



As many of you know by now, on March 31 our Holy Father Pope Francis appointed me Archbishop of Omaha. I am humbled by this appointment and pledge to do my best in fulfilling the responsibilities of the new assignment.

Today I want to express my thanks to the clergy and faithful of the Belleville Diocese for your support and the ways you have shared your faith with me during the past five years. The spring of 2020 was a challenging time to begin as your bishop given the pandemic and the restrictions we followed in order to avoid spreading the Covid virus. Despite the pandemic, the ordination liturgy on July 22, 2020, was joyful and I was grateful for the presence of so many bishops, priests, deacons and lay faithful.

During these years I have been blessed by the spirit of hope among our people. I have appreciated the widespread support for the promotion of vocations; the St. Andrew dinners have been a particular joy. The generous commitment and support for our Catholic schools and PSR programs has been a bright light in our parishes. I have always enjoyed visiting our Catholic schools, PSR and OCIA programs. It is so important that we share our Catholic faith with new people.

I have been proud to see the growth of the St Anne Cradle of Hope in Carbondale. It is edifying to see the number of volunteers and generous donors who support this outreach to assist pregnant women and mothers. I am grateful to all who are actively praying and working to promote a culture of life in southern Illinois.

The Eucharistic Revival in June of 2024 was one of the biggest undertakings during my years with you. The events at St. Augustine in East St. Louis, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows and the Cathedral of St. Peter during our Emmaus Days have a special place in my heart and my memory.

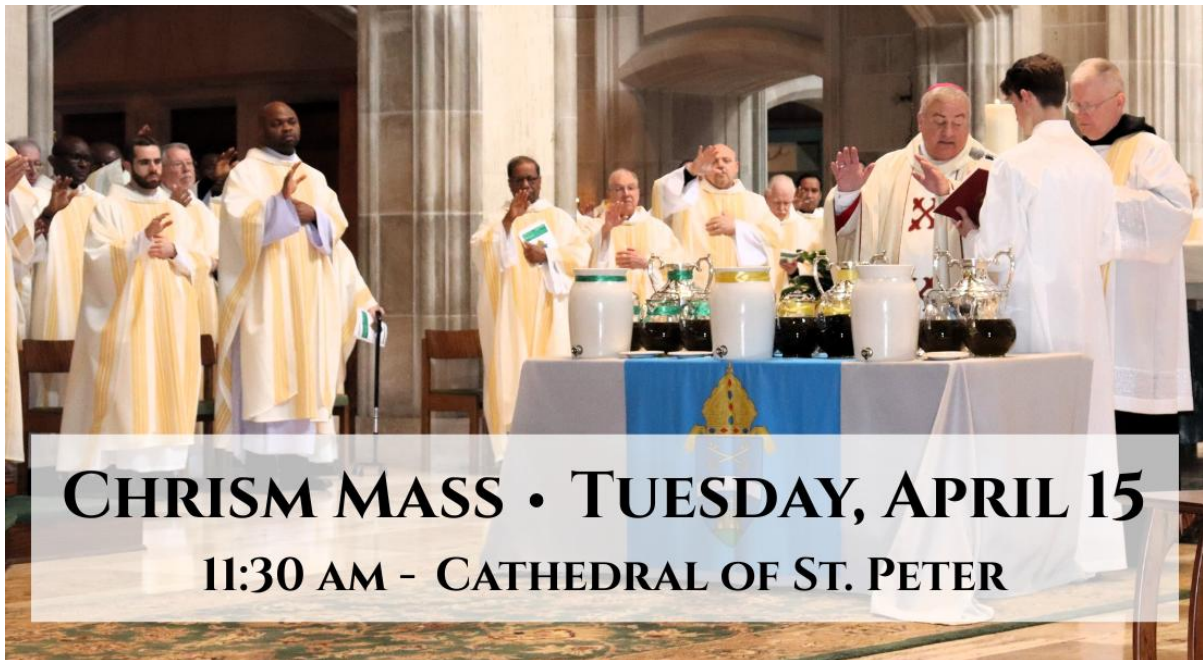
The presence of 1,500 people at the shrine, despite the oppressive summer heat, in order to worship our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament spoke volumes about the deep faith of our people.

I hope that our work in developing a diocesan vision in Servants on Christ's Mission will help chart a course for the future of the Church in our twenty-eight counties. My prayers to God are filled with gratitude for all of you and I trust that our Holy Father will send a new Bishop to you who will continue to walk together with you on this beautiful journey of faith.

I have enjoyed writing this column for the past five years. I hope it has been a help to you, our readers, in some way. I hope to write one more column before concluding in the Belleville Diocese and moving to Omaha. In the meantime, let us remember one another in prayer.

In Christ,
Bishop Michael McGovern






CHRISM MASS • TUESDAY, APRIL 15

11:30 AM - CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER

At the Chrism Mass, the bishop will bless three oils -
the oil of catechumens, the oil of the infirm, and holy chrism -
which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout
the diocese for the year.



**CHECK YOUR LOCAL PARISH
FOR MASS TIMES**

APRIL 17

**HOLY
THURSDAY**

APRIL 18

**GOOD
FRIDAY**

APRIL 19

**HOLY
SATURDAY**

APRIL 20

**EASTER
SUNDAY**



**SPRING FARM BLESSING -
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025, 1:00 P.M.
RUPPERT FAMILY FARM
597 TULIP ROAD, COULTERVILLE, IL 62237**

Click [HERE](#) for directions to the farm.





Metro-East Vicariate Synodal Listening Session for Diocesan Pastoral Plan Servants on Christ's Mission

The aim of Servants on Christ's Mission is to revitalize our relationship in Christ and to deepen our commitment to serve Christ's mission to proclaim the Good News.

Everyone in the **Metro-East Vicariate** is invited to an evening of prayer and discussion with fellow Catholics, friends, and neighbors about our future call as a Diocese. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, hopes, and dreams about our church.

THURSDAY, MAY 1
6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Cathedral of St. Peter - Undercroft
Belleville, IL

The meeting will focus on:

1. What excites/motivates you about the Diocese of Belleville?
2. What are your hopes/dreams for the Diocese of Belleville?
3. What changes are needed in the Diocese for the mission to grow?

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Pat McDevitt, Director for Mission and Planning at pmcdevitt@diobelle.org



Diocese of Belleville

**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

**WEDNESDAY
MAY**

14



Speaker: Fr. Michael Caruso, SJ - Director of
Education/Superintendent of Schools

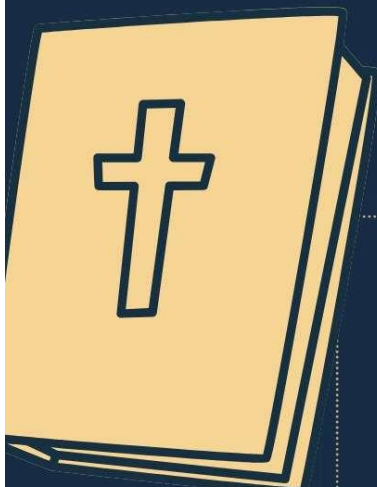
Topic - Pray Like a Pro:
Jesuit Spirituality for Everyone

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

Location: Bennie's Pizza Pub
113 East Main Street, Belleville, IL 62220

6:30-7:00PM SOCIAL

7:00-8:30PM EVENT



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

