

LITURGY OFFICE

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

DEACON FORMATION OFFICE

Do you know any men in your parish who might be interested in the diaconate? If so, please invite them register for one of our upcoming inquiry/information sessions. That's the only way that applications for our next Deacon Class will be available.

- General Information: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/class-x>
- English-language Inquiry Sessions: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/registration-english>
- Spanish-language Inquiry Session: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/registroespanol>

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

STEP Online Theology – Fall Session: Begins August 31—Please register by August 24. Deepen your understanding of Scripture, Catholic doctrine, liturgy, catechesis, and Christian life through [STEP Online Courses from the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame](#). Participants may enroll in a single course for personal or ministerial enrichment or work toward a Concentration in Catholic Theology in Catechesis, Liturgy, or Scripture.

Courses beginning August 31 include:

- **Foundations and doctrine:** Foundations of Catholic Belief—an excellent starting point for new participants; Christian Doctrine for Catechists I and III; Jesus Christ: Yesterday and Today; Mary in the Catholic Tradition; and Theology of the Body
- **Scripture:** A Preface to the Study of Scripture; Introduction to the Old Testament I; and The Synoptic Gospels
- **Liturgy and pastoral life:** Introduction to Sacramental Theology; Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA); and On Christian Marriage
- **History and philosophy:** History of Christianity: The First Five Centuries and Introduction to Philosophy

Through the Diocese of Davenport's partnership with STEP, people of the diocese receive a 50% discount on the standard \$99 course fee, bringing the cost to \$49.50 per course. Enter promotional code DAVENPORT when registering.

Please register by Monday, August 24. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants per course, so earlier registration is encouraged. Learn more and register through the diocesan STEP webpage. Questions may be directed to Trevor Pullinger in the Office of Faith Formation.

Walking Together in Faith—United in the Eucharist: September 19, 9:30 a.m. Mass and Eucharistic Procession at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Iowa City. Catholics throughout the Diocese of Davenport are invited to gather for Mass followed by a Eucharistic procession. This diocesan celebration is one of four being held across Iowa—one in each of Iowa's dioceses—as a prayerful preparation for the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference, September 26–27 at Casey's Center in Des Moines. Together, these processions will unite Catholics across the state in our shared love for Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, and express our communion as one Body in Christ. This statewide initiative is being organized by Samuel Lange, a member of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry's National Youth Advisory Council. Everyone is welcome! Please register [online through the link](#) or QR code provided in the attached flyer.

National Catholic Youth Conference 2027: November 18–20, Indianapolis, IN “*Discerning the Pilgrimage*” Initial Parish Leader Gathering, August 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. It is time to begin prayerfully considering NCYC 2027! The National Catholic Youth Conference is a three-day gathering for high school youth and their adult chaperones, taking place November 18–20, 2027, at Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, NCYC invites young people to encounter Christ, experience the wider Church, and be strengthened for lives of discipleship. NCYC is open to young people who will be in high school at the time of the conference.

The Diocese of Davenport is preparing to again offer parishes the opportunity to participate as part of the diocesan delegation. Diocesan packages are expected to combine conference admission, transportation, lodging, a parish payment schedule, diocesan shirts, direct group leader coaching, and other forms of support. Pricing, diocesan travel dates, and final package details are still being developed.

Pastors, parish staff, youth ministry leaders, and other adults who may be interested in coordinating a parish group are invited to “*Discerning the Pilgrimage*,” an initial Zoom gathering on August 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. This gathering will introduce the diocesan planning process and help parish leaders continue and clarify their parish’s initial discernment about whether—and in what form—an NCYC pilgrimage might serve their young people.

Before attending, prospective parish leaders are asked to begin a conversation with their pastor about whether the parish is open to exploring participation in NCYC 2027. With the pastor’s awareness, leaders should also begin listening to young people who will be in high school in November 2027 and their families while identifying potential chaperones. No commitments or firm participant numbers are needed. Participants should simply come prepared to share an initial sense of the interest, possibilities, questions, and obstacles present within their parish community.

Participation in this initial gathering does not commit a parish to attending NCYC. The session will be recorded and shared afterward with everyone who registers, including those unable to participate live. To attend live or receive the recording register here at [Registration Link for Discerning the Pilgrimage](#).

Questions may be submitted in advance, and individual follow-up will be available as parishes continue their discernment. Contact Trevor Pullinger, Director of Faith Formation and Coordinator of Catechesis, at pullinger@davenportdiocese.org.

SAVE THE DATE! Iowa Catholic Youth Conference 2027: March 6–7, Regina Catholic Schools, Iowa City. Mark your calendars for the 2027 Iowa Catholic Youth Conference! EPIC for high school youth in grades 9–12 will take place Saturday, March 6, followed by ICYC for middle school youth in grades 6–8 on Sunday, March 7. Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Diocese of Davenport, these separate, high-energy events bring young Catholics from across eastern Iowa together for faith, fellowship, and fun. Additional information and registration details will be announced as they become available.

Marriage and Family

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass: October 18, 2 p.m. At the request of Bishop Walsh, 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 prior celebrations are also welcome to participate. A Mass and informal reception will be held at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Iowa City. Invitations will be sent out to the couples in early September. Parishes received an email from Mary Jacobsen jacobsenm@davenportdiocese.org on June 18th that provided the necessary information on submitting couple’s names and addresses. Submission deadline is August 25.

Do you know a couple who have been married 70, 75 or more years? Worldwide Marriage Encounter highlights and honors couples who have very long marriages. Every state in the US will honor one nominated couple who is married the longest. Please nominate a couple by going to wwme.org and nominate them at the top of the page. Nominations should be in by September 1st. For questions call 641-753-6953.

Married Couples: If you enjoy the warmth of summer, why not sign up for the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and bring some more warmth and intimacy to your marriage. Upcoming dates: October 9-11, in Epworth, Iowa and February 12-14, 2027 in Dubuque, Iowa. For more information call Denise and Greg at 563-920-9419 or sign up at wwme.org

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Catholic Relief Services Support still needed for earthquake survivors: On June 25, two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela, about 100 miles west of Caracas, causing widespread destruction across parts of Venezuela. Catholic Relief Services reports the survivors remain in need of assistance. [Click here to view video](#). You can donate online [here](#), send a check to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. PO Box 5278, Tipton, IA 52772-0517 or call 877-435-7277. See attached: [Prayer for Venezuela](#), [CRS Venezuela Emergency Factsheet](#).

Catholic Rural Life is working on a nationwide video project about Catholics living in rural communities. CRL is looking for people, families, priests, small business owners, farmers, tradesmen, or parish leaders who have a strong Catholic faith and a story in their life that may be worth exploring on camera.

This could take a lot of different forms. For example:

- A farmer or ranching family in a meaningful season of life
- Someone trying to keep a small-town business going
- A mechanic, tradesman, or shop owner who serves the local community
- A priest serving multiple rural parishes
- A family involved in tractor pulls, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, county fairs, or other local traditions
- A father and son fixing up a first car
- Someone preparing for a parish event, feast day, procession, or other community tradition
- A young person deciding whether to stay, leave, return, or take something over
- Someone whose Catholic faith shapes their work, family life, service, or responsibilities

See attachment for more information.

Social Justice (Social Action) Contacts: The office of Social Action is updating our list of parish contacts. We like to stay connected to provide information about social justice organizations, activities and legislation. We stay connected through:

- **Our monthly newsletter, *The Two Feet***, covers social action within the Diocese and beyond. You can subscribe at <https://diodavsocialaction.substack.com>.

We also provide information via two email groups:

- **Social Action Advocacy** - Addressing legislative advocacy on social issues of concern to the Catholic Church and encouraging faithful advocacy.
- **Parish Social Action** – Provide resources, ideas and opportunities for parishioners to live out their faith working for charity and justice.

Please complete the attached form and e-mail it back to guerrero@davenportdiocese.org or to complete form online go to: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/parish-social-action-contacts>

Two Feet of Social Action Newsletter: Our newsletter is distributed monthly via email. Please [click here to subscribe](#). The July issue is now available, the spotlighted article for July is a Q&A session with Fr. Bud Grant. In the following Q&A interview for the Two Feet Newsletter, Fr. Bud talks about his motivation and the priorities arising from his life experiences. [Click here to read complete Q&A](#) or see attached.

2026 Rice Bowl Collection: Thank you to all the parishes that participated in the 2026 Rice Bowl Collection. This year, we received 11 grant applications for funding requests totaling \$32,750. The Diocese distributed \$20,180 in local grants to alleviate hunger around the Diocese.

Webinar – How to Celebrate Respect Life Month (October) in Your Parish: August 27, 7 p.m. Learn how to help your parish celebrate Respect Life Month in October! Get easy ideas and ready-to-use digital resources during this one-hour webinar. USCCB staff will walk through this year's new materials and the perennial Respect Life

Month action guide. This introductory-level webinar is perfect for parish staff and volunteers, but anyone is welcome to join. [Click here to register.](#)

Season of Creation: September 1-October 4. The 2026 Season of Creation Celebration Guide is now available on the official website seasonofcreation.org. This year the Celebration Guide will be available in many more languages. [Click here](#) to learn about all the resources available. “*Living Water*” is this year’s Season of Creation theme, inspired by Ezekiel 47:9, 12.

