

Visitation Catholic Church, Elmhurst, IL

August 21, 2022



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”
Lk 13:30



WELCOME TO VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love and Service to Others

779 S. York Street • Elmhurst, IL • 60126 • www.visitationparish.org

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 6:15 AM, 8:15 AM

Saturday Reconciliation: 3:00-3:45 PM

Regular Saturday Mass Hours: 8:15 AM, 4:00 PM (Vigil)

Regular Sunday Mass Hours: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 6:00 PM

VISITATION PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Visitation Parish, a Roman Catholic Community in the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois, seeks to draw all to Jesus Christ, revelation of the Father and font of the Holy Spirit, by celebrating the Sacraments, educating people of all ages in the Truths of the Catholic Faith, and reaching out to those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually in need.

PARISH AND PASTORAL STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: [MON-THUR] 8:30 AM-4:00 PM [FRI] 8:30 AM-12 Noon • Phone: 630-834-6700
 Fax: 630-834-6711 • Email: welcome@visitationcc.org • Parish Website: www.visitationparish.org
 Deanery Website: easterndupagedeanery.org

VISITATION PASTORAL STAFF

- **Very Rev. William De Salvo**, Pastor,
630-834-6700
- **Rev. Gregory Alberts**, Parochial Vicar
630-834-6700
- **Rev. Tomy Chellakandathil**, Parochial Vicar
630-834-6700
frtomy@visitationcc.org
- **Dcn. Anthony Spatafore**
630-204-2145
- **Dcn. James Eaker**, 630-530-7596
- **Dcn. Mike Iozzo**
630-567-4700
mike.iozzo@outlook.com
- **Dcn. Michael O'Ryan** [St. Peregrine Ministry]
630-530-2954
visdeaconmikeo@gmail.com

PARISH FAITH FORMATION/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- **Matthew Pozen**, 630-279-7058, x502
matt.pozen@visitationcc.org

MUSIC

- **Barbara Masters**, Parish Music Director
630-834-8190
barbara.masters@visitationcc.org

OFFICE STAFF

- **Dan Sledz**, Finance Director
708-533-6471, dan.sledz@visitationcc.org
- **Marek Latocha**, Business Manager
630-834-6700, x204, marek@visitationcc.org
- **Anne Montgomery**, Communications and Protecting God's Children, 630-834-6700, x202
- **Suzanne Noonan**, Parish Secretary, 630-834-6700
- **Teodora Kulikowska**, Accounts Payable
630-834-6700, x206
- **Susan Hemmersmeier**, Communications Manager
communications@visitationcc.org
- **Cathy DeBernardis**, Environment and Hospitality
cathy.debernardis@visitationcc.org

VISITATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL Website:

www.visitationelmhurst.org

Phone: 630-834-4931/**Fax:** 630-834-4936

- **Carrie Mijal**, School Principal,
cmijal@visitationelmhurst.org
- **Katie McVey**, School Assistant Principal
kmcvey@visitationelmhurst.org

Interested in joining Visitation Parish?

We'd love to have you! Please call 630-834-6700 to become a member.

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

This past Wednesday, August 17th, Visitation School opened for the start of the 2022-2023 School Year! Welcome back to students, teachers, and staff of our wonderful school.

Mrs. Carrie Mijal (the Principal of our school) Mrs. Katie McVey (the vice-principal), the teachers and staff have been hard at work since June making sure we will have a safe, faith-filled, and successful start of the school year to provide a first-rate Catholic education to our young people. These dedicated professionals have all been a blessing to our parish, our school, and our young people and their families.

I also want to thank our parents for choosing Visitation School, and for entrusting your children to Catholic education, here, in our parish. We have a wonderfully supportive school community made up of administrators, teachers, staff, students, and dedicated parents. Father Alberts, Father Tomy, our Deacons and I take this opportunity to welcome back the faculty, staff, and students of Visitation School. I also want to offer a word of gratitude and welcome to all our parents [returning and new families] to our school. Visitation is a great place to learn, offering education with a difference... *The difference is Jesus Christ!*

I would encourage everyone to do what they can to support the efforts of the school... it belongs to the entire parish, because the entire parish [through our Sunday Offering] supports the educational programs available in both our day school and religious education programs. We are fortunate to have such fine programs, and the grace-filled opportunity for EVERYONE to support and fulfill the Gospel mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all people!

Let's all continue to work together to give our children the very best: *A Faith-filled, safe, and intellectually challenging Catholic education.* To all those returning to a new school year... prayers and blessings to you for a safe, enriching, and faith-filled academic year.

