



 **BELLEVILLE DIOCESE** *flocknote* 



The past few weeks have been a time of overwhelming gratitude for me. So many people's kindness has been such a blessing to me. While there are many elements of being a bishop that I have not yet discovered, one part that is perfectly obvious is the importance of people saying, "I am praying for you".

In the midst of so much unknown, the steadiness of that charity of prayer brings calm and peace and hope. On the one hand, the bishop's name is mentioned in prayer at Mass every day. On the other hand, the support of personal prayer by all the people I'm ordained to serve, brings strength and joy.

At the same time, I want to assure you of my prayers as well. Every day I pray for all of our parishes by name. I trust our Blessed Mother with the deepest needs and greatest desires of all 99 parishes.

Many years ago, when working in our youth program, it was common to say at the end of the summer, "I'll meet you at the altar". As our college students would disperse in every direction, that connection was crucial. And I know it to be so with all of you as well. So **"I'll see you at the altar"**. And let us hold each other in prayer for the glory and honor of God who works his mighty wonders in our lives.



Pope Leo XIV

Pope's Intention for the
Month of May

**That everyone
might have food**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



Mothers and Stewardship

We celebrate the month of Mary during May, and during this month we also celebrate Mother's Day. It seems fitting that we honor our mothers during May, since Mary is given to us by God as the example of true Christian motherhood.

Those who are called to be mothers have been blessed by God and called to fulfill a very important responsibility. Mothers are the vehicle through which God brings new life into this world. When we talk about Christian stewardship, we talk about sacrificially returning to God what we have been given. What can more clearly be a demonstration of complete sacrifice than

the relationship between mother and child during the nine months of growth in the womb? During these nine months, the child's life depends on the actions of the mother as the first portion of her energy and nourishment goes directly to the growing baby.

Although this relationship may change to some extent after the child is born, a mother's sacrifice for her child is far from over after the birth. The role of the mother is critical in the child's development – both spiritually and physically – throughout life. Mothers provide the comfort, nurture and support necessary for their children to become productive citizens and responsible Christians.

The job of a mother is not an easy one. This is a fact that Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew very well. She worried when her Son appeared to be lost at the age of 12, only to find Him later in His Father's House. She was probably concerned as Jesus began His public ministry – not knowing what difficulties and rejections He would encounter along the way. And Mary must have experienced great anguish as she watched her Son's body being crucified to a cross.

May all mothers look to Mary as their model for motherhood and ask her intercession as they strive to fulfill their God-given role in their children's lives. During the month of May, let us all take some time to express our appreciation to our mothers for allowing us to come into this world, for loving us, and for serving as an example of what it means to be a steward for life.



