



# News Notes

April 2025

## Pastoral Life

### Calvary Cemetery

**Lenten Spiritual Work of Mercy** – You are invited to come and pray The Way of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory with Calvary Cemetery staff on Fridays at 3pm on April 4 and 11. The Stations of the Cross are displayed in the cupola of the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum and prayer books are provided for use during the prayer gatherings. Please dress weather-aware. All are welcome to attend.

**Easter/Spring Floral Program** – Place your Easter/Spring order at 859-252-5415 or [ccemetery@cdlex.org](mailto:ccemetery@cdlex.org) for Yellow, Pink, Orange, White, Red, or Purple Tulips/Yellow Daffodils/Pink, White, or Blue Hyacinths/White Easter Lilies. The deadline is April 6, 2025. The floral pots will be placed at your loved one's grave at the beginning of Holy Week. Live flowers are permitted year-round; artificial decor is only allowed November 1 - March 1.

**Summer Floral Program** – Place your Red, White, or Pink Begonia order at 859-252-5415 or [ccemetery@cdlex.org](mailto:ccemetery@cdlex.org). The deadline is May 5, 2025. The Begonias will be planted at your loved one's grave in May.

## Vicar General

### Worship

**OCP Parish Grants Program** – Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) is accepting applications for a grant to be utilized by parishes for liturgical and musical purposes. Anyone interested can fill out the application online.

The Parish Grants Program is open to all Roman Catholic parishes and campus ministries in the United States and U.S. territories. Applicants do not have to use an OCP worship program to qualify – only those parishes that received a 2024 Parish Grant are ineligible to apply.

Awarded grants must be used for liturgical and/or musical purposes. Common uses include purchasing new music and worship resources, repairing or replacing musical instruments, attending or hosting conferences and workshops, improving multicultural ministries through training or purchasing bilingual resources, and more.

In the words of one grant recipient from the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, OCP Parish Grants “have a profound impact on the parishioners and their celebration of the liturgy and music worship services.”

Applications for 2025 OCP Parish Grants are being accepted now through **May 30, 2025**. To apply, a parish representative simply needs to fill out an online application at [ocp.org/parish-grants](https://ocp.org/parish-grants). Grant recipients will be announced in August. For more information, please visit [ocp.org/parish-grants](https://ocp.org/parish-grants).

### Peace & Justice

**Appalachian Immersion Experience 2025** – The last 2025 dates available for the Appalachian Immersion Pilgrimages are October 19-21, 2025.

The immersion experience brings pilgrims into contact with people and places of Appalachia who share their lived experiences of natural disasters, social division and disparity, single-industry economics, and climate change. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot, groups are also encouraged to apply: [laudatosi@cdlex.org](mailto:laudatosi@cdlex.org).

### Youth & Young Adult

#### **Young Adult Ministry – Theology on Tap comes to Lexington on May 1**

Theology on Tap is a place where young adults can come together, share a drink, and talk about things that actually matter. This event will be monthly over the summer. Admission is free and comes with one drink ticket.

Our first event will be on May 1 and feature Art Historian Dr. Cecelia Dorger, who will talk to us about the latest research around the most studied artifact in human history: Shroud of Turin. She'll break down the newest scientific findings about the fibers of the material, the blood on the shroud, and AI images of the man in the shroud.

Registration is not required, but greatly appreciated. You can register by visiting our website here: <https://cdlex.org/young-adult-ministry/>

Flyers are attached to this email.

## **Development**

**Diocesan Annual Appeal** – Congratulations to those parishes who have reached their pledged goals. For parishes that reach and then exceed their PAID goal, the Appeal shares 5% of the pledge goal amount and 50% of all funds above the paid goal. For parishes that have reached their PARTICIPATION goal, the Appeal shares 5% of the pledge goal. For only this year, if someone did not give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal in the past year but gave this year, the parish will receive 50% back of the donated amount. These share backs will be distributed after the closing of the fiscal year.

**Second Collection for Home Missions** – The Annual Collection for Home Missions will be taken up April 26-27, 2025. The USCCB has extensive resources, including clip art and bulletin announcements, available at <https://www.usccb.org/home-missions>.

It is important to promote this collection because each year the Catholic Diocese of Lexington is a recipient of grant funds from this collection for its work in eastern Kentucky. Below is the Home Missions bulletin announcement that parishes can use to publicize this collection:

*Next week, our parish will take up The Home Missions Collection. What Is a Home Mission Diocese? Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions. Next week, please give generously to The Home Missions Collection.*

**Second Collections for the Holy Land** – The Collections for the Holy Land will be taken up on April 18, 2025. This collects funds for support of the Holy Places, and for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of our Christian brethren and of the local communities.

## **Catholic Charities**

**Community Agricultural** – Our program has been expanding its support to several groups throughout the diocese, including churches/parishes and rehabilitation facilities, to help establish community and pollinator gardens. We've been providing essential supplies like straw, manure, seeds, peat moss, soil, and wood chips to help jumpstart these gardens.

Because our donated supplies are running low, we are reaching out to farmers in the Diocese who may be able to offer in-kind donations. We are especially in need of soil and manure, but grass clippings, leaves, mulch, and other organic waste are also welcome.

We kindly ask that any donated materials be free from artificial chemicals, pesticides, or herbicides, including those used on the animals producing the manure. Your generosity will directly support the growth of these vital community projects. If you can donate, please email Cory Banta at [crbanta@cdlex.org](mailto:crbanta@cdlex.org) or call/text him at 859-787-9777.

**Disaster Assistance** – Help us bring hope and recovery to flood victims. Recent flooding has left many families in our community facing unimaginable loss and hardship. Homes have been destroyed, essential belongings lost, and lives turned upside down. Catholic Charities of Lexington is committed to walking with these families on the long road to recovery – but we need your help.

16 counties have FEMA Declarations. 15 of these counties are in our diocese. I have been attending KY VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) meetings. The latest FEMA statistics for our 15 counties are as follows:

County	Declared/ Undeclared	Registrations	Valid Registrations
Estill County	Declared	59	58
Harlan County	Declared	189	189
Lee County	Declared	65	65
Perry County	Declared	730	726
Floyd County	Declared	1225	1221
Pike County	Declared	2340	2337
Leslie County	Declared	133	132
Martin County	Declared	363	361
Clay County	Declared	242	241
Breathitt County	Declared	210	210
Knott County	Declared	583	582
Owsley County	Declared	58	57
Letcher County	Declared	591	589
Johnson County	Declared	171	171
Woodford County	Declared	4	4
	<b>Total Sum:</b>	<b>7338</b>	<b>6943</b>

As of March 24, there were seven shelters open with an overnight population of 207 clients. We are partnering with Long-Term Recovery Groups, VOAD, FEMA, St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Relief, Samaritan’s Purse, The Red Cross, Kentucky Emergency Management, Home Depot, St. Michael Catholic School in Indiana, etc. to provide vital support in the coming months. Your donation will help us:

- ✓ Provide emergency shelter and essential supplies
- ✓ Support home repairs and rebuilding efforts
- ✓ Offer financial assistance for displaced families
- ✓ Help restore hope and stability to those in need

Please consider making a gift today. Every dollar you give will go directly toward helping families rebuild their lives and find hope after the flood. Your generosity will make a lasting difference. Thank you for being a beacon of hope in this time of need.

To donate, visit [CatholicCharitiesLexington.org](http://CatholicCharitiesLexington.org), send a check to 1310 West Main Street, Lexington, KY, 40508, or call 859-475-5522.

## **Assets/Needs Assessment – by Dr. Shelli Gregory, Executive Director**

Since stepping into my role in November, I have been conducting an assets/needs assessment across our Diocese. This involves driving to the smaller communities, introducing myself to the parishes and community helpers, and obtaining their input regarding the strengths of their communities and the gaps of service that Catholic Charities can fill independently, or by partnering with parishes and/or existing agencies.

So far, I have met in person with: members of the Bluegrass East Deanery; Sister Amy at Holy Cross in Jackson; Sister Judy from Holy Family in Booneville; the staff of the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center; Father David Wheeler at St. Michael in Paintsville; members of Christ the King involved in Mental Health Ministry and St. Vincent De Paul; Father Marc Bentley and parishioners at Prince of Peace in West Liberty; Father Prakash Verunkal at St. George in Jenkins; Sr. Celine and Sr. Savita with the Missionaries of Charity in Jenkins; Father Terrence de Silva at Holy Trinity in Harlan; and Lori Helfrich in Hazard. I have also met with the Family resource and Youth Service Center coordinators from 30 of our counties, and spoken with several other Catholic outreach workers on the phone. Father Dan Noll is now helping with the assessment as well.

We would love your input! To help with our assessment, please go to <https://forms.gle/RaFp9uXoMRw1gqzJ7> to complete the google form. This assessment will continue through April, followed by a strategic planning process with our Board of Directors. I am deeply excited about the future of Catholic Charities – building relationships, serving those in need, and making a lasting impact across all 50 counties.

Stay up to date with all the latest Catholic Charities news by following our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesLexington>.