

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SAVE THE DATE: Convocation of Priests – June 7-9, 2022.** Details will be forthcoming

**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 BULLETINS

**Bulletin message for weekend of April 23-24: No gift to Appeal 2022 is too small.** In fact, each dollar raised during the annual Appeal leverages an additional \$3 to \$4 of government support and contracts. More funding means more services for those in need, like affordable and accessible mental health counseling and basic needs assistance like food and clothing. Your donation helps strengthen and empower thousands of individuals and families across the eight counties of Western New York. To make a donation today, visit [www.ccwny.org/donate](http://www.ccwny.org/donate) or text **GIVEHOPE22** to 44321. If you need help, go to [www.ccwny.org/services](http://www.ccwny.org/services) or call 716-218-1419 or the office in your area.

**Bulletin message for weekend of April 30-May 1: Are you a parent of young children and your financial situation has changed?** If so, you may now qualify for the Women’s, Infants & Children (WIC) federal nutrition program. Catholic Charities is the administrator for WIC in Erie, Niagara and Chautauqua counties and is ready to assist you and your family. For more information about WIC, including income eligibility, please visit [www.ccwny.org/wic](http://www.ccwny.org/wic). To connect with services, call 716-218-1484. **Appeal 2022** is ongoing through June 30. To make a donation today, visit [www.ccwny.org/donate](http://www.ccwny.org/donate) or text **GIVEHOPE22** to 44321.

**Bulletin message for May:** Catholic Health Association, St. Louis, offers a variety of free resources that may be of interest to the parish. Don’t forget the toll-free helpline into Washington: 888-373-7888. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a 501(c)(3) organization, 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; [sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org).

La Asociación Católica para la Salud en St. Louis ofrece una variedad de recursos gratuitos que pueden ser de interés para la parroquia. No olvide la línea de ayuda gratuita en Washington: 888-373-7888. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** es una organización 501(c)(3), 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; [sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org).

**Registration now open at Camp Turner.** Camp Turner, a ministry of OLV Charities, has opened registration for overnight children’s camp for kids ages 7-16. Camp Turner has been operating for nearly 100 years in beautiful Allegany State Park and offers a faith-based summer experience for WNY kids. Our qualified staff put your child’s safety first, while guiding them to foster new, life-long friendships.

Space is filling up fast so register your camper today at [www.campturnerolv.com](http://www.campturnerolv.com) or by calling 716-354-4555.

**Christian Leadership Institute is back!** Do you know a high school teen in your parish that wants to grow in their faith and discover their true potential? OLV Charities is sponsoring the 2022 Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) hosted at Camp Turner from June 26 to July 1. Our churches, schools and communities can benefit from us encouraging our high school youth to attend this faith-based and leadership-focused experience. Support the future by encouraging a teen you know to register today or sponsor a teenager to attend and discover their potential. To register/obtain more information, go to [www.cliwny.org](http://www.cliwny.org) or contact Scott Weigley at 716-828-9657 or [sweigley@olvcharities.org](mailto:sweigley@olvcharities.org).

**Are you a woman between the ages of 21-45, looking to live in community? Are you wondering what God is calling you to do with your life? Are you hoping to deepen your spirituality?** Caritas Community might be for you! The Sisters of Mercy are sponsoring an intentional community outside Buffalo where laywomen and Sisters of Mercy will live simply, live in community, and share their faith and spirituality. While working or going to school, you would contribute living expenses and share household responsibilities. Due to the pandemic, your plans for the future may have changed. Flexibility around this ever-fluid situation will be considered in every individual circumstance. Contact: Sr. Jenny Wilson or Sr. Colleen O'Toole for more information – [jwilson@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:jwilson@sistersofmercy.org), [cotoole@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:cotoole@sistersofmercy.org) or 814-969-5327.

**Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ** on Sunday, April 24 from 2-6 pm (or until sold out) at Our Lady Help of Christians, 4125 Union Rd., Cheektowaga. Dinner includes: ½ chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, roll & butter. Drive-thru only (enter on Genesee St.). Pre-sale tickets available at all weekend Masses and at the rectory. Sponsored by Our Lady Help of Christians Holy Name Society.

