

Thu, Sep 10 at 2:05 PM

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GODFREY



With You in the Eternal City

Being away from a parish when one is the pastor is always a mixed blessing – time off is wonderful, but there is always work that piles up over time. As I write this, I'm two days away from being gone for nearly three weeks. And I must admit a bit of anxiety. THREE WEEKS! Many wonderful things are happening in the diocese and then I leave for three weeks – almost all of that in Italy – for Bishop School in Rome and then for six days of vacation with my siblings and two friends.

On the one hand, being gone that long is a daunting proposition. But in our day of cell phones and email, it's less problematic. My staff is great, too.

During this time away, I have two marvelous opportunities. On September 6, along with the other new bishops from around the world, I will spend the day in Assisi, celebrating Mass and the Year of St. Francis. I look forward, Benedictine as I am, to making a pilgrimage to Saint Francis. His vision for the Church is one I embrace: Rebuild my Church – those were the words he heard from the Lord on the Cross. In our diocese, there is momentum and numerous reasons for hope – 75 more new Catholics this Easter compared to the year before, 11 seminarians compared to 5 last year, just to name a few. Saint Francis didn't rebuild the Church in a day. But his vision for a hopeful future and his faith led to some amazing transformation.

Second, on September 10, along with those same bishops, I'll be treated to an audience with our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. After the audience, we each get to greet the Holy Father individually. Certainly, that is a moment of great grace for me. But more important, I am there because of you. As I step forward, I promise to be conscious of all of you and bring Pope Leo, our Illinois brother, our best wishes and our prayerful support. His ministry is so demanding and our prayers will surely be a consolation to him.

And so, while I'm apprehensive about being away from the diocese for this time, I'm also altogether aware that I won't be away from the diocese at all, except physically. I will have you all with me, certainly in my heart. But I will also be at home, in the midst of the Church, either here or there. Pope Leo's motto is important for us to remember: *In Illo Uno Unum* (in the One, we are one). As brothers and sisters of Christ, we are called daily to that dramatic unity, displayed most obviously in the Body of Christ, always reconciling with one another, always seeking peace. As Christian disciples, we are all called to that daily work of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Count on my prayers for you all as I visit the Eternal City. May God's abundant grace be poured out upon us every day. God bless you all!



Photo credit: CNS



Pope Leo XIV
Prayer Intention
for the month of September

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



Handing On Our Faith as Stewards of God's Goodness

Many Catholic parents feel like they've failed — especially when their adult children no longer practice the faith or attend Mass regularly. Parents are often slow to take credit for their children's successes but quick to shoulder the blame when it comes to struggles in the spiritual life.

Yet, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to live as stewards of all God's gifts — especially the gift of our Catholic faith. Stewardship is a response of gratitude to God, and one of the greatest ways we show that gratitude is by handing on the faith to those we love. Stewardship is always about invitation, witness, and love — not pressure or guilt.

In 2005, Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, outlined the five essential marks of Catholic

education — a message later published in *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools*. These marks apply not only to Catholic schools, but also to Catholic families and individuals who seek to be faithful stewards of God's grace.

1. Supernatural Vision

A stewardship life begins with a supernatural vision — recognizing everything we have is a gift from God, and our ultimate goal is heaven. From an early age, we should focus our hearts on eternal life with God. Do we speak to our children and grandchildren about heaven? Do we remind ourselves that we are stewards of this earthly life, always journeying toward eternity?

2. Christian Anthropology

Stewardship flows from understanding who we are — children of God, made in His image. Is Christ at the center of our daily lives? Are we showing through our words and actions that Jesus is the heart of our families? Stewardship begins with gratitude and flourishes when we live as joyful witnesses.

3. Communion and Community

Stewardship reminds us we are not isolated individuals but part of a greater communion — the Body of Christ. In our homes and parishes, we are called to build community, sharing life and supporting each other. Do we foster this in our families? Do we encourage generosity and self-giving?

4. Catholic Worldview

A stewardship way of life shapes how we see the world. A Catholic worldview helps us see God in all things and encourages holiness in daily life. Are we helping each other recognize God's call? Are we supporting and gently challenging one another to grow as disciples?

5. Gospel Witness

At its heart, stewardship is about witness. We don't need all the answers to share our faith. What matters most is showing how Jesus and His Church have made a difference in our lives. Stewardship invites us to be living examples of God's love and generosity.

Passing on the faith is not complicated. And it's never too late. Focus on the goal of eternal life. Keep Christ at the center. Build unity and community. Encourage holiness. Witness to the joy of the Gospel. Let's help our children, grandchildren, and all our loved ones know what we're about — discipleship, holiness, and the journey to heaven.



BEATIFICATION OF
ARCHBISHOP
**FULTON J.
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



Click [HERE](#) for a parish picnic near you!



