

LITURGY OFFICE

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

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

REGISTER NOW - Iowa Catholic Youth Conference 2026: March 22. We are excited to announce registration is open for the 5th annual Iowa Catholic Youth Conference (ICYC) with the theme of “*BE REAL. BE ALIVE.*” for grades 6-8 and their parents. The event 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 energetic Catholic worship band and witness of faith The Scally Brothers (<https://www.thescallybrothers.com>). \$50 per person when you register by March 1st! More details on registration can be found on our website (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/icyc>). Please run this announcement in parish bulletins. Please see attached ICYC png flyer.

Totus Tuus 2026 – How to recruit a Missionary: Now is prime time for recruiting missionaries for this coming summer! As always personal connection and invitation makes all the difference! Say, “Hey, you’d make a great Totus Tuus Missionary!” Send inquiry and application requests to Director of Faith Formation & Catechesis Coordinator [Trevor Pullinger](#) or visit our website for more details <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/totus-tuus>

Marriage and Family

Sponsor Couple Training/Refresher: February 7, 1-4 p.m. at St. Paul Parish Center, St. James, Iowa. As our diocese continues efforts to implement the pastoral guidelines from *Catechumenal Pathways for Marred Life*, both new and experienced sponsor couples are encouraged to attend an updated instruction. Couples should register with [Marianne Agnoli](#) or 563-888-4242 by February 1st. Additional sponsor couple trainings will be provided in other locations throughout the diocese upon request; contact Marianne to schedule a training in your parish or deanery.

Celebrate National Marriage Week: February 7-14. The observances of National Marriage Week and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 8) are an opportunity to focus on promoting and supporting life-long, faith-centered marriages. This year's theme is "Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose". See the [USCCB National Marriage Week page](#) for resources in English and Spanish. Additional resources can be found on the diocesan [Marriage Enrichment page](#). Contact [Marianne Agnoli](#) or 563-888-4242 to discuss some more specific ways to support healthy Christian marriages within your particular parish or school community.

Free Marriage Week Broadcasts: National Marriage Week USA is offering 7 broadcasts this year, focusing on building a foundation of purpose together as a couple. On the last day of National Marriage Week - February 14th, couples are encouraged to go out or spend time alone together. In addition, they'd like to challenge couples to discuss how they might serve one another better and how they can come together to find an opportunity to serve the world around them. There is no charge for these broadcasts, but registration is required to receive the viewing links. [Register Here](#)

Married Couples – Looking for a Gift that Keeps on giving? Upcoming weekends: February 13-15 in Dubuque, April 10-12 in Marshalltown, and October 9-11 in Epworth. Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - it's the perfect gift to give to each other and your marriage! Whether married one year or fifty years, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to enrich your relationship. For more information call Denise at (563) 920-9419 or register at wwme.org

Life Giving Wounds Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce: March 6-8, Mater Dei Immaculate Conception Parish Center, Sioux City, IA. This retreat focuses on discovering your identity as a child of God, overcoming the effects of parental divorce, forgiveness, and connecting with others from a shared background. Contact Fred Shellabarger at 712-276-4821 or fred.shellabarger@materdeisc.org. For more information. [Register Here](#)

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Pathways Toward a Thriving Parish: Please see attached flyer and registration link below to register for this program before the start date of February 12th. Parishes within the diocese participated in the first cohort and report very positive results! Please contact Jennifer Praet praet@davenportdiocese.org with any questions. Thank you!

Register today for the free 5-session online course [Becoming a Thriving Parish in Today's World](#):

1. February 12: A Theological Vision to Guide Today's Parish
2. February 19: Pathways for Creating a Thriving Parish Community
3. February 26: Skills for Leading a Thriving Parish
4. March 5: Cultivating the Dispositions and Habits for Parish Transformation – Becoming a Listening Church
5. March 12: Developing Your Parish's Pathways Toward a Thriving Parish

Please register [here](#) ASAP today for the FREE course.

