**BISHOP’S OFFICE**

**Annual Parish Corporate Board Meeting:** Sunday, September 11 at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, September 13 at 7 p.m. The Tuesday meeting is a repeat of the Sunday meeting. It is important that all pastors and parish lay directors attend one of these sessions. The meetings will again be held virtually via Zoom and not gathered as deaneries as has been customary in past years. More information will be forthcoming.

**Fr. Symphorien Lopoke**, a priest of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Diocese of Tshumbe), has come to our diocese. Fr. Symphorien’s bishop has given him permission to do pastoral ministry here for five years. He will be assisting at St. Mary, Iowa City and St. Thomas More, Coralville for the time being. Please warmly welcome Fr. Symphorien to our diocese. His contact information is: Fr Symphorien Lopoke, St. Mary Rectory, 220 E. Jefferson St., Iowa City 52245-2135; lopokes@diodav.org; 319-333-6476

**COMMUNICATION OFFICE**

Xavier Society for the Blind provides religious, spiritual and inspirational materials in Braille and Digital Talking Books. Some of the Catholic braille resources provided are the Propers of the Mass, New American Bible and periodicals. These library materials are free of charge to blind and visually impaired persons of all faiths and ages throughout the US. For more information, to register and/or to request titles go to [xaviersocietyfortheblind.org](http://www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org) or call 800-637-9193. You can also find XSB on social media. Please share with those who may benefit from XSB.

**LITURGY OFFICE**

The September issue of *LiturgyNotes* is available [here](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2022/8/Sept2022%20LN.pdf).

**SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE**

**Season of Creation:** Sept. 1 – Oct. 4. Resources for celebrating can be found on the [Liturgy Events webpage](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/events/season-of-creation-4). If you have unique ideas for how you will celebrate personally or as a parish contact Kent Ferris or Loxi Hopkins.

**St. Vincent’s Home Grant Deadline is September 15:** For consideration at the November 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](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/st-vincents-home).

**National Migration Week is** **September 20- 25:** A toolkit for National Migration Week, is [available here](https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FInal-NMW-Toolkit-20222.pdf). Go [here](https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NMW-spotlight-asylum.pdf) to learn more about what asylum is.

**October is Respect Life Month:** New resources are now available to help you celebrate in your parish, school, or ministry, click [here](https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month) to view. A [Catholic education toolkit](https://www.respectlife.org/catholic-education) 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.

**The 2022 CCHD Annual Collection will be held on November 19-20.** Promotional materials will be mailed directly to the parishes in early October. 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**](https://www.davenportdiocese.org/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**

**Catechetical Sunday is September 18.** This is an opportunity to commission as a parish all who will this year be instructing others in the faith by virtue of their baptismal call. This could be catechists who will serve in roles that touch the lives of those registered or involved in: Catholic schools, parish formation programs, RCIA, adult / young adult formation, youth ministry, or even those involved in the training of catechists. This year’s theme is “This is my body given for you” (Lk 22:19). Resources and materials can be found [here](https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/catechetical-sunday-2022). A Commissioning Service can be found [here](https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/commissioning-service).

**“Walking on Water – WOW”:** November 12-13 at [Crooked Creek Christian Camp](http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/) in Washington, Iowa. This is an in-person retreat for high school youth, youth ministers, clergy, religious, parents and chaperones hosted by the Iowa City Deanery. $135 per person. Registration deadline is October 7. See attached flyer for details and this [promotion video](https://youtu.be/UgU2zajQx68). Contact Michelle Montgomery at St. Thomas More, Coralville.

**Marriage and Family**

**Sponsor Couple Training/Refresher:** New Sponsor Couples and experienced Sponsor Couples trained before 2017 are encouraged to attend an updated instruction.

* **Saturday, September 17:** Sacred Heart Grand Hall, Davenport, 9 am -noon Registration Deadline - September 9 [Flyer](file:///%5C%5Cmgmt03%5Cusers%24%5Cagnolim%5CDocuments%5CMarriage%20Prep%5CSponsor%20Couple%20Training%5CPublicity%5CSponsor%20Couple%20Training%20Workshop%20Brochure%20-%20%20Sacred%20Heart%20Cath.pdf)
* **Sunday, November 20:** St. Alphonsus Parish, Mt. Pleasant, 12:15 - 3 pm. Registration Deadline – November 12 [Flyer](file:///%5C%5Cmgmt03%5Cusers%24%5Cagnolim%5CDocuments%5CMarriage%20Prep%5CSponsor%20Couple%20Training%5CPublicity%5CSponsor%20Couple%20Training%20Workshop%20Brochure%20-%20%20Mt.%20Pleasant%2011-20-22.pdf)

To register couples in your parish for either of these training sessions contact Marianne Agnoli at agnolim@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4242 by the specified deadlines, so that your couples will have sufficient time to receive the necessary instructional materials and complete the pre-training exercises.

**50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass:** Sunday, October 23, 2:00 p.m., St. Mary Church, Grinnell. At the request of Bishop Zinkula, the Office of Faith Formation is sponsoring a Mass and informal reception for all couples who are celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. Couples that were unable to attend prior celebrations are also welcome to participate. Contact your parish to confirm that it has submitted your names and address. Invitations will be mailed mid-September. (On June 28 parishes received an email from Colleen Darland, darland@davenportdiocese.org with instructions on submitting couple information.)

**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, vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

**OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND**

For details and to register go to the full calendar at [www.theprairieretreat.org](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.theprairieretreat.org&c=E,1,N3kJsQRdv2NgxPMIeSsrP4agETxU9w7olOFXYtRaZuF1_VttX96K9f1IfeUqxoCNet7rObwhEpszEPcBFb6fu-WfcwwriSpCJMarq6QJ_wPA2J5rRAkIkW5xQA,,&typo=1&ancr_add=1). You may also register via email, olpretreat@gmail.com or call 563-374-1092. Scholarships available.

* **Mass on the Prairie with Fr. Dennis Martin:** Wednesday, September 7 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.
* **Sourdough 101:** Thursday, September 8 | 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
* **“Called to be Creative”:** Friday, September 9 | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
* **Online Only: “Spirituality and Justice”:** Saturday, September 17 | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
* **Online Only: Group Spiritual Direction:**  Thursday, September 22 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.
* **PrairieFest:** Saturday, September 24 | 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for a day of fun, live music, BBQ and more! Free
* **Walking with Two Feet of God’s Love in Action Alongside Immigrants and Refugees:** Wednesday, September 28 | 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
* **The Time is Now! Writers’ Workshop:** Wednesday, September 28 | 6:00-8:00 p.m.
* **Mass on the Prairie with Fr. Rudy Juarez:** Wednesday, October 5 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.
* **Where is Human Dignity in Racism?** Thursday, October 6 | 3:00-7:00 p.m. Note location: St. Anthony Parish Center, Davenport
* **Retreat: Unity: Assembling the pieces of the puzzle:** October 10-12 | Mon. 4:00 p.m. to Wed. 3:00 p.m.
* **Group Spiritual Direction (online only):** Thursday, October 13 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.
* **Imagination Unbinds Hope - Find your voice through painting!** Friday, Oct. 14 | 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
* **Photography for Beginners:** Saturday, October 15 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.
* **Words are Powerful: Be mindful of how you speak to yourself:** Mon., October 17 | 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL

[Go here to register](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.smmsisters.org%2fretreats&c=E,1,dAm9JyqF1JK4FsaZywnskTHVpPEbxVRhIbgWSf2yQKoaXus8odCgBFj_DD4oc6bP2nuXGzunPRujLj6fNhgD1_d3moekUjSWddlDiJkv1J067g,,&typo=1), email retreats@smmsisters.org or call Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108

**Haiku: Spiritual Writing in Three Lines:** Thurs. Sept. 8. 6:30-8 pm via Zoom and onsite at Benet House. Haiku, a style of ancient Japanese poetry, is a spiritual practice of paying attention to small things and honoring an insight into the sacredness of everyday life. Participants will practice writing haiku, a sound structure of three lines (5-7-5 syllable count), and then broaden it to see how a simple experience awakens the heart to a broader truth. Brevity is the soul of a haiku. No writing experience is necessary. Instead, bring an open heart, an attentive mind, and a playful spirit. Haiku is a way of letting God know we are paying attention. Retreat leader: Elaine Olson. Onsite Fee: $20, Virtual Fee: $20

**Story and Spirit (virtual and onsite):** This 6-session series deals with religious themes in literature. Books chosen are designed to get you thinking and defining what you believe and what you value. 9:30-11:30 am on Thursdays: Sept. 22-The Screwtape Letters (Lewis); Sept. 29-Crime and Punishment (Dostoevsky); Oct. 6-Night (Weisel); Oct. 13-Siddhartha (Hesse); Oct. 20-The Quiet American (Greene); Oct. 27-Deep River (Endo). Fee: $15/session and cost of books. Presenter: Professor Mary Bruce

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 Diocesan Evangelization Commission

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.