**In celebration of Earth Day**, the Care for Creation Committee of SS. Peter & Paul, Hamburg will sponsor a presentation: "Promotors of God's Creation: Our Catholic Responsibility and Mission" by Fr. James Vacco, OFM on Monday, April 25 at 7 pm in the SS. Peter & Paul Parish Center, 66 E. Main St., Hamburg. Fr. Vacco will explore the sense of good stewardship and accountability toward creation which Pope Francis advocates in his teaching, especially in his renowned Encyclical, "Laudato Si." All are welcome.

**Reminder: Banquet for 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. Reservations only. RSVP by calling 716-847-2205, online at <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/st-gianna/> or email [stgianna@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:stgianna@buffalodiocese.org). 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.

**Online Walk for Life Rally** on Friday, April 29 from 7-8 pm at [Live.CompassCareWalk.com](http://Live.CompassCareWalk.com). Join us to learn the NYS Abortion Reduction Plan and hear a life-changing patient story from a CompassCare medical center.

**The Congrega Society of Buffalo at St. Lawrence** announces that all are welcome to attend the Biannual Mass and Luncheon in commemoration of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Devotion to the Crowned Virgin on Saturday, April 30. Mass at 10 am at St. Lawrence Church, 1520 E. Delavan Ave., Buffalo. Celebrant: Fr. Chris Okoli; Homilist: Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti. Music by Glenn Hufnagel and Choir. Luncheon at 12 pm at Banchetti's, 550 N. French Rd., Amherst. For further information and to RSVP, call Mary at 716-870-3864.

**Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb** on Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am at St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin St., Buffalo. Celebrant: Bishop Michael Fisher. We will celebrate and pray for mothers, fathers, families and for children in the womb. Mass will include a special blessing for unborn children

and their expectant parents. We will also pray for couples who are hoping for the gift of a child and for couples who have suffered the loss of a child. For more information, call the Office of Pastoral Ministries at 716-847-2205.

**OLV National Shrine & Basilica Centennial Speakers Series** will begin on Tuesday, May 10 at 7 pm. Rev. Matthew Malone, SJ, President & Editor-in-Chief of America Media will be the featured speaker with Interlocutor Hon. Lawrence Vilardo, Judge, United States District Court for WNY. A reception will be held at 6 pm prior to the presentation in the Glynn Family Conference Center, OLV Charities Administration Building, 780 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. Please RSVP to 716-828-9607.

**“River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey,”** a virtual presentation by Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ on Tuesday, May 24 at 7 pm at Canisius High School Auditorium, 1180 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. Sr. Helen is known around the world for her tireless work against the death penalty. She has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on capital punishment and in shaping the Catholic Church’s vigorous opposition to all executions. She’ll talk about her childhood, convent and early ministry experiences where she worked with the African-American poor who helped her understand what white privilege and institutional racism is. She’ll also share how she went from being a-political to becoming politically active. Tickets available online at [www.BSCBuffalo.org/events](http://www.BSCBuffalo.org/events) or at all weekend Masses at Blessed Sacrament Church, Buffalo. For further questions, contact Michael Pitek at [Michael@thepitekgroup.com](mailto:Michael@thepitekgroup.com) or 716-480-8313.

**Word of Life-April 17:** “Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, ‘God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end.’”

**Palabra de Vida-Abril 17:** “Tal como nosotros, Cristo entró en el mundo por mediación del vientre de una mujer. Él voluntariamente asumió la plenitud del sufrimiento humano. Exhaló su último suspiro en la cruz del Calvario para poder salvarnos. Por lo tanto, ‘Dios es el fundamento de la esperanza; pero no cualquier dios, sino el Dios que tiene un rostro humano y que nos ha amado hasta el extremo.’”

**Word of Life-April 24:** If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select “Find Help” from the menu on [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org) to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

**Palabra de Vida-Abril 24:** Si personalmente o alguien que conoce tuvo un aborto, “tenga la seguridad de que nunca es demasiado tarde para buscar el perdón de Dios en el sacramento de la Reconciliación.” Además, se encuentra disponible otro tipo de ayuda compasiva confidencial. Elije “Busca Ayuda” del menú en [www.esperanzaposaborto.org](http://www.esperanzaposaborto.org) para encontrar el ministerio diocesano Proyecto Raquel más cercano.

## **ENCLOSURES**

(none)