CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

News Notes

July 2026

Office of the Bishop

August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, occurs on a Saturday. In accord with the complementary norm to Canon 1246 (2) confirmed for the dioceses of the United States of America, because it is Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated this year. Evening Prayer I and the 'Vigil Mass' of the Assumption are celebrated on Friday evening. The 'Mass During the Day' may be celebrated at any time on Saturday; however, Saturday evening Masses that regularly anticipate Sunday should be for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, which is a day of precept (cf. 'The Liturgical Celebration of Consecutive Feast Days' May-June 2016 *Newsletter, Notitiae* 20 [1984], 603-605). Evening Prayer II on Saturday evening is of the Assumption (I,3), as it is higher in rank in the Table of Liturgical Days than the Sunday in Ordinary Time (II,6) (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, no. 61).

Funeral Masses are allowed on Saturday because of the abrogation of the obligation (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 380), but other Masses for the Dead and ritual Masses are not permitted. Weddings celebrated with Mass must use the prayers for the Assumption, and the selection of readings should follow the guidance given in the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, no. 34.

Office of the Chancellor

We bid goodbye to Eddie Bauer as the Director of Communications on July 3rd and thank him for his time of service. During the interim period until a new Director is in place, please contact the following people with communications needs:

Incoming or outgoing emails to staff or diocese: Deacon John Brannen jbrannen@cdlex.org

Crossroads or News Notes: Kirsten Thorstad kthorstad@cdlex.org

Website, Social media and any other Communications needs: Ward Klein
(cc: kthorstad@cdlex.org) wklein@cdlex.org

Thank you for your patience,
Kirsten R. Thorstad

Pastoral Life

Family Life and Evangelization

Save the Dates for these Diocesan Masses this Fall

- *Red Mass for Legal and Political Community*: Tuesday, October 6th, 9am at St. Peter/Lexington
- *Wedding Anniversary Mass*: Saturday, November 7, 5pm at the Cathedral of Christ the King
- *White Mass/Brunch for Healthcare Professionals*: Saturday, October 24, 9am at Pax Christi

July 19-25, 2026 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.

Grace Marriage Promotional Event: "Pour Into Your Marriage" August 23rd
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.

Several parishes in the diocese have been offering "Grace Marriage" for several years, a peer ministry devoted to marriage enrichment and community-building.
"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.

To promote Grace Marriage for those who would like a "sneak preview" of the Grace Marriage experience, we are having an event on Sunday evening, August 23rd, at Pax Christi, with wine-tasting (featuring wines from 1922 House Winery—a winery owned by a local Catholic couple), hors d'oeuvres, and fun marriage-building activities.

"Pour Into Your Marriage" is open to married couples throughout the diocese.

Whether you've been married one year or fifty, this night is designed to help you reconnect, reflect, and pour into what matters most.

Cost is $20/couple, and registration and payment can be made at this link. Signup deadline is August 16th.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Lexington – Make your good marriage GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekend in Lexington is July 24-26, and the registration is now waitlisted. 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 21-23 and the next Cincinnati area weekend is September 11-13. For information or to register, go to www.helpourmarriage.com Registrations accepted on a space available basis; confidentiality assured.

Vocations Office

Padres & Pizza at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary School – This past 2025-2026 school year, in coordination with our Diocesan Vocation's Office, we implemented a monthly Padres and Pizza group for the middle school students at Mary Queen. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our young men to learn more about the vocation of priesthood and build deeper, faith-filled friendships with one another. The convenience of being held right after school allows a wonderful turnout of 20-25 men attending regularly! Each meeting consists of a fun fraternal activity like football, soccer, and basketball followed by pizza and hearing the vocation story of a local priest or deacon. There is also time for questions. Our young people have grown in their awareness of vocations and understanding that God calls us each to serve and love in different ways. This group helps to normalize the idea of priesthood and gives our youth helpful tools for discernment in their own faith journey. In the future, I would love to expand and begin a similar group for young women.

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2026
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 27.



The Diocesan Annual Appeal 2026 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 2025
The 2025 Diocesan Annual Appeal was our best one ever! Thank you to every parish for all of your help. A total of $1.87 million was raise and a total of $271,321.41 in parish Sharebacks rebates will be paid out soon.

iGiveCatholic 2026
Mark your calendars! The Diocese of Lexington is once again participating in iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2026. 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 August. Your organization must register no later than Oct 31, 2026 to participate. We will hold trainings sometime in August, so be on the lookout for those dates!

National Collections
Our Diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on July 18-19, 2026. 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

The People of Hope Museum, a free traveling national storytelling experience, is coming to Lexington. Mark your calendars and join us for this one-of-a-kind community event filled with inspiring stories of hope, resilience, and faith.

Please share the attached ***(updated)*** flyers every weekend in July, and through your social media. This is a national event coming to Lexington and has international recognition from Pope Leo XIV. It is a free, inspiring event and all are welcome.

Connect with Catholic Charities Lexington on social media! Follow, like, and share to discover inspiring stories, community events, and faith-filled reflections that bring hope to our community each day.

Miscellaneous

A prayer rally in support of immigrant families, friends, and neighbors will take place on Thursday, July 23, 6:30pm at the Courthouse Plaza in Lexington. Join us in public witness, prayer, and song. All are welcome. Prayer walks from St. Peter and St. Paul Churches will begin at 6pm. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at St. Peter's. For more information, please see (and distribute) the attached flyer.