

PRIEST NEWSLETTER

September 2019

A Message from Cardinal Cupich

Speaking to a Polarized Society

“How do we communicate in a polarized society? How do we promote unity, encounter and reconciliation while remaining faithful to diversity? What is the attitude, the mindset required to be good communicators in a context where polarization seeks to impose itself on every public or private discussion?”

These are important questions, not only for society, but for the internal life of the Church, as Diego Fares, SJ, and Austen Ivereigh point out in their *Civiltà Cattolica* article (see laciviltacattolica.com/how-to-communicate-in-a-polarized-society).

Knowing that you face tensions every day in your parishes as people align at different ends of the political and ecclesial spectra, I want to offer a few words that will introduce you to the main themes of the full text. The authors based the article on two “nos” and two “yesses” – attitudes proposed by Pope Francis:

1) No, to arguing with people trying to polarize by accusing

The pope speaks of the “virus of polarization,” which can even infect families and loving relationships. The authors of the article point to two examples of how the Holy Father puts this principle of not arguing into practice. First, they recall last year’s conference introducing the pope’s new book on intergenerational dialogue, *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*. At one point in the conference, a pair of grandparents expressed frustration over their attempts to pass on the faith to their descendants, who were critical and dismissive of such efforts. In response, the pope cited the scene from the Book of Maccabees, where the mother spoke to her children “in dialect,” their mother tongue. So, he advised: “Never argue, never, because this is a trap: children want to provoke parents into arguing. ... Always avoid direct



Alexander Gouletas

disagreement because this creates distance. And always give witness ‘in dialect,’ that is, with gestures and caresses that they understand.”

The second example of the pope’s approach occurred last year on his return flight from Ireland when a reporter asked about the accusations of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò. The Holy Father refused to fall into the trap of responding within the terms set by Viganò. Instead, he kept silent and invited journalists to do their own investigation and come to their own conclusions.

In both instances, his advice to grandparents and his example on the plane, the pope’s counsel is to refrain from arguing within a polarized environment. As the authors note, “This refusal to argue has nothing to do with a quietist peace or false irenicism, which according to the logic of polarization, would imply bias (‘he who is silent consents’). Nor is it about avoiding conflict. Nothing could be further from the thoughts and attitudes of the pope, who welcomes conflict and tension as creative opportunities. Rather, it is about discerning the action of the evil spirit in his attempt to disguise true contradiction and propose peace as if it were a bargain rather than a long journey.”

2) No, to seeing contradictions where there are only contrasts

The alternative to arguing, the pope proposes, is discernment with the gift of the Spirit, for at the heart of polarization are bad spirits who seek to turn disagreements into conflicts. Such discernment begins with knowing the difference between contradictions and contrasts. “Contradiction always closes off alternatives, refuses to accommodate them; ... Contrasts, however, would rather indicate things which – being apparently and/or actually in tension – can nonetheless be brought into agreement.” Bringing to prayer the diversity of ideas, feelings, imaginations and movements can reach a new inner unity, continued but distinct from the one which was there before the beginning of the process of discernment,” according to Francis.

3) Yes, to the paradigm of mercy; more with actions than with words

Our ability to say “no” in the first two cases is founded on the radical “yes” of accepting the “unconditional mercy of God, which ... is the only reality able to heal and harmonize every false contradiction with the strength of God’s love.” As the parable of the Good Samaritan demonstrates, when we say yes, especially in practicing the corporal works of mercy, we send “a clear message, which touches the heart of whoever witnesses them.” It is a way of communicating that upends a sterile logic separating the sinners from the righteous, but at the same time creates nearness in a world that is divided, fragmented, and polarized.

4) Yes, to giving witness in a maternal dialect

Using the image of the maternal dialect from the Book of Maccabees, already cited, Francis urges that we witness by word and deed “in the style of Jesus.” Doing so introduces us to the full meaning of doctrine – those “truths which are lived, not merely known.” The doctrine shapes the real unity, because “the things of God always add up. They never subtract. They gather up.” However, for the same reason it generates opposition and resistance: “Only when the Church affirms doctrine does the real schism surface.” I find this last quote from the pope particularly insightful.

The authors conclude with these thought-provoking remarks: “Finding ways to give witness to love and mercy in ‘maternal dialect’ is the nucleus of a behavior that applies to both the restricted family environment and wider public discussions. In essence, in order to communicate well, the key task

is to locate the thread of that language which is at the basis of life, where behind the words it is possible to find the source of tenderness that made possible the communal life of each family, every community and every people. This is the challenge: find and not lose the thread of that native language which unites all reality, to deal with the abstract language of ideologies that divide. ‘Brothers, ideas are to be argued, situations to be discerned. We are gathered to discern, not to argue.’”

