

SPECIAL COLLECTION

September 18-19 for relief efforts for Afghan refugees, Haitian earthquake and Hurricane Ida victims. There will be a special bishop's letter appearing in *The Catholic Messenger* on Sept. 16 with an accompanying voluntary special collection for the weekend of September 18. At the request of Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, donations on that weekend will go to the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund and will be used to support the USCCB for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church as well as the efforts of Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church. Donations collected on that day can be made payable to the Diocese of Davenport, supporting the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund. Thank you.

LITURGY OFFICE

The September *LiturgyNotes* may be found [here](#).

DEACON FORMATION OFFICE

The Diocese of Davenport will be holding a number of information/orientation sessions across the diocese for those interested in the diaconate. Applications to the Deacon Formation Program will only be distributed at these sessions. The information sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. The next class will begin formation in August 2022; both an English and a Spanish track will be offered. For more information, or if you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact Deacon Agnoli at 563-888-4257 or agnoli@davenportdiocese.org, or visit <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/class-ix>.

In order to prepare for each session, we ask that those interested register for the session they wish to attend (also at <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/class-ix>).

We also ask that, in keeping with diocesan COVID protocols, if you are not vaccinated, please wear a mask to these sessions.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday, September 26 (1-5pm)	English Program Inquiry	Grinnell – St. Mary (1002 Broad St.)
Sunday, October 24 (1-5pm)	English Program Inquiry	Iowa City – St. Patrick (4330 St. Patrick Dr.)
Sunday, November 21 (1-5pm)	English Program Inquiry	DeWitt – St. Joseph (417 6 th Ave)
Sunday, December 19 (1-5pm)	English Program Inquiry	Chancery (780 W. Central Park)
Sunday, January 16, 2022 (1-5 pm)	Spanish Program Inquiry	Davenport – St. Anthony (417 N. Main)
Sunday, February 27 (1-5pm)	Spanish Program Inquiry	Iowa City – St. Patrick (4330 St. Patrick Dr.)
Sunday, April 3 (1-5pm)	Spanish Program Inquiry	Ottumwa – St. Mary (216 N Court St)

DEVELOPMENT AND STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

The Stewardship web page, <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/stewardship> has been updated. A “Toolbox of How To” materials has been added. The two documents are “Hospitality in a Stewardship Parish” and “Guide for Lay Witness Talks.” Please check them out and for questions or information contact [Michael Hoffman](#), 563-888-4252.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Social Action Lunch & Learn: *Going to the Peripheries*, September 2 with Bishop Thomas Zinkula, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Bishop will share social action activities and causes he participated in and what he learned from them. [Click here to register](#). If you have already registered thank you.

The Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa has COVID-19 information and telephone assistance in more than 20 languages and is open to anyone in Iowa. The hotline, 877-558-2690 is operational Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM -5:00 PM. Website: <https://www.refugeeallianceofcentraliowa.org/covid19-information>

Rental Assistance: The Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB) recently announced a new “[rental Assistance finder](#)” tool. The following links provide more information regarding this newly released CFPB tool:

- [Overview: Emergency Rental Assistance Call to Action](#)
- [Toolkit: Emergency Rental Assistance](#) (provides sample text for sharing information)

Deacon Immersed in Social Justice Experience: Deacon Dale Mallory, a Diocese of Davenport seminarian, engaged with the Center for Worker Justice and the Iowa City Catholic Worker House as part of an immersive experience. He spent time learning what each organization does and how they serve their communities. The opportunity gave him insight into both charitable and community organizing aspects of the Two Feet of Social Justice. To listen to the interview [click here](#).

St. Vincent Home Corporation Grant Deadline September 15: For consideration at the fall board meeting applications must be postmarked by September 15. Applicants are to be located within the 22 counties of the Diocese of Davenport or serve children within the Diocese of Davenport. Also, if you have not submitted a progress report for a past grant, you must submit a progress report along with your application. The grant application and the progress report form can be found [here](#).

National Migration Week: September 20-26. *Towards an ever wider ‘we’*. As we approach National Migration Week and the [World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#) (Sept. 26), the following resources from Justice for Immigrants can help us better understand the similarities and differences between refugees and asylum seekers. Other resources, including a toolkit for National Migration Week, are [available here](#).

National Migration Week Spotlight: [Refugees](#)

National Migration Week Spotlight: [Asylum](#)

[Pope’s Message on World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#)

[World Day of Refugee resources page](#)

October-Respect Life Month: New resources are now available to help you celebrate in your parish, school, or ministry, click [here](#) to view. A [Catholic education toolkit](#) is provided to help Catholic educators build a culture of life in their classroom throughout the year, whenever Respect Life themes best fit into their specific curriculum.

CCHD (Catholic Campaign for Human Development) collection will be held November 20-21. [Promotional materials](#) will be mailed directly to the parishes in early October, including a bulletin insert adapted for the Diocese of Davenport. Remember, 25% of funds collected stay in our diocese for anti-poverty projects! If you have any questions about the collection please contact [Kent Ferris](#).

Project Rachel Ministry is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Youth and Young Adult

Online Conference on Young Adults: September 9-11. *Young Adults in the 21st Century: A Conversation on Faith, Religion & Culture* seeks to have participants part of the conversation on this topic along with the great speakers scheduled to present as a key part of this conference. If you're at all interested in how we can reach, engage, and empower young adults in the Church today, this conference should provide you with some great insights and best practices.

Young people are the Church. But the Church is facing significant challenges in reaching young adults and discerning and meeting their needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated trends already seen for the last several decades. This is sponsored by Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, and aims to generate and share strategies and best practices for engaging and empowering younger members of the Church today. Registration is \$25. For more information – including conference schedule, speaker bios, and online registering – visit the [conference webpage](#).

NEW Large-Church Faith Experience for Middle School Youth and Parents: Sunday, April 3, 2022, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Regina Catholic Education Center, Iowa City. If you work with 6th-8th graders you'll want to mark your calendar now for this new joint-program of the Diocese of Davenport and the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The theme of the day is "Rooted...in Community, in Faith, in Jesus." Through a variety of activities, prayer, witness, music, and fun, participants will be energized in their faith and hopefully leave realizing a bit more that there actually might be something real and cool about "this religion thing." The invitation to and inclusion of parents is an exciting feature of this new program that hopefully will empower families to be more comfortable having faith conversations back home. More details will follow in the coming months, but for now MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

Marriage and Family

Two Become One – Embracing the Sacrament of Remarriage: The Diocese of Davenport and Archdiocese of Dubuque offer this marriage preparation program to meet the unique needs of couples in which one or both of the individuals have been previously married. Contact [Marianne Agnoli](#). Upcoming Dates:

- September 25, 2021 - Cedar Falls, Iowa - [Information & Registration](#)
- January 22, 2022 - Virtual via Zoom - [Information & Registration](#)
- March 26, 2022 - Cedar Falls, Iowa - [Information & Registration](#)

Marriage Preparation Workshops: In person gathered preparation workshops for first time marriages are scheduled for October 2, 2021 at St. Mary, Pella, February 19, 2022 at St. John Vianney, Bettendorf and March 26, 2022 at St. John Vianney, Bettendorf. Unvaccinated participants will be required to wear masks and social distance until further notice. Registration information can be found on the diocesan [Marriage Preparation webpage](#).

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass: Sunday, October 24, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 2 p.m. At the request of Bishop Zinkula, the Office of Faith Formation is sponsoring a diocesan celebration for all couples who are celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. Couples that were unable to attend any prior celebrations are also welcome to participate. An informal reception will follow. Contact your parish to confirm that your names and address have been submitted. Invitations will be mailed by mid-September. (Parishes received an email June 28 from Colleen Darland, darland@davenportdiocese.org that provided information on how to submit couples' names.)

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

To report child abuse call the Iowa Attorney General Clergy Abuse hotline at 855-620-7000 (M-F, 8 am.-4:30 pm.) to speak with a trained advocate or the Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178. If it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator: 563-349-5002, yac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND

To register by email contact: olpretreat@gmail.com or call 563-336-8414. To register online and learn more about Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat visit www.theprairieretreat.org.

[Go here](#) to learn more about the following offerings:

- **In-person: Autumn Mass at the Prairie:** Wed, Sept 1 | 10:00am
- **In-person: Cosmic Walk on the Prairie:** Wed, Sept 8 | 10:00am-3:00pm
- **In-person: Stargazing: Beauty of Autumn Skies:** Tues, Sept 14 | 7:00pm-10:00pm
- **In-person: Come to the Quiet:** Wed, Sept 15 | 9:30am-3:30pm
- **Online: Ecumenical Prayer Service: Harvest Safety:** Tues, Sept 21 | 7:00pm-8:00pm
- **Online: Circle of Life Series: Autumn:** Tues, Sept 28 | 10:00am-11:30am
- **In-person: Little Open House on the Prairie:** Sun, Oct 3 | 1:00pm-5:00pm
 - The whole family is welcome to visit Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat for a special open house. Come join us for a short time or stay the entire afternoon while you enjoy the beauty of The Prairie. Simple refreshments will be served in the new Sunrise Shop. Tours will be given of the new shop, the retreat center, plus walking or golf cart tours of The Prairie which includes 100 acres of prairie grass and timber, a nature pond, a labyrinth, statues, gardens, a Cosmic Walk which focuses on the path that creation has taken since the beginning of time.
 - There will be a scavenger hunt with a care of Earth theme, a fall photo booth and plenty of joy! Live music from the porch will be provided by The Barley House Band.
 - No registration is required.

BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL

Contact Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108, retreats@smmsisters.org or online at <http://www.smmsisters.org/retreats/retreats-and-programs> to register for programs mentioned below.

My Walk with Grief: Readings and Reflections from the Spiritual Memoir: Thurs. Sept. 9, 6:30-8:30 pm *OR* Sat. Sept. 11, 9:30-11:30 am. Elaine's memoir will inspire readers to seek new identities after significant loss or transition, encouraging them to grieve deeply, live fully, and rediscover love and the largeness of God's embrace. Speaker: Elaine K. Olson. Fee: Free will offering. Books will be available for purchase.

Retreat: A Celebration of Hope with Sr. Melannie Svoboda: Fri. Sept. 17 (Arrival after 2 pm; Soup Supper: 5:30 pm; Retreat opening: 7 pm)-Closing-Sun. Sept. 19, 1 pm. This retreat explores the nature of hope and its relation to wonder, faith, love, and courage. Registration fee: \$225 (private room), \$205 (double room), \$160 Commuter, \$95 Virtual.

Virtual Conference: Me/Us/The World – CONSPIRE: Living Inside God's Great Story. Fri. Sept. 24-Sun. Sept. 26; 9 am-4 pm at Benet House. Participate 'live' with Richard Rohr and others from the Center for Contemplation and Action (CAC) for its annual conference. Consider attending all 3 days or any individual day. Schedule and details available from CAC [here](#). Fee: *All 3 days:* \$200 (\$125 donated to CAC and \$75 for Benet House hosting expenses). *Individual day:* \$65 (\$40 donated to CAC and \$25 for Benet House hosting expenses). Meals: Bring your own snacks and lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. Participants limited to 30.

To support the ministry of your parish, school and the diocese these groups automatically receive the *Mini-Messenger*:

Deacons	Diocesan Corporate Board Youth Ministers	Pastoral Associates	Directors/Coordinators of Faith Formation
Parishes	Catholic Foundation Board Sisters	RCIA Parish Contacts	Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Priests	Parish Lay Directors	Bookkeepers	Diocesan Board of Education
Seminarians	Diocesan Pastoral Council Principals	Parish Life Coordinators	

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Laurie Hoefling, hoefling@davenportdiocese.org.