

LITURGY OFFICE

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

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Catholic Extension Society's Increased Offertory Collections Grant Program: The Diocese of Davenport is preparing to apply for participation in the grant program for 2026. This program is designed to help parishes strengthen stewardship efforts and increase offertory giving through a structured, seven-week process that includes professional consultation, communication materials, and proven best practices at no cost to your parish. If selected, participating parishes would receive:

- Complimentary consultation services
- Program materials and stewardship resources
- Grant funding support for print and mailing costs
- Ongoing guidance through webinars and virtual meetings

In October–December 2025, four diocesan parishes piloted this program and experienced offertory increases ranging from 14% to 44% during the initiative. Building on that success, we hope to expand participation to additional parishes.

Parishes interested in being considered as sites for the next phase are invited to contact Jennifer Praet, Director of Stewardship, by March 10, 2026, to express interest so your parish may be considered for inclusion in the upcoming grant application. If you would like to learn more about what participation would involve, please reach out to Jennifer Praet praet@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4252.

O'Brien-Vrba Scholarship Trust: It provides renewable scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who attended high school or currently reside in rural communities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, or Wisconsin.

Special consideration is given to applicants who are of the Catholic faith, attend a Catholic institution, and/or are actively involved with the Newman Center at their college or university. Students from eligible rural communities are strongly encouraged to apply for this valuable opportunity. Deadline: April 8, by 3 p.m. CST.

For eligibility details and application information, please visit: <https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/obrien>
Please share this opportunity with students who may benefit.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

REGISTER TODAY – EPIC High School Experience 2026: March 21, 5:30 p.m.- 9 p.m. for grades 9-10, an evening of small group discipleship and large group fun! Join us as we enter into peer to peer ministry and experience the witness of how Jesus is working in the lives of high school youth just like yourself! The night closes with a high energy concert by the Scally Brothers band. Registration is just \$25 and includes dinner.

REGISTER TODAY – 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.

Both events which are 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 & much loved Scally Brothers Band (<https://www.thescallybrothers.com/>) both days. Registration is now live at www.iowacyc.org

Totus Tuus 2026 – How to Recruit a Missionary: We are still recruiting and helping candidates discern serving as a missionary with the Davenport Diocese. We have print materials available for anyone willing to hand them out (such as tri-folds & business cards). As always personal connection and invitation makes all the difference! Say, “Hey, you’d make a great Totus Tuus Missionary!” Inquiry and application requests come to Director of Faith Formation & Catechesis Coordinator [Trevor Pullinger](#) or visit our website for more details <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/totus-tuus>

Totus Tuus 2026 Summer Schedule: The schedule below reflects the parishes and dates of our two teams that we are currently working on recruiting. (Note* Team 1 Week 2 & 3 changed locations since our original public schedule)

Totus Tuus Week 2026	Team #1	Team #2
Week 1: June 6th - 12th	JC Prince of Peace, Clinton	Ss. Mary & Mathias, Muscatine
Week 2: June 13th - 19th	Holy Family, Ft. Madison*	Divine Mercy, Burlington
Week 3: June 20th - 26th	St. Mary, Tipton*	St. Patrick, Iowa City
Week 4: June 27th - July 3rd	St. Mary, Williamsburg	St. Mary, Solon
Team Summer Break		
Week 5: July 11th - 17th	St. Joseph, DeWitt	St. Mary, Pella
Week 6: July 18th - 24th	St. Wenceslaus, Iowa City	St. Joseph, Ottumwa
Week 7: July 25th - 31st	Holy Family, Riverside	Open

Marriage and Family

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.](#)

Sponsor Couple Trainings/Refreshers: 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 the stated deadlines:

- Saturday, March 21 – St. James Church, Washington, 2-5 p.m. - Register by March 13
- Saturday, April 11 – St. Mary Church, Pella, 12:30-3:30 p.m. - Register by April 3

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.

