News Notes

February 2026

Office of the Chancellor

Annual Administrative/Recordkeeping Checklist – There are certain annual reports and updates that we are required to complete. A checklist of the reports and updates required for the Office of the Chancellor is attached to this email for your reference and use.

Office of the Vicar General

The Episcopal View – Given that February is Black History Month, you can find a February 2023 talk by Bishop John at Bellarmine University entitled
"*Fratelli Tutti*, Brothers and Sisters All: Pope Francis and Thomas Merton on Universal Fraternity" at https://merton.org/Research/AV/TMBHM/Stowe.mp3

Peace and Justice Office

Catholics at the Capitol – Please join the Catholic Diocese of Lexington and the Catholic Conference of Kentucky in Frankfort to advocate for our communities on February 19th from 10:30am-2pm. This is a significant way to put our Catholic faith into action. Registration is required.

This year's advocacy will center around urgent budget issues, Medicaid, criminal justice reform, education, and other topics. There will be a pre-event virtual training and legislation discussion on February 10th at 6pm. Register below.

Catholics at the Capitol details:

When: Thursday, February 19th from 10:30am- 2pm
Where: Capitol Annex Building, Frankfort KY

Registration Required: Register by February 12th
Registration Link: https://forms.gle/1qDY8kvjZiqWdgebA

Pre-event Virtual Training and Legislation Discussion: **February 10th at 6pm.**
Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89503365369?pwd=KUDgTTgzKWPaqHSYCU0bbSfPIP7wM4.1
Meeting ID: 895 0336 5369
Passcode: 759517

Vocations Office

World Marriage Day – February 8 (Second Sunday of February) Marriage is a vocation that likewise needs to be promoted, supported, and prayerfully discerned within the life of the Church. It may be fitting to include an intention for married couples and those discerning marriage at Masses that weekend.

A sample petition parishes may use or adapt:
For married couples, that God may strengthen them in fidelity, patience, and self-giving love; and for those discerning the vocation of marriage, that they may be guided with wisdom and generosity, we pray to the Lord.

Come and See – Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary (February 12–15) – There will be a Come and See visit to Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary from February 12 through 15. This is open to high school seniors or older men who do not yet have a college degree and would therefore attend college seminary prior to major seminary. There is no commitment required to become a seminarian in order to attend this Come and See. For more information or to register, interested men may email Fr. Marc Bentley at mbentley@cdlex.org.

Save the Date: Altar Server Recognition Mass (May 17) – The Serra Club of Lexington will host an Altar Server Recognition Mass and reception on Sunday, May 17, at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Christ the King. This is open to altar servers of any age and of any gender. More information will be forthcoming.

Thanks, as always, for your help in sharing these opportunities across the diocese.

Pastoral Life

Family Life

Sexual Integrity for Individuals and Families: A Series of Conversations for Adults on Love, Lust, and Pornography will take place at the Catholic Center on Tuesday nights this Spring. The sessions will 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 flyer for dates and topics.

Calvary Cemetery

February 8, Feast Day of St. Jerome Emiliani – Patron Saint of Orphans…pray for us! Prayer: "*Oh God, Father of Mercy, that made Saint Jerome Emiliani a father and protector to the orphans, by his intercession, help us faithfully keep the spirit of adoption, through which we are called your children and indeed we are. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen."* www.catholicmom.com/articles/2016/10/31/saint-jerome-emiliani-patron-orphans

February 14 Feast Day of St. Valentine – Patron Saint of Love & Greetings…pray for us!

February 20 and 27, Lenten Spiritual Work of Mercy – Pray ***The Way of the Cross*** for the Holy Souls in Purgatory on Friday at 3pm the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum. Dress weather-aware. All are welcome! The Stations of the Cross are displayed in the cupola of the VDM. Prayer booklets provided. Light a candle for your loved ones. As we prepare for Easter, please come celebrate the lives and love of our families. Individuals and groups are encouraged and invited to come and pray for the faithful departed, as we are all members of the Communion of Saints, and can benefit from this meditation.

Easter/Spring Flowers – Order now through March 20. Lily, Azalea, Daffodils, Hyacinth, Tulips… Place your order now by contacting the Cemetery office. Calvary will set the foil-covered potted flowers at your loved one's grave on or about Monday, March 30.

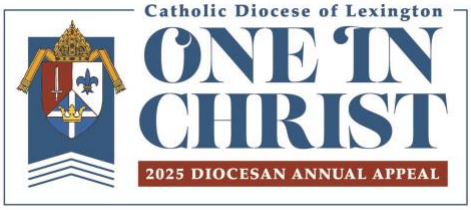
Spring Cleanup – Calvary allows the placement of live flowers any time. As posted, artificial decorations may only be placed November 1 to March 1. To keep the Cemetery's appearance uniform and in keeping with the existing policy, the Cemetery will begin the process of removing all remaining artificial decorations on March 2. While families are encouraged to not place costly or sentimental items, if you desire to keep your items, please come and remove them prior to March 1. This is a difficult rule to enforce, but the purpose of this long-standing Cemetery regulation is to allow our families to express their grief, of course, but to avoid the feeling of untidiness that others experience from that same outward expression, especially during the growing season. Thank you.

