



 **BELLEVILLE DIOCESE** *flocknote* 



Here. We. Go.

As this Flocknote gets sent, we are just eight days from my ordination as Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville. These past several weeks have been incredibly hectic, but with all the efforts of preparing for the events of the two days next week, there have been so many moments of grace. Several bishops have written to me to remind me that there is blessing in the midst of hectic days.

Maybe that's worth our reflection as we gear up in families for all that happens in May and June — graduations, summer break, weddings, vacation, and all the rest. There will be celebrations of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, priests receiving new assignments, and all sorts of other activities in our parishes. And in the midst of it all, there can be grace and peace.

So often during the season of Easter, we hear those sweet words of Jesus: Peace be with you. We're well-rehearsed at speaking those words at Mass. Those words mean more than "have a good day" or "here's to you!" They are more than a positive wish. They share the presence of the living Christ. They are the roadmap for our good life as human beings living in community. They undermine some of our cultural accommodations: selfishness, narcissism, egoism, and disrespect. Genuine peace results when relationships are set aright, when forgiveness is readily offered (as it is in the Sacrament of Penance), when choosing the common good instead of our own will. In it all, there is grace and peace.

As I become your bishop next Friday, I pray that God will give me the grace and the peace I need to be a holy, effective, compassionate shepherd. And I'll ask for your prayers for that goal as well. In all that we do, let us seek peace, let us acknowledge the grace that is Christ's presence in our lives. He is

here. He is alive. Alleluia!

Those without tickets are encouraged to join in prayer and celebration through the live stream. Whether near or far, the faithful can take part in this sacred moment as our diocesan family gathers to welcome our new shepherd and entrust his ministry to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Youtube: <https://youtube.com/live/6Wgs69gU8O4>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HdQNpinUB/>



A Disciple's Response

We are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship — formation. Formation is the process of studying Christ's teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a lifelong effort by which we "put on Christ" (Rom 13:14) and are "transformed by the renewal of our minds" (Rom 12:2).

Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to "discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God's will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like Him — as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

Formation is not just an individual task. It is a communal responsibility. Each one of us has an inherent need to give — to move from "selfishness to selflessness. Formation is a process of spiritual growth, and it leads to a deeper understanding of loving others as God loves us.

Naturally, then, our Catholic formation should not end upon celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation or turning 18 years old. Formation is a formidable task that we as Catholics should participate in for the duration of our lives. It involves education of the mind and conversion of

the heart and helps us to lead the stewardship way of life rather than just understand it.

Make formation a part of your penitential renewal to Christ. Start by reading 10 minutes of Sacred Scripture a day, or by studying a chapter of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on a daily basis. Read a biography of your favorite saint for an example of an individual who lived as a disciple of Christ and use this person as a role model when tending to your daily tasks. Keep an eye on your parish bulletin for faith formation opportunities at the parish level. Before long, your commitment to formation will lead you to naturally live the Catholic faith and understand stewardship in ways that you never imagined before.



Faith Formation



CATHOLIC YOUTH READ SACRED TEXTS

We invite Catholic youth across the world to join us again in reading their own faith's sacred texts. Together, we can recognize our **Duty to God**, participating as a group or on your own.

Read your sacred texts on **May 7th, 2026**, or any time that week. Join other youth organizations and all faith youth groups in a celebration of sacred texts.

REGISTER NOW

INFO & TO REGISTER

YouthReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org



MORE INFORMATION

YouthReadSacredTexts@gmail.com



**Exciting
summer
program!**



TOTUS TUUS

at 5 locations in the Belleville Diocese

Find a week-long Totus Tuus near you!



**OPEN TO
GRADES
1-12**

Totally Catholic and Plenty of Fun!

June 7-12 | St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

June 14-19 | St. Augustine/St. Mary, Belleville

June 21-26 | St. Clare, O'Fallon

July 5-10 | Ss. Peter & Paul, Waterloo

July 12-17 | St. Stephen/Holy Rosary, Caseyville



**GRADES 1-6 DURING DAY M-F
GRADES 7-12 EVENINGS SUN-THUR**

Totus Tuus Registration Information:

Week 1: 6/7 – 6/12 – St. Mary (Mt Vernon)

Registration: <https://stmarymtvernon.org/totus-tuus>

Coordinator: Kendra Clark kendra@stmarymtvernon.org

Week 2: 6/14 – 6/19 – St. Augustine (Belleville)

Registration: <https://forms.gle/HLDKou4uhLjvTBd7>

Coordinator: Sr. Tess Markus tmarkus@ssndcp.org

Week 3: 6/21 – 6/26 – St. Clare of Assisi (O'Fallon)

Registration: <https://www.stclarechurch.org/totus-tuus>

Coordinator: Jane Dotson janedotson@stclarechurch.org

June 28 – July 3 – NO TOTUS TUUS

Week 4: 7/5 – 7/10 - Ss. Peter and Paul (Waterloo)

Registration: <https://www.ssppcc.org/totus-tuus.html>

Coordinator: Catherine Burkart cburkart@ssppcc.org

Week 5: 7/12 – 7/17 – St. Stephen/Holy Rosary (Caseyville)

Registration: coming soon

Coordinator: Guadalupe Niniz guadalupe7esqui@icloud.com



Young Adults



Diocese of Belleville

**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

Volleyball at the Park

**WEDNESDAY,
MAY
6**



**FOR YOUNG
ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

**Time and Location: Breese North Side Park
1077 N Main St Breese, IL 62230**

6:30pm

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