



BELLEVILLE DIOCESE *flocknote*



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GODFREY



VACATION

As I write this, I'm preparing to return home after a week of vacation with my family (although the road off the island where we are in North Carolina is currently closed because of rainwater flooding the only road out!). I'm not very good at taking vacation. But spending a week with 23 other members of my family has been a welcome time off.

I'm conscious that some people may not, for a number of reasons, regularly take vacation. But there are many ways we can take a break from our worries, responsibilities, and challenges in life. Vacation might rightly be attached to the scriptural notion of sabbath. Even the Almighty realized the wisdom of taking time off from the demands of the day.

So we don't have to go to the ocean or the mountains or Europe or Holiday World or anywhere else to receive the lovely gift of peace from the day's demands. Finding the gift of peace doesn't mean we're free from the responsibilities of our lives as parents, bishop, pastors, or anything

else. But it does mean that we can find rest in Christ's presence, in the gift of faith, in the satisfaction of what we have done the remainder of the week.

Saint John Paul II teaches in *Dies Domini* (1998) that God rejoices on the seventh day at all the good He had done in the first six days of creation. That's our task too: to rejoice at what we've done the rest of the week in the peace and satisfaction of creativity's accomplishment. "All of this responds not only to the need for rest, but also to the need for celebration which is inherent in our humanity" (4).

This week has brought the opportunity to witness the beautiful restful ways of my three-month-old great niece who was baptized here. My two-year-old great-niece and three-year-old great nephew took their time most of each day to relax and play. Playing with no need, worries, or purpose – that is us in our rest before the Lord's presence. Are we ever that relaxed before the Lord? Do we ever take that time?

Stewardship calls us to be generous with time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship of time recognizes that God gave us the gift of 24 hours each day. Relaxing in the Lord's presence, even if for a bit of time each day, reminds us of the blessings, the grace, the gifts He intends to give us, the gifts He's offered us that we've used over the past week, the gifts He rejoices to receive in return.

This simple relaxation is our way to enter faithfully into the beauty of true prayer – either the Hail Mary or the Our Father or a simple conversation with the One who knows us best – listening and speaking.

Let's recognize the wisdom of St. John Paul II: we don't rest so that we can work better. Christian disciples work so that we can rest in the mercy of the Most High.



**Stewardship and Patriotism:
Celebrating Independence Day as Part of Our Catholic Faith**

Independence Day, celebrated on July 4, is a time when the United States comes together to commemorate its history, freedom, and the principles upon which the nation was founded. For Catholics, this presents an opportunity to reflect on how to be patriotic and practice Catholic stewardship for the good of the country.

Here are 10 ways to merge your faith and patriotism on Independence Day:

1. **Pray for the Nation:** Begin your day with prayers for the United States. Ask for guidance and wisdom for its leaders, unity among its people, and peace and prosperity for all. Prayer is a powerful way to combine faith and patriotism.
2. **Be an Active Citizen:** Engage in civic activities that reflect your love for the country. This could involve voting, participating in local community events, or advocating for causes that promote justice, peace, and the common good.
3. **Support Veterans and Service Members:** Show your gratitude to those who have served or continue to serve in the military. Consider donating to organizations that assist veterans and their families, or simply thank them for their service.
4. **Environmental Stewardship:** Care for the environment is an important aspect of stewardship. Protecting the nation's natural beauty, from its parks to its rivers, is a patriotic act that conserves the land for future generations.
5. **Support Local Businesses:** Patronizing local businesses helps boost the economy and supports your fellow citizens. Shopping locally not only contributes to the well-being of your community but also to the country as a whole.
6. **Promote Social Justice:** Advocate for social justice issues that align with Catholic teachings, such as caring for the poor and vulnerable, supporting immigrants and refugees, and working towards racial equality. Addressing these issues is a form of Catholic stewardship that positively impacts the nation.
7. **Educate Yourself:** Study the history of the United States, its founding documents, and the principles upon which it was established. Understanding the country's heritage enables you to engage in discussions about patriotism from an informed perspective.
8. **Foster Unity:** In a time when divisiveness can be prevalent, strive to bring people together. Encourage open and respectful dialogue, build bridges of understanding, and work towards unity in the spirit of solidarity.
9. **Practice Gratitude:** Reflect on the blessings and freedoms you enjoy in the United States. Gratitude is a cornerstone of stewardship, reminding you to acknowledge and appreciate the gifts you've received.
10. **Share Your Faith:** Living out your Catholic faith and values in your community and throughout the country is a patriotic act. Be an example of love, compassion, and selflessness as you interact with others.