Summer Flowers – Spring begins March 20 this year, so now is the perfect time to sign-up for the Begonia floral service. Place your order now by contacting the Cemetery office. Begonias will be planted in May.

Calvary Cemetery 874 West Main Street (859) 252-5415 ccemetery@cdlex.org+

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025/26



Thank you for your continued commitment to the Diocesan Annual Appeal (DAA). We are in the final stretch and have 2 months left in the current DAA season which ends on March 31, 2026.

At present, 29 parishes have exceeded their 65% participation goal, and 19 parishes have already surpassed the 75% participation level and earn an incentive. ***Well Done…Lives will be changed because of your efforts!***

If you have not reached your parish goal yet, keep the communication ALIVE! Bulletin notices, Flocknotes, pulpit announcements, and parish emails make a HUGE difference. Bishop John's final DAA letter arrives in homes on February 13, so NOW is the perfect time to remind your parishioners that if they have not participated why they should. ***Remember, on average 54 percent of the people in your pews do not know what the DAA is or that it exists, and even fewer know why they should support it. This is 1 in 2 people. Your taking 90 seconds at the start of Mass or during your homily will make all the difference!***

There are three Shareback Rebates available to your parish this year. These are seasonal awards put in place to achieve certain campaign objectives and to incentivize/recognize your efforts. **Currently they are:**

- 5% of established goal when parish meets its Participation Goal.
- When Parish exceeds its financial goal it goes into a 50-50 $$ split with the diocese for all funds raised over the $$ goal.
- New Participant Rebate. Any parish that secures a DAA donation from a parishioner that did not give the previous year, the parish will automatically receive 50% of that donation back.
- If your parish reaches 75% participation the parish will receive either $500 or $750 depending on its size.

Shareback/Rebates are important! They incentivize, they recognize and express gratitude, and they provide parishes with much-needed unrestricted operating funds to use as they see fit. These rebates are another way the DAA is growing the faith here in Eastern and Central Kentucky. Last year our campaign distributed more parish Shareback Rebates to parishes than ever before!

Tax Letters

The Development Office sent out the end-of-year contribution statement to all those who made a tax-deductible gift to the Diocese in 2025. To save paper and postage costs, this year we sent letters by email to those households that have an email address on file (and mailed the rest). Please remind your parishioners to check their email for these letters. If a donor has not received a statement, they can call Emma Jones at 859-253-1993, x1050 to request the statement.

Second Collections

The calendar for 2027 is now available on the CDLex website.

Rice Bowl Lenten Program is from Feb 18 through April 5. 75% goes to Catholic Relief Services and 25% stays at 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 February 21-22. Below is an announcement that parishes can run in advance in their bulletins 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 February 21-22. This collection helps support a wide variety of evangelization and educational efforts throughout the United States, including our own diocese. The 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.

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 most deaneries, will meet in person in March to evaluate the applications.

Catholic Charities

Spring Cleaning – We are planning some Spring Cleaning and need helpers! March 21 will be a workday for our Community Agriculture garden at the Catholic Center on Main Street. We are looking for volunteers to clear out a small area of well-established ivy in order to build a greenhouse. Please bring any tools appropriate for this work, and let us know in advance if you can come so we can plan the day and communicate any changes.

Miscellaneous Notes

Revival 2026 – ***St. Peter Claver Church*** will present *Revival 2026 – From Brokenness to Belovedness*, over three evenings, February 22-24. The guest Revivalist is Fr. Roy Lee, Ph.D., from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Fr. Lee will address topics such as spirituality, social justice, and evangelization, with an emphasis on our call to continue the Mission of Jesus Christ. Attached is a flyer to help promote the event.

Free Lenten Keynote Concert for Parishes – Singer, songwriter, and speaker, Deacon Reid Myers, is offering a **free Lenten Keynote Concert** to parishes in our Diocese. *"Breaking the Chains That Bind Us – How I Learned to Live Life Happy, Joyous, and Free,"* is a faith-centered concert weaving music, personal testimony, and hope-filled reflection to encourage healing, renewal, and deeper trust in God's grace. Parishes are invited to host this inspiring evening during Lent with a goodwill offering to support the ministry.

Learn more at **www.reidmyers.com** or call **859-492-2452** for more details and to arrange a date.

Lenten Reflection Series – Ignatian Encounter Ministry offers free weekly, one-hour reflections during Lent. For more information, and to publicize the series, please see the attached flyers in both English and Spanish.