30th Annual Catholic Men's Conference: March 28, 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church (4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402). The conference will feature Gabriel Castillo as the keynote speaker, Archbishop Zinkula as the celebrant at Mass, Keith Nester as a breakout session speaker (among others), and more. The 2026 conference theme will focus on how to be men who are rooted in the power of prayer and inspired by the witness of the saints. Contact Matt Selby at m.selby@dbqarch.org or 563-556-2580, x233 [Register here.](#)

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: Upcoming weekends: are April 10-12 in Marshalltown and October 9-11 in Epworth. This weekend encounter for married couples is like springtime. It offers an opportunity for the rebirth of romance and new beginnings. If your relationship might benefit from a breath of fresh air, register at wwme.org or call Greg & Denise at 563-920-9419 for more information.

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Social Action Lunch and Learn: A video recording of the February session is now available [here](#).

[2026 Catholic Relief Services Annual Collection](#): March 8. This collection provides funding for Catholic Relief Services, the USCCB Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugees Services, Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Start Your Lenten Journey with CRS Rice Bowl: [Download your free Lenten calendar](#). Each day offers a simple reflection or activity to help you pray, fast, give and grow spiritually throughout the 40 days.

2026 Mission Coop: Each year, missionaries are invited to share their mission stories and experiences at our parishes. Their appeals offer an opportunity to gain prayerful and financial support for their projects while also enabling parishioners in our diocese to help our brothers and sisters around the world. [Click here to learn more about the Mission groups selected.](#)

Spring 2026 CCHD Intern: Clare Loussaert is our new CCHD Intern. She is excited to serve as the CCHD intern with Escucha Mi Voz Iowa during the 2026 spring semester. She is an Iowa City native and a third-year student at the University of Iowa studying Spanish and elementary education with an English as a second language endorsement. Having been a volunteer with the Iowa City Catholic Worker for the past five years and a staff member with Escucha Mi Voz Iowa for the past year, she is looking forward to further integrating her faith into her work through this internship.

Project Rachel: 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. Project Rachel staff understand the emotional pain that follows an abortion. New Helpline: [563 888-4376](tel:5638884376), E-Mail: projectrachel@diodav.org. National Helpline: [1-800-456-HOPE](tel:1800456HOPE) (4673). Customizable notices – See attached. Prayers of the Faithful in [English and Spanish](#).

Walking with Moms in Need – NEW: Bishop Videos

A new series of videos features encouragement and support for “*Walking with Moms in Need*.” We encourage you to watch the videos and hear what the bishops are saying about Walking with Moms in Need. The bishops share personal stories underlying their commitment to serving mothers, inspiration from the Blessed Mother, the importance of our personal witness, and the guiding vision of “*Walking with Moms in Need*.” Please share these encouraging videos with volunteers, and ministry leaders. [Watch videos](#)

Respect Life – The Parish Action Guide Webinar Recordings: The recorded webinars that accompany each [parish action guide](#) provide the perfect overview for parish leaders who aren't sure where to start.

Respect Life Program Planning Timelines: The sample timelines can assist parishes in starting to start planning now to implement one of the [parish action guides](#).

- [Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord](#), March 25. The weekend before the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is a perfect occasion to offer the [Blessing of a Child in the Womb](#) to expectant parents. It is available to [download](#) or [purchase in print](#). The [parish action guide](#) for the solemnity provides step-by-step suggestions for offering the blessing in your parish ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).
- [Sunday of Divine Mercy](#), (Second Sunday of Easter) The [Sunday of Divine Mercy](#) provides an important opportunity to share Christ's message of mercy, especially with those who suffer after participating in an abortion. Parishes could consider offering a [Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing](#) or a [Eucharistic Holy Hour for Divine Mercy Sunday](#), both of which can be found in the [activity section](#) of the [parish action guide](#) for the Sunday of Divine Mercy.
- [Mother's Day](#), (Second Sunday in May).
- The [Father's Day planning timeline](#) doesn't start until March 1, but now is a good time to review the resources available.

USCCB Secretariat of Migration New Resource – A Welcoming Church: Reflections on the Church's Role in Refugee Resettlement: The Catholic Church in the United States has long played a prominent role in refugee resettlement, beginning in the immediate aftermath of World War II following the substantial displacement that

occurred in its wake. These efforts continued during multiple displacement crises in Hungary, Cuba, Vietnam, and elsewhere, and culminated with the Church becoming one of several resettlement agencies following the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980. With the beginning of the second Trump Administration just over a year ago, its partnership with the US government changed dramatically. This new resource looks back at the more than 70 years that the Catholic Church worked in refugee resettlement and takes stock in what it achieved during this time. Read the report [here](#) or see attached.

Novena to St. Joseph for Those on the Path of Adoption: March 10-18 leading up to the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on March 19. Participants can sign up in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) to receive the novena by email or text message. The [Parish Resources page](#) is available to promote and share the novena in parishes and schools.

Iowa Faith & Climate Network Called to Climate Action Conference: March 21 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Cedar Rapids. It will be a day of empowerment, connection, and action to promote a more just and sustainable future for all. [Click here to learn more.](#) See attached [flyer.](#)

Earth Day – “We Are the Light of the World:” April 22. [Click here](#) to learn more about how you can celebrate this year’s Earth Day.

From A (MBROSE) To (GEN) Z – Resourcing the Tradition in Response to Contemporary Concerns in the Church: April 24-26. This is a three-day international conference taking place at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. It brings together clergy, parish leaders, students, scholars, and lay Catholics to explore how the Catholic intellectual and social tradition can help the Church respond to deep social challenges with hope and action. The event features a keynote address by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., panel discussions, and sessions on topics such as supporting Gen Z, welcoming marginalized communities, leadership roles for women, Church-state relations, and care for creation. The conference is open to the public. For more details and registration, go to stambroseofmilan.com/2026-conference

[Laudato Si’ Week:](#) May 17-24. The theme is “*From Hope to Action.*”

2026 Grants available:

- **[Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl:](#)** For those providing/supporting direct services to people who are hungry (first foot of Social justice). Applications must be received in the Social Action Office by May 15th by 4:00 p.m., no exceptions.
- **[Catholic Campaign for Human Development \(CCHD\):](#)** For those organizations and projects that promote systemic change (second foot of social justice). To apply please send your request in a 1-2-page letter along with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grant Agreement. Applications must be received in the Social Action Office by May 15th. by 4:00 p.m., no exceptions.
- **[St. Vincent’s Home:](#)** Applicants are to be located within the 22 counties of the Diocese of Davenport or serve children within the Diocese of Davenport. To be considered at the Fall Board meeting, applications must be postmarked by September 15th.

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

EAGLES' WINGS, DAVENPORT

Offers counseling from a Christian Perspective, Certified Spiritual Direction, Unbound Prayer Ministry, and a quiet place to get away for a day or two. Email: marcia@eagleswings.ws for more information.

- **Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass, and Lunch:** (Onsite) March 12, 10 a.m. Adoration and reconciliation. Mass at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. Please join us! Free will offering.

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

- **Lenten Hiding Place – Walking with Jesus-an Ignatian Experience:** (Onsite) March 20-21, 4-4 p.m. Each year when Lent arrives, we step into the season with a desire to restore and enliven our relationship with Jesus. This retreat is an invitation to come and discover the Ignatian experience as we walk with Jesus, as he moved among the people of his time, putting ourselves into these familiar stories. We will see and hear Jesus as he calls us home with restored encouragement to see His goodness more fully revealed through His humanness and daily living. You will look at these moments in Jesus' life in a whole new way! Retreat Leader: Lorene Knobbe. Lorene started the popular Hiding Place Retreats three years ago. She's a retired educator, spiritual director, Boundless Compassion Facilitator, and assists with parish CEWs in the Davenport Diocese. Fee: Registration and full payment by February 20: \$165, single; \$150, double. Registration and payment by March 5: \$180, single; \$165, double. Scholarship funds available. Please ask at registration!

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.
- **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
- **Seeking Moments of Wholeness:** (Onsite) March 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Join spiritual guides Kate and John Cooper for a day of reflection, discussion and rest. Explore the themes of light and darkness in the spiritual life through the lens of "*Care of the Soul*" by Thomas Moore. Facilitators: John and Kate Cooper. Fee: \$40
- **Mass on the Prairie:** (Onsite) April 1, 10-11 a.m. Celebrant: Fr. Brian Micolt.