

Dave



BELLEVILLE DIOCESE

flocknote



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GODFREY



A Benedictine in Us All

July 11 was the celebration in the Church of Saint Benedict of Norcia. St. Benedict lived from 480 to 540 AD. Rejecting the corrupt culture of Rome at the beginning of the sixth century, he went off to live the solitary life in a cave “under the lake” (which gives the place its name: Subiaco – the lake is at the top of the mountain). In that quiet place, Benedict begins to envision a new way of living, rooted in the gospel and aimed at peace.

While his brief 73-chapter 1500-year-old Rule deals with many practical realities, like the distribution of psalms over the week’s gatherings of prayer, the fourth chapter is called the Tools of Good Works. There, monastic men and women are exhorted to a particular way of life with a rather comprehensive litany of behaviors, including: all the Christian commandments, moderation, not grumbling, keep death daily before your eyes, guard your tongue from evil, listen attentively to holy reading, do not desire to be called holy before you really are, hate no one, do not be jealous or act

out of envy, never despair of God's mercy. Any one of these commands can seem like a life's work, but each one requires attention and dedication.

Realizing that most people in our diocese are not Benedictines, still, the wisdom of this honored Saint is worth our consideration. One tool of good work especially worth consideration – do not seek to be called holy before you really are – might help us all. The monk does not become holy simply by wearing the habit. Many have proved that doesn't work. The habit is an outward sign of simplicity and communion with his brothers, a sacramental that reminds him of the life he is to lead. Sometimes, we like to adopt the "trappings" and "trimmings" of piety and devotion while still choosing the sins we find most attractive. The external appearance has to match the internal life – we should dress as the person we are.

In the early Church, notorious sinners were given the penance of wearing sackcloth and sitting on ash heaps to make amends. While St. Benedict is not recommending that, to decorate ourselves as saints when we are struggling sinners is a dangerous way to live, especially if it's mixed in any way with arrogance or judgment. Benedict is calling us to the humble life of community. When we live in communion with the rest of the community, there is a good chance that we are embracing virtue. When I choose a path that sets me apart from the community, chances are good I may be on the path of pride.

When we are grateful for the good gifts God has given us – countless good gifts, then we become truly humble. We don't deserve the abundant grace we receive. And yet God continues to pour out His goodness upon us daily. The gratitude of the Christian disciples helps us be one with each other. St. Benedict, pray for us.



Pope Leo's Intention
for the month of July

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.



Summer Stewardship: Sharing Time, Talent, and Treasure Away from Home

With summer in full swing, many of us look forward to well-deserved vacations and time away from our daily routines. It's a time for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation. However, we are called to live out our faith not only in our familiar surroundings but also when we're away from home. The concept of stewardship, which emphasizes sharing our time, talent, and treasure, remains a guiding principle that we can practice and uphold during the summer months.

Stewardship is not bound by location or time. It is a way of life that extends to all aspects of our existence, including our vacations and summer adventures. This concept encourages us to be mindful of our blessings and to share them in gratitude to God. Here's how we can continue to

practice stewardship during the summer:

Sharing Time

Even while on vacation, we can dedicate time to our faith. Attend Mass at local churches or parishes in the places you visit (go to www.masstimes.org to find a church and Mass times anywhere). Participating in the Eucharist is a beautiful way to maintain your spiritual connection and to be part of different faith communities.

Sharing Talent

Our unique talents can be shared, even while on vacation. If you have musical skills, offer to sing, or play an instrument during Mass. If you have teaching abilities, volunteer to lead a Bible study or faith formation session in the local parish you're visiting. Your talents can enrich the faith experiences of others.

Sharing Treasure

Your financial contributions to the Church should not be limited to your home parish. Consider sharing your treasure through the offertory at the parishes you visit during your travels. But don't forget to uphold your stewardship of treasure commitment to your home parish, even while you are away (you can register for electronic giving or mail your envelopes in during your travels). Your financial support helps maintain the churches and supports their ministries.

Engaging in Acts of Charity

While on vacation, look for opportunities to engage in acts of charity. This might involve volunteering at local food banks, shelters, or other charitable organizations. Your efforts to help those in need reflect the Catholic principles of stewardship.

Fostering Family and Community Prayer

Summer vacations often provide quality family time. Use this opportunity to foster family prayer and reflection. Gather for daily prayers, Bible readings, or discussions about your faith. Encourage and support one another in living out your Catholic values.

Promoting Evangelization

Use your summer travels to spread the Good News. Share your faith and engage in conversations with fellow travelers. You may have the opportunity to answer questions, share your experiences, and offer a positive witness to the Catholic faith.