As we mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, we remember the victims, honor the heroes, and entrust all those affected by that day to God's loving care.



Vocations

Please pray for our Diocesan Seminarians.

Every two weeks, one of our 11 seminarians will be featured in Flocknote.

Please consider dropping them a note of support. (address below)

St. John Vianney, pray for us.

Meet Our Seminarian CASMIR COZZI

*Vocational Synthesis
Holy Childhood, Mascoutah*

Hello,



What saint has influenced you the most?

One of the most influential for me has been **St. Teresa of Avila**. When I began seminary, I read her book on the spiritual life. Out of the entire text, her final exhortation has stayed with me to this day. In the conclusion of a book that has been a tremendous source of grace for centuries, this saint accredits God for all the good that it bears and any evil to herself. The humility of such an act and how the Lord has brought about so much good through her writing continues to inspire me to humbly offer God my service each day. Thanking Him for the good He works in and through me and asking pardon for when I fail to live up to the call of Christian love.

What scripture passage has been especially meaningful to you?

Jn 12:1-8: **Mary of Bethany Anoints Jesus**: In this passage, what moves me almost every time is the cost of the ointment Mary uses. The Scripture says it cost 300 denarii, which literally means 300 days' worth of wages. How long did it take her to save up for that gift on top of her daily expenses? How many things did she go without to offer Jesus this precious gift right before His passion, death, and resurrection? What inspired such an incredible gift? This passage requires me to ask myself a very important question: Do I share Mary's gratitude for what Jesus has done for me? Truly, the Lord is never outdone in generosity. The moment I think I have given more than Jesus is the moment I begin to believe a lie from the evil one. In all of life's challenges, Jesus has been there at my side to see me through, and in all of life's joys, Jesus has been there behind the scenes making it happen.

What is your favorite book, movie or television show?

My favorite book series is Narnia, and my favorite book out of that series is ***A Horse and His Boy***. I enjoy it so much because in a simple children's story, C.S. Lewis communicates ideas about the spiritual life that take most adults (myself included) a lifetime to figure out. This book and the entire series serve as easy reminders of important truths about this life of faith while making it fun.

Casmir Cozzi
Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

Note: Casmir Cozzi will be ordained as a Transitional Deacon on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville.

VENI SLAMAS

Come if You Love

**WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREATS
FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN 18-30**



SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE MARTYR ST. GEORGE

Seeking to make His Merciful Love visible

*A weekend away with Jesus to receive His love more deeply
that you might follow Him more freely...*



REGISTER HERE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SR. M. KAROLYN:
VOCATIONS@ALTONFRANCISCANS.ORG OR 618-419-0067

Sisters in Scripture

*Come join the YA Women of the Diocese
for laidback chats about the Blessed Holy
Mary and other women of the Bible.*

Who: Young Adult Women Ages 21-35

Where: The Abbey

5801 W Main St Belleville, IL

When: First Saturday of the Month

October 3rd from 9am-11am

Hope to see you there and bring a friend!

Contact Mara Haake for more details

Instagram @haake22 or

haakemara22@gmail.com



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.



Young Adults

*Young adults (18-40) are invited to a **FREE Pilgrimage***
*to the **National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal***
*in **Perryville, MO** with **Bishop Godfrey***
Saturday, September 19th | 8:30 - 4:30



8:30 AM

Meet in Cathedral parking lot
to take bus/caravan to the Shrine

10 AM

Take a Tour of the Shrine and
grounds & Rosary Walk

12:10 PM

Celebrate Mass (optional)

**Complimentary Lunch to
follow at 1 PM**

Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://forms.gle/vo4vooTN7un3u5ow7>



Children & families welcome.

**Please RSVP as spots are
limited!**



To learn more
information
about the Shrine
& Rosary Walk
visit amm.org



SCAN ME



Life, Marriage and Family



RESPECT LIFE HIGHLIGHT

IN SEPTEMBER WE EXPLORE THE DIGNITY OF MIGRANTS



Click [HERE](#) to review the Pastoral Guide to Prayer, Formation, and Action during National Migration Week - September 21 - 27, 2026.

COMPASSION + CARE

NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH

Every human life is a sacred gift from God, deserving of love and protection from conception to natural death. Our response to suffering is accompaniment with **compassion + care, now until the hour of our death.**

A new law allowing physician-assisted suicide (effective Sept. 12, 2026) goes directly against our teaching that everyone is deserving of dignity, love and care through every stage of life.