God's Blessings!

Father De Salvo



The Feast of the Queenship of Mary

Celebrated on August 22nd each year.

Pope Pius XII established *The Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in 1954. But Mary's queenship has roots in Scripture and Tradition. At the Annunciation Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation Elizabeth calls Mary *mother of my Lord*. As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, she is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court.

In the fourth century St. Ephrem called Mary, Lady and Queen. The Church Fathers and Doctors continued to use the title. Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven." The Dominican rosary and the Franciscan crown as well as numerous invocations in Mary's Litany celebrate her queenship.

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption and is now celebrated on the octave day of that Solemnity. In his encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven* Pope Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, because she is closely associated as the New Eve with Jesus' redemptive work, because of her preeminent perfection and because of her intercessory power.

As St. Paul suggests in Roman 8:28-30, God has predestined human beings from all eternity to share the image of his Son. All the more was Mary predestined to be the mother of Jesus. As Jesus was to be king of all creation, Mary, in dependence on Jesus, was to be queen. All other titles to queenship derive from this eternal intention of God. As Jesus exercised his kingship on earth by serving his Father and his fellow human beings, so did Mary exercise her queenship. As the glorified Jesus remains with us as our king till the end of time (Matthew 28:20), so does Mary, who was assumed into heaven and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.



Readings for the week of August 21, 2022

Sunday:	Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/ Lk 13:22-30
Monday:	2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/ Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/ Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Thursday:	1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/ Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

6:15 AM

+Paula Morales

8:15 AM

Intentions of Antonio Gianni

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

6:15 AM

+Lenore Koda

8:15 AM

Intentions of Andrew Stuefen

+Julie Cotterill

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

6:15 AM

+Dennis Doyle

8:15 AM

+Walter Walden

+Kathy Stumpf

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

6:15 AM

+Maria Pazterrado

8:15 AM

+Terry Hitzler

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

6:15 AM

Intentions of Gerry General

8:15 AM

Intentions of Domenico Gianni

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

8:15 AM

+Jeffrey Marek

4:00 PM

+Jan Anderson

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

7:30AM

+Frank Raimondi

9:30AM

+Lee Teng

11:30AM

People of Visitation

6:00PM

+Patricia Doherty

Sunday Offering

Weekly Offering for August 7, 2022.... \$20,699.00
Weekly Offering same week last year \$28,080.06

Target Goal each week \$30,940.00

Year to date Budget ... \$216,580.00

Year to date Collection ... \$178,197.71

Assumption/Holy Day... \$2,420.00

These totals include Online Giving. Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to contribute via online donations, whether by bank account or credit card, consider signing-up for ONLINE GIVING, via our website [visitationparish.org/give] or by contacting the Parish Office. Your continued support of Visitation Parish is greatly appreciated. God bless you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

Living in the Divine Will	8:45 AM	PC
CRHP	7:00 PM	PC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

Taize Prayer	8:00 PM	C
Taize Social	9:00 PM	PC

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

Craft Ladies	9:00 AM	MP
Flame of Love Meeting	7:00 PM	Crypt

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Rosary for Priests	8:45 AM	PC
Prayer Quilt Ministry	1:00 PM	MP

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

CCW Past Presidents Breakfast	9:00 AM	PC
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PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Please pray for all of those who have died, especially

John Conran

“Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.”

FLAMES OF FAITH

Candles will burn perpetually this week before the Blessed Sacrament in the *Adoration Chapel of Our Lady, Mother of the Eucharist*, for the following intentions:

- For the soul of Mary Wodarczyk



Thank you to everyone who has already shown their devotion to the works of the Lord with a gift to the **2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA)**. Every gift, large or small, is appreciated! If we all contribute as generously as our circumstances allow, we can meet our parish's CMAA goal of \$144,900.

As of August 15th, 289 parishioners have pledged \$125,075. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support the CMAA. If we raise more than our goal, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our use in our annual operating budget. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Pledge envelopes are still available at the entrances of the church. You can also return the pledge card you received in the mail from the diocese, or make a gift online at jolietdiocesappeal.org. Let's all do our part and do what we can to contribute to our parish's success in meeting this serious Diocesan obligation. Make your gift today! Thank you for your support of the CMAA and for your continued generosity and support of Visitation Parish.

ARMED FORCES PRAYER LIST



We remember and pray for the protection of our military as they serve in our Armed Forces.

U.S. Air Force

MSGT Kevin M. James (Andrews AFB, MD)
SrA E4 Jacob Neimanas (Travis AFB, CA)

U.S. Army

PFC Michael Perrone (Germany)
MAJ Patrick Leen (IL.)
CPT Nicholas Keller (Ft. McCoy, WI)
1 LT Thomas J. Diwisch (Fort Bragg, NC)
SPC Stephen J. Taylor (Fort Riley, KS)
1 LT Francesca Cervone (Fairbanks, AK)
CPT Nathaniel A. Greenberg (Ft Leonard Wood, MO)
CPT Kathleen M. Donofrio (Fort Sheridan, IL)

U.S. Army National Guard

PTV Christopher J Slowinski (Ft. Leonard Wood, MO)
MAJ Joseph Doyle (ID)
CPL James Kotowski (Afghanistan)

U.S. Coast Guard

CPO Patrick Kirby (TX)

U.S. Marine Corps

PTV Nicholas Acevedo (CA)
CPT Kurt P. James (Okinawa)
PTV Dominic Tosto (San Diego, CA)
L CPL Skylar Stafford (San Diego, CA)

United States Navy

LCDR Robert Aranha (United States)

Please call the rectory if your loved one has changed position or location. 630-834-6700

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please keep these parishioners in your prayers, and all the sick and their families:

**Karen Boozell, Carlotta Lawton,
John Stafford**

If you or a member of your family is ill or hospitalized and would like to be placed on our Prayer List, please call the Rectory office and let us know. The sick will be listed here, and prayed for by name at Sunday Mass. Names of the sick will remain on the list for two weeks, unless notified.

BAPTISMS

ALEXANDER DANIEL

Son of Anthony and Nora (O'Ryan) Dona Ryan



Please join us in praying a rosary for our priests. We meet each Thursday in the church at 8:45 AM.

Contact Deacon Jim with any questions: 630-915-8920

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM

We encourage everyone to visit Jesus in our Adoration Chapel in the Convent building. You can easily find the right door to open because the plaque on it says, "Be Still and Know that I Am" Psalm 46:10.



You might think that the message is asking you to keep quiet because God is present here. Though that is true, those seven words can be pondered for hours. Stillness and silence, although related, are not the same. We tend to think of silence as the absence of noise, but stillness is a much deeper practice. Stillness is the practice of SACRED listening and REST. You can be silent, but not at rest.

Be still and rest in the Lord for he says to you.

I am the Lord your God who formed you in your mother's womb before you were born.

I am light.

I am love.

I am tenderness.

I am mercy.

I am peace.

I am the way, the truth and the light. I am making all things new, including you. Be not afraid.

I am with you.

I am God.

I AM here.

Come to the Adoration Chapel and experience the presence of God. The Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Registered Adorers are needed to partner with others and new adorers are always welcome. We have an EMPTY Hour that needs adorers. (3-4 am Tuesday).

The following hours are most in need a partner:
 Sunday Noon-1 PM, Sunday 11 PM - Midnight

Tuesday 8-9 PM

Wednesday 1-2 PM, Wednesday 2-3 PM

Thursday 1-2 PM, Thursday 2-3 PM

Friday 1-2 AM, Friday 2-3 PM, Friday 8-9 PM

Saturday 1-2 PM, Saturday 5-6 PM

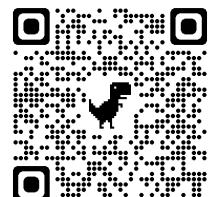
Please contact the Adoration Committee by leaving us a message at VisitationAdorationChapel@gmail.com and volunteer to be a Registered Adorer. You can also contact Joan Taylor at 630-530-8963 or Owen & Gail Hilding at 630 573 0033 if that is more convenient.



The History of the Papacy

Looking for Matt Pozen's next article on the History of the Papacy? Find it on our website by going to

www.visitationparish.org/adult-faith-formation or use the QR code:



Faithful Catholics are Pro-Life!

For nearly 50 years, members of the pro-life movement found themselves trying to convince anyone and everyone who would listen that the Supreme Court's decision to make abortion a constitutionally protected right was wrong. For decades, they pleaded for lawmakers to respect the dignity of the unborn, and they marched in the streets in order to be a voice for the voiceless.

In June came the proof that the Supreme Court agreed. In their decision to allow Mississippi to enact a ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, a majority of the court's nine justices overturned Roe v. Wade — a ruling that immediately abolished all federal protections and returned the right to regulate abortion practices to the individual states.

The Supreme Court's ruling in Dobbs does not mean the work of the pro-life movement is over. Far from it. As the country settles into a new post-Roe reality, the work has only expanded. In June 2022, the Editorial Board of Our Sunday Visitor [a national Catholic weekly newspaper] wrote: *"The court's decision in Dobbs spelled the end of Roe and of Casey-v-Planned Parenthood, but it is just the beginning of the next frontier for those committed to the cause of life... Now is the time to redouble our efforts. Donations that we may have given in the past to national pro-life organizations will be better directed, in the coming months and years, to those frontline workers in the cause of life: pregnancy care centers. Those same centers will need more volunteers than ever before."*

As political battles ramp up in the states, we need to make our voices heard - not just in support of legislation to end abortion in our particular state, but in commitment to reducing or removing the pressures that lead women to consider ending the life of their children. Imagine how many more children could be spared if state legislatures across the country would embrace policies that worked toward saving lives rather than ending them.



Welcome Back!!

Visitation Catholic School is excited to start another school year with our wonderful families!

It was so nice to see many families at the Ice Cream social where students were able to find their classrooms and meet their teachers.

Students were greeted Wednesday morning by their new teachers and reunited with their classmates for another great year!



CASSEROLE MINISTRY

Please see below for the Casserole Ministry schedule for the remainder of 2022:

Tin Distribution
9/10 – 9/11
10/8 – 10/9
11/12 – 11/13

Casserole Collection
9/24 – 9/25
10/22 – 10/23
12/2 – 12/3

For more information, please contact Kathy Best at 630-832-7673.

God's House or a Meeting Place?

Ava Lalor: Associate editor for Our Sunday Visitor [August, 2022]. For a subscription to this fine Catholic weekly, go to osv.com

It's important for us as Catholics to pray the Mass, well! We should prepare before the liturgy begins and participate throughout. Despite our best intentions, we can easily get distracted and can have a hard time focusing.

There is a growing trend in the Catholic Church that once Mass is over, it's a social free-for-all. One reader, shared: *"We had a priest in our parish who came from Eastern Europe. His brother priest was shot in front of him by the Nazis. He became a holy man. When he passed in front of the Blessed Sacrament, he would kneel down reverently and stay there for a moment. Nobody dared talk in church when he was present. I can still picture the priest who replaced him coming out of the sacristy on a Sunday morning with his hands in his pockets and going straight to the people to chat. In no time, the church became a place to socialize."*

Another reader wrote: *"We in the Roman Catholic Church, at least in the United States, have lost our sense of sacredness when it comes to the holy sacrifice of the Mass. I find the conversations before and especially after Mass disruptive. The moment the priest leaves the sanctuary the flood gates open up and the talking starts. We have become a church of socialization."*

While my church is quiet before Mass, it doesn't take long, once the Recessional hymn ends, for people to begin talking. While myself and many of my friends take a minute or so to thank God for the gift we received of himself in the Eucharist, we, too, take the time post-Mass to socialize in the pews. Socialization, as I'm sure our letter writers would agree, is not the issue. We are a community and should be able to talk after being united in the holy Mass. But as much as Jesus is happy for us to be celebrating our communion as the Body of Christ, there is something to be said about not turning the church proper, where we receive Our Lord, into a common meeting place or social venue. Joy and celebration is never gained at someone else's expense... especially, the Lord's. Our church is a *house like none other!* It is, after all, *the house of God...* and Jesus is really and truly present in the Tabernacle of our church.

Now, I understand that this isn't feasible or practical, and we can easily make excuses. But, when we truly think about it, the church is the throne room for our king. Jesus sits in his throne in the tabernacle within the sanctuary, and we are called to gather before him with the love, worship and reverence owe our king. Some may argue that Jesus can be treated as our friend, and rightly so, but certain spaces are meant to help us recognize more than Christ's humanity, specifically his divinity and kingship. The church is such a space. And, there might not be a perfect solution. Maybe one step could be encouraging your family or friends to step outside to talk. Maybe it's simply to try and keep our voices more hushed while in the church. Maybe it's making sure your back isn't toward the tabernacle so as to keep Jesus in the conversation. Take it to prayer. See what the Lord is calling you to do.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY:

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a Field Agent for a career opportunity representing their insurance program. We offer a complete benefits package with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact, Paul Kehoe, General Agent, at 847-219-9777 or paul.kehoe@kofc.org

**SERVE AS A CATECHIST OR AIDE**

The Visitation Religious Education Department is Looking for some faith-filled, big-hearted people -- just like YOU!

Visitation RE invites you to consider serving as a catechist for our Religious Education Program. We will provide you with a structured curriculum, educational resources, as well as a training that will be offered in person where we will walk you through a typical class, suggest learning activities, and equip you with the tools you'll need to teach the group of students you'll be working with throughout the year.

We are looking for volunteers to commit to the 24 class days on Wednesdays @ 4:30pm-5:45pm or Sundays @ 10am-11:15pm as well as volunteers who are willing to be on call to sub. If you are a teen in need of service hours, you are welcome to serve as a classroom aide.

Please feel free to email the RE department @religioused@visitationcc.org if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions!

UPCOMING CCW EVENTS

- Wednesday, September 7th at 7PM - Women's Mass & CCW Board Induction Ceremony; wine and light apps to follow, Visitation Catholic Church
- Saturday/ Sunday, September 10th & 11th - Boxes of Joy are handed out at mass
- Sunday, October 16th - Flu Shots, community rooms of the church building
- Saturday, November 5 - St. Nicks Boutique, school gym
- Saturday/ Sunday, November 5th & 6th - Boxes of Joy are collected at masses
- Thursday, December 1st - Advent Dinner, Carlisle in Lombard
- Friday, February 3 - Daddy Daughter Dance, school gym
- Saturday, March 23 - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, school gym

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Little Sisters of the Poor St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly Palatine, IL

- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) - All shifts, FT and PT
- Cook - Day, Evening and Swing Shift with every other weekend FT
- Porter - Day shift and every other weekend FT
- Dishwasher - Day shift, FT and evening shift PT. Every other weekend is required.
- Dining Aide - Evening shift PT
- Receptionist - PT evenings and weekends
- Front Desk Night Guard (No firearm or security exp. Req.) - FT nights and weekends
- Development Assistant - FT days with occasional flexibility for evenings and weekends. College degree and two years administrative experience and strong computer skills (MS Office Suite and Adobe Programs).

Please send resume or call to find out more.
(847) 358-5700 hpalatine@littlesistersofthepoor.org

No matter how much
you're hurting

No Marriage is Beyond Hope

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

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OF JOLIET ILLINOIS

There is a light at the
end of the tunnel.

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#RetrouvailleJoliet

Retrouvaille is a program designed for married couples who are struggling. Retrouvaille helps couples learn to communicate on a deeper level, and has helped thousands of couples return to a healthy, God-centered marriage.

>>> Our next weekend will be held Sep 9th - 11th, 2022 <<<

For information please contact:
Retrouvaille of Joliet - 1-815-246-2080

**VISITATION RE CATECHIST RETREAT
SATURDAY, AUG 27TH**

Please join us for 8:15 am mass on Saturday, August 27, followed by a morning of reflection. We will begin the new year with spirits and minds refreshed. After mass we will gather in Podesta Hall (below the church). The retreat reflections will start at 9:00 am with Father Alberts leading us in prayer and reflections. Childcare will be available for those who need it. Just let us know. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Please contact the RE office for more information. [630-279-7058 ext. 502](tel:630-279-7058)



Bishop Hicks' Column

August 2022 | Marking 20 years of reforms to protect children



During a recent conversation with a longtime friend, she mentioned she had just signed up to volunteer at her parish by teaching religious education to fifth- and sixth-graders. I was overjoyed to hear that she was going to use her talent and time to pass on our faith to our youth.

When my friend told me of the multistep process she had to go through to be approved as a volunteer, I nodded my head in understanding – and waited for a complaint. Instead, she said she was impressed by and proud of her Church for its commitment to keeping children safe.

As a bishop, I was heartened to hear her words, especially when we in the Catholic Church are this year marking the 20th anniversary of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Known as the Charter, this document sets out a mandated blueprint for dioceses to follow to create a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults in our churches, schools and activities.

My friend, like all other volunteers who work with minors and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church, had to submit to a criminal background check. She also created an account with the parish administrator of a national training program that combats child sexual abuse. She then took the training class, followed by a class on mandated reporting of child abuse or neglect required by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). She also was required to read the Diocese of Joliet's policy regarding sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, in addition to the diocesan standards of behavior for those working with minors and vulnerable adults. She signed and dated forms stating she had read these policies and standards. She also filled out a volunteer application.

None of these steps is intended to discourage volunteers, but the Catholic Church is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for minors in all situations. All diocesan clergy and employees follow the same process, with the addition of reading monthly continuing education materials.

The Charter also puts in place a transparent and supportive process to receive and respond to allegations of sexual abuse by clergy of individuals when they were minors. The Catholic Church takes seriously every allegation that is brought forth, be it reported by an individual who suffered abuse or a third party. The first step is always the same: All allegations of abuse and/or neglect of minors are encouraged to be reported to the state child welfare agency – the DCFS hotline (1-800-25-ABUSE) here in Illinois – and the local civil authorities.

Dioceses also report the allegation to these agencies, and offer the help of a victim assistance coordinator to the individual who suffered the abuse. The victim assistance coordinator listens to, affirms and connects the individual with the appropriate services. This same pastoral care is offered when the alleged abuser is deceased.

Dioceses then undertake an investigation into the abuse allegation. The same investigative process is followed when the accused priest or deacon is deceased or already listed on the diocesan list of credible allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. If the priest or deacon is in active ministry, he is removed while the investigation is ongoing and advised of his right to counsel. If public authorities conduct a criminal investigation against the cleric, the diocese defers its own investigation until that public inquiry is concluded, and cooperates fully with civil authorities.

Following the diocesan investigation, allegations against clergy not on the diocesan public list go before the diocesan review board. The Charter requires this panel to be composed of a majority of lay people not employed by the diocese and to include a pastor and a person with expertise in the treatment of minors who have been sexually abused.

The review board advises the bishop in his assessment of the allegations and the cleric's suitability for ministry. Priests or deacons determined to have credible allegations are permanently removed from ministry and placed on the diocesan list, which is published on the diocesan website. When the allegation is found to be unsubstantiated, the cleric is returned to active ministry.

The most recent report on the implementation of the Charter – dated May 2022 – shows the impact of the Catholic Church's commitment to protecting minors and vulnerable adults. The number of credible allegations reported against clergy nationwide has decreased from a high of 162 in the five-year period from 1970-1974 to four in 2021. I encourage you to read the report at the following link:

www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/audits

Policies, procedures and data inform our vigilance against abuse, yet we must always keep sight of the victim/survivors. Thankfully, no new credible allegations have surfaced during my time in the Diocese of Joliet, yet I hold in my heart a mantra I learned while serving as vicar general of the Archdiocese of Chicago: "Any decision we make should be made as if the child were in the center of the room." †



PARISH DIRECTORY

Adoration Chapel

Gail & Owen Hilding 630-573-0033
 Joan Taylor 630-530-8963

Altar Servers

Susan Hemmersmeier 630-834-6700

Casserole Ministry

Kathy Best 630-832-7673

Council of Catholic Women

Shannon Goodrich 646-408-0129
 Email: ccwvisitation@gmail.com

Craft Ladies

Alice Bronke 630-217-5198

CRHP

Michele Koelle 312-502-3407
 Email: michele@koelle.org

Crypt of the Saints

Richard Montalbano 708-774-1946

Elizabeth Ministry

Clarita Iozzo 630-941-3929

Fathers Club

Mike Machon
 Email: mike.machon@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Brendan Gilboy, President 630-834-6700

Helping Hands Ministry

Vikram & Caroline Prahbu 630-607-4777

Knights of Columbus

Tom Russell (Grand Knight) 630-697-7608
 Joe Ross (Deputy GK) 708-987-2175
 John Dwyer (KC Squires) 847-280-1985

Ladies Bowling

Sharon Bresnanhan 630-530-1053

Ladies Golf League

Lynn DeFilippis 630-834-5290

Men's Bowling

Paul Steik 708-562-2796

PADS

Elizabeth Kosowski
 Email: elizabethgk@att.net

Prayer Quilt Ministry

Karen Verner 630-834-6700

Right-to-Life Committee

Paul Esposito
 espo382@comcast.net

RCIA

630-834-6700

Rosary Maker Ministry

Lorene Bryan 815-671-1970

School Board President

Beth O'Reilly
 Email: bethmarren@aol.com

Scouting

Kyle Kays 813-500-9673

ShopWithScrip

Mindy Hosler 630-536-9996

Social Service Outreach

Deacon Tony Spatafore 630-834-6700
 Email aspatafore1@comcast.net

SPRED

Melanie Schneider 630-209-0064

Ushers

Patti Pagni
 Email: ppagni@sbcglobal.net

Valentino Activity Center

Linda Roberts 630-941-7785

"Vis" Seniors

Mary Ann Kramer 630-617-2550

Women's Volleyball

Tracy Nelson
 Email: mtnelson95@yahoo.com



@vis_parish



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