

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letters of Good Standing and Celebrets. Priests and deacons who will need good standing letters or celebrets to celebrate Masses or other sacraments **in another diocese** should **complete and submit a “Request form for Letter of Good Standing” at least 3 weeks in advance (except for funerals).** The form can be found on the diocesan website at: <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/resources-for-clergy/> under “Chancery Forms.” Letters will not be issued unless the priest or deacon has a signed Code of Conduct and Uniform Release Authorization in his file, and is current with *Virtus* training and bulletins. For any questions, call the Chancery secretary at 716-847-5559.

Church Bulletin Announcements via Email. The Diocese of Buffalo publishes a weekly email newsletter that offers Church Bulletin Announcements about upcoming events, ongoing ministry and inspirational messages of faith. To subscribe, go to: <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/chancery/>.

Homily Helps from the Buffalo Diocese Care for Creation Committee. The Catholic Climate Covenant and the Integral Faith team provide resources for homilists and other materials that will help you integrate the rich insights of *Laudato Si'* and Christian care for creation into Sunday Mass. These include highlights from the scriptures, readings of the day, relevant quotations from *Laudato Si'*, brief commentary, illustrations and anecdotes, sample applications, sample petitions, and bulletin notes. **April 2022 Homily Helps available at:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14>.

CHURCH BULLETINS

Bulletin message for weekend of March 26-27: Students have faced many obstacles when it comes to schooling during the pandemic. Luckily, **Catholic Charities** is there to help those who have a tougher time navigating them than others. One of the counselors shares, “At the start of the school year, Joey’s mom wanted him to receive individual counseling again. I continue to work with Joey on learning new coping skills. Most recently we have been practicing positive self-talk when he is worried about school or sudden changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the support of his mom and myself, Joey has demonstrated the ability to overcome sudden changes and transitions and building self-confidence. He is able to identify his own struggles as they come and work through them.” Your gift to **Appeal 2022** helps children like Joey learn coping skills, self-confidence, and so much more. Donate today by visiting: <http://www.ccwny.org/donation> or by texting GIVEHOPE22 to 44321.

Bulletin message for weekend of April 2-3: The pandemic has put a strain on all of us, and for those welcoming new babies into the world, it has been particularly stressful! But **Catholic Charities** has been here to alleviate some of the worries facing new parents. A pantry

worker shared, “One of our clients had a new baby. Before the pandemic, her finances were tight and she appreciated being able to go to the Bishop Kmiec Food Pantry when she needed. As a result of the pandemic, her finances became even tighter. When staff learned that her baby was born, she was offered the option to receive diapers and baby formula along with her monthly food. She graciously accepted this offer and has reported to us as a result of this she is able to better handle the stresses of becoming a new mother.” Your gift to **Appeal 2022** helps new mothers like this one, and countless others, across Western New York. Donate today by visiting: <http://www.cwny.org/donation> or by texting GIVEHOPE22 to 44321.

Bulletin message for April: Slavery is far from over as pimps and traffickers sell people and buyers continue to buy. It is a worldwide, criminal business of which we all need to work. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a 501(c)(3) organization, 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; sistersagainsttrafficking.org.

La esclavitud no está cerca de terminar, ya que los proxenetas y los traficantes venden personas y los compradores continúan comprando. Es un negocio criminal mundial en el que todos debemos trabajar. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking es una organización 501(c)(3), 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; sistersagainsttrafficking.org.

“Women in a Wounded Church” on Sunday, March 20 at 4:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. Sister Margaret Carney, President Emeritus of St. Bonaventure University, will explore this very timely topic. Given the recent scandals that have plagued the Church, there’s a new urgency to advance women into significant leadership roles in the Church. How is this being done and where does the spiritual energy and strength come from when women face what appear to be insurmountable obstacles to equality in the life of the Church. Reservations requested for this free lecture by visiting www.BSCBuffalo.org/events, call Michael Pitek at 716-480-8313 or email Michael@thepitekgroup.com. Free-will offering appreciated.

Driver Education: Cardinal O’Hara High School is adding Tuesday and Thursday for its driver education program from March 21 to May 23 at the school, 39 O’Hara Road, Tonawanda. The program is open to all area students and is taught by trained professionals in compliance with the New York State Education Department. Classroom instruction is from 6 to 7:30 pm with no classes from April 11 to 18. In addition, students attend 8 weekly in-car driving classes the same days. Students must be 16 years of age by March 21 and present a copy of a permit or license prior to the start of class. A limited number of spaces are available in the Monday and Wednesday classes. For more details or to receive a registration form, call the school at 716-695-2600, ext. 309 or visit www.cardinalohara.com and click Menu, Campus Life, Driver Education.

Holy Hour of Prayer for Peace in the Ukraine and in the World on Wednesday, March 23 from 7-8 pm in St. Amelia Church, 2999 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda. All are welcome to join us in prayer as we pray for peace.

WNY Catholic Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, March 26 at Cardinal O’Hara High School, 39 O’Hara Rd., Tonawanda. We welcome the attendance of priests, deacons, religious and seminarians and can use the help of priests for confessions. For more information, visit: <https://www.cmfofwny.org/>.

Lenten Praise & Worship with Sarah Saltarelli on Saturday, March 26 at 3 pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 5337 Genesee St., Bowmansville. For those who pray often with music and those who have never experienced it before, all are welcome to come and spend time worshipping the Lord.