Visit Catholic
Conference of
Illinois at
www.ilcatholic.org



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



lis. L.
etiam. Eu
diam in. Mi ipsum
sodales neque sodate
vitae semper quis. In de
lorem sed risus ultricies t
unt nunc pulvinar sapien et
lorem dolor. Ve

enkindle



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Natural Family Planning



Follow Us!
@stlnfp



Visit Our Blog!
NFPGoodForLife.com

www.StLouisNFP.org

314-997-7576
stlnfp@archstl.org



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
BUILD MY CHURCH

3/2026



**Project Rachel Women's Day Retreat
(Registration Required)**

Sept. 26th - Wentzville Location

**Hope & Healing Weekend Retreat
(Registration Required)**

October 24th & 25th - Women, Men, Couples
Private Retreat Center in St. Louis County

*For women, men, and couples
impacted by abortion*



For information or to register
contact us at **314-778-0628**
or **hopehealing@archstl.org**
(All inquiries confidential)

40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

**September 23
-November 1**

📍 **Fairview Heights**



Location: Outside Planned Parenthood
(317 Salem Place, Fairview Heights, IL 62208)

Hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Contact: fvh40days@yahoo.com



Stop Abortion Pills!

Now through October, join the U.S. bishops in prayer and action to stop the spread of the abortion pill.

Sign Up!

Learn more and take action to save lives:
respectlife.org/abortion-pills.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of
Pro-Life Activities



Hispanic Ministry

A Pastoral Guide for Prayer, Formation, and Action During National Migration Week

September 21-27, 2026

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."
Matthew 18:5



"To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since,
when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26).
You are not alone!"

Special Pastoral Message on Immigration United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 2025

As we prepare for National Migration Week, the Diocese of Belleville invites parishes, schools, ministries, and community partners to join in prayer, reflection, and action in solidarity with migrant children and families.

This pastoral guide offers **prayers, Scripture reflections, Catholic teaching,**

resources for children and youth, and simple ideas for formation, service, advocacy, and accompaniment.

You don't have to do everything.

Choose one prayer. Start one conversation. Try one activity.

Make one act of welcome.

Even one small effort can help us grow in our commitment to recognize and respect the God-given dignity of every person.

[View or Download the Pastoral Guide](#)

A Gathering of Prayer, Formation, and Fellowship



"EVEN JUST ONE OF THESE CHILDREN"



SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 ✦ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



**CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER UNDERCROFT
200 W. HARRISON STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220**

Bishop Godfrey warmly invites all the faithful to join us as we mark National Migration Week, reflecting on the Church's call to welcome, protect, accompany, and serve migrants and immigrants, especially children and families.

Featuring:

- ✦ Prayer & Reflection
- ✦ Personal Testimonies
- ✦ Putting Faith in Action
- ✦ Catholic Social Teaching on Migration
- ✦ Closing Prayer Service

Special Invitation

Clergy, religious, diocesan and parish leaders, social service agencies and ministries, and all who accompany and serve Hispanic and immigrant communities are especially encouraged to attend.

Cost: \$10 per person
Includes light breakfast and lunch
For more information, please contact:
Lucia Barragan 618-722-5050
Lbarragan@diobelle.org



To register scan QR code
or go to:

<https://form.jotform.com/262365172097158>

Scholarships available

Diocese of Belleville Office of Hispanic Ministry Immigration Commission



Catholic Charities

CATHOLIC URBAN PROGRAMS
6TH ANNUAL
**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026
12 PM REGISTRATION & LUNCH
1 PM SHOTGUN START

The Orchards Golf Club
1499 Golf Course Dr,
Belleville, IL 62220



*Register
Now*



www.catholicurbanprograms.org/events



Events Across the Diocese



NATIONAL SHRINE of
OUR LADY of the SNOWS

Church History Series with Mark Etling



Saturdays, September 12 and 19, 2026

10:00 am – Noon | Shrine Visitors Center

Cost: \$15 per session/\$30 for the series

The Legacy of St. Augustine

St. Augustine is one of the most influential theologians in the history of Christianity. His wide-ranging theology covered everything from the Trinity to original sin to the relationship between Church and state. He lived during a period of transition when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Anyone raised as a Catholic or most any other Christian denomination has been exposed to the theology of Augustine.

Mark Etling, PhD teaches theology at Saint Louis University's School for Professional Studies. He also gives presentations on Scripture and Christian history at the Shrine, for Oasis-St. Louis and at various parishes in the St. Louis and Belleville dioceses. Mark and his wife Alicia live in the Lafayette Square neighborhood in St. Louis. If you would like Mark to speak at your parish or organization, please go to his website:

<http://www.marketling.org>



To register: Visit snows.org/events/Augustine-series or call 618-394-6281

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**★ DINE TO ★
DONATE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
11AM - 9PM**

