



BELLEVILLE DIOCESE *flocknote*



A MESSAGE FROM FR. GODFREY MULLEN



This Saturday, the Diocese of Belleville joyfully celebrates the priestly ordination of Deacon Levi James, from St. Mary, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Mt. Carmel, Illinois. Deacon Levi's ordination to the priesthood gives us reason to give God thanks for the work He does through His priests. Not a single priest in the history of the Church, besides Jesus the High Priest, has ever been perfect. Each a human being, we all serve according to our ability. Let's be grateful for that ministry, whether easily understood, accepted, or embraced. And let's be grateful in particular for the gift of priesthood that God imparts on the Church through the new Father Levi.

The ordination also gives us opportunity to renew our efforts as Christian disciples to encourage and support young men in our diocese and in our families to serve the Church as priests. Most of the parishes in our diocese have felt keenly how the shrinking number of priests affects us. Long-

standing partnerships have been upended so that instead of being pastor of one or two parishes, a priest takes care of three parishes. Please join my daily prayers for more young men to hear that call and joyfully respond with generosity of heart.

On Monday, the Diocese celebrated the priestly jubilees of nineteen priests and Bishop Braxton. Thanks to all of these generous priests for their ministry in our diocese!



You are cordially invited to attend the

Ordination of

the Reverend Mr. Levi K. James

the son of David & Ann James

of

St. Mary Parish in Mt. Carmel

to the Order of the Sacred Priesthood

by

The Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso

Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis

Titular Bishop of Turuzi

through the imposition of hands and

the invocation of the Holy Spirit

on

Saturday, June 7, 2025

at

10:00 o'clock in the morning

in the

Cathedral of St. Peter

200 West Harrison Street

Belleville, Illinois

Reception following in the McCormick Center



Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for the month of June

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

Congratulations to the priests in our diocese who are celebrating an anniversary this year!

Rev. Paul Wightman, OMI, 70 years (1955-2025)

Rev. Michael Hussey, OMI, 65 years (1960-2025)

Rev. Joseph Hitpas, OMI, 60 years (1965-2025)

Rev. James Allen, OMI, 60 years (1965-2025)

Most Rev. Edward Braxton, 55 years (1970-2025)

Rev. Pat Peter, 50 years (1975-2025)

Rev. Msgr. Dennis Schaefer, 50 years (1975-2025)

Rev. Edward Schaefer, 50 years (1975-2025)

Rev. Christopher Anyanwu, 30 years (1995-2025)

Rev. Gregory Ogbenika, 30 years (1995-2025)

Rev. David Wilke, 30 years (1995-2025)

Rev. Harold Fisher, OMI, 25 years (2000-2025)

Rev. Felix Chukwuma, 20 years (2005-2025)
Rev. Matthew Elie, 20 years (2005-2025)
Very Rev. Robert Zwilling, 20 years (2005-2025)
Rev. Abraham Adejoh, 15 years (2010-2025)
Rev. Joseph Oganda, 15 years (2010-2025)
Rev. Eric Wagner, CM, 15 years (2010-2025)

Prayer for our Jubilarians

Almighty and ever-living God, look with mercy on your priests, and unite them with your Son, the Lord Jesus, who is the eternal High Priest. Your Son has made them priests and victims with Himself: day by day, may they offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice with their own offering of heart, mind and body. By the Holy Spirit, make them shepherds after the heart of Jesus; keep them devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and united in obedience to the Pope and their Bishop; and through them inspire young men to serve you in the priestly vocation.

To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever and ever.

AMEN



[Please click here for the list of Clergy Appointments.](#)

SERVANTS ON CHRIST'S MISSION UPDATES

We appreciate everyone who has participated in *Servants on Christ's Mission* Synodal Listening Sessions. Since March, we have conducted 12 Listening Sessions and over 385 people throughout the Diocese have attended.

I ask that you talk about *Servants on Christ's Mission* in your parishes and communities. If you

need materials on *Servants on Christ's Mission*, please contact Sharon Buckley in the Mission and Planning Office sbuckley@diobelle.org.

If you would like the Mission and Planning Office to meet with you and your community for conducting a Listening Session, giving a talk, or providing consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our next Synodal Listening Session will be **Monday, June 23, St. Mary Parish, 2000 West Poplar, Harrisburg, IL 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Sunday, we celebrate the birth of the Church! Pentecost marks the day the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, empowering them to go out and spread the Gospel.



Cleaning House?

St. Vincent de Paul

***Needs Your Household Items
and Home Decor for a
Sale Benefiting Our Ministries.***

DROP OFF TIMES ARE:

Thursday, June 19 • 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 20 • 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