I encourage you to read the full article and hope you gain as much from it as I have.

Vocations Update

InSearch – discernment for young professionals

Fr. Tim Monahan, Vocation Director



One of our best programs for helping men discern the priesthood here in Chicagoland is called InSearch, organized and run by Fr. Tom Hickey. On Tuesday nights, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., men who are discerning come together to pray, share a meal, and listen to the vocation stories and experiences of our Chicago priests. Many of our brothers chose to begin seminary after participating in this program. Please help us find men who are open to Jesus’ call and who would be willing to join us for these encounters, which begin on October 8 and go until late April 2020, including a retreat at Joseph and Mary Retreat House in late March. If you have any names or questions, please contact Fr. Tim Monahan at tmonahan@archchicago.org or 773.558.6556.

RMC Pastor-to-Pastor

Fr. Wayne Watts
Pastor of Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish



About a dozen years ago, I read a book called, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. The author invites readers to rid themselves of false agreements – guiding points in their lives – and proposes four **new** agreements. I've returned to those in this time of transition and renewal in Wilmette:

1. Always do your best.
2. Never make assumptions.
3. Be impeccable with your word.
4. Don't take things personally.

For 13 years, I convinced myself and the amazing people of St. John Berchmans, that great things were (and are) happening there. I thought that I had a few more years to enjoy those great things. The outstanding people of St. John Berchmans have given the archdiocese one example of what happens when we involve disciples in our parish to answer the call to lead and create a thriving culture that seeks out those around us.

It was hard to leave the comfort of Logan Square and a shock to the people of St. John Berchmans, too. I learned, and so did they, that we all would survive the transition, that the Holy Spirit is in charge of the Church, and that the Church's mission is the responsibility of everyone, not just the priest leaders. St. John Berchmans continues to thrive under the pastoral care of Pat Marshall and the dedication of scores of lay leaders and energetic volunteers. Over the last months, I've learned that when we **do our best**, great things happen.

In January, I returned to a town that I thought was familiar. Cardinal Cupich assigned me to be pastor of St. Joseph Church and to ultimately take the helm of the soon-to-be renamed and renewed Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish. Having served as associate pastor in Wilmette more than 20 years ago, this felt like "coming home." However, I soon realized that 23 years later, Catholic Wilmette had changed significantly.

Kids who were once in my youth group are now parents of children in our school and religious education programs. Parents of those once-students of mine are experiencing some of the challenges that aging brings. In short, the familiar was not actually so familiar. So, as I re-entered Wilmette, I had a lot of "getting to know you" to do. I had to learn the new Catholic culture of Wilmette. I had to come to know the histories of the two parishes and schools. I had to learn that a unified Wilmette of 2019 would not be the Wilmette I knew in the early 1990s. Over these months, I've learned **to never make assumptions**.

The road to unification and renewal in Wilmette has been bumpy and challenging. We experienced the unexpected as we brought together the first through eighth grade classes of our parish schools. People were unhappy and had some very difficult things to say. Through it all, communication and collaboration helped the school process to be a little less difficult. I learned that every word said and written carries great weight. I reminded myself to be **impeccable with my word**. Although the road is challenging, with patience, perseverance, and intentional, impeccable communication, we can make it great.

In the end, as Father Mallon has told us several times, some folks will not or cannot get on board with the transition and the journey of renewal. That's a fact. And as some may depart lashing out, it's important (and very hard for me) to **not take things personally**. People will accuse. People will judge. People will make assumptions. People will say outrageous things.

However, if we always do our best, if we never make assumptions, if we are impeccable with our words, then we need not take those things personally.

And, I'm learning to just get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit lead!

Fr. Steve Lanza, Pastor of Divine Mercy Parish

An Alpha Story

Father Peter Wojcik talks about one of the main reasons why we are engaging in Renew My Church. He contrasts the age of Christendom with the current, new apostolic age, meaning that in centuries past the surrounding culture supported Christianity versus the current Western culture which decidedly does not support Christianity or, for that matter, any organized religion. So, we find ourselves in a contemporary apostolic age.

This means, in turn, that we cannot keep doing the same old thing as a parish and expect to grow. What used to work doesn't anymore because there is a vast indifference or downright hostility to the Church.

That's why at Divine Mercy parish we've chosen to go with Alpha as a linchpin of renewal and revitalization. It's not the only answer, because there is no silver bullet. However, we believe that Alpha is put together in such a way that, if done well, it will assist a lot with evangelizing newcomers, as well as deepening the faith of those who are already committed.

Our Alpha Pilot and Deb

That brings me to Deb's story. She's a long-time parishioner of Sacred Heart in Winnetka, which a year ago unified with St. Philip in Northfield to become the new Divine Mercy parish. Every weekend, Deb and her husband attend Sunday Mass. She had been involved in various parish ministries over the years. She knows a lot of people within the parish and beyond the parish. Deb is the executive director of a North Shore women's group.

Deb was one of the invitees to the pilot experience of Alpha. She loved it. She loved it so much that she's telling everyone what a positive experience it was. She is poised, along with a handful of other volunteers, to give a witness talk at Sunday Mass as we look forward to the first season of Alpha which kicks off at the end of September.



She characterizes the other pilot participants as her newfound friends. They became her newest friends through the simple activities of sharing a meal, and therefore casual conversation, with one another followed by watching an Alpha video, which in turn generated small group reactions and discussions that were very enlightening. Deb muses, "Imagine finding out you have so much in common with others whom you may have simply passed coming and going to Mass!"

Clearly, at least for Deb, the Alpha experience was important because it helped form new relationships. Networks of relationship contribute to the building up of community. Whatever else it does, Alpha strengthens the bonds between believers.

Over the Long Haul

As we look forward to mounting many seasons of Alpha, we anticipate bringing in new folks, people who will be discovering for themselves the good news of Jesus Christ in our Catholic tradition and our Catholic community. I trust this will happen over time. God is at work in Alpha.

Deb attests to that. So can the other participants. One of them exclaimed at the final Alpha session, "Everybody in our parish needs to attend Alpha!"

I agree. It's that good. May it come to pass that everyone joins in the Alpha experience.



Fr. Tom Cabala
Pastor of Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish

(formed through the union of the former Our Lady of Loretto and St. Germaine parishes)



We celebrated the coming together of Our Lady of Loretto and St. Germaine as the new reality of Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish through an existing reality – the parish carnival and gathering under the main tent to celebrate Sunday Mass. This was already a tradition for each parish. Try to imagine a lively and energetic carnival as you read a version of my homily below. The phrases in **bold** are the names of the rides, events and vendors of the carnival that I used in this homily.

“They blew in from the east and the west, the north and the south because this is the **Windy City**. And, God was amused; there was a smile painted on God’s face as were smiles **Face Painted** on our children and grandchildren. May the spirit of the Lord paint a smile of love and friendship unity and community on our faces. It may only be 10 percent smile on our faces; but, it will grow as much as 35 percent or 65 percent and eventually a 100 percent as we come to know one another by name. Much greater than the percentage we receive from the carnival rides and vendors.

“We have only begun to climb the mountain, not the **Himalaya**, but, the mountain of the Lord; the mountain called the New and eternal city of Jerusalem, the city of our God, our cities of Hometown and Oak Lawn.

“Sometimes it seems a **Merry Go Round** or a **Ferris Wheel**; but, the view from the top will be spectacular; once we overcome are fears of looking out or of climbing to new heights.

“Some of us may prefer a slower moving **Train Ride** clanging and whistling down the tracks; but, this journey will lead us to our final destination; if we put our faith in the engineer, who, of course, is our Lord.

“It may seem to some of us to be a weighty journey pulling us down like gravity; but, with confidence in the gifts of the Spirit that is a part of each of us it will be like floating in space in **Zero Gravity**.

“Yes, there will always be an apparent **Cliff Hanger**, an unknown future; but, again, with faith in the Lord and each other; it will only be a small hill or bump in the road.

“It is good that we come together under this **Food Tent** at the Lord’s Table; it reminds us of how the Lord’s people have traveled in the desert pitched under tents, it reminds us that the Lord Made His dwelling under the tent in the desert; now the Lord has made his dwelling under our tent of **Our Lady at St. Germaine**. May we extend this tent to our families, friends and neighbors, welcoming them, welcoming strangers, welcoming one another in the Name of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

“And, let me end by saying ‘thank you’, you have **Sizzled**, you have been true **Rock Stars** not only this carnival weekend, not only on July 1 as we began our new parish, but throughout the history of both Our Lady of Loretto and St. Germaine.

