



News Notes

May 2025

Pastoral Life

Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry

Theology on Tap – Theology on Tap returns to Lexington again on June 5. Theology on Tap is a place where young adults can come together, share a drink, and talk about things that matter. This event will be monthly over the summer. Admission is free and comes with one drink ticket.

The event on June 5 will feature a dialogue between Rev. Luke Rakestraw, associate pastor of Tates Creek Presbyterian Church, and our very own Fr. Frank Brawner, pastor at Our Lady of the Mountains in Stanton. Join us as we celebrate the things we have in common with our Christian brothers and sisters and (respectfully) engage our differences.

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

Calvary Cemetery

Summer Floral Program – Red, White, and/or Pink Begonias. Place your order @ 859-252-5415 or ccemetery@cdlex.org. Deadline is May 5. The Begonias will be planted at your loved one's grave in May. Live flowers are permitted year-round; artificial decor is allowed November 1 through March 1.

Corporal Work of Mercy – May 7 @ 1 PM @ Via Dolorosa Mausoleum. Prayer Service and Burial for Life Lost through Miscarriage with St. Joseph Hospital. All are welcome to attend.

Memorial Day – Calvary Cemetery will again participate in the Catholic Cemetery Conference's national program, *Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to Our Heroes*. A Tribute Board will be available under cover on the office front porch for visitors, families, and friends to post pictures, wishes, prayers, and/or comments for their deceased military loved ones. Please join us in honoring 'Our Heroes.'

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. Grant recipients will be announced in August. For more information, please visit 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.

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal (DAA) – Congratulations to the **38 parishes** that have reached their DAA goals!

For parishes that reach and exceed their *paid goal*, the Appeal returns:

- **5%** of the *goal amount*, and
- **50%** of *all funds above the paid goal*

35 parishes also reached their participation goal, earning a **5%** share back of the goal. Parishes also received **50% back** from any donations made by individuals who did not give in 2023. This incentive returned **over \$92,000** to parishes!

Thank you to all the parishes – your hard work and dedication made this possible!
Share backs will be distributed after the close of the fiscal year.

Providing for Our Future – This initiative is underway and going strong!

- The starting debt of **\$11 million** has been reduced to **\$7.3 million**.
- This year we've already secured **over \$600,000** in new pledges and payments.

2025 DAA Trainings – Mark your calendars! Training for the 2025 DAA will take place on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, August 20** at *St. William Church Conference Center, London*
- **Thursday, August 21** at *CDLex Catholic Center – Bluegrass Conference Room*

🕒 **Time:** 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

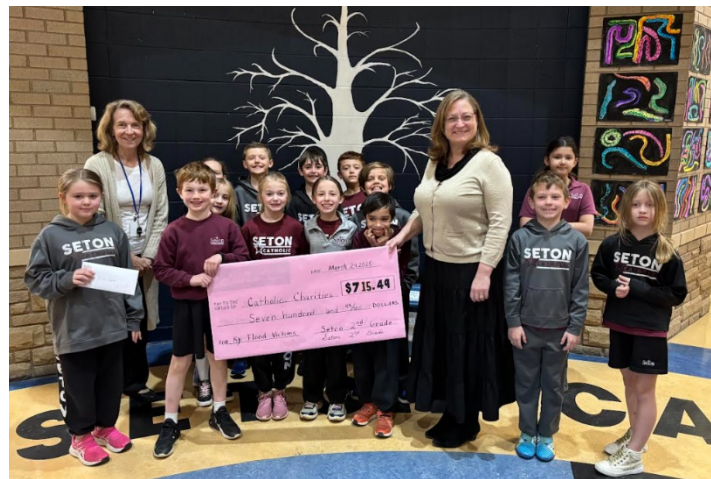
🍽️ **A delicious lunch will be provided**

🎁 **Register early** for a chance to win a fabulous **door prize!**

📍 Register Here: <https://bit.ly/2025-daa-dev>

Catholic Schools

Seton 2nd Grade Candy Factory Raises Money for Catholic Charities – The 2nd grade class at Seton Catholic School raised more than \$715.00 with their Shamrock candy factory. Dr. Shelli Gregory of Catholic Charities visited the school and explained how the money would be used to help the Kentucky flood victims. Afterward, the class presented Dr. Gregory with a check. Thank you so much for supporting Catholic Charities with these amazing projects!



Saints Peter & Paul Regional Catholic School Helps with Flood Efforts – A special thank you to Mrs. Alex Kuyper for leading the way with 60 students to help the clean-up and recovery efforts of the floods in Pike County. Mrs. Kuyper and the students at Sts. Peter and Paul Regional Catholic Schools were featured on WYMT Mountain News – <https://www.wytm.com/video/2025/03/21/lexington-school-offers-helping-hands-flooded-communities-6-pm/> – for their support with the clean-up efforts. Thank you for providing these crucial service opportunities for our students. Amazing work!



Lexington Catholic High School visits Holy Cross-Immaculata Catholic Church – This past month, eight Lexington Catholic High School students traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio, to visit Holy Cross-Immaculata Catholic Church. This opportunity allowed students to grow in faith and take time to reflect during this Lenten season. This was Lexington Catholic’s first-ever trip taken to Immaculata, and from what I’ve heard, it was definitely one to remember for all the students and staff who attended.