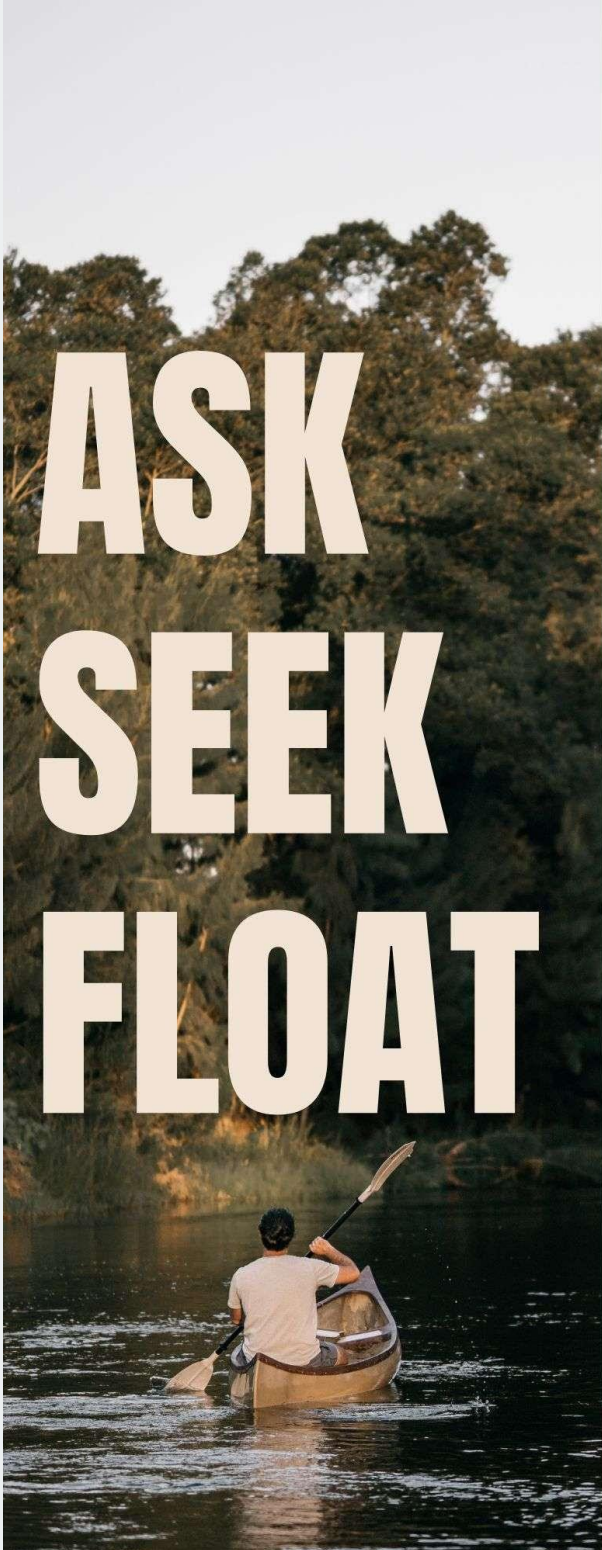
May the Blessed Mother, Mary, continue to inspire and intercede for all mothers.

“Her children rise up and call her blessed.” – Proverbs 31:28

May God bless all mothers today and always.



Vocations



ASK SEEK FLOAT

DISCERNMENT FLOAT TRIP

DATES: JUNE 8-10, 2026

LOCATION: CURRENT RIVER, MO

Step away from the noise of daily life and into something deeper. This summer retreat with Fr. Thomas Luge, Fr. Levi James, & Fr. Steven Beatty invites single young adult men ages 18 and up to encounter Christ in the beauty of the outdoors. Spend a few days on Current River in Missouri while building brotherhood with other men seeking purpose and direction.

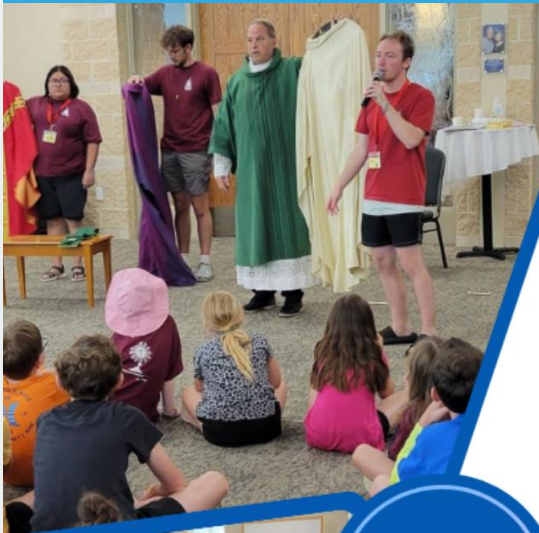
**REGISTER
HERE >>>**



Diocese of Belleville Vocations
618-722-5043
vocations@diobelle.org



Faith Formation



**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: ***

Coordinator: Guadalupe Niniz guadalupe7esqui@icloud.com



Young Adults



Diocese of Belleville
**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

**THURSDAY,
MAY
7**



with Fr. Joel Seipp

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

Location: Holy Smokes Lounge
724 Mulberry St, Murphysboro, IL 62966

7 PM



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