“And, while we all hope to win the **Queen of Hearts**, we know the Mary Queen of heaven and earth has our hearts. May, we have one another’s hearts in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we be blessed by a **Rainbow** of God’s love.”

Accompaniment through Renewal

By the RMC Accompaniment Team



Fernando Rayas, Cathy Walz and Aneta Krzycka

Change and transition of any kind are difficult. In his meeting with the Bishops of Brazil in 2013, Pope Francis reminded us that we, as a Church, need to walk at peoples' sides, of doing more than listening to them; a church that accompanies them on their journey." The Renew My Church (RMC) Pastoral Accompaniment team assists pastors and parishes as they navigate the journey of RMC by providing resources, knowledge, and emotional and spiritual support.

We have many committed and faith-filled parishioners and parish staff who want their voices to be heard and their experience to be acknowledged. In order to meet the needs of our communities in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have a variety of resources: listening sessions, retreats, prayer services tailored to specific needs, addressing grief felt by individuals and communities, and Peace Circles aimed at healing and building community.

Since "spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God..." (EG, 170), it is important for all of us to stay focused on the Mission of Jesus Christ, and to pray for the guidance of Holy Spirit.

In addition to providing accompaniment support to English-speaking communities, our team is equipped to accompany people in Polish and Spanish. Speaking to people in their preferred language makes them feel more at ease and open to meaningful connection.

The ability to relate to someone's ethnicity, language, and culture helps reduce the barriers to pastoral accompaniment.

Fr. Sammy Reyes speaks to this reality when he expresses that: "La gente siente incertidumbre, dudas y dolor el proceso de Renueva Mi Iglesia. El valor de acompañamiento en el idioma de la gente es muy grande para poder entender el sentimiento de la gente. Esto no es una opción para los Hispánicos; es necesario porque muchos no hablan inglés."

("People feel uncertainty, doubt and pain throughout the RMC process. The value of accompaniment in the language of the people is very important to be able to understand their feelings and their experience. It is not an option [for Hispanics]; it is necessary because many do not speak English.")

Speaking about the importance of accompaniment done in the language of the people, Fr. Armand Ramirez says: "En nuestra comunidad Latina, el idioma y el entendimiento de la cuestión cultural y religiosa de la gente son importantes para que la gente se sienta en confianza y sienta que alguien les está acompañando con una disposición de escuchando, aprender de ellos y reconocer a las personas que han comprometido su vida al servicio su comunidad."

("In our Latino/a community, language and the understanding of culture and popular religiosity of the people are important so that they can trust and feel that someone is accompanying them with a disposition to listen, learn from them, and to acknowledge the people who have committed their lives to the service of their community.")

RMC pastoral accompaniment is available to support you and your communities throughout the journey of renewal. In the words of Fr. Paul Cao, "the RMC Accompaniment Team is very helpful to me as a new pastor of a united parish community. It is helpful to have someone who is willing to listen to the pastor, staff, parishioners from both worship sites and helps them accept the reality and move forward."

Wherever your parish is on the RMC journey, the Pastoral Accompaniment team is here to support you. If you feel that our team could be helpful to you, please reach out to us.

Cathy Walz: cwalz@archchicago.org

Aneta Krzycka: akrzycka@archchicago.org

Fernando Rayas: frayas@archchicago.org

Augustus Tolton Teaching Parish Program

Dr. Debbie Armenta, Tolton Teaching Parish Program Parish Liaison



MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

TOLTON TEACHING PARISH PROGRAM



This month marks the kickoff of the Augustus Tolton Teaching Parish Program at Mundelein Seminary – an innovative program to better integrate pastoral formation into the educational experience at Mundelein. Seminarians now spend their four years of theological studies (and second year of Pre-Theology) assigned to one of more than 80 teaching parishes selected from the Archdiocese of Chicago, Diocese of Rockford, Diocese of Joliet and Diocese of Gary. They visit the parish on weekends for Masses and events, as well as participate in a ministry or activity once per week. This involvement gives them on-the-ground training and a true experience of priestly ministry throughout their discernment process.

In my work overseeing this program, I have been tremendously blessed and privileged to meet and build good relationships with these parishes in collaboration with the seminary. In my time over the last 11 months with the Tolton Teaching Parish Program, I have traveled to three of the four dioceses in our program and visited with nearly all our 80 Teaching Parishes.