St. Mary’s School is “Off to the Races” – It was off to the races this past week for St. Mary School’s first-ever *Diaper Derby*. Together, they were able to collect more than 6,000 diapers and \$607 to support the mission of Life House Pregnancy Center. Congratulations to their 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades for winning the first *Diaper Derby*! We look forward to future races!



Catholic Charities

NEW FEMA Declarations Approved – Less than seven weeks after devastating flash flooding in Eastern Kentucky, prompting 16 approved county FEMA declarations (15 within our diocese), severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides, and mudslides occurred on April 2. Flooding concentrated along the Ohio River and its tributaries. Several of the impacted counties are within our diocese, but for the most part, they are different counties from those impacted during the February floods.

The severe flooding has profoundly affected our communities, leading to tragic losses and widespread displacement. In Frankfort, for instance, the Kentucky River reached near-record levels, submerging parts of the city and prompting mandatory evacuations. Similarly, in Anderson and Mercer Counties, many families are grappling with significant loss and damage reminiscent of historic disasters. While exact numbers are still being determined, emergency managers estimate that many homes have been damaged or destroyed across the state. The flooding has also damaged local businesses and infrastructure. This latest flooding has prompted 13 approved county FEMA declarations (6 within our diocese).

Applying for FEMA Assistance – When applying for FEMA assistance, be sure to specify the damage and the date it occurred to ensure you are applying under the correct declaration number. Use DR-4860-KY for the severe storms, straight-line winds, landslides, and mudslides that occurred from February 14 – March 7. Homeowners and renters in Breathitt, Clay, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Woodford counties may be eligible. The deadline to apply under DR-4860-KY is May 25.

Use DR-4864-KY for the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides, and mudslides that occurred on April 2 and continuing. Homeowners and renters in Anderson, Clark, Franklin, Jessamine, Mercer, and Woodford counties may be eligible. The deadline to apply under DR-4864-KY is June 25.

Homeowners and renters in Woodford County may be eligible for federal assistance under DR-4860-KY or/and DR-4864-KY. If you had property damage or loss in Woodford County from the February severe incident, and then again from the April severe incident, you will need to complete two separate disaster assistance applications.

Disaster Recovery Centers – Working hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Saturday and 1-7 p.m on Sunday.

FEMA representatives can explain available assistance programs, how to apply to FEMA, and help connect survivors with resources for their recovery needs. Representatives from the Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance, the Kentucky Department of Insurance and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will also be available at the recovery centers to assist survivors. You can visit any open center to meet with representatives of FEMA, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the U.S. Small Business Administration. No appointment is needed. To find all other center locations, including those in other states, go to fema.gov/drc or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362.

Anderson County: Anderson County Community Center, 1026 County Park Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

Franklin County: Frankfort Plaza, 827 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601

If you are unable to visit a center, there are other ways to apply: online at DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA App for mobile devices or call 800-621-3362.

As of April 24, FEMA has accepted 9,516 registrations, over \$37 million has been approved, and over \$36 million has been dispersed, but FEMA assistance is often not enough to cover the cost of repairs, rebuilding, and/or refurbishing.

Catholic Charities Response to Flooding – Catholic Charities is partnering with VOAD members, FEMA, St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Relief, Samaritan’s Purse, The Red Cross, Kentucky Emergency Management, St. Vincent Mission, Hand in Hand, Christian Appalachian Project, Homes, Inc., and others to provide temporary shelter, essential supplies, rebuilding assistance, and financial aid for displaced families. We are committed to supporting flood victims on their long road to recovery.

Please consider helping us in this effort. To make an online donation in support of our disaster relief efforts, please go to CatholicCharitiesLexington.org and click the donate button. Donations can also be made by mailing a check to 1310 W Main St, Lexington, KY 40508, or by calling our office at 859-475-5522.

Finally, parishes will be taking a second offering to support our efforts the weekend of May 17-18. I am visiting flood survivors, listening to their needs, and putting together a short video to share with all parishes by May 11. Please share this video with your congregations in preparation for the May 17-18 offering.

Catholic Charities Community Agriculture Program – As mentioned in last month’s News Notes, our program has been expanding its support to several groups throughout the Diocese 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. So far, we have worked with Transylvania University, Holy Cross in Jackson, St. Joseph’s in Winchester, St. Mary’s School in Paris, St. Athanasius in Nicholasville, Good Shepherd in Campton, and the Business Cultivation Foundation in Grayson.

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 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 support directly the growth of these vital community projects. If you can donate, please email Cory Banta crbanta@cdlex.org, call him, or text him at 859-787-9777.

Assets/Needs Assessment of our Entire Diocese – As mentioned last month, we are obtaining input regarding the strengths of your communities and the gaps of service that Catholic Charities can fill independently or by partnering with parishes and/or existing agencies. To help with our assessment, please go to <https://forms.gle/RaFp9uXoMRw1gqzJ7> to complete the google form. This assessment will continue through May, 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.

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

New Phone Number - We have a new Administrative Offices phone number: 859-475-5522.