Patriotism and Catholic stewardship need not be mutually exclusive. In fact, they can be beautifully intertwined as you strive to make the United States a more just, peaceful, and compassionate nation. By living your Catholic faith and embracing your role as a patriotic citizen, you contribute to the common good and the well-being of the nation while also celebrating the freedoms and principles that Independence Day represents.



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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SHEEN**

CelebrateSheen.com

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

Seeking Volunteers for The Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

An historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States that will bring together

thousands of pilgrims from across the country to celebrate the life and legacy of one of America's most beloved Catholic evangelists. This extraordinary event in St. Louis, Missouri, will only happen once, and we are looking for volunteers to help make it a joyful and welcoming experience for everyone who attends.

Whether you have a few hours or several days to give, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available before and during the celebration.

Beatification Mass & Expo

Thursday, Sept. 24, The Dome at America's Center, St. Louis, MO

To volunteer, go to. <https://www.celebratesheen.com/volunteer>



Click **HERE** for a list of parish picnics in our diocese.
All are welcome to attend and support our Catholic community!



Vocations

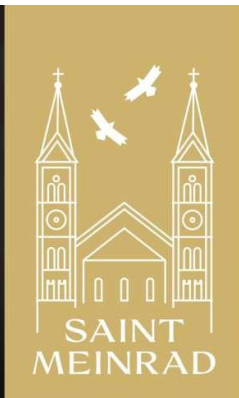
Answering the Call as a Permanent Deacon

The next Diocese of Belleville diaconate formation class will start in the fall of 2028, to be ordained in 2033. ***Are you being called?***



Dioceses of Belleville and Springfield-Cape Girardeau

For more information,
please contact Martina Skorch
at mskorch@diobelle.org.



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.

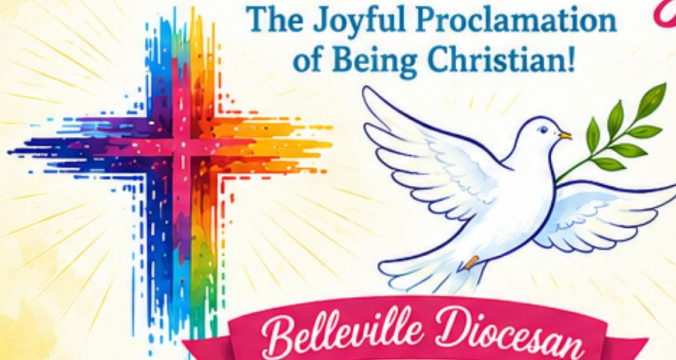




Faith Formation

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



618-806-6951



dblu@sbcglobal.net

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 6226**



Young Adults

THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE YOUNG ADULTS PRESENTS

Summer Kickball

SAT. AUG.
8TH

9:00-
11:00 AM

All are welcome!

Looking for a fun way to connect with
other Catholic young adults?
Come out for kickball, community, &
some friendly competition.

**St. Augustine Ball Field
(1910 W Belle St, Belleville, IL 62226)**

Please contact mskorch@diobelle.org with any questions.



Diocese of Belleville
**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST**

12



Special Guest:
Bishop Godfrey Mullen, OSB

**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



Follow Us:



bellevilledioceseyoungadults



Diocese of Belleville Young Adults



Life, Marriage and Family



RESPECT LIFE HIGHLIGHT

IN AUGUST WE EXPLORE THE
CHALLENGE OF INFERTILITY AND THE
PROMISE OF RESTORATIVE
REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE



*"MAN CANNOT FULLY FIND
HIMSELF EXCEPT THROUGH
A SINCERE GIFT OF
HIMSELF."*

-ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II

SCAN HERE OR
CLICK BELOW FOR
MORE RESOURCES
ON INFERTILITY AND
RESTORATIVE
REPRODUCTIVE
MEDICINE



For more information on infertility and restorative reproductive medicine, click [HERE](#).

Hope & Healing Weekend Retreats

The Abortion Healing Ministry of the Archdiocese of St Louis offers retreats for those impacted by abortion to begin the journey of healing through the mercy of Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician.



314-778-0628

hopehealing@archstl.org



**ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
APPEAL**

BUILD MY CHURCH

Women's Only Retreat

August 1st & 2nd

**Marianist Retreat Center
Eureka, MO**

Co-ed Retreat for Women, Men & Couples

October 24th & 25th

**Marianist Retreat Center
Eureka, MO**

- Team consist of trained lay facilitators, religious & therapist
- Inquiries strictly confidential
- Registration is required
- \$25 cost per person includes lodging, meals and all materials



GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

*"Our desire for each other mirrors
God's desire to be one with us."*

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:



A NEW WAY TO PRAY

Prayer will become a daily expression of love between you and your spouse – a way to invite God deeper into your relationship.