The work done in the parishes is truly God's work. Each time that I leave a parish, I am more profoundly aware of the reality of the Holy Fire of God's love alive and manifested in each parish community. The parish pastors with whom we at Mundelein are blessed to work are heroic shepherds doing God's work in unassuming ways. It is a quiet but palpable love of Jesus Christ lived out by our pastors and parishioners within our parishes. These men model the true charisms of a parish priest, and they work closely with our seminarians to help form them to be good and holy future priests.

A critical component of the Teaching Parish Program is the "Parish Committee" appointed by the pastor. This is a committee of volunteer lay parishioners who

serve as the segue into the parish and accompany the seminarian as he acclimates himself to parish life. In many ways, these parishioners represent the future parishioners for a seminarian. Their life stories are critical in helping seminarians grow in their vocational identity as a parish priest. The committee meets frequently with their parish's assigned seminarians, discussing their experiences and helping them to recognize the growth of their pastoral skills and opportunities for further engagement.

While the Tolton Teaching Parish Program is an essential educational experience, it is also an opportunity for our seminarians to enrich local parishes through their presence and spiritual gifts. Seminarians teach CCD and RCIA classes, lead parish Bible studies and small faith-sharing groups and attend youth and young adult group meetings and events. The relationships and conversations that take place with the people of God is what ultimately forms the seminarians as they grow in their awareness of God's presence in all the complex realities of parish life and society. In addition, by interacting with the parish community in these ways, they learn to pass on their faith – while both implicitly and explicitly inspiring vocations in young Catholics and renewing hope in the future of the Church.

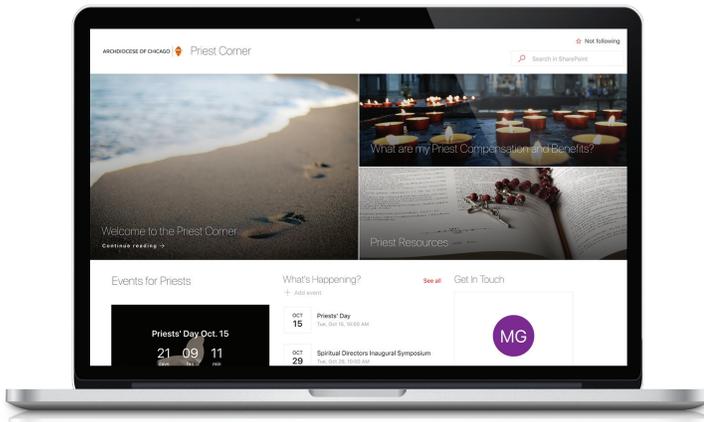
On behalf of Mundelein Seminary, I would like to personally thank the priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago who are mentoring our seminarians through this program and in myriad other ways. Your example and encouragement to these men means more than you will ever know. To learn more about the Tolton Teaching Parish Program, please visit usml.edu/teachingparish.



Seminarian Michael Mehringer (Theology I) teaches a religious education class to young parishioners at St. Gall Catholic Church in Chicago last February.

Connecting via Priest Corner

Fr. Ken Simpson, Vicar for the Professional and Pastoral Development of Priests



If you haven't already seen **IZZY**, the new archdiocesan staff portal, you may have missed the new **Priest Corner** website.

This resource has been a long-time coming and we hope that you find it useful and will visit it often. We have tried to envision all areas in which priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago may seek resources and information. Although the site is now live, it will no doubt undergo continuous development and expansion as we move forward. Your feedback on how to improve it is always welcome.

The site is organized in 4 primary areas, in which you'll find information about the following:

Honor: growing as a presbyterate: news, recognition and important dates

Support: caring for the physical, emotional and financial well-being of priests

Equip: providing resources to flourish professionally and pastorally

Vitalize: fostering growth in service and spiritual vitality as a missionary disciple of Christ

The needs of priests change and evolve over their lifetime of service. The purpose of the Priest Corner website is to provide easy-to-find information and support in all areas noted above. And it will improve over time with your input and suggestions, which you can [submit online](#).

The Priest Corner is accessed using your arch email (Office 365 Online) account credentials. As communicated throughout the summer, with all parish and school staff now receiving arch accounts, arch email will be the primary channel for all arch-related communication. Please get in the habit of checking your arch email account regularly as updates to the Priest Corner will also be noted through Arch Link emails.

If anyone on your staff does not yet have an arch Office 365 Online account or is experiencing difficulty accessing the account, please have them contact the IT Service Center at 312.534.5227 or itservicecenter@archchicago.org.