New! Pathways Toward a Thriving Parish – 2026 Program: With a generous 5-year grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the National Community of Catechetical Leaders (NCCL) and the Loyola Institute for Ministry have designed the “*Pathways toward a Thriving*” Parish project to help parishes create their own paths toward a thriving, vital community of faith that is living its mission in today's world. The Project will work with your parish to:

1. **Equip** a parish leadership team with the knowledge, skills, and practices for creating pathways toward thriving for your parish community.
2. **Form** leaders in the processes of *listening* to the needs, hopes, and hungers of the community; *discerning* how the Holy Spirit is calling the parish to respond and grow; and *acting* by creating pathways for thriving designed for your parish community.
3. **Discover** and empower the gifts and abilities of the parish community – individuals and teams – for ministry and service in the parish and in the world.

In 2026 the Pathways Project incorporates three elements:

1. Becoming a Thriving Parish in Today's World – A free online course open to all parish leaders

For parishes that commit to continuing in the project. . .

2. A Team Formation Retreat Experience – Led by the Pathways team
3. A Guided Process for Developing Parish Pathways for Thriving – Six monthly consultative sessions, facilitated by the Pathways consultant, to develop and implement pathways in the parish community.

Annual Diocesan Appeal – LYBUNT Update: The second LYBUNT letter for the Annual Diocesan Appeal will be mailed on or before February 16. Your passion, enthusiasm, and hard work on the new campaign are truly appreciated. Keep up the great work! This is a shared effort, and collaboration is key to our success. If you have found an approach that has been particularly effective, we invite you to share your insights so others can learn from your experience. Likewise, we are happy to offer guidance and support as you work toward reaching your parish goal. Please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Praet praet@davenportdiocese.org or Tom Tallman tallman@davenportdiocese.org with any questions or requests. Thank you!

Scholarships for Young Adult Leaders: Catholic Extension Society is offering funding opportunities in graduate theological education to young leaders aspiring to serve the Church in Extension dioceses through the Young Adult Leadership Initiative! Through partnerships with Boston College and the University of Notre Dame, this master's degree program will allow students to gain hands-on pastoral experience while pursuing their degree. Click [here](#) for more information. Deadline is February 15th.

Catholic School Leadership Development: Catholic Extension Society has engaged with Loyola Marymount University's Catholic School Leadership Academy to offer a graduate-level virtual online Certificate in Catholic School Administration to current and prospective leaders in Catholic schools. The scholarship for this one-year program covers 80% of the cost of tuition and includes funding for travel/accommodations for the gathering on campus at LMU in late July, 2026. Click [here](#) to learn more. The deadline for this application is February 20th.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

CRS Rice Bowl Collection: February 18, begins on Ash Wednesday. Rice Bowl's Lenten program is an opportunity for families to join together as a community to participate in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In 2026 we will journey to [Ghana](#), [Guatemala](#), and [Timor-Leste](#). We invite you to use CRS Rice Bowl this Lent as a resource to fulfill the Gospel's command to love and serve our neighbors. For free resources visit crsricebowl.org/parishes. If you have questions regarding the materials, contact Esmeralda Guerrero at guerrero@davenportdiocese.org. Funds raised through the CRS Rice Bowl collection support development projects in nearly 100 countries overseas, and 25% of the funds stay in our diocese to support local hunger and poverty efforts. [Learn more here](#). Applications are due May 15, 2026.

CRS Emergency Factsheet – Venezuela: Please find attached the CRS [Emergency Factsheet](#) on Venezuela and a prayer for the people of Venezuela [here](#). While the full impact of this situation is still unfolding, the needs of Venezuelan families are already overwhelming. They need support—and the Church is there, ready to respond.

HOW TO HELP

- Donate online: crs.org/donate/venezuela-crisis
- Donate by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS
- Donate by check:

Catholic Relief Service
Venezuela Response
P.O. Box 5278
Tipton, IA 52772-0517

Social Action Two Feet Newsletter: The newsletter, is distributed monthly. [Click here to subscribe](#).

Project Rachel is a confidential, post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions.

- Dedicated Helpline: 563-333-4107
- Dedicated e-mail: projectrachel@diodav.org

How to Promote:

- Promote Project Rachel in your Parish bulletin
- Distribute the free brochure. “Peace Starts Here.” Contact the Office of Social Action at guerrero@davenportdiocese.org to receive.
- On your parish website, add a link to the Project Rachel website
- Pray for women and men who have been affected by abortion
- Include weekly bulletin announcements
- Project Rachel; Homily Considerations for Healing After Abortion

Income Tax Credit: Low- and moderate-income workers may qualify for help from two federal tax benefits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC). Help spread the word by providing information about these two tax credits on your parish website, in your bulletin, or on social media. Your efforts help more people in need in your community. You can also encourage individuals and families to file their taxes through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA offers free tax help for low-to moderate-income people who cannot prepare their returns. Encourage parishioners who may need assistance to enter their ZIP code at <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep> to find the nearest location.