Friends of L'Arche Buffalo and WNY informational meeting, hosted by Open Doors Ministry of St. Bernadette Parish, will be held on Tuesday, March 29 at 7 pm in the St. Bernadette Parish Ministry Community Center Room, 5930 South Abbott Rd., Orchard Park (enter through accessible door #1). At L'Arche, adults with and without intellectual disabilities share life and friendships in community. To learn more about this movement or if you have any questions, visit www.larcheusa.org or contact Maggie Buckley at 716-796-4037.

An Evening of Lenten Reflection. The St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum, directed by Steve Quebral, will offer inspirational music for an evening of Lenten reflection, including Stations of the Cross and a Holy Hour with Adoration and Benediction, on Friday, April 1 at 7 pm at St. Gregory the Great Church, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville. Choral works by Tallis, Byrd, Croce, Haydn, Farrant, Palestrina and others will be performed. For more information, follow on Facebook @JP2Schola.

Lenten Tenebrae Service. The St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum, directed by Steve Quebral, will present a Lenten Tenebrae Service on Friday, April 8 at 7 pm at Blessed Trinity Church, 317 Leroy Ave., Buffalo. This adaptation of the Liturgy of Tenebrae (meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows') includes seven readings relating the story of Jesus' passion and death. After each reading, a candle is extinguished followed by a prayer and sung response. The darkness gradually increases to symbolize the coming darkness of Jesus' death. Choral works by Tallis, Byrd, Croce, Haydn, Farrant, Palestrina and others will be performed. Join us for this beautiful and inspiring Lenten service. For more information, follow on Facebook @JP2Schola.

St. Bernadette Hosts Inclusive Easter Mass. On Tuesday, April 19 St. Bernadette welcomes families with special needs to an Inclusive Easter Mass at 7 pm. The wheelchair accessible church is located at 5930 S. Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. Fr. Joe Wolf, celebrant, will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6 pm. Sr. Conchetta LoPresti, OSF will interpret the Mass through American Sign Language. The Mass will be live-streamed on St. Bernadette's Facebook page. The Mass offers a shorter, less crowded worship setting allowing people to move freely as needed. The lighting will be dimmer, the music soothing and low gluten hosts available. This event is sponsored by Open Doors Ministry which advocates for the inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the parish. Questions may be directed at Sharon Urbaniak at 716-648-1720, ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org or Paula Potteiger at 716-649-1051 or cozmo3631@gmail.com.

Walk By Faith High School Eucharistic Adoration Conference. Renew 716 Ministries, Chesterton Academy of Buffalo and OLV Charities invite you to this year's Walk By Faith High School Eucharistic Adoration Conference on Saturday, April 23 from 11 am-9 pm at Our Lady of Victory Campus, 767 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. Cost includes lunch, dinner, snacks & t-shirt. High schoolers, youth groups and their chaperones are invited to participate in Holy Mass, confession, Eucharistic adoration, praise and worship music, talks and small group discussions. Tickets can be purchase at www.buffalochestertonacademy.org or call 716-674-8101.

11th Annual Banquet St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center on Thursday, April 28 at 6 pm at Classics V, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. Opening remarks by Bishop Michael Fisher;

Keynote Speaker is Gary Zimak. Live music; gift baskets/raffle; cash bar. Reservations only. RSVP by calling 716-847-2205, online at <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/st-gianna/> or email stgianna@buffalodiocese.org. Learn more about the center, clients and our referring agencies. If you are unable to attend, please prayerfully consider making a donation. For more information, call the Office of Pastoral Ministries at 716-847-2205.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Sisters Hospital is an ACPE accredited center. It is an interfaith program where students learn to minister to people in crisis and spiritual needs. Students minister in hospitals, nursing homes and also community sites. CPE combines professional education and supervised ministry. CPE Program Dates: CPE Intern for 2022 Summer Intensive Unit is May 24 through August 11; 2022/23 Fall/Winter Extended Unit is September 20 through March 16, 2023. CPE Residency is January 16, 2023 through January 13, 2024. For more detailed information, visit the CPE website at <https://www.chsbuffalo.org/mission/clinical-pastoral-education>. For any further questions, contact Nancy Koterak at 716-862-1374 or nkoterak@chsbuffalo.org.

Word of Life-March 20: “To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.”

Palabra de Vida-Marzo 20: “Celebrar el Evangelio de la vida significa celebrar el Dios de la vida, el Dios que da la vida... En cada niño que nace y en cada hombre que vive y que muere reconocemos la imagen de la gloria de Dios, gloria que celebramos en cada ser humano, signo del Dios vivo, icono de Jesucristo.”

Word of Life-March 27: “There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those ‘brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves’... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life.”

Palabra de Vida-Marzo 27: “Está el heroísmo cotidiano, hecho de pequeños o grandes gestos de solidaridad que alimentan una auténtica cultura de la vida... A este heroísmo cotidiano pertenece el testimonio silencioso, pero a la vez fecundo y elocuente, de ‘todas las madres valientes, que se dedican sin reservas a su familia, que sufren al dar a luz a sus hijos, y luego están dispuestas a soportar cualquier esfuerzo, a afrontar cualquier sacrificio, para transmitirles lo mejor de sí mismas’... Os damos las gracias, madres heroicas, por vuestro amor invencible. Os damos las gracias por la intrépida confianza en Dios y en su amor. Os damos las gracias por el sacrificio de vuestra vida.”

ENCLOSURES

(none)