Ongoing Learning Opportunities

SLI Connect

sliconnect

Resources for Healthy Life & Ministry

SLI Connect, the education ministry of Saint Luke Institute, which offers free access to ongoing formation resources in the areas of leadership, ministry skill-building, self-care, spirituality and more, is hosting a few webinars that may be of interest to you:

Managing Up, Down and Sideways

October 17, 12 p.m.
Tasha Dorsey, Psy.D.

[Register online](#)

Ministry and community life means continually navigating complex relationships in many directions – with authority, with peers, and with those you minister to or manage. Daily stressors and the hectic pace of ministry can put a strain on those important relationships and prevent us from communicating effectively. Tasha Dorsey, Psy.D., offers strategies for developing healthy interdependence between leaders and community members.

Pre-tirement and Encore Ministries

November 21, 12 p.m.

Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D.

[Register online](#)

Priests, religious and lay ministers ages 65 to 80+ are discovering the value of reimagining the stage of life between traditional full-time ministry and retirement, also known as “pre-tirement.” Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D., explores the growing trend of pre-tirement and the advantages of identifying your “encore ministry” in the service of healthy, successful aging.

Chicagoland Trauma-Informed Congregations Network/Mental Health First Aid

[Chicagoland Trauma Informed Congregations](#) and [Mental Health First Aid](#) are offering the following learning opportunities:

Clergy Staffing on Mental Health

Wednesday, October 23

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This is a conference call. There is no charge for this program, but please contact Rochelle Johnson for more information and to RSVP at 630.929.5507 or rochelle.johnson2@advocatehealth.com.

This opportunity is for **clergy only**.

To join the Consultation, call Conference Call Number: 860.970.0000 / ID Number: 10448

Description: As a faith leader you are asked to respond and provide support to many people facing mental illness or other life challenges. Many of us do not have the expertise and background in mental health services. This staffing is an opportunity to receive consultation and resources from professional mental health providers to strengthen and support what you are called to do every day.

Risking Connection in Faith Communities®

Thursday, November 7 and

Friday, November 8, 2019

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

815 South Washington Street

Naperville, IL

[Register online](#)

Risking Connection in Faith Communities® is a 2-day workshop developed by the Sidran Institute to equip faith leaders (clergy and lay) to build trauma responsive congregations. This is a multi-faith

approach that draws from diverse religious traditions. Participants must attend both days to receive a certificate of completion.

Mental Health First Aid for Faith Communities

Sunday, November 10 and Sunday, November 17
1 - 5 p.m.

Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital Wellness Center
3551 Highland Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

[Register online](#)

Mental Health First Aid takes the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and substance use issues. This workshop is specifically geared to faith communities. Faith leaders of all religious traditions – both lay and clergy – are encouraged to attend and to bring a team from your congregation to the workshop so you can bring the information back to your community and begin implementing your learning together.



MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID®

Catholic Schools Update

Making our Catholic Schools Welcoming to All Learners

A key part of our mission of Catholic education is to be welcoming to all types of learners. To assist in this mission, the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) is providing new supports to the 205 Catholic schools of the archdiocese. Recently, the OCS welcomed two new staff members: Ms. Kate McConnell, Director of Inclusive Education, and Ms. Yesenia Maldonado, Director of Social-Emotional Learning. Each role will help schools with specific strategies to ensure that the educational, behavioral, and emotional needs of our students are met. Ms. O'Donnell will have a particular focus on students with diagnosed learning needs. Ms. Maldonado will provide expertise in addressing the psychological and social needs of children, particularly as they relate to student behavior. We know that both of these individuals will provide needed and valuable support to our Catholic schools!

Quotable

“Let us ask the Lord to free the Church from those who would make her grow old, encase her in the past, hold her back or keep her at a standstill. But let us also ask him to free her from another temptation: that of thinking she is young because she accepts everything the world offers her, thinking that she is renewed because she sets her message aside and acts like everybody else. No! The Church is young when she is herself, when she receives ever anew the strength born of God’s word, the Eucharist, and the daily presence of Christ and the power of his Spirit in our lives. The Church is young when she shows herself capable of constantly returning to her source.”

