

### LITURGY OFFICE

The November 2025 issue of *LiturgyNotes* is attached, and available [here](#).

### STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Are you a dedicated clergy member or parish leader called to serve those suffering from addiction? Seize this life-changing opportunity to become a certified **iTHIRST** spiritual companion. The Catholic Extension Society is offering this specialized training **completely free** for leaders.

About the iTHIRST certification

- This is a recovery ministry program designed for clergy, religious, and laity.
- The comprehensive, academically certified, and faith-based formation consists of 48 hours of training.
- It is taught by Keaton Douglas, the founder of the iTHIRST initiative.
- The training spans two months, beginning Monday, January 19, 2026.
- This program is being offered by the [Catholic Extension Society](#).

How to apply

Space is limited, for more information or to apply, please contact Jennifer Praet, Director of Stewardship for the Diocese of Davenport, at 563-888-4252 or [praet@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:praet@davenportdiocese.org) by November 21, 2025.

#### **Urgent Notice: Please make a pulpit announcement and place in your bulletins ASAP:**

This past week, [GoFundMe](#) recently generated donation pages for 1.4 million nonprofit organizations, including churches and dioceses, without their permission. Unfortunately, this has impacted some parishes, schools, and ministries within the Diocese of Davenport.

The diocese does not use GoFundMe to collect donations for any purpose. To make sure donated funds support parishes, schools, Upon This Rock, the Annual Diocesan Appeal, or other diocesan ministries, please give through the official and secure online platforms found on the diocesan website at [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org). This will ensure that every gift reaches its intended purpose.

For any questions regarding donations pages or inquiries regarding giving to diocesan institutions, contact the Office of Stewardship at 563-888-4252 or Finance Department at 563-888-4365, or reach out directly to the parish, school, or ministry.

The continued trust of those who generously donate funds to the Diocese of Davenport and its entities is of utmost importance. Thank you.

#### **Urgent Notice, Action Needed: request complete removal of your parish, school or entities GoFundMe page do the following:**

1. Submit a formal takedown request via GoFundMe's privacy Data Removal Form: <https://preferences.gofundme.com>
2. Include your EIN, legal name, and specific page URLs
3. Use language like "unauthorized charitable solicitation" and "brand misuse"
4. Request deletion, delisting, and de-indexing

For support please contact the Office of Stewardship at 563-888-4252 or Finance Department at 563-888-4365

## **FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

**Totus Tuus 2026 – Parish Registration & Missionary Recruitment:** Are you wanting to have Totus Tuus come to your parish? Great! First, we need every parish's assistance in recruiting the team for summer 2026 so that we can reach all the parishes wanting to host this great summer program! Attached is a document to help with recruitment called "Totus Tuus Talking Points 2026"

**Totus Tuus Parish Registration:** November 10, 10 a.m. the registration link will go live. Registration will be honored on a first come first serve basis. More information and registration process is available on our Totus Tuus page linked here: (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/tt-parishes>)

**SAVE THE DATE – Scouting Mass 2026:** January 25, 2 p.m. The deadline for religious emblems being presented at this liturgy is December 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. To successfully RSVP for the Scouting Mass 2026 please complete the following steps:

1. ensure that emblem paperwork is properly completed with all necessary sign-offs
2. emblems are paid for through the Office of Faith Formation who will order emblems
3. RSVP by following the link (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/dccs-mass-rsvp>)
4. Everything must be submitted & paid for before December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline

For more details on scouting and religious emblems as well as any questions please visit our website (<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/scouting>) or contact Kathy Lantzky ([lantzky@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:lantzky@davenportdiocese.org)).

**SAVE THE DATE – Iowa Catholic Youth Conference 2026:** March 21, 22. Mark your calendars! We are excited to announce the 5th annual Iowa Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) which targets those in grades 6-8 and their parents on March 22. New this year is an expanded event for High Schoolers in grades 9-12 on March 21. The event which is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Diocese of Davenport will take place at St. Ludmila Parish in Cedar Rapids and will feature the much loved **Sally Brothers Band** (<https://www.thesallybrothers.com>) both days. More information will be available later this fall. Please feel free to run this announcement in parish bulletins. Attached is a Save-the-date Flyer!

