



Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter!

I write this column on Holy Saturday just before celebrating the Easter Vigil. I am mindful of the clergy and faithful of southern Illinois and am grateful to God for all of you. I am especially grateful for all the men, women and children who are being initiated into the Catholic faith through the sacraments this Easter. God bless you all!

Friends, this will be my final column for The Messenger as I prepare to conclude my ministry as Bishop of Belleville and relocate to the Archdiocese of Omaha. I have enjoyed writing this column for the past five years and have been grateful for your positive feedback since 2020.

As I reflect on our life together in southern Illinois, I encourage everyone to continue promoting vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, diaconate and lay ministry. We have made positive strides in vocation promotion over the past five years; may the seeds planted over the months come to fruition in new responses to the Lord's call to serve in his name.

I also hope that everyone will do their part to invite our brothers and sisters who have are unchurched or lapsed in the practice of our faith to experience an invitation to a new beginning. Personal invitation is an important way for people to be drawn to our Catholic faith. Evangelization is not just the responsibility of priests, deacons and religious sisters. All baptized Catholics share in the mission Christ gave the Church to share the gospel. I hope that we may truly be missionary

disciples in the years ahead.

Permit me to clarify what will happen in the diocese of Belleville in the coming weeks. Once I am installed as Archbishop of Omaha on May 7, there will be an Administrator of the Belleville Diocese until our Holy Father appoints a new Bishop. This process may take months, so please continue to pray and be patient while the process unfolds. Pray for your new Bishop and for the whole diocese. Kindly continue to support the Belleville diocese with your prayers and through opportunities such as the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Because of all of you, our Catholic community will be a source of hope for years to come.

Finally, please know that I am grateful for the time we have shared together. I have learned a great deal from you about how to live as a disciple and a Bishop. Thank you for everything! May Christ continue you to lead you to a deeper life with him.

In the love of Christ,
Bishop Michael McGovern



What happens after Pope Francis' death?

Papal Funeral -

The Papal funeral and burial usually occur four to six days after the pope's death. On April 22, the Vatican announced that the public viewing of Pope Francis' body would be from April 23-25 at St. Peter's Basilica. His funeral is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 at 10:00 am local time (4 am ET) in St. Peter's Square.

The Burial -

Pope Francis will be buried in a simple wooden casket per his request. He chose to be buried at St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome, instead of St. Peter's Basilica where most popes are buried.

Sede Vacante -

With the pope's passing, the Vatican enters a period known as sede vacante, meaning "the seat is vacant". During this time, the College of Cardinals assume temporary leadership of the Church, and no major decisions or changes are made until a new pope is elected.

The Camerlengo -

The Camerlengo is responsible for monitoring and managing the Holy See, governing the sede vacante and the election of a new pope. His duties include:

- a. Ascertain the Pope's death.
- b. Seals the doors to the papal apartment.
- c. Make all the arrangements for the Pope's funeral and burial.
- d. Break the *Ring of the Fisherman*, annulling the seal of the pontificate.
- e. Oversee voting in the Sistine Chapel.
- f. Request reports, balance sheets and budgets.

The current Camerlengo is American Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

The Conclave -

The papal conclave is where cardinals gather to elect a new pope. The conclave must begin no sooner than 15 days and no later than 20 days after the vacancy. Eligible cardinals (those under 80 years old) gather in the Sistine Chapel to vote. The election follows these steps:

- a. The Sistine Chapel is sealed off, ensuring secrecy.
- b. Cardinals cast their votes in rounds, with a two-thirds majority required to elect a new pope.
- c. If no candidate is chosen, ballots are burned with chemicals to produce black smoke, signaling an inconclusive vote.
- d. When a new pope is elected, white smoke rises announcing the decision to the world.

The newly elected pope chooses a name and steps onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, where

the world hears the famous announcement: Habemus Papam!--"We have a pope!"

A black drape hangs above the doors at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville as a sign of mourning.



Click [HERE](#) for a list of parish events for Divine Mercy Sunday!



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



SPRING



DISCERNMENT EVENTS

**MAY
10**

Discernment 101

Daughters of St. Paul

Join the Sisters for a series of morning talks, prayer, & fellowship for single women ages 16-33 to help you grow in your relationship with God & learn tips for discerning your vocation.

Location: 9804 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO or on zoom

Contact stlouisvocations@paulinemedia.com

**MAY
10**

Carmelite Day

Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

A day of faith & fun for 6th-11th grade girls with the goal of sparking a desire for holiness within their hearts, introducing them to the Sisters, & encouraging them to pray for their vocation.

Location: 10341 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO

Contact vocations@carmelitedcj.org

**MAY
22-25**

Discernment Retreat

Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

A retreat for young women discerning religious life that will touch on the nature of discernment, the beauty of the call to consecrated religious life, the basic elements of Carmelite Spirituality, and the particular charism of the community.

Location: 10341 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO

Contact vocations@carmelitedcj.org

FOR MORE EVENTS VISIT:
diobelle.org/vocations





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