A NEW WAY TO CONNECT

Share, listen, and reflect together to deepen your emotional and spiritual connection.



A NEW WAY TO ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE

By seeing your marriage through the lens of faith, you will discover how your love reveals the presence of Christ in your everyday life.

Your Marriage is not just a relationship – it is a holy **commitment**. And your sacrament is a **living sign of Christ's presence in the world**.

EVENT DETAILS:



August 22, 2026



8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



St. Nicholas
RomanCatholic
Parish, O'Fallon, IL



Join our 7-hour
transformative
experience



\$100 / PER COUPLE

Scan the QR code to
Register



314-649-7317

Eric.Terry.Engholm@
wwme.org

stl-wwme.org/GCMFYretreat

Springs
IN THE
DESERT

Cherished:

A RETREAT FOR THOSE IN A
Season of Infertility



If you struggle with infertility, you may feel isolated and wrestle with a lot of conflicting emotions. If this is your burden, you don't have to carry it alone! The Archdiocese of St. Louis and Springs in the Desert are partnering to support couples carrying the cross of infertility with an overnight retreat on **September 18-20, 2026** at the **Mercy Conference and Retreat Center** (2039 N Geyer Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131).

Come with your spouse or on your own to be supported, hear inspiring reflections, have opportunities for group sharing, and experience friendship with others on this same path.

SAVE THE DATE

Join the list to receive the details as soon as they are available.

bit.ly/Cherished-Retreat-2206



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lorem sed risus ultricies t
unt nunc pulviner sapien et
lorem dolor. Ve*



enkindle



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Natural Family Planning



Follow Us!
@stlnfp



Visit Our Blog!
NFPGoodForLife.com

314-997-7576
stlnfp@archstl.org

www.StLouisNFP.org



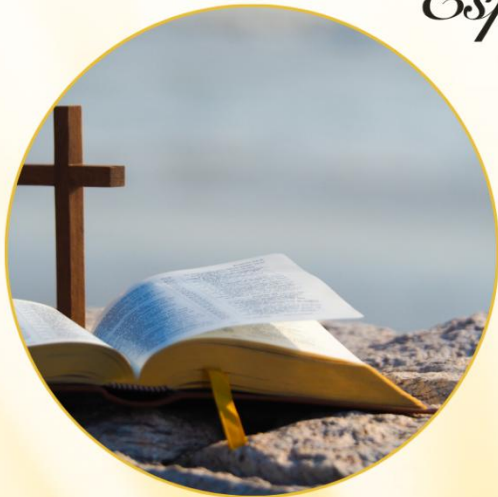
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
BUILD MY CHURCH

3/2026



Hispanic Ministry

Día de Formación y Renovación Espiritual



**SÁBADO 22 DE AGOSTO
9:30AM- 2:00PM**



Dirigido por el Padre Uriel Salamanca

**Lugar: Parroquia Santa María de la Divina Maternidad
7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove, IL 62241**

¡Regístrate y acompáñanos!

Escanea este código QR o completa la hoja de inscripción con tu párroco o líder parroquial.



¡Todos son bienvenidos!

La participación es gratuita y el almuerzo está incluido.

Las donaciones voluntarias son bienvenidas para ayudar a cubrir los costos de alimentos, materiales y otros suministros.



**Para más información comuníquese con Lucia Barragán
Ministerio Hispano - Diócesis de Belleville
618-722-5050 - LBarragan@diobelle.org**





Events Across the Diocese

St. Bruno
Catholic Church

Quilt of the Month Raffle

***\$20 a ticket or
\$100 for 6 tickets***



*Use QR Code to
Purchase Tickets Online*

***Winner Drawn on the
First Friday of the Month
starting August 2026***





STORIES OF OUR FAITH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

625 ST. NICHOLAS DR. O'FALLON, IL

*An
evening
of song,
storytelling,
prayer, and reflection*

**KATHLEEN
BASI**

**Composer of the Association of
Catholic Publishers
2022 Song of the Year,
"Come, All You Thirsty"**



St. Polycarp, Carmi

Ice Cream Social

Sunday
August 2
11am-1pm
in the parish hall



BBQ, chicken salad sandwiches
and hot dogs, desserts and
homemade ice cream are available



Basket
Raffle



50/50
Raffle



Country
Store

sponsored by the Ladies' Guild

OPEN HOUSE

