. (The October date had to be moved to November). Reservations are required. Registration information may be found at www.doy.org; go to the “Ministries” drop-down menu and press on “Pro-Life, Marriage & Family Life.”

3. Engaged Couple Retreat Dates for 2022 have been sent to priests, deacons and parish leaders, and may be found on the diocesan website. For more information on these, and other opportunities for marriage preparation formation, contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451, ext.272.

4. Christ the King

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty has identified the Solemnity of Christ the King as a fitting moment in the liturgical year to promote the Church's teaching on religious freedom. The Committee has prepared materials to help educate the faithful about this Solemnity, which the Church celebrates this year on November 21, 2021. All materials are available at www.usccb.org/ChristtheKing.

These materials include:

[Lectionary Notes](#)

[A brief background on the Solemnity](#)

[Social media graphics](#)

[A Novena to Christ the King](#)

Furthermore, a summary can be found in the attachments section of this *Communique* ; *Viva Cristo Rey!*

5. Intercessions for Life and Pro-Life Bulletin Briefs

Recommended intercessions and bulletin briefs for November, 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.

6. Project Rachel Outreach – November Message for Bulletin/Newsletter:

Give Thanks for God's Mercy! He wants to Forgive and Heal after an abortion experience. For CONFIDENTIAL help text or call *Project Rachel of Northeast Ohio* at 330-360-0430 or go to <https://hopeafterabortionneo.weebly.com/>.

7. FOCCUS Training & Refreshers

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:

- November 4, 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:

- November 2, 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.

8. Year of the Family – Amoris Laetitia

In March, on the fifth anniversary of the publication of his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, on the beauty and joy of love in the family, Pope Francis launched the Year of “Amoris Laetitia Family, which will conclude on June 26, 2022, during the Tenth Meeting of Families in Rome.

Resources for the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family may be found on the USCCB website at <https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/year-amoris-laetitia-family> and on a special Vatican website at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html#esortazione-apostolica>.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. Orientation for Newer Parish Ministers

The Office of Religious Education/Evangelization and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry combine efforts to support newer Parish Ministers by offering quarterly gatherings on a variety of ministry related topics, administrative skill building and familiarity with diocesan procedures. Orientation 201 will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 12:00 – 2:30 pm. Reservations are requested by contacting the Office of Religious Education/Evangelization.

2. Adult Confirmation: Sunday, November 21

The celebration of Confirmation for practicing Catholic adults 18 years of age and older will be held on Sunday, November 21, during the 4:00 pm Mass at St. Columba Cathedral. Preparation is the responsibility of the Parish staff, with additional information and guidelines available from the Office of Religious Education/Evangelization. Registrations are requested by October 25.

3. Faith Formation in the Parish Webinar Series

Please continue to follow all diocesan guidelines and safety precautions in providing for faith formation for adults, youth, children, families, and for RCIA. While most parishes have resumed in person gatherings, hybrid approaches have much potential. An opportunity to learn best practices will be sponsored via webinars, every other month. The sessions will explore why, where, when, how and for what we gather people, integrating online with in person faith forming. Hybrid models value the importance of in person relationships and experiences while being responsive to the complexity of people's lives and their religious-spiritual needs. For additional information, please contact The Office of Religious Education/Evangelization or visit www.catechistcafe.weebly.com. The next webinar, focusing on Adult Faith Formation will be facilitated by Sister Janet Schaeffler, O.P., on Tuesday, November 16.

4. Resources to Implement Bishop Bonnar's First Pastoral Letter

With Bishop Bonnar's letter, "Testify to the Light" many parishes may embark on new or enhanced efforts in the five areas he has prioritized. The Diocese of Youngstown's Office of Religious Education/Evangelization has curated a list of resources which may be reviewed on the home page of www.catechistcafe.weebly.com.

Please feel free to contact the staff of the Office of Religious Education/Evangelization to borrow these and other resources to develop Faith Formation, Evangelization, Pastoral and Catechetical processes. The staff is anxious to help parishes design new initiatives to respond to the needs in the diverse church communities.

5. New and Featured Books in the Diocese of Youngstown's Library

No Trace of Christmas: Discovering Advent in the Old Testament. Christoph Dohmen. Liturgical Press, 2000. Since it was with the aid of the Old Testament that the early Church interpreted the event at Bethlehem, many of the images and biblical texts associated with Christmas can only be understood by following their Old Testament roots. Like the Magi who followed the star, we can, with Dohmen's help, follow in the liturgy of Advent and Christmas the traces that lead us into the Old Testament. Following those traces, we can arrive at a Christmas that appears to us in a new light, that of the Old Testament.

Prayer Takes Us Home: The Theology and Practice of Christian Prayer. Gerhard Lohfink. Liturgical Press 2020. A lot of people would like to learn to pray all over again. Others are not so sure they ought to pray. They want to know whether prayer will help them and, more than that, whether it will be of any use at all to our world. This book gives an answer—not in the form of glib instructions, but by introducing the reader to the theology of prayer. It refers again and again to the Bible, especially the Psalms. At the same time, it speaks about personal experiences as well.

Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study Year C. Mahri Leonard-Fleckman. Little Rock Scripture Study. 2021. Accompanies all hearers and preachers of the Word as they pray with and ponder the Sunday readings throughout the liturgical year. Everything needed for a rich experience of *lectio divina* and biblical exploration is provided: the full text of the Sunday readings, concise commentary, engaging reflections, and clear guidance on how to use this resource alone or with a group. This volume guides readers through the Year C lectionary.

Mercy and the Rule of Law: A theological Interpretation of *Amoris Laetitia*. Gerald J Bednar. Liturgical Press, 2021. Given the Catholic Church's complex history concerning divorce and remarriage, it's not surprising that the promulgation of *Amoris Laetitia* in 2016 caused such a stir among the laity, the press, some theologians, and even some bishops. This book endeavors to introduce concepts and contexts for understanding the document in a new light, explain what the rule of law actually means, and hopefully open a door to further discussion among theologians and clergy whose critical comments have so often missed the point of Francis's apostolic exhortation.

6. Religious Education Certification for Catechists and Teachers

Religious Education Certification ONLINE Opportunities for Catechists and Teachers are found on the Diocese of Youngstown's Catechist Cafe. Core courses, general courses, parish-sponsored, 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."

7. Registration is available at Catechist Café for these diocesan online courses starting now:

Catholic Social Teaching: "Whats," "Whys," & Praxis, GENERAL course, 10 hours

October 25 - December 6, 2021

Online facilitator: Julie Sutton

\$25 fee includes book

Pondering and Teaching Parables, GENERAL course, 10 hours

November 15 - December 20, 2021

Online facilitator: Joan Lawson

\$15 fee

Advent Journey Through Scripture, GENERAL course, 8 hours

November 22 - December 20, 2021

Online facilitator: Carla Hlavac

\$15 fee

8. Online Learning Centers

Contact the Office of Religious Education for information about catechist certification hours for courses, webinars, and other online catechist formation opportunities. Visit <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/catechist-courses.html> for connections to online learning opportunities from Catholic universities, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, the McGrath Institute for Church Life, Jewish-Christian Dialogue, Catholic publishers, and others.

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

1. Celebration of Confirmation for Adults

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults will be celebrated on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Saint Columba Cathedral. This is a special opportunity for parishioners age 18 or older who have not received the sacrament to join with other adults of the diocese. Information and registration/eligibility forms have been mailed to all parishes. Candidates are to be prepared in their parishes for this celebration. The deadline to register is October 25, 2021.

2. Liturgical Calendar Advisories for Upcoming Holy Days and Christmas/New Year

The following Liturgical Calendar Advisories are provided.

~Monday, November 1 - All Saints: The obligation to attend Mass is abrogated this year due to November 1 being on a Monday.

~Wednesday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception: A holy day of obligation and the patronal feast of the United States.

~Sunday, December 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe usually celebrated on December 12, 2021 is omitted this year. Sunday, December 12, 2021 is the Third Sunday of Advent. Our Lady of Guadalupe may be appropriately honored in the homily, Universal Prayer, and hymns during the Sunday liturgy. If pastoral advantage calls for it, (*cf. GIRM 376*), a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe may be celebrated on a weekday before or after December 12 (December 9, 10, 11, 15 or 16), with the proper readings and prayers.

