News Notes

April 2026

Office of the Vicar General

The Episcopal View – Enjoy this podcast of a recent interview with Bishop John:

https://www.tomorrowsamericancatholic.org/p/the-faith-that-does-justice-with

Pastoral Life

Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry

Theology on Tap: "How Does the Bible Define Love?" on May 7 – Theology on Tap is a place where young adults can come together, share a drink, and talk about things that matter. Join us on May 7, from 7-9pm, at Mirror Twin Brewing Annex (732 National Ave. Lexington KY 40502) as Dr. Scott Moringiello leads our discussion. Admission is free and comes with one drink ticket.

Family Life

Sexual Integrity for Individuals and Families: A Series of Conversations for Adults on Love, Lust, and Pornography continues at the Catholic Center on Tuesday nights this Spring. The sessions explore the call to chastity, obstacles to the call, and opportunities for grace. This series is co-sponsored by Catholic in Recovery and the Diocesan Family Life Office, and features facilitators from across the Diocese. Please see the attached flyers for dates and topics.

Vocations Office

The Vocations Office is excited to announce a new initiative to promote vocations across the Diocese of Lexington. Beginning on Easter Sunday, we began sharing short-form videos focused on vocations.

These videos will answer questions young people have about faith, priesthood, religious life, and marriage, while also presenting priests and religious in a more relatable way. We also hope to highlight the vocation to married life.

Given the significant rise in short-form video use among young people, we believe it is essential for our diocese to have a presence in this space – offering a faithful voice that invites discernment.

Follow and share our content:

TikTok: @cdlexvocations
YouTube: @cdlex_vocations
Instagram: @cdlexvocations
Facebook: facebook.com/ichoseyou

Our Facebook and Instagram accounts will begin to include short-form video, and our new TikTok and YouTube channels will launch on April 6 with a welcome video from Bishop John, with more content in English and Spanish to follow.

Please help promote these platforms in your parish bulletins, social media, and other communications.

Expanded Parish Availability Coming July 1 – Beginning July 1, 2026, Vocations Director Fr. G. Marc Bentley will serve full-time in his role for the Diocese of Lexington. This transition will allow him to be more present to parishes across the diocese — not only during the week, but also on Sundays.

With this increased availability, Father Marc will offer several opportunities for parishes:

- Mass Coverage – If a parish is in need of a priest to celebrate Mass, Father Marc is available to assist. In these cases, the parish will be asked to reimburse mileage.
- Vocations Preaching Weekends – If a pastor would like to offer himself, his priests, or his deacons a weekend free from preaching, Father Marc is happy to preach at all Masses on vocations. For these visits, the Vocations Office will cover mileage.
- Religious Education Visits – When present in a parish, Father Marc will also be available to visit CCD or religious education classes to speak with young people about discerning God's call.
- Parish Vocations Events – Parishes are encouraged to consider hosting a vocations-focused gathering for young people – either between Masses or following Mass – when Father Marc is present.

This expanded presence will be an opportunity for our parishes to foster a culture of vocation and to invite young people to listen more closely for the Lord's call in their lives.

To schedule a visit or inquire about availability, please contact Fr. Marc at mbentley@cdlex.org.

Sunday, April 26th, 2026 is World Day of Prayer for Vocations – The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to *"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest"* (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that

concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity, secular institutes), and to the missionary life

Prayers of the Faithful:

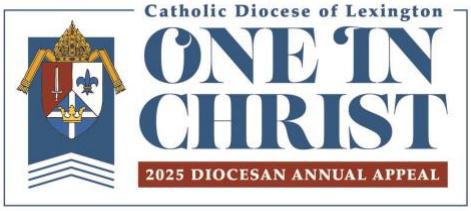
For young men and women: That God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life; And for the gift of courage to follow His call. We pray to the Lord…
For young people: That they may know the personal love of the Lord for them, and respond with open and generous hearts. We pray to the Lord…

Bulletin Quote:

World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 26, 2026, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website.

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025/26



Congratulations to parishes that have reached their pledged goals. For parishes that reached and then exceeded their PAID goal, the Appeal shares 50% of all funds above the paid goal. Parishes that reached their PARTICIPATION goal of 75% will receive $500 or $750 based on the size of the parish. For only this year, if a parishioner did not give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal in the past year but gave this year, the parish will receive 50% back of the donated amount. These share backs will be distributed after the closing of the fiscal year.

Second Collections for the Holy Land – The Collections for the Holy Land will be taken up on April 4-5. Collect funds for support of the Holy Places, and for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities.

Second Collection for Home Missions – The Annual Collection for Home Missions will be taken up April 25-26. The USCCB has extensive resources, including clip art and bulletin announcements, available at https://www.usccb.org/home-missions.

It is important to promote this collection because each year the Catholic Diocese of Lexington is a recipient of grant funds from this collection for its work in eastern Kentucky. Below is the Home Missions bulletin announcement that parishes can use to publicize this collection:

The week before the appeal, Next week our parish will take up The Home Missions Collection. What Is a Home Mission Diocese? Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions. Next week, please give generously to The Home Missions Collection.

The week of the appeal**,** Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of the diocese in the United States and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous.