



# News Notes

July 2025

## Office of the Chancellor

**Student Safe Environment Training: Circle of Grace** – With the beginning of a new school year, please remember the use of *Circle of Grace* for all grade levels in both school and parish programs is mandated. We have acquired the lessons for grades 9-12, so alternate training lessons are no longer accepted.

Catholic Schools and Religious Formation share a common link. The student training report forms are now combined for school and CCD reporting. Please be sure to include 'Parish' or 'School' when you list the location.

Due to copyright restrictions, *Circle of Grace* lessons are not available for download. You will need to contact Greta Hernandez directly at [ghernandez@cdlex.org](mailto:ghernandez@cdlex.org) or Kirsten Thorstad at [kthorstad@cdlex.org](mailto:kthorstad@cdlex.org) to obtain electronic lesson files.

Please plan to teach the program in the first semester of the school year and submit audit recap forms to Greta's attention at the Catholic Center as soon as possible.

**Annual Mass Counts** – The yearly September Mass Counts are due **Friday, October 12, 2025**. Please list each Mass time, language, and total in attendance. The counts will cover the Vigil Mass on **Saturday, September 6 through Sunday, September 28**. Please see the attached form. You may use the back of the form if necessary.

## Pastoral Life

### Family Life and Evangelization

#### **Save the Dates for these Diocesan Masses this Fall:**

- *Red Mass for Legal and Political Community*: Tuesday, September 30, 9am at St. Peter/Lexington
- *Wedding Anniversary Mass*: Saturday, October 18, 5pm at the Cathedral of Christ the King
- *White Mass for Healthcare Professionals*: Saturday, October 25, 9am at Pax Christi

**Red Mass for Legal and Political Professions – September 30, 2025, at 9am St. Peter Catholic Church, 145 Barr St. in Lexington**

Bishop John invites all members of the legal profession of all faiths and traditions, judges, lawyers, law school professors and students, all government officials and other interested persons to the annual Red Mass. Dating back to the Middle Ages, the Red Mass is an annual dedication of prayers for all who serve others through the legal profession or a governmental office and for those interested in the rule of law. Red signifies the Holy Spirit. The Mass will be followed by a reception and optional one-hour CLE event: "The Ethics of Impairment and Well-being: Hope-Inspired Justice." To register, see [cdlex.org/red-mass](http://cdlex.org/red-mass).

### **Grace Marriage to be Offered at Four Diocesan Parishes in 2025-26:**

*Could your marriage use some refreshment? Whether you've been married six months or sixty years, every marriage needs intentional tending in order to grow.*

Beginning this September, four parishes (Mary Queen/Lexington, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton/Lexington, Ss. Francis and John/Georgetown, and Our Lady of the Mountains/Stanton) will be offering the marriage enrichment ministry called "Grace Marriage," a ministry originating in Owensboro and based on a simple idea: Four focused (and fun!) half-day Saturday mini-retreats over the school year, in which married couples gather together to deepen their marriages. Anyone from any parish is welcome to attend. To learn more, see [cdlex.org/grace-marriage](http://cdlex.org/grace-marriage).



### **Próxima Experiencia de Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial**

Fecha: Del 29 al 31 de Agosto

Lugar: Catholic Center

Dirección: 1310 West Main St, Lexington KY 40508

Experiencia NO RESIDENCIAL (Las parejas se van a dormir a sus casas)

Costo por pareja es de \$220

Más información acerca de la experiencia e inscripciones:

Alfredo Lupita Barajas (513) 827-0536

Omar y Nallely Corral (513) 802-1209

Francisco y Lissette Nieto (801) 706-3025

### **Calvary Cemetery**

**SAVE THE DATE!** – Pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary on Friday, August 22 at 10am to celebrate the Patroness of the Diocese of Lexington (Mary Queen of Heaven & Earth) for the memorial of the Queenship (Coronation) of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All are welcome to attend this annual event.

**SAVE THE DATE!** – Join us at 3pm on Sunday, August 24, with Fr. Chris Clay, Spiritual Moderator for the Catholic Committee on Scouting, for the blessing of the Remembrance Path created at Calvary by Owen Parish for his Eagle Scout Project. All are welcome to attend this special event.

Feast Day of Sts. Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus, August 31, Patron Saints of Funeral Directors...pray for us!

(Established in 1874, Calvary is the Cemetery of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington located at 874 West Main Street.)

### **Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

**Theology on Tap (August 7)** – 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.

Our next event will be on August 7 and will feature Dr. Philip Roseman (The Chair of Catholic Studies at UK), who will talk to us about how Christianity has changed in the western world. We anticipate this being a packed house this time around (we've already been standing room only since we've restarted the program), so I do request that if you aren't a young adult, please sit this one out to leave room for the 20- and 30-somethings in our community.

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

## **Vicar General**

### **Peace and Justice**

Check out the new **Mass for Care for Creation**:

<https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2025/missa-pro-custodia-creationis-decreto-papa-leone-xiv.html> (*See attachment for additional details*).

