



News Notes

July 2025

From Bishop John Stowe

Kirsten Thorstad has officially begun her work as the Chancellor of the Diocese; in that role she will also assume Doug Culp's previous responsibilities for the Pastoral Life Secretariat of the Diocese. Marriage dispensations and permissions will be handled by Deacon John Brannen in his role as Vice Chancellor. If there is any doubt about who handles what, both Kirsten and Deacon John, as well as Greta Hernandez, will be able to clarify or make sure the documentation gets to the right person.

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

July 20-26 is Natural Family Planning Awareness Week – Sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week coincides with the anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* ("Of Human Life"), issued on July 25, 1968, re-affirming and deepening the Catholic vision that every sexual union between spouses should be open to new life.

For liturgical resources in promoting NFP Awareness Week, including Sunday Mass petitions and homily helps, visit this [link](#). If your parish is interested in a pulpit witness from an NFP practicing couple, contact Mike Allen at mallen@cdlex.org.

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

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.



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Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Cincinnati September 19-21, 2025:

Make your good marriage GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekend in this area is September 19-21 in Cincinnati, OH. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged to avoid the waiting list. For more details or reservations call 859-653-8464 or on the web at www.esharing.org

Help and Hope for Struggling Marriages – Do you have little or no communication in your marriage? Are you thinking of separation or divorce, or are you already separated or divorced but want to try again? Retrouvaille (REH-troh-vye) is a peer ministry for hurting marriages, consists of a Weekend experience and six additional four-hour-long Post Weekend Sessions. *The next Louisville area weekend is scheduled for August 1-3. and the next Cincinnati area weekend is September 5-7.* For information or to register, go to www.helpourmarriage.com Registrations accepted on a space available basis; confidentiality assured.

Calvary Cemetery

Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy – Prayer Service & Burial for Life Lost through Miscarriage with St. Joseph Hospital, July 2, at 1pm at the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum. All are welcome to attend.

God Bless America! – To help honor Veterans on Independence Day, the 4th of July, US Flags are available on the Gatehouse porch if you would like to place one on the gravesite of a Veteran. Thank you!

The one-year death anniversary of our dear Fr. Norman Fischer is Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Fr. Norman is interred at Calvary in the Priests Section. His monument is in place. You are welcome to come and pray for Fr. Norman and all our deceased at Calvary. The gates open at 8am and close at 5pm every day.

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

Vicar General

Laudato Sí – Parish Laudato Sí Coordinator meetings are the second Tuesday of every month. These meetings are a time to discuss the implementation of parish plans, to share information and resources, and to plan for future Laudato Sí events. Please contact Josh van Cleef at jvancleef@cdlex.org if you have any questions.

Laudato Sí Commission – The Laudato Sí Commission is hosting an *Art Retreat* with Rosie Fedorchuk on September 13 at Pax Christi Church, 4001 Victoria Blvd., Lexington, 10 a.m. Bishop John Stowe will be there to offer a reflection from a Franciscan perspective. Register at laudatosi@cdlex.org.

There is a registration fee of \$25 that can be mailed to Sister Kathleen Weigand (*150 Mount Tabor Road, Martin, KY 41649*), or paid on site the day of the event. The fee will cover supplies and lunch. Registration will be capped at 30 people so don't delay!

Mass in the Mountains – The closing event for the Diocesan celebration of the *Season of Creation* will be Mass in the Mountains at Hemphill Community Center in Letcher County on October 4. Father Dan Noll will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m.; other events for the day are in the planning stages and will be announced in the coming publications.

Flyers are attached to this email for each of these three items.

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025 – The Diocese conducts the Diocesan Annual Appeal each year to spread the Good News of Jesus through our Catholic presence in every part of the diocese. This includes support for small mission parishes in our mountains and rural areas, as well as Catholic Charities outreach, formation for our seminarians, special programs, and much more.

Diocesan-wide trainings will be held for Pastors, Parochial Vicars, Office Financial Staff and/or Parish Admin Assistants August 20 or August 21. Please register for one of the trainings on the following link: <https://bit.ly/2025-daa-dev>.



The Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025 will kick off with the priests, deacons, and staff campaign from September 1-21.

Parishes will receive resources and links in late August to introduce the Appeal. We will mail DAA materials to all households on record in early September, and the October issue of CrossRoads will highlight the ministries and programs that the Appeal makes possible. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support!

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2024 – The 2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal was our best one ever! Thank you to every parish for all of your help. Thanks to your efforts, more than 1,500 additional parishioners participated this year and a total of \$1.65 million was raised. A total of \$235,789.332 in parish Sharebacks rebates will be paid out soon.

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 fundraise. 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!

National Collections – The Diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on July 19-20, 2025. Here is a bulletin announcement that can be used to promote the collection:

English:

Week Before the Collection

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that struggle to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week.

Week of the Collection

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule and now the war in Ukraine. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Thank you for your generosity to the collection today.

Week After the Collection

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe last week! As a parish, we collected **[\$amount]** to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries.

Spanish

Semana antes de la colecta

La próxima semana realizaremos la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Esta colecta ayuda a la Iglesia en más de 25 países que luchan para recuperarse del antiguo régimen comunista. Así mismo, ayuda a las comunidades en toda la región que han sido afectadas por la guerra en Ucrania. Estos fondos financian el cuidado pastoral, la catequesis, las renovaciones y la formación de seminaristas. El apoyo de ustedes restaura la Iglesia y construye el futuro en esa región. Por favor, en oración, consideren cómo pueden dar su apoyo a la colecta la próxima semana.

Semana de la colecta

Esta semana nuestra colecta especial apoya a la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental. Sus donativos ayudan a restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en más de 25 países que aún siguen luchando para recuperarse del antiguo régimen comunista y ahora de la guerra en Ucrania. Los fondos de esta colecta ayudan en la reconstrucción, educación, formación y programas sociales dirigidos a los pobres. Muchas gracias por su generosidad en la colecta de hoy.

Semana después de la colecta

¡Muchas gracias por sus generosas contribuciones la semana pasada a la Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental! Como parroquia, hemos recaudado **[\$cantidad]** para restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en más de 25 países.

Catholic Charities

Disaster Assistance – After the May tornadoes, we now have 25 counties within our Diocese with approved FEMA declarations. DR-4860-KY covers the severe storms, straight-line winds, landslides and mudslides that occurred from February 14-March 7. Our counties covered under this declaration are Breathitt, Clay, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Woodford. The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance under DR-4860-KY closed on May 25. DR-4864-KY covers the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred on April 2. Our counties covered under this declaration are Anderson, Clark, Franklin, Jessamine, Mercer, and Woodford. The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance under DR-4864-KY was June 25. DR-4875-KY covers the tornados that hit May 16-17. Our counties covered under this declaration are Laurel and Pulaski. ***The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance under DR-4875-KY is July 23.*** As of June 25, FEMA has approved more than \$49 million in housing and other types of assistance to more than 7,200 Kentucky households for DR-4860, and more than \$24 million in housing and other types of assistance to more than 3,220 Kentucky households for DR-4864, and more than 1.9 million in housing and other types of assistance to 397 Kentucky households for DR-4875-KY.

More applications are being processed daily, but FEMA assistance is often not enough to cover the cost of repairs, rebuilding, and/or refurnishing.

We are 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., Big Creek Missions, and others to provide temporary shelter, essential supplies, rebuilding assistance, and financial aid for displaced families. We are committed to supporting disaster survivors on their long road to recovery.