Summer can be a time of spiritual growth, service, and witness. By practicing stewardship during our summer vacations, we remain committed to our faith, contribute to the Church's mission, and

fulfill our call to be good stewards of God's gifts. Whether near or far, home or away, stewardship is a timeless and universal principle that enriches our lives and the lives of others.



BEATIFICATION OF
ARCHBISHOP
**FULTON J.
SHEEN**

CelebrateSheen.com

PEORIA EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15

9-Day Novena Begins
Novena of Holy Hours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 7PM

Tuesday, September 15 -

Wednesday, September 23
9-Day Novena of Holy Hours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 7PM

Saturday, September 19

Family Holy Hour & Tours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 10AM - 12PM

Sunday, September 20

Anniversary Mass of Sheen's Ordination
Cathedral of St. Mary | 3PM

Friday, September 25

Masses of Thanksgiving | 9AM, 11AM, 1PM, 3PM
Parish Talks | ST. JUDE, ST. PHILOMENA, ST. THOMAS
Sheen Awards Gala, Peoria Civic Center | 6PM

Saturday, September 26

Masses of Thanksgiving
Byzantine Divine Liturgy
Cathedral of St. Mary

ALL EVENTS REQUIRE TICKETS



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ST. LOUIS EVENTS

Wednesday, September 23

**Vespers at the Cathedral
Basilica of St. Louis - 5 PM**

Private event.

Live stream available.

Thursday, September 24

Expo at The Dome at America's Center

8 AM - 7 PM

Adoration & Confession

9 AM - 12 PM, 4:30 PM - 6 PM

Pre-Mass Show - 10 AM

Beatification Mass - 2 PM

The Dome at America's Center

Live stream and broadcast available.

Veneration of Relic - 4-6 PM

ALL EVENTS REQUIRE TICKETS



Click [HERE](#) for a list of parish picnics in our diocese.
All are welcome to attend and support our Catholic community!



Vocations



Explore a Monastic Vocation

A Monastic Vocation Discernment Weekend

AUGUST 28-30, 2026

For more than 170 years, we Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey have been serving the local and global Church in southern Indiana. Of the 70 monks, many of us serve as teachers, retreat leaders, seminary formators, artists, tradesmen, spiritual directors, and program administrators. At the foundation of our work is our prayer and community life together.

If you are a single man between the ages of 20 to 40 and are interested in exploring a monastic vocation, consider attending this vocation discernment weekend to explore aspects of Benedictine monastic life. Contact Director of Monastery Vocations, Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, at vocations@saintmeinrad.edu for more information or to register for the weekend.

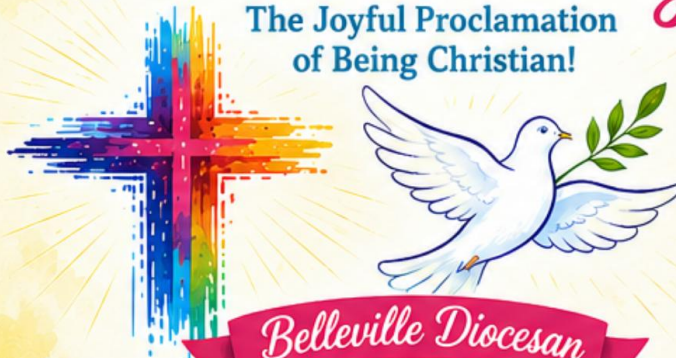




Faith Formation

Cursillo in *Christianity*

The Joyful Proclamation
of Being Christian!



Belleville Diocesan

2026

Cursillo
Weekends



King's House

At Our Lady of the Snows
Belleville, Illinois



*Women's
Cursillo*

**August 6-9,
2026**



*Men's
Cursillo*

**August 20-23,
2026**



For More Information Contact:

Debbie Blume

Precursillo Chairperson



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Visit our website:

Bellevillecursillo.org

PAUL KIM
CATHOLIC SPEAKER

»
**SAVE THE
DATE**

THEME-
**A CATHOLIC GUIDE
TO ADULTING**



**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 9**



**ST. CLARE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1411 CROSS ST., O'FALLON, IL 62269**



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE™ UNDERSTAND, LIVE, AND SHARE YOUR FAITH

Retreats and Conferences

Step away from your daily routine and encounter Christ through prayer, learning, and fellowship.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of upcoming retreats.



Young Adults



Diocese of Belleville
**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

**THURSDAY,
JULY
23**



with Fr. Joel Seipp

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

Location: Slips Hideaway

2063 Marina Drive Murphysboro, IL, United
States, Illinois 62966
7 PM



SLIPS
HIDEAWAY



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