— Pope Francis, *Christus Vivat*

Arch Briefs

World Mission Sunday 2019

On World Mission Sunday, we join with the universal Church in joyful response to the call to “go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15). This year, Pope Francis also calls for an Extraordinary Mission Month throughout the month of October in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* which, “sought to give new impetus to the missionary task of proclaiming the Gospel.” In the words of Pope Francis, it is about placing “the mission of Jesus at the heart of the Church, making it the criterion for measuring the effectiveness of her structures, the results of her labors, the fruitfulness of her ministers, and the joy they awaken. For without joy, we attract no one.” There are four dimensions, specified by the Holy Father, to live more intensely the Extraordinary Mission Month in October 2019:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church: in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer.
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world.



3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological.
4. Missionary charity: in particular, participation in the World Mission Sunday collection.

Every parish engaged in works of solidarity and charity with our global neighbors are invited to join the diverse community of Archdiocese of Chicago in a Global Mission Mass and Celebration for missionaries Sunday, October 27 at St. Ferdinand Church beginning at 5 p.m. Together we will give thanks for the local communities that are dedicated to the Catholic Church’s world mission. Learn more about this unique celebration here: wearemissionary.org/emm.

PRMAA Dues

As communicated earlier in various forums, the inflation-adjusted \$600 annual PRMAA dues amount required of all active archdiocesan priests (~488) will take effect this September. The mandatory dues amount will now be collected via a \$25 payroll deduction per each “benefit” payroll period; i.e., 2 payrolls per month or 24 of each year’s 26 payrolls. For the few priests who are not on arch-diocesan/IOI payrolls (e.g., chaplains), the PRMAA office will bill them directly, semi-annually, on 12/31 and 6/30. Additional contributions to PRMAA are welcomed, appreciated and tax-deductible. PRMAA is blessed to have many generous, retired priests who continue to pay voluntary dues, and even more, including bequests, which has helped PRMAA meet its operating obligations.

Senior Priest Remuneration

The new Senior Priest Remuneration equal to \$65 per each of the 26 pay periods per year, approved for all active archdiocesan priests aged 65+ (~111), will begin this September including a retroactive payment for pay periods dating back to July 1. For the few senior priests who are not on archdiocesan/IOI payrolls, (e.g., chaplains), the PRMAA office will pay this remuneration to them directly, semi-annually, net of PRMAA dues, on 12/31 and 6/30.

Financial Planning Resources

Funded by a Lilly Endowment grant and a matching gift, there will soon be a new benefit program available to all archdiocesan priests and seminarians. A two-year trial program with EY Financial Services, providing professional resources for financial planning and education, will start this fall. Their consulting services include education and counseling via handouts, online resources, north/south group meetings (to be scheduled), and toll-free access to experienced, credentialed financial planners. The objective is to assist you in optimizing your decisions regarding archdiocesan benefits, savings, investments, insurance, 403(b) contributions, taxes, loans, student debt, Social Security, power of attorney for property, will, estate planning, etc. To help determine how best to address individual and collective needs, please be on the lookout for and participate in a 10-minute, anonymous email survey from **eypersonalfinance@ey.com**. Like most things in life, you get out of this what you put in to it, so please avail yourself accordingly to this and all PRMAA benefits.

Medicare Option for Eligible Active Priests

The PRMAA Board sent out letters dated July 30 to all active, Medicare-eligible priests aged 65+ inviting them to apply for Medicare Part B. Thus far, PRMAA has received responses from about two-thirds of the group. Msgr. Pat Pollard, Kevin Marzalik, and Tim Koch are following up with the remaining priests to address any questions. Those opting-in via the PRMAA office can expect to receive their new Medicare card, which will now display the respective effective dates for Part A and Part B, in a few weeks. As a new Medicare Part B enrollee, when seeing any health care providers after the Part B effective date, please let them know that Medicare is now your **primary** coverage and that the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) PPO Plan is your **secondary** coverage. The BCBS secondary plan is identical to the BCBS PPO plan for non-Medicare priests and has the same Group number and Member ID. As such, you will not receive a new BCBS card; your existing BCBS card is still appropriate to share with your health care providers.

Save the Date

Priests' Day Meetings

October 15, 2019

February 3, 2020

May 19, 2020

Priests' Convocation

June 21–24, 2021

Monday, September 30 – Friday, October 4, 2019

Senior Priests Retreat

Directed by: Bishop Gerald Kicanas

Joseph and Mary Retreat House

5-Day, 4-Night Retreat – Meals included

Cost: \$360/person

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 3 p.m.

Tolton Gala

St. Ignatius Prep, Tully Hall

1076 West Roosevelt Road

Chicago, IL 60608

Donation of \$100 per person includes free parking, dinner, entertainment, and silent auction.

Registrar at tolton.archchicago.org/events.

Sunday, October 6 – Friday, October 11, 2019

Silent Directed Retreat

Directed by: Msgr. John Canary, Fr. Thomas Hickey, and Fr. Kurt Boras

Joseph and Mary Retreat House

6-Day, 5-Night Retreat – Meals included

Cost: \$430/person

Monday, October 14, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Priests Praying for Priests

Saint Mary of the Angels (lower chapel)

1850 North Hermitage Ave., Chicago, IL

UPDATED: Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Priest Day

Loft 21

1501 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19, 2019

Holy Fire

UIC Pavilion

Sunday, October 20 – Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Mundelein Seminary Alumni Retreat

Directed by: Rev. John Kartje

Joseph and Mary Retreat House

4-Day, 3-Night Retreat – Meals Included

Cost: \$270/person

Monday, November 11, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Priests Praying for Priests

Saint Mary of the Angels (lower chapel)

1850 North Hermitage Ave., Chicago, IL

Monday, November 11 – Friday, November 15, 2019

12 Step Retreat for Priests

Directed by: Rev. Peter McQuinn

Joseph and Mary Retreat House

5-Day, 4-Night Retreat – Meals Included

Cost: \$360/person

Thursday, November 21 – Saturday, November 23, 2019

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN

The Archdiocese of Chicago group will depart Chicago on November 21 and return to Chicago November 24, 2019.

Monday Evening, November 25 – Wednesday**Morning, November 27, 2019**

Pre-Retirement Retreat for Priests

Directed by: Rev. Michael Ahlstrom and Rev. Robert Heidenreich

Joseph and Mary Retreat House

3 Day – 2 Night Retreat – Meals Included

Cost: \$190/person

Monday, December 9, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Priests Praying for Priests

Saint Mary of the Angels (lower chapel)

1850 North Hermitage Ave., Chicago, IL

Need Parish Support or An Answer?

Email parishoperations@archchicago.org at any time. The Parish Operations team exists to serve our pastors and parish teams so that you can best serve the people of God. Within one business day of sending your message, someone will return your email and provide you a status on your inquiry.

Distribution, Questions, or Comments

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for future issues of the newsletter, please contact priestnewsletter@archchicago.org.

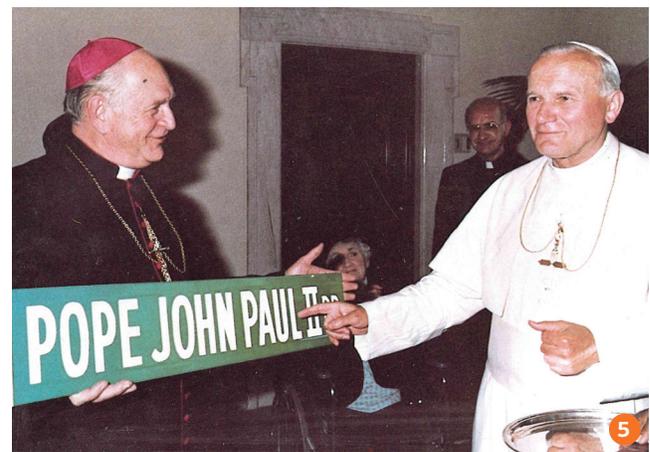
Mailing Address

Archdiocese of Chicago
Internal Communications
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Did You Know?

This October marks the 40th anniversary of St. John Paul II's historic visit to Chicago in 1979. When the pope announced his first tour of the United States, including a two-day visit to the Second City, the Archdiocese of Chicago – then led by John Cardinal Cody – had mere weeks to plan with city officials for this once-in-a-lifetime event. The pope's visit ended with a spectacular open-air mass at Grant Park, with some reports estimating up to 1 million in attendance!

Everyday Chicagoans – priest and parishioner alike – flooded the streets, filled the city with banners and signs, and waited for hours to catch a glimpse of the pope and affirm their identity as Catholics. To celebrate the 40th anniversary, the Archives and Records Center presents some artifacts in our collection from the Papal Visit. These items are also part of a digital exhibit



1. John Paul II prays over gifts given to him by seminarians at Quigley South
2. CTA ticket for free rides the day of pope's visit
3. Page from Welcome Album prepared by Lake County Catholic School students
4. Crowds gathered outside Five Holy Martyrs parish for John Paul II's Polish Mass
5. Bishop Alfred Abramowicz presenting honorary street sign to the pope
6. Youth hold sign welcoming pope at Grant Park