



News Notes

March 2025

Pastoral Life

Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry

High School Retreat: March 28-30, 2025 – Join us for our annual diocesan High School Retreat. This event is a valuable time for young people to get away from the noise of life and experience what it means to be in communion with God and the young Church. It's a time of learning, prayer, community, worship, and adoration (and a lot of fun!). The cost is \$75 per person. You can either register through your parish youth minister or through our [website](#). (Please see attached flyer.)

Calvary Cemetery

Spiritual and Corporal Work of Mercy – Wednesday, March 5th Prayer Service and Burial for Life Lost through Miscarriage with St. Joseph Hospital at 1pm at the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum. All are welcome to attend.

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 March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4 and 11. The Stations of the Cross are displayed in the cupola of the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum and prayer books are provided. Please dress weather-aware. All are welcome to attend.

Patron Saint of Widows – March 9 is the Feast Day of St. Frances of Rome...pray for us!

“Bright jewel of the Order of Saint Benedict, illustrious Saint Frances of Rome, thou who wast led by divine Providence through various stations in life, that thou mightest be a pattern of every virtue, to maidens, to matrons and to widows, pray for us to our divine Savior that we may be detached from the vanities of the world and may be able, under the guiding hand of our Guardian Angel to grow daily in the love of God, of His Church and of our neighbor, and finally to be made partakers in heaven of the Felicity. Amen.” [St. Frances of Rome, Widow \(catholicharboroffaithandmorals.com\)](#)

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 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.

Catholics at the Capitol – Join the Catholic Diocese of Lexington and the Catholic Conference of Kentucky in Frankfort to advocate for our communities and our Common Home. This year's advocacy will center around HB102. The event will include meeting with legislators about the threat of PFAS (forever chemicals) on our health, water, farms, and futures. Come put your faith into action and let your voice be heard. (Please see the attached flyer.)

Thursday, March 6

10am-2pm

Capitol Annex Building, Frankfort KY

Register by March 3rd.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/h5PqGyt4jygnwjmq8>

Questions? Email Joshua van Cleef at jvancleef@cdlex.org

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal – Congratulations to those parishes who have reached their pledged and family participation goals. This year it is expected we will reach the 50% participation goal. Parishes that have not met their goal should use these last 4 weeks of the campaign season (ending on March 31) to do so. Continue messaging about how the funds are used to improve the lives of our neighbors in need, and invite those in your parish who have not yet accepted the invitation to participate to consider doing so.

Many parishes need less than ten additional donors to reach their goal and earn a share back rebate. 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. Parishes that reach the family participation goal get paid back 5%. This year only, if a parishioner did not give to the DAA in 2023, the parish will receive 50% back for their donation received for 2024. These share backs will be distributed later in 2025 after our final audit is complete.

Rice Bowl Lenten Program – The Rice Bowl Lenten Program runs from March 5 through April 20. Please note that 75% of the money raised goes to Catholic Relief Services and 25% stays within the Diocese.

Collection for Black and Native American Missions – The National Collection to benefit Black and Native American Missions will be taken up in our Diocese the weekend of March 8-9, 2025. Below is a bulletin announcement that parishes can run in advance to publicize the important work sustained by this collection:

The collection for the National Black and Native American Missions will be taken up in our Diocese on March 8-9, 2025. This collection helps support a wide variety of evangelization and educational efforts throughout the United States, including our own Diocese. The Catholic Diocese of Lexington receives an annual grant from this collection to support multi-cultural efforts, to provide funding for speakers, conferences, and trainings, and to purchase special resource materials for use throughout the diocese. Please be generous and help support the good work of the Black and Native American Missions.

Collection for Catholic Relief Services – The Annual Collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up March 29-30, 2025. The USCCB has extensive resources, including clip art and bulletin announcements, available at <https://www.usccb.org/national-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection-resources>. Attached to this email are bulletin announcements (English and Spanish) and simple steps to promote The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Second Collections Calendar – The calendar for the 2026 Second Collections for 2026 is now up on the diocesan website (www.cdlex.org).

Mission and Ministry Applications – Thanks to the parishes, schools, and outreach organizations who submitted Mission and Ministry applications. The Mission Advisory Panel, which consists of representatives from each deanery, will meet in April to review the applications.

Stewardship Tip of the Month: Carpool Conversations – Does your parish have a school? If yes, you have a carpool line, which is a ready-made opportunity for evangelization and stewardship!

Cricket Hater, Stewardship Director at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Frankfort, has begun going car-to-car quarterly with Pastor John Lijana to provide simple, but effective, stewardship goodie bags including parish volunteer opportunities, prayer requests, and treats to enjoy while waiting in line. It is a perfect opportunity for her and Fr. John to thank parents and pickup caregivers for all they do, while also expressing current needs of the parish and school. Have more questions about how to get it started? Email Cricket at chater@cdlex.org.

Do you have a Development/Stewardship *Tip of the Month* we can share with everyone for next month? If so, please email it to Emma Jones at ejones@cdlex.org and let us celebrate you and share your ideas with other parishes. We are stronger together!