Season of Creation events: Please let the diocesan Social Action Office know how your parish is planning to celebrate this year’s Season of Creation on the [diocesan website](#). If you are looking for ideas please see page 30 of the [celebration Guide](#).

Resources:

- Seasonofcreation.org
- [2026 Celebration Guide](#)
- [Catholic Climate Covenant](#)
- [World Day of Prayer for Creation website](#)

Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities 2026:

September 9. The U.S. Catholic bishops suggest that parishes could use the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities. [Learn more...](#)

Resources:

- [Prayer Service for the Feast Day of St. Peter Claver](#)
- [Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)
- [Prayer of the Faithful for the Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)

National Migration Week: September 22-28. Information will be available soon at the [Justice for Immigrants webpage](#).

[The World Day of Migrants and Refugees:](#) September 27. “*Even just one of these children*” is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR).

World Day Against the Death Penalty: October 10

2026 CCHD Collection: November 14-15. Please mark your calendar! Promotional materials will be mailed directly to parishes in early October, including posters, envelopes and bulletin inserts adapted to our diocese. For the 2025 CCHD collection, this year we received four grant applications requests totaling \$22,500. [Click here](#) to learn more about CCHD and [click here](#) for resources. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Social Action at guerrero@davenportdiocese.org

STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

Annual Diocesan Appeal Materials and Resources: Thank you for the time and effort you put into the Annual Diocesan Appeal each year! The Annual Diocesan Appeal funds the ministries and programs of the Diocese.

Timeline:

- **Campaign Materials Delivered to Parishes**
Week of August 31, 2026 via mail or local drop-off
- **Campaign Launch Weekend**
September 12–13, 2026

To align with the Diocese’s *Laudato Si’* Action Plan and to be responsible stewards of the earth’s resources, ADA resources will continue to be available digitally: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/ada-parish-manual-resources>. Donors will again have the opportunity to opt into electronic communication regarding the ADA: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/electronic-opt-in-form>. Those who opted out of receiving printed ADA materials in previous years will continue to receive their ADA communications digitally. Please contact Jennifer Praet,

Director of Stewardship, at 563-888-4252 or praet@davenportdiocese.org with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal and the ministries it makes possible.

First Annual Diocesan Impact Report: Coming the week of August 17. We are pleased to announce the publication of the first annual Diocesan Impact Report, arriving in parishes and available digitally on August 17, 2026. This report will highlight the many ways our Catholic community is living out its mission through faith, service, outreach, education, ministries, and charitable efforts across the Diocese. A diocesan impact report provides an opportunity to celebrate the collective work of our parishes, schools, ministries, and faithful supporters while sharing the positive difference being made throughout our communities.

Each parish will receive five complimentary copies of the report, to share with parishioners. The report will also be available online at the diocesan website for parishioners and the broader community to access or download as a PDF.

Parishes or individuals wishing to order additional printed copies may contact Jennifer Praet praet@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4252 for pricing and ordering information.

We look forward to sharing this report as a reflection of the faith, generosity, and dedication that continue to strengthen our diocesan family.

Please use the attached bulletin and pulpit announcements for the Impact Report and ADA.

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

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS, CLINTON, IA

An Invitation to Remember and to Act – Hiroshima Nagasaki Prayer Service: (via Zoom) August 6, 6:00 p.m. This August 6th marks 81 years since the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of people and leaving a legacy of suffering that endures to this day. Yet the threat of nuclear weapons has not diminished: more than 12,000 nuclear warheads remain in the world's arsenals.

In response, the Franciscan Peace Center and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite you to join their annual Hiroshima Nagasaki Prayer service, a free, virtual gathering open to all. This year's theme, "*From Remembrance to Abolition*," calls us to honor the lives lost while renewing our commitment to a nuclear-free world. Thirty-six congregations of women religious and peace organizations are co-sponsoring this growing witness of faith and peace. [To view flyer, click here](#). Can't attend live? Register [here](#) to receive the recording.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, DAVENPORT, IA

Healing Retreat – “For I, The Lord, am Your Healer.” (Exodus 15:26): September 4-6. Join us at Holy Family Catholic Parish for a three-day healing retreat for adoration, confession, Holy Mass, and consultations with Fr. Michael Payyapilly. All are welcome. See attachment for more details. Otherwise, contact Hieu at 563-322-0901 or email davholymfamilyym@diodav.org.

ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY, DAVENPORT, IA

St. Ambrose Seminarian Reunion: September 21-22. Fr. John Siegel '72 and the St. Ambrose University Alumni Office invites those who were enrolled in the seminarian program, regardless if one went on to priestly ordination or discerned a different calling. Registration is \$50 per person; \$30 for retired priests. The registration fee will help support reunion activities and any additional event costs will be generously covered by the St. Ambrose University Advancement Office. If registration fee presents a hardship, please contact the Alumni Office for assistance at events@sau.edu or call 563-333-6290. Register at [2026 | Events | Seminarian Reunion | St. Ambrose University](#). Registration deadline is September 4th. For more details and daily itinerary, see attachment.

RELEVANT RADIO/QCC CHAMPION

Our Lady of Champion Pilgrimage: October 7-9. Join Bishop Dennis Walsh on a 3-day, 2-night trip to Holy Hill Basilica, the Shrine of Mary and the National Shrine of Our lady of Champion. The pilgrimage will be there during the anniversaries of the Blessed Mother's appearance to Adele Brice, and the Pestigo Fire which miraculously stopped at the fence line surrounding the site of our lady's appearance almost exactly 12 years prior. See attached flyer and use the QR code to sign-up.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH, DAVENPORT, IA

SAVE THE DATE! Made for More – Visions of the Promised Land (Onsite) November 12, 7-9:30 p.m. This beautiful multimedia event is brought to you by Our lady of Victory and The Theology of The Body Institute. Hosting the event is world renowned speaker and author Christopher West and award-winning musician Mike Mangione. Bring family and friends! No one should miss this awesome and inspiring event! Limited tickets available, get yours early! For more information about the event, or to purchase tickets today, [click here](#).

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND, IA

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.

- **Mass on the Prairie:** August 5, 10-11 a.m. Celebrant: Fr. William Kneemiller
- **Know Your Rights and Emergency Preparedness for Immigrants and Refugees:** (Onsite) August 7, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Participants will leave the session better informed, more confident and more prepared to protect themselves and their families. Facilitator: Quad Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees. Free will offering.
- **Be Curious and Fascinated – Become a Dementia Friend:** (Online Only) August 13, 6-8 p.m. Learn more about the difference between dementia and typical aging. Facilitator: Mary Ann Grobstich, The Chris and Suzy DeWolf Family Innovation Center for Aging and Dementia. Free will offering.
- **Nurture and Restore Your Soul:** (Onsite) August 21-23, 4 p.m.-11 a.m. Gain a deeper faith and a greater intimacy with Christ. This is a safe space to process difficult things in your life. Facilitator: Jenny Chadima. Fee: \$200
- **Choosing to Move Forward to a More Joy-Filled Life:** (Onsite) August 28-29, 4-4:30 p.m. Release yourself from what might be holding you back. Find greater joy in life and in who you are! Facilitator: Gerarda Lahey-Keppler. Fee: \$150

Mass on the Prairie: September 2, 10-11 a.m. Celebrant: Fr. Dennis Martin

EAGLES' WINGS, DAVENPORT, IA

Is available for an overnight retreat, a quiet day, offering prayer ministry, spiritual direction and counseling from a Christian perspective. For more information, email marcia@eagleswings.ws or phone 563-324-7263.

- **Adoration and Reconciliation:** (Onsite) August 13, 10 a.m. Adoration and reconciliation before Mass with prayer for healing at 11 a.m., followed by lunch.

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 for more information and pricing.

- **Word and Image – An Examination of the Devotions and Depictions of Female Doctors in the Catholic Church:** (Virtual and Onsite) August 13, 20, 27 and September 3, 10, 17, 6-7:30 p.m. This six-week series will examine how works of art interpreted and promoted the spiritual teachings of saints Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux. Participants will explore historical influences on female devotional experiences and discuss how artistic representations integrated the unique visions of these four female saints into broader Christian narratives. Suggested text is Vinita Hampton Wright's *Set the World on Fire: A Four-Week Personal Retreat with the Female Doctors of the Church*. Fee: \$120/series. Retreat Leader: Annette LeZotte. Registration deadline: August 1st. Scholarship funds available. Please request at registration.
- **Chapters – A Weekend Writing Experience:** (Onsite) August 14-16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Come to the quietness of Benet House! Leave the world behind and give yourself the time to write chapters of your story! Using Diane Millis' book *Re-Creating A Life: Learning How to Tell Our Most Life-Giving Story*, you will discover the power of narrative storytelling in shaping how we perceive ourselves and how we are perceived by others. Explore various storytelling techniques and develop eyes to see and ears to hear new stories from your life. Fee: \$265 (single), \$235 (double), \$160 (commuter). Cost includes room, meals, materials, and presenter fee. Book is purchased on your own. Retreat Leader: Lorene Knobbe: Lorene is a Spiritual Director, Boundless Compassion Facilitator, a regular presenter at Benet House, a retired educator, and is active at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Davenport, IA. Registration Deadline is August 3rd. Scholarship funds are available. Please inquire at registration.