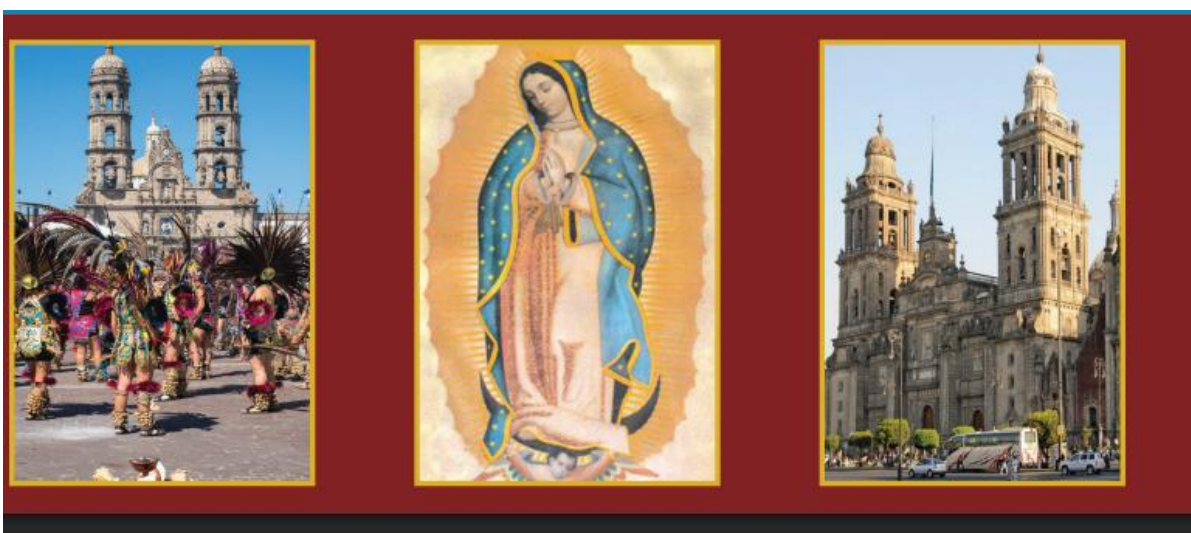
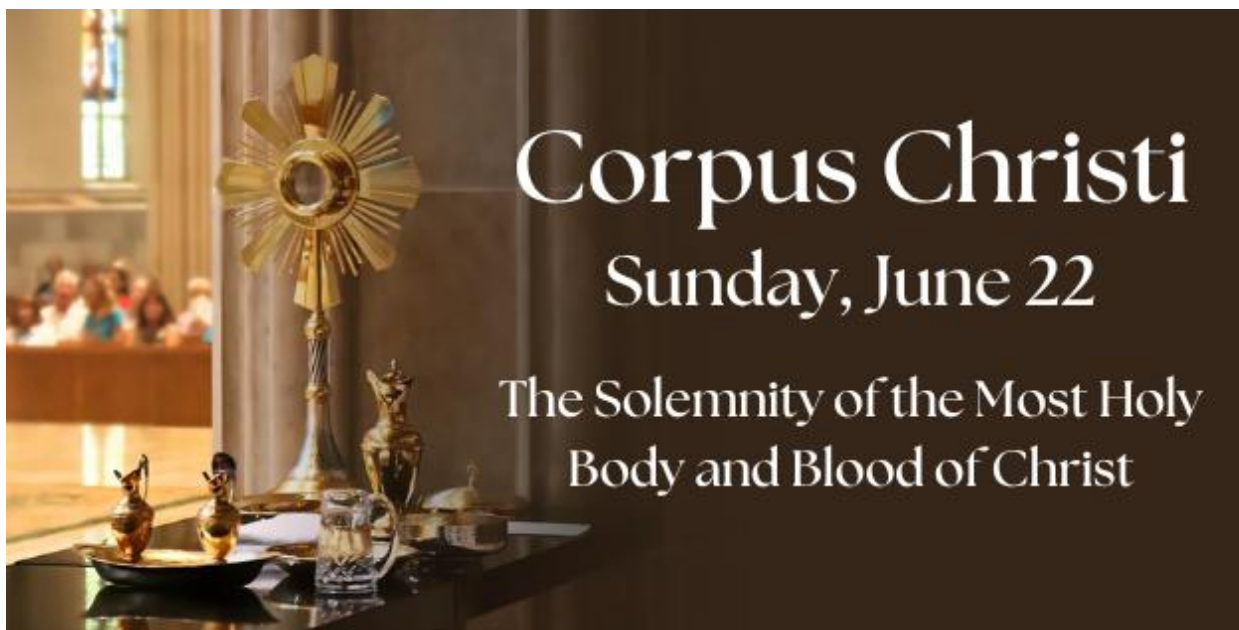
Items not accepted include:

mattresses, bed frames, large appliances,
entertainment centers, couches, recliners,
computers, TVs, large sporting items, car seats,
text books. NO CLOTHES.

DROP OFF AT CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH CENTER

205 Rasp Street • Shiloh, Illinois

**Questions, please call the office
at 618-806-3898**



Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage

January 15-20, 2026

Cost: \$2994

Hosted by Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Belleville

Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

Join us for a 6 day pilgrimage to Mexico to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and to witness the work that Catholic Relief Services does on our behalf. Pilgrimage leaders will be Fr. Bob Flannery, a retired priest in the Diocese of Belleville; Cheryl Sommer, Diocesan Animator for Catholic Relief Services; and Sue Huett Asbeck, retired Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Belleville. Register at gocatholictravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Sommer-2026-Mexico-Brochure.pdf or

email crsdiobelle@gmail.com.

Upcoming events

A decorative border consisting of a row of four strawberry pairs. Each pair includes a large red strawberry with a green leaf and a smaller strawberry, with a small flower (red, yellow, blue, and green respectively) placed between them.

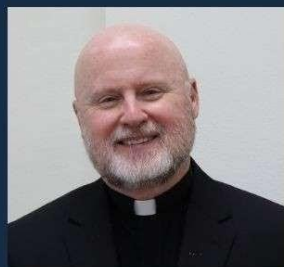


Diocese of Belleville
**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE**

11



With Rev. Patrick McDevitt, C.M., Ph.D,
Director of Mission & Planning

Topic: Servants on Christ's Mission:
A Discussion on the Future of the
Diocese of Belleville

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

Location: Eckert's Cider Shed

951 S Green Mt Rd, Belleville, IL 62220

6:30-7:00PM SOCIAL

7:00-8:30PM EVENT



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults



South 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 **South 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.

Monday, June 23
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

St. Mary Parish
2000 W. Poplar
Harrisburg, IL 62946

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

