

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

USCCB Respect Life Materials 2022 are available online (digital versions for free). Resources may be downloaded, printed and reproduced for use in your parish, school or ministry. Visit <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>. To help celebrate Respect Life Month in your specific area of ministry, use the Leader Toolkits found at <https://www.respectlife.org/priests-and-deacons>. Ideas and suggestions are provided for using the resources in a range of settings.

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. **October 2022 Homily Helps available at:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14>.

Tim Zelasko, the coordinator of Infant of Prague's "Feel the Spirit 5K Race," would like to offer his assistance and experience free of charge to any parish in the diocese interested in organizing a 5K road race. Tim is an avid runner and has been organizing the Infant of Prague 5K race since 2006. He is interested in helping other parishes in our diocese either start or grow a 5K race. If your parish is interested in such assistance, contact Infant of Prague Parish at 716-634-3660.

CHURCH BULLETINS

Bulletin message for weekend of October 8-9: Leave a legacy of HOPE. Did you know that Catholic Charities accepts many forms of planned giving, including bequests, gift of life insurance, charitable gift annuity, gift of retirement assets, and gift of real estate? If you or your family wishes to leave behind a legacy of HOPE for others in Western New York, please keep Catholic Charities in mind. We seek to be a partner in fulfilling your long-term philanthropic goals. Our team is happy to discuss options and opportunities and to answer any questions you may have by calling 716-218-1400.

Bulletin message for weekend of October 15-16: Catholic Charities is a beacon of HOPE. Our agency offers assistance to all ages – from cradle to grave – in a myriad of capacities. We can help with basic needs, such as food and clothing; counseling and mental health services to children, teens and adults; education and workforce support; family safety and stabilization; and so much more. Find out how Catholic Charities can be a beacon of HOPE for you by visiting www.ccnny.org. General inquiries and request for assistance can be made online at any time at www.ccnny.org/get-help.

Bulletin message for weekend of October 22-23: Costs keep rising and we know for many it can feel nearly impossible to keep up. If you or your family is facing a crisis situation with food, utilities, toiletries, being able to afford vital medical or more, **Catholic Charities** can help. Call 716-856-4494 if you reside in Erie County, or your local Catholic Charities office if you reside outside of Erie County.

Synod Voices continue to be heard. Earlier this year our diocese participated in the worldwide Synod called for by Pope Francis. Now the results from ALL of the dioceses in the US have been consolidated and are available at the USCCB website at: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/us-national-synthesis->

[2021-2023-synod](#). We encourage you to read this extraordinary document and notice how so many of the same comments throughout the country match the results of our own Diocesan Listening Session.

Annual Red Mass on Wednesday, October 5 at 12:10 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin St., Buffalo and <https://www.youtube.com/saintjosephcathedral>. The St. Thomas More Guild of WNY, a Catholic association of legal professionals, cordially invites all to attend the Annual Red Mass in honor of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of the legal profession, to ask for God's guidance and blessings in the proper administration of justice. Bishop Michael Fisher will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Hon. Mary Slisz will offer judicial remarks. This year's attendees are invited to support St. Luke's Mission of Mercy by bringing monetary donations or items of toiletries and paper products. Further details can be found at www.stthomasmorewny.org.

Group Retreat. Praying Sacred Scripture with Dr. Tim Gray is being offered from October 7-9 and again from November 11-13. Retreat begins on Friday at 6pm (with dinner) and closes on Sunday at 11 am at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave. North Tonawanda. The weekend retreat consists of talks geared to equip participants to more fully understand and appreciate how to read and pray the Scriptures. It also includes Holy Mass, availability for confession, conferences, quiet time, meals and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Sr. Jacinta at 716-692-0276 or olcparishevent@gmail.com. Free-will offering.

St. Bernadette Faith Formation Program in Orchard Park welcomes any children or adults with disabilities and their families to join us on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30-11 am in our accessible Parish Ministry Center (5930 S. Abbott Rd.) to share a light breakfast, socialize, make a craft, learn through sensory interactive activities about our Catholic faith, sing, pray and receive materials to assist in spiritual growth through the month at home. This program, **GOD'S FAMILY 2**, welcomes all. Sacrament Preparation programs are designed according to each candidate's abilities. Our first session is Saturday, October 8. We will gather for Mass at 9 am. If interested, contact Sharon at 716-648-1720, ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

Polka Mass & Polish Platter Dinner on Sunday, October 16 at St. Andrew Parish, 111 Crocker St., Sloan. Polka Mass by Special Delivery at 11 am and dinner in the parish hall from 12-2 pm. Dinner includes: golumbki, smoked Polish sausage, sweet and sour cabbage, lazy pierogi, roll and butter, beverage, and dessert. Tickets are pre-sale only. For more information, call 716-892-0425.

Retreat for Married Couples. The Mystery and Meaning of Marriage from October 21 at 6 pm (with dinner) to October 23 at 11 am at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. Here is an opportunity for married couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery and joy behind that first "I do"...whether you said it last year or many years ago. A time for prayer, inspirational talks, discussions focused on spousal communication and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Sr. Jacinta at 716-692-0276 or olcparishevent@gmail.com. Free-will donation.

Coffee with Sr. Jacinta on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 10-10:30 am at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Ministry Building, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda or through Zoom. Today is always the right day to grow and deepen your knowledge of your faith. If you are interested, contact Sr. Jacinta at 716-692-0276 or olcparishevent@gmail.com.

Personal Retreat Days. If you would like to take a day or few days away from your busy schedule and enjoy an opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and to be more aware of God's presence and action in your life, you may want to try a personal retreat. There are several 1-day retreats, 30-day silent retreats and silent weekend retreats being offer at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. For more information, contact Sr. Jacinta at 716-692-0276 or olcparishevent@gmail.com.

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? **Retrouvaille** is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages. For more information, call 716-474-9371 or visit <https://www.helpourmarriage.org/> Next weekend is October 21-23. All calls are confidential and pre-registration is required.

Word of Life-October 2: “The witness of our Blessed Mother invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities... Following Mary’s example, we can ask ourselves how to better know these mothers, listen to them, seek understanding, and help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children. How can we, like the Blessed Mother, lovingly support mothers in welcoming and caring for God’s gift of life?” Respect Life Reflection: “Called to Serve Moms in Need” USCCB

Palabra de Vida-Octubre 2: “El testimonio de nuestra Santísima Madre nos invita a ser más conscientes de las necesidades de embarazadas y madres que crían hijos en nuestras propias parroquias y comunidades... Siguiendo el ejemplo de María, nos podemos preguntar cómo conocer mejor a estas madres, escucharlas, buscar entenderlas y ayudarlas a satisfacer las necesidades de la vida para ellas y sus hijos. ¿De qué manera podemos, al igual que la Santísima Madre, apoyar amorosamente a las madres para que acojan y cuiden el don de Dios de la vida?” Reflexión Respetemos la Vida: “Llamados a servir a las madres necesitadas” USCCB

Word of Life-October 9: “An old Irish proverb says, ‘It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.’ Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life’s end, we may not know how best to ‘shelter’ them. For some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them visit <https://www.usccb.org/end-of-life-care>.”

Palabra de Vida-Octubre 9: “Un proverbio irlandés dice: ‘En el refugio del otro vive cada uno.’ En verdad, hemos sido creados para depender unos de otros y caminar juntos en el sufrimiento. Pero cuando familiares o amigos se acercan al final de la vida, puede que no sepamos la mejor manera de darles ‘refugio’. He aquí algunas maneras concretas en que podemos cuidar compasivamente de ellos. [usccb.org/es/cuidado-al-final-de-la-vida](https://www.usccb.org/es/cuidado-al-final-de-la-vida).”