February Dates to Remember

- **February** is [Black History Month](#)
- **World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life:** February 2. In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

- **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking:** February 8. Catholics all over the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to create greater awareness against Human Trafficking.
- **World Day of the Sick:** February 11. A day to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. "*Compassionate.*" is this year's theme. Print and digital resources can be purchased or downloaded for free. [Digital Resources](#) or [Shop](#).
- **Ash Wednesday:** February 18. [CRS Rice Bowl Collection](#) begins.
- **World Day of Social Justice:** February 20. Is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice to address the issues of poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Please note the following change in mailing address.

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 or St. Vincent Center, 780 West Central Park Ave, Davenport, IA 52804-1901.

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

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND

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

- **Lectio Divina:** (Online every Tuesday) Lectio Divina is the foundation for Benedictine prayer. Consider making it a steady prayer in your life. Facilitator: Linda Clewell, SMM Oblate. Free will offering.
- **Centering Prayer:** (Online every Wednesday) An ancient form of praying based on the words of Jesus. Facilitator: Carol Mizeur. Free will offering.
- **Lent – A Time of Love:** (Onsite) February 25, 9-4 p.m. Unpack Corinthians on the meaning of love and explore the phrase “God is Love.” Facilitator: Sr. Kathy Sadler, OSF. Fee: \$40
- **The Joy of Vegetarian Cooking:** (Onsite) February 26, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Join us as we create a bit of joy with a delicious vegetarian meal. Beginners welcome! Facilitator: Angel Lyle. Fee: \$40
- **Everything That Happens is a New Beginning – Discover the JOY of Forgiveness!** (Onsite) February 28, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You can be free from grudges, resentments, negative feelings and self-defeating habits. Come on a “healing journey.” Facilitator: Sandy Hoenig. Fee: \$40
- **Lenten Retreat:** (Onsite) March 6-8, 4 p.m.-11 a.m. Step away for a weekend and experience a renewal of the joy and gladness found in God’s presence. Facilitator: Jenny Chadima. Fee: \$175

BENET HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, ROCK ISLAND, IL

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

- **Valentine’s Luncheon:** (Onsite only Benet House) February 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Doors open at 11 a.m. *“I Have Loved You With an Everlasting Love.”* (Jer. 31.3) Valentine’s Day is a wonderful time to celebrate Love. Our culture recognizes this special day with flowers, candies, and gifts. This luncheon is about recognizing the foundational Love. God’s Everlasting Love, where Love begins and is for all of us, whether married, between family members, with friends, and within each of us. Besides delicious food, there will be ‘love bite’ reflections shared during the meal featuring Jeremiah and other Biblical figures who testify to the Love of God. Join Sr. Bobbi and celebrate ‘God’s Everlasting Love.’ Come alone, with a friend, spouse, or family member. It will be a special time to give thanks and celebrate the Love of God in our lives. Retreat Leader: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB, Director of Benet House Retreat Center. Fee: \$35/per person (includes meal, facility use, speaker stipend). Scholarship funds available. Please inquire Registration deadline: February 1.
- **Lenten Reflection Series:** (Virtual and Onsite) February 26 and March 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The weeks of Lent provide an opportunity to reflect on our lives, priorities, and experiences in anticipation of Holy Week. Sr. Joyce Rupp has written 3 Lenten reflection books. This series uses her “Jesus, Guide of My Life” to journey through Lent with meaning. Sr. Joyce provides daily reflections in her book. Join Sr. Bobbi to discuss what surfaced in your reflection during the week. Sharing in a group, while it can be intimidating, is also a powerful way to learn more deeply how the Lord works in your life during Lent. Retreat Leader: Sr. Bobbi Bussan, OSB, Benet House Director. Fee: \$50 (Includes Facility, Zoom, and Facilitator Fees). Scholarship funds available. Please inquire. Registration deadline: February 20th.