~Saturday, December 25 - Christmas: This year the Nativity of the Lord falls on a Saturday and is immediately followed on Sunday by the Feast of the Holy Family. The obligation for Christmas is fulfilled on Christmas Eve through Christmas Day morning. The obligation for the Feast of the Holy Family is fulfilled from the evening of Saturday, December 25 through Sunday, December 26. The question of satisfying one's obligation to attend Mass for both Christmas and Holy Family arises. For pastoral reasons and due to the number of Masses for Christmas, (*and for the well-being of all liturgical ministers*) it might be wise to consider not having an anticipated Mass on December 25 evening for the Feast of the Holy Family.

~Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God: In the United States, the obligation to attend Mass on January 1st is abrogated when this day occurs on a Monday or a Saturday. Therefore the obligation to attend Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2022 is dispensed this coming year. Mass on Saturday evening, January 1, would be the Vigil of the Epiphany.

3. 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. Recent Events: The St. Charles Young Adult group kicked off a couple weeks ago and had a great turnout, including gaining two new parishioners who are young adults. Meetings are based on food, fellowship, and prayer, as well as outings and service projects. The Trumbull County Young adult Bonfire was also a smashing success! Thank you to Blessed Sacrament in Warren for great food and fun.
2. The Office is planning a diocesan-wide homebound project, with more ideas being sent soon. All high school youth will be welcome.
3. Upcoming parish and collaborative events include: Adoration and fellowship on November 19, at Kent Newman Center; Youth All Souls tour and prayer service at Calvary Cemetery on November 4; and Fr. Ryan Furlong is working to establish events in Portage and Stark Counties.

If you have similar events, or would like to work together to plan youth or young adult events please call me or email Fr. Ryan Furlong, Diocesan Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: rfurlong@youngstowndiocese.org; (330) 744-8451 Ext. 239

4. Fr. Ryan recently had lunch and conversation with Fr. Scott Kopp, the Vocation Director for the diocese of Youngstown. Both met with our seminarian interns to discuss comprehensive youth ministry. Fr. Ryan will be sharing the fruit of our discussion and presentations with all soon.
5. Finally, Fr. Ryan is in the planning stages of developing continuing spiritual and theological formation for all youth and young adult ministers. The goal will be, starting in January, to hold six days of formation and reflection, one for each county. More details will be available soon.

MISCELLANEOUS

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS WITH BISHOP BONNAR OUR LADY OF PEACE, ASHTABULA

On Friday, November 5, 2021, from 6 PM to 8 PM, Our Lady of Peace Parish invites you to a Eucharistic Congress with Bishop David Bonnar at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, located at 1200 East 21st Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004. The theme of the Congress will be "The Eucharist as the sacrament of ecclesial unity and the real presence of Christ - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity."

The main presenter will be Bishop Bonnar. In addition to his teaching on the Holy Eucharist, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, prayer, music, and a candlelight Eucharistic procession followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. There will be ample time for confession from 5 PM to the start of the Congress at 6PM. Refreshments and fellowship in the Community Center across the parking lot will follow the event. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Any questions may be addressed to Fr. Matthew Zwilling – mzwilling@youngstowndiocese.org.

PORTAGE COUNTY DINNER & DOCTRINE BISHOP BONNAR ON “THE CHANGING FACE OF THE PARISH”

The Catholic Parishes of Portage County are once again sponsoring a monthly Dinner & Doctrine Annual Speaker Series for Catholics of the area to be held at The Overlook, 1519 Overlook Rd. in Twin Lakes (formerly the Twin Lakes Country Club). The evenings include a delicious buffet dinner beginning at 6 p.m. (with a cash bar) followed by a guest speaker, 7 to 8 p.m. The next presentation will be on Tuesday, November 9, featuring the Most Reverend David Bonnar, Bishop of Youngstown. He will be speaking on the topic of “The Changing Face of the Parish”. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and advanced reservations are required by November 1. Purchase your ticket through any Portage County parish: <https://doy.org/parishes/portage-parishes/>

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT HOLY SPIRIT, UNIONTOWN

The Catholic Men’s Fellowship (CMF) of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Uniontown in conjunction with CMF Diocese of Youngstown will sponsor a “Catholic Man Night” on Friday, November 19, 2021 from 6:00 - 8:45 pm, and will be held in the social hall at Holy Spirit. All men of the diocese are welcome. Catholic Man Night helps 21st century men develop and use their Catholic faith in their daily lives, presented in a way that makes sense to men.