ENCLOSURES

1. Education Summit letter

* = Priests and Deacons only

** = Diocesan Priests only



DIocese OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My Dear Brother Priests:

As I communicated in my most recent *Journeys & Insights* - and as you have heard me express often since becoming your bishop - I believe that we have no more sacred cause than to nurture young minds and cultivate the faith of our young people. It's why I have asked Dr. Timothy Uhl, our Secretary of Education and Superintendent, to convene a Diocesan-wide Education Summit on **November 10, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m. at Niagara University**, bringing together all of our key stakeholders in the work of envisioning the future of Catholic education across our Diocese. This important gathering, combined with the strategic planning process that we've asked all Diocesan schools to be a part of later this month, provides an opportunity for us to redefine our mission and reassert the invaluable role of Catholic education in equipping the next generation to lead consequential lives, devoted to service, and determined to live their faith in conspicuous ways.

I am writing to ask for your full engagement in this process as spiritual and pastoral leaders in helping us define the future of Catholic education across Western New York at this critical time in the life of our Diocese. As you know all school pastors and canonical administrators have been invited to attend the Education Summit, along with any and all priests who wish to contribute to our discussions. Each of our schools has been asked to send four representatives to include the principal, pastor/canonical administrator, the board chair and one other key stakeholder (an educator or active parent). In addition, we have invited our Catholic high school colleagues, as well as university partners and the Diocesan Education Advisory Council members to ensure an inclusive and comprehensive representation of all who are vital to defining a new vision for this vital education ministry.

The day will consist of an in-depth presentation by Dr. Uhl of the essential data that informs the work we have ahead. Dr. Kevin Baxter, a national expert and presenter on Catholic schools, who is currently the Director of the Mary Ann Remick Leadership program at Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), as well as a past principal and superintendent of schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, will offer the keynote address. I should note that Dr. Baxter, who was the co-editor of *Conscience and Catholic Education: Theology, Administration and Teaching*, is uniquely suited to address both the challenges and tremendous opportunities for Catholic education not only in our Diocese, but nationally. We will also engage in small group sessions, as well as join together in the celebration of the Eucharist. Lunch will also be included in our day-long program, and there is no cost to you or to any of those delegated to attend on behalf of our parish schools.

I cannot overemphasize the importance I give to this work and your participation in it. You can be assured that I am acutely aware of the constraints you face in your parishes and of the limited resources you strive to mitigate in so many creative ways by relying on the generosity and talents of parishioners, volunteers and through your own devoted service. It is precisely by coming together and pursuing collaborative discussion and approaches that we can best overcome the obstacles we face and ensure that we fulfill the sacred mission of nurturing young minds in the faith that they will be responsible for living and making evident in our communities in the years ahead. I know that I can count on your engagement in this work that is ours to share.

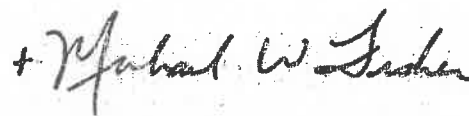
Earlier this year, Pope Francis addressed a delegation from the Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (G.R.A.C.E.) made abundantly clear our shared responsibility:

"As educators, you are called to nurture the desire for truth, goodness and beauty that lies in the heart of each individual, so that all may learn how to love life and be open to the fullness of life... Catholic education is also evangelization: bearing witness to the joy of the Gospel and its power to renew our communities and provide hope and strength in facing wisely the challenges of the present time. ... In short, this means forming the head, hands and heart together: preserving and enhancing the link between learning, doing and feeling in the noblest sense. In this way, you will be able to offer not only an excellent academic curriculum, but also a coherent vision of life inspired by the teachings of Christ."

I look forward to welcoming you on November 10th. If you have not yet registered or designated the other participants from your parishes, I ask that you please do so at your earliest convenience. Please use the QR code below to register for the event.

May our loving and gracious Lord abide with you, sustain you in your ministry and be your constant joy!

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo

