



News Notes

February 2025

Chancellor

Annual Administrative/Recordkeeping Checklist – There are certain annual reports and updates that we are required to complete. A checklist of the reports and updates required for the Office of the Chancellor is attached to this email for your reference and use.

Pastoral Life

Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry

NCYC Information Meetings on Zoom – It's hard to believe but it is time to start planning for NCYC 2025. Two years ago, the Catholic Diocese of Lexington took a delegation of 70 high school youth and chaperones to Indianapolis for the National Catholic Youth Conference for an incredible experience of worship and prayer with 20,000 of our closest friends. We're gearing up to do it again in November of 2025, but it takes a lot of planning to make this pilgrimage a success. Mike Armstrong will be hosting three information sessions via Zoom to explain what NCYC is, what is required to go, important dates to keep in mind, and answer any questions. All three information sessions will contain the same information, the dates are as follows:

Thursday, January 30 at 7 pm
Tuesday, February 4 at 10 am
Wednesday, February 12 at 7 pm

Please contact Michael Armstrong (marmstrong@cdlex.org) if you have any questions. The Zoom links will be sent out closer to the scheduled event. Please contact Michael if you do not receive the link.

Save the Date: March 28 – 30, 2025, High School Retreat – Save the date for our next annual Diocesan High School Retreat on March 28-30, 2025. All youth grades 9-12 are invited, cost will be \$75 per youth. Contact Michael Armstrong at marmstrong@cdlex.org for more information.

Save the Date: July 7 – 11, 2025, Servant Leadership Institute – Save the date for our next Servant Leadership Institute in Harlan KY, July 7 through 11. More details will be announced in the coming months.

Calvary Cemetery

February 8, Feast Day of St. Jerome Emiliani – Patron Saint of Orphans...pray for us! “Oh God, Father of Mercy, who made Saint Jerome Emiliani a father and protector to the orphans, by his intercession, help us faithfully keep the spirit of adoption, through which we are called Your children and indeed we are. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” www.catholicmom.com/articles/2016/10/31/saint-jerome-emiliani-patron-orphans

Spring Clean-up – Calvary allows the placement of live flowers any time. Artificial decorations may only be placed November 1 to March 1. To keep the Cemetery's appearance uniform and in keeping with the existing policy, the Cemetery will begin the process of removing all Christmas wreaths by February 1 and all remaining artificial decorations on March 2. While families are encouraged to not place costly or sentimental items, if you desire to keep your items, please come and remove them prior to these dates. This is a difficult rule to enforce, but the purpose of this long-standing Cemetery regulation is to allow our families to express their grief, while eliminating the feeling of untidiness that others experience from that same outward expression, especially during the growing season. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Summer Floral Program – Place your Begonia order @ 859-252-5415 or ccemetery@cdlex.org. The Begonias will be planted at your loved one's grave in May.

Vicar General

Peace & Justice

Appalachian Immersion Experience 2025 – The 2025 dates are available for the Appalachian Immersion Pilgrimages:

March 30-April 2, 2025
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. Through listening to the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor, we hope to instill and encourage a response to the Gospel call to peace and justice and Pope Francis' call to care for creation. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot, groups are also encouraged to apply: laudatosi@cdlex.org.

Laudato Sí Presentations – Schedule a presentation for your school, CCD class, adult group, or youth group. The presentations are tailored for class size and grade level, from pre-school through high school, for kids, and all ages for adult formation or prayer groups, or even at Mass. Includes hands-on activities, discussion, and questions. Contact the Laudato Sí Commission for more information, laudatosi@cdlex.org.

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2024/25 – Thank you for your continued commitment to the Diocesan Annual Appeal (DAA). We are at the midway point and have two months left in the current DAA season which ends on March 31, 2025. At present, 22 parishes have exceeded their income goals, and 27 parishes have exceeded their 50% participation goal. *Well Done!* Lives will be changed because of your efforts!

If you have not reached your parish goal yet, keep the communication ALIVE! Bulletin notices, Flocknotes, pulpit announcements, and parish emails make a HUGE difference. Bishop John's most recent DAA letter arrived in homes on Jan 20, so NOW is the perfect time to remind your parishioners why they should if they have not participated. Remember, on average 54% of the people in your pews do not know what the DAA is or that it exists, and even fewer know why they should support it. Taking 90 seconds at the start of mass or during your homily will make all the difference!

There are four Shareback Rebates available to your parish this year. These are seasonal awards put in place to achieve certain campaign objectives and to incentivize/recognize your efforts. Currently, they are:

- 5% of the established goal when the parish meets its \$\$ Goal
- 5% of the established goal when the parish meets its Participation Goal.
- When the parish exceeds its \$\$ Goal it goes into a 50-50 \$\$ split with the diocese for all funds raised over the \$\$ goal.
- For this year only: New Participant Rebate. Any parish that secures a DAA donation from a parishioner who did not give the previous year will automatically receive 50% of that donation back. This rebate was implemented this year, for one year only, to encourage all pastoral teams to reach out to the approximately 54% of the diocese who do not currently support the DAA.

Shareback/Rebates are important! They incentivize, recognize, and express gratitude. Further, they provide parishes with much-needed unrestricted operating funds to use as they see fit. These rebates are another way the DAA is growing the faith here in eastern and central KY. Last year OUR campaign distributed more parish Shareback Rebates to parishes than ever before! We are on track to surpass that figure this year and have already committed more than \$151K in rebates this season to parishes!!

Tax Letters – The Development Office has sent out the end-of-year contribution statement to all those who made a tax-deductible gift to the Diocese in 2024. To save paper and postage costs, this year we sent letters by email to those households that have an email address on file (and mailed the rest). Please remind your parishioners to check their email for these letters. If a donor has not received a statement, they can call Emma Jones at 859-253-1993, x1050 to request the statement.

Second Collections – There is no second collection scheduled for February 2025. The calendar for 2026 is now available on the CDLex website.

Catholic Charities

Mardi Gras Gala - Join us for an elegant Mardi Gras Gala on Friday, February 28, 2025, at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Hehman Hall, 6:30 pm - 11 pm. The event will include cocktails, live music, a silent auction, and a sit-down dinner. All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities of Lexington and its great work helping individuals and families throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky. Gala ticket sales are now open. We are looking for Corporate Sponsors and donations for the silent auction. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Link, Mardi Gras Gala Chair, at ELink@CenterCRL.com or 415-407-6757.

Please see the attached pdf for bulletin announcements.