Fr. Thomas Dyer will be our featured speaker. Please RSVP to Ed Herman 330-354-4911 or Mark Violand 330-807-2255 or mvioland2@neo.rr.com, no later than Monday, November 15th.

ALL SOULS DAY MASS

Reverend Christopher Cicero will be Celebrating Mass on All Souls Day at **All Souls Cemetery** on **November 2 at 11:30 a.m.** We invite you and your family and friends to attend a special Mass to honor and celebrate all the people that have passed away this year and previous years.

For more information call 330-637-2761.

CEMETERY SUNDAY

There will be prayer services for our faithfully departed on Cemetery Sunday, **November 7**, at 2:00 at all four Diocesan Cemeteries; Calvary, Youngstown, Resurrection, Austintown, All Souls, Cortland, and Calvary, Massillon. The service will include the dignified committal of cremated remains at the All Souls Remembrance Crypts at each of our cemeteries. They will be permanently interred within the consecrated grounds of our Catholic Cemeteries at no charge. Call 330.792.4721 for more information.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Youngstown will be offering The Chaplet of Divine Mercy Prayer Service in the chapels of our 4 Cemeteries at 3:00 every Friday at alternating locations.

First Friday of the month at Calvary Cemetery Chapel in Youngstown.

Second Friday of the month at Resurrection Cemetery Chapel in Austintown.

Third Friday of the month at All Souls Cemetery Chapel in Cortland.

Fourth Friday of the month at Calvary Cemetery Chapel in Massillon.

Please see flyer included in this month's *Communique* attachments for more information.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT REMEMBRANCE

Hang an ornament on our Christmas Tree in remembrance of your dearly departed loved one at our Christmas Ornament Remembrance Prayer Service on the feast day of St. Nicholas, December 6, 2021 from 5-7 at all four of the Diocesan Cemeteries; Calvary Cemetery, Youngstown, Resurrection Cemetery, Austintown, All Souls Cemetery, Cortland, and Calvary Cemetery in Massillon. Bring your own ornament or we can provide one for you. For more information call 330 792-4721.

IN MEMORIAM

	<u>November</u>
<i>Rev. George Novak</i>	2/47
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Maurice Casey</i>	2/47
<i>Rev. Conrad Aleckna</i>	3/96
<i>Rev. Joseph Jansen, MSC</i>	4/79
<i>Rev. Gerald Curran</i>	4/08
<i>Rev. Humbert Crescentini</i>	5/59
<i>Rev. Msgr. Edward Kowaleski</i>	6/02
<i>Rev. Msgr. Martin Susko</i>	6/15
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Paul Marceau</i>	10/85
<i>Rev. Joseph Lazur, CPPS</i>	11/84
<i>Rev. John T. Maceka</i>	12/78
<i>Rev. Francis N. Thome</i>	13/58
<i>Rev. Ernest Loperfido</i>	13/15
<i>Rev. Max Krajdzieski</i>	14/43
<i>Rev. Thomas C. Donnelly, OP</i>	15/73
<i>McFADDEN, MOST REV. JAMES A.</i>	16/52
<i>Rev. Anthony Livajusic</i>	16/74
<i>Rev. Edward Wiczorek</i>	16/19
<i>Rev. Thomas G. Mulhearn</i>	17/60
<i>Rev. Regis McCoy, OSB</i>	17/63
<i>Deacon Bartley Dubois</i>	17/05
<i>Rev. Joseph Martin</i>	19/02
<i>Rev. Herbert Buettner, OSB</i>	20/53
<i>Rev. Robert A. Chamberlain</i>	20/95
<i>Brother Paschal Duesman, SSP</i>	20/19
<i>Rev. Jeffrey Mickler, SSP</i>	20/19
<i>Rev. Edward Varble</i>	23/08
<i>Rev. Eugene Omlor, CPPS</i>	24/60
<i>Rev. A.C. Therres, OP</i>	24/62
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward Fasnacht</i>	25/68
<i>Deacon Harold Krause</i>	29/19
<i>Rev. Michael N. Connell, OP</i>	30/57
<i>Deacon Earl Nekirk</i>	30/90
<i>Rev. Msgr. Thomas Kelly</i>	30/10

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