**Season of Creation is right around the corner** (September 1- Oct 4). We are inviting each parish to plan an event to celebrate the Season of Creation and to share with the wider parish the progress made implementing your Laudato Sí Plan in 2025 and what commitments you will be taking on in 2026. This should be a time of celebration and looking to the future with hope and action. Some ideas for celebrating the Season of Creation: Celebrate a Mass for Care for Creation, host a viewing of [The Letter](#) ([trailer](#) and [full film](#)), plan an outdoor prayer service, offer a [Creation Care Meal](#) after Mass, lead a parish-wide service project, or facilitate a faith sharing or faith formation group on Laudato Sí.

**Laudato Sí Art Retreat:** Falling in Love with God. September 13, 2025, from 10:00 am- 2:00pm at Pax Christi Church Hall, 4001 Victoria Way Lexington, Ky. *See flyer for details.*

**Season of Creation: Diocesan Mass on the Mountains:** Saturday, October 4, from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. Hemphill Community Center, 2514 KY 317, Jackhorn, Ky. See flyer for details.

Appalachian Immersion Pilgrimage: October 19-22. *See flyer for details.*

## Development

### Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025

**Kickoff** meeting dates are **August 20**, at St. William Church in London, and **August 21**, in Lexington at the Catholic Center (Bluegrass conference room). Both events will start at 9:30 and finish around 1pm. A delicious lunch will be provided. There will be great door prizes. Pastors, Parochial Vicars, office financial staff, and parish administrative assistants should attend. This year each parish should have a lay person to attend and help with the DAA. Please register at: <https://www.osvhub.com/diocese-of-lexington/forms/2025-daa-kickoff>.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025 in-pew weekend is September 20-21. Parishes will receive resources and links to introduce the Appeal, including a brief video that can be shown at Mass and other gatherings. Parishes will receive a supply of commitment cards and envelopes for in-pew commitments. If you were unable to attend this year's kickoff event or would like additional training, please contact Robert Watt at ext. 1049, Sara Spellman at ext. 1051 or Emma Jones at ext. 1050. ***Please reserve that weekend to focus on the Diocesan Annual Appeal, with no other collection or presentations.*** We will mail DAA materials to all households on record in September, and the October issue of CrossRoads will highlight the ministries and programs that the Appeal makes possible.

### Seminarian Education

#### English

We will take up the Second Collection for Seminarian Education on August 16-17, 2025. Funds from this collection will support the continuing studies of our seminarians. We are very blessed in our Diocese to have 11 seminarians who are preparing to serve our parishes and missions as true and faithful servant leaders. Thank you for your support and prayers for their efforts.

#### Spanish

Haremos una Segunda Colecta del 16-17 de Agosto para la Formación de los Seminaristas. Los fondos de esta colecta apoyarán los estudios de nuestros queridos seminaristas. Somos muy afortunados en nuestra Diócesis de tener 11 seminaristas que se están preparando para servir en nuestras parroquias y misiones como verdaderos y entregados servidores/lideres. Gracias por su apoyo y oraciones para sostener a nuestros seminaristas y sus esfuerzos, y asegúrense de visitar [www.ichoseyou.com](http://www.ichoseyou.com) para obtener más información sobre las Vocaciones en nuestra Diócesis y seguir "I Chose You – Lexington Vocations" en Facebook.

## **Online Giving**

Each parish should have a web page accessible from the diocesan website with a DONATE button for electronic donations. If your parish does not have a web page linked to the Parish Finder on the CDLEX website, please contact Ward Klein at ext. 1005 to get started.

## **PCI Compliance – Very Important!**

Each location must complete Payment Card Industry (PCI) annual online compliance process to ensure that the location is meeting security requirements for credit card and ACH payments. Even if a location does not have active donations with Vanco when notified, the location must complete the process. The primary contact for the location's online giving account should have received an email reminder with the PCI link and deadline for the compliance process. The login credentials for PCI are not the same as Vanco credentials. If you did not receive that PCI reminder email or you are having difficulty logging onto the PCI site, you will need to call the compliance customer service number to troubleshoot the problem (1-855-815-4816). Vanco charges a \$24 penalty for each month of non-compliance, so please take care of this process ahead of the deadline! Please call or email Emma Jones [ejones@cdlex.org](mailto:ejones@cdlex.org) 859-253-1993 ext 150 with your Vanco PCI Compliance login and password.

## **iGiveCatholic 2025**

Mark your calendars! The Diocese of Lexington is once again participating in *iGiveCatholic* on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025. It may seem like the day is far away, but you know this will sneak up on us quickly. Now is the time to think about and decide if your location would like to participate and what project you would like to raise money for. Registration opens on Aug. 18, 2025. Your organization must register no later than Oct 31, 2025, to participate. We will hold trainings sometime in August, so be on the lookout for those dates!

## **Catholic Charities**

**Amazon Wish List** – Please consider donating items to Catholic Charities via our Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/3F6hjBS>

**Assets/Needs Assessment of our Entire Diocese** – 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.

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

*We have a new Administrative Offices phone number: (859) 475-5522.*