### **Marriage and Family**

**November is National Family Caregivers Month:** Over 65 million Americans are currently caring for a loved one. These caregivers can be found in our diocesan parishes, schools, and health care organizations. They often feel overwhelmed and isolated, and hunger for faith-based support. Ministry leaders are encouraged to learn more about offering outreach to those caring for a loved one of any age and circumstance. Contact [Marianne Agnoli](#) for resources or more information on starting a [NOURISH for Caregivers](#) support group. Materials are available in both English or Spanish.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** Participation in a Marriage Encounter weekend is a great way to enrich your relationship, rekindle communication, and enjoy a short get away. Dates of upcoming experiences:

- Non-residential weekend November 7-9 in Ankeny
- Residential weekend February 13-15 in Dubuque

For more information call Greg and Denise - 563-920-9419

**Couples Date Night Event:** November 14, 6-8 p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. Married and engaged couples are invited to a Couples Date Night Event, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Enrich your relationship through an evening that will include dinner, a talk by internationally recognized marriage speakers Ryan and Mary-Rose Verret, and time for conversation with each other and other couples. Learn more and register at [www.dbqarch.org/couples-event](http://www.dbqarch.org/couples-event)

## **SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE**

**Local Food Aid:** The Federal Government shutdown continues and SNAP benefits to families living and working in poverty may not be available in November. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a plea for lawmakers and the Administration to work in a bipartisan way to ensure funding of lifesaving programs and an end to the government shutdown. The full statement from the USCCB Office of Public Affairs can be found: [here](#).

The impact could vary by community across our diocese. Bishop Walsh is asking our office to compile responses to the following questions: How does your parish assist with food aid in the greater community? Does the parish have a food pantry or contribute to a ministerial association pantry or other effort? Have there been community-wide conversations about additional efforts to address the potential loss of food resources for SNAP recipients? Are there specific plans your parish will undertake? Please send me your responses at [ferris@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ferris@davenportdiocese.org).

Monetary and food donations to local food pantries are recommended. And, as Archbishop Broglio's has modeled, write your senators and representative asking them to restore fund to SNAP food benefits. Go to the USCCB Action Center and click on "Urge Congressional Leaders to Fund Lifesaving Programs and End Government Shutdown: <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/campaigns>

**Hurricane Melissa – How You Can Help:** Attached is the CRS Emergency Factsheet on Hurricane Melissa. This rare Category 5 hurricane, with sustained winds of 160 mph, heavy rainfall, and severe flooding, is expected to cause catastrophic damage in Jamaica and southern Haiti. It may be the strongest hurricane ever to strike Jamaica.

The Bishop of Mandeville and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Montego Bay shared: "Many of the families in the Dioceses of Mandeville and Montego Bay are very poor and simply do not have the resources to build their homes to the special codes required for hurricanes and earthquakes."

**Here's how your Catholic community can respond immediately:**

- **Donate online:** <https://www.crs.org/donate/hurricane-melissa>
- **Donate by phone:** 1-877-HELP-CRS
- **Donate by check and send to:** Catholic Relief Services – Hurricane Melissa  
P.O. Box 5278  
Tipton, IA 52772-05117

Your swift action can make a life-saving difference for families in desperate need. Please share these details widely and encourage support. We will continue to provide updates as the situation unfolds

## **PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

To report child abuse, call the Iowa Attorney General Clergy Abuse hotline at 855-620-7000 (M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 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](mailto:vac@diodav.org) or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

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 Pastoral Council                 |
| Seminarians | Parish Life Coordinators  | Principals      |                             |                                           |

Other interested persons are welcome to subscribe. If you have questions regarding your subscription contact Stephanie Schoel, [schoel@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:schoel@davenportdiocese.org)

## **BASILICA & NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, HOLY HILL, WI**

- **St. Therese Relics Are Coming!** November 15-18. For the first time in 25 years, the magnificent first-class relics of St. Therese of Lisieux have arrived in the United States from Lisieux, France honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Canonization. The relics will be on display for veneration at the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill in Hubertus, Wisconsin. Holy Hill is one of only 40 sites in 10 states nationwide displaying the relics, and is the closest site to Iowa. To learn more information, visit [www.HolyHill.com](http://www.HolyHill.com). View attached photographs.

## **BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL**

[Go here to register](#), email [retreats@smm Sisters.org](mailto:retreats@smm Sisters.org) or call Sr. Jackie Walsh, OSB at 309-283-2108

- **24-Hour Merton Retreat:** (Virtual and Onsite) November 7-8, 4-3 p.m. Benet House is an official chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society. We are excited to have Judith Valente, an award-winning author, broadcast journalist, poet, retreat leader, essayist, and more with us! She is the current President of the International Thomas Merton Society [Thomas Merton Center](#) and will join us online to discuss and share some of Merton's work and enlighten us about Dorothy Day's story and ministry. Arrival time November 4 is 4 p.m. (optional); 5 p.m. Vespers (optional); 5:30 p.m. dinner (optional); 6:45 p.m. Session 1 with Judith Valente; Nov. 8, Breakfast at Benet House for those staying; 9:30-11 a.m. Session 2 with Judith Valente about Dorothy Day; 12 p.m. Lunch; 1:15 p.m. Session 3 with Judith Valente about Thomas Merton; 3 p.m. closing. Fees: Single \$165 (\$180, if coming for Friday dinner); Double \$150 each (\$165 each, if coming for Friday dinner). Includes rooms, Saturday meal, materials, and speaker fee. Commuter \$91 (\$106, if coming for Friday dinner). Includes speaker and facility fees, Saturday meal, and materials. Zoom: \$82, includes Zoom and speaker fees, materials. Scholarship assistance is available. Registration deadline is October 31.
- **3-Day Silent, Directed Retreat – Open the Door of Your Heart:** (Onsite only) November 13-16, 4-4 p.m. Explore the rich image of the door as an invitation to journey within. Borrowing concepts from Joyce Rupp's *"Open the Door, A Journey to the True Self,"* you will discover many ways the door is the perfect symbol for spiritual growth, leading you to search for meaning and self-acceptance. This retreat is open to adults of all faiths. Meet with a Spiritual Director daily and join the sisters for daily Lauds and Vespers if you wish. Spiritual Director/Retreat Leader: Lorene Knobbe, Spiritual Director, Retired Educator, Boundless Compassion Facilitator, Assistant Program Director at Benet House. Arrival time is 4 p.m.; Vespers: 5 p.m.; Dinner: 5:30 p.m.; Conference: 7 p.m.; Closing November 16, 4 p.m. Fee: Registrations and full payments by October 13: \$473. Registrations and payments after October 13: \$488. Fee includes private room, all meals and spiritual direction sessions. Registration deadline is November 5. Scholarship assistance is available. Do not hesitate to inquire!
- **Men's Retreat – Come and You Will See:** (Onsite only) November 21-22, 6-4:30 p.m. Two disciples follow Jesus. As they approach Him, they ask, "Where are you staying?" Jesus replies, "Come and you will see." Jesus invites them in. He invites them into a relationship with Him that changes their lives forever. Jesus invites each of us to come. Will you come, and see? Will you accept the invitation to spend time with Him? This 24-hour retreat is an opportunity for you to have time to reflect on Jesus' invitation. Come away to this quiet, serene center at Benet House and spend time to just 'be' and embrace Jesus' invitation. Retreat Leaders: Lorene Knobbe: Benet House Program Assistant, Boundless Compassion Facilitator, Spiritual Director, a Retired Educator, serves as Spiritual Director for local CEWs, and is active at St. Paul the Apostle in marriage ministry. Jason Smith: life-long member of St. Paul the Apostle, 26-year veteran of Davenport Police Department, has a Master of Theology from the Augustine Institute, is co-Director of OCIA, and works with CEWs. Fee: \$135 Single; \$120 Double; (includes housing, meals, materials); Registration deadline November 15. Scholarships available upon request. Don't hesitate to ask!

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

For details and to register go to the full calendar at [www.theprairieretreat.org](http://www.theprairieretreat.org). You may also register via email, [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com) or call 563-374-1092. Scholarships available.

- **Pause and Refresh – Catching a Breath:** (Onsite) November 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Take this time just for you – relax, refresh, and get in touch with yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually. Facilitator: Dr. Patricia Shea. Fee \$40
- **Lost Nation – The Ioway:** November 6, 1-3:30 p.m., Clinton Community College, 1000 Lincoln Blvd., Clinton, Iowa. This forgotten story of American conquest and Native survival will come to light with the award-winning documentary. Facilitators: Tammy and Kelly Rundle. Free will offering.

- **Waiting in Hope – An Ignatian Advent Retreat in Daily Life:** (Online Only) November 30 - December 6, 3-4 p.m. Would you like to spend time praying intentionally around Advent scriptures: Are you curious about the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola: Opening session – November 30; closing session – December 6. Daily, Monday through Friday, retreatants meet individually with a spiritual director. Facilitators: Meg Foreman, Chad Roeber, and Ann LaBauve. Fee: \$95
- **Advent Retreat for Women:** (Onsite) December 12-13, 4-4 p.m. Take this opportunity to rest and simply be, experiencing God's life-giving presence in deeper ways. Facilitator: Jenny Chadima. Fee: \$100