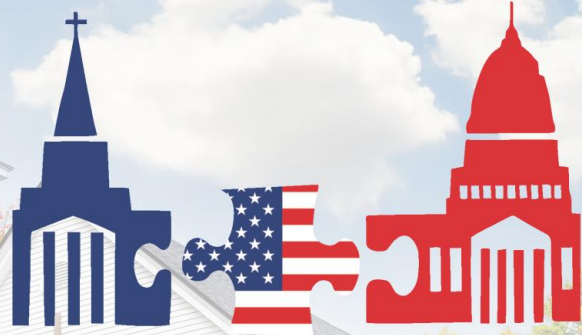
NO-JACKS

**4001 IL-159, SMITHTON, IL
618-235-2356**



**DINE-IN AND
CARRYOUT**

Morality, Public Policy and the Common Good: *How the Church Stands in the World*



Thursday, September 17, 2026

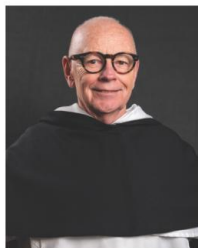
10:00 am - noon

Shrine Visitors Center

Cost: \$15

When we think of the relationship between church and state, we often think only of "separation." In fact, the relationship is more complicated than that. How does Catholic teaching define that relationship? What role should religion and moral convictions play in political life?

This talk will draw on St. Thomas Aquinas as well as contemporary writers to show that there is another way to understand this relationship.



Fr. Charles Bouchard is a Dominican priest who is a senior fellow at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, and former president and professor of moral theology. He also served as provincial superior of his community, as Vice President of Theological Education for Ascension Health, and as Senior Director of Theology and Ethics at the Catholic Health Association of the United States.

Register online at [Snows.org/events/ Church-World](https://Snows.org/events/Church-World)
or call 618-394-6281.



NATIONAL SHRINE of
OUR LADY of the SNOWS

ST. FELICITAS • BEAVER PRAIRIE

CHICKEN DINNER

DRIVE THRU ONLY

Menu

- 1/2 Fried Chicken
- Mashed potatoes
- Gravy
- Green Beans
- Dressing
- Applesauce
- Slaw

No substitutions

\$15 per dinner

SEPTEMBER

20

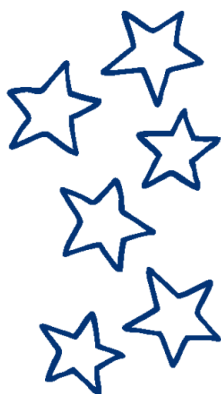
**St. Felicitas
Beaver Prairie**

13322 Church Rd. Carlyle, IL 62231

SERVING
11 A.M. - 5 P.M.



Quilt Raffle Tickets will be available!



ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY'S

PARISH PICNIC

2026



SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26
4:00-10:00PM

1910 WEST BELLE ST.
BELLEVILLE, IL 62226



QUILT 'N CASH
BINGO
7:00PM

MUSIC BY...



Sailing

A YACHT ROCK BAND
FEATURING SCOTT MARLIN

OUTDOOR
**FOOD &
DRINKS**



BASKET STAND, ROLL UP-ROLL DOWN, BIG 6,
CAKES, RAFFLES, HALLOWEEN STAND, & MORE!





Saturday, September 26th

St. Bruno Catholic Church

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

\$12 for adults
\$8 6-12 year olds
5 and under free

5-8pm



Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread,
Drink & Dessert

St. Bruno Catholic Church

Drawing will be

Saturday, September 26th at

St. Bruno Spaghetti Dinner serving 5-8pm at the Columbian Club Hall

Raffle Prizes

\$10 a ticket



\$1000 Cash

Green Egg Grill and Nest



36in Blackstone Grill

Handmade Queen Quilt



**← Purchase
Tickets Here!**

Thank you for your contributions to our prizes!
Our wonderful St. Bruno Quilters, Kellerman's Feed and Supply,
Thorn & Connie Keene, Darren Hiller & Jessica Saul,
Don & Betty Heisner, Shawn Hiller,
and many other St. Bruno Parishioners and Alumni!

The JUBILEE CELEBRATION of St. Francis of Assisi

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH AT 11:30 AM

Join this **FAMILY** event as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a special gathering *on the grounds of our parish* to thank God for his life and patronage.



PET BLESSING AT NOON

Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing—*real and stuffed animals* are welcome!



A BLESSING FOR CREATION

Help us celebrate our connection to the earth as we place a statue on the grounds where parishioners can *place a plant* in the bed to beautify this sacred space.



TRANSITUS SERVICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD AT SUNSET
Marking the **800th anniversary** of his death (1226–2026)



Experience a peaceful time of reflection, mindfulness, and connection inspired by the spirit of St. Francis.

COME CELEBRATE FAITH, COMMUNITY,
ANIMALS, AND THE BEAUTY OF CREATION!

All are welcome!



ST. FRANCIS PARISH
AVISTON, IL



QUESTIONS?
REACH OUT TO
KATRINA SOPIARS
618-917-3623



CELEBRATING THE
800TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DEATH OF ST. FRANCIS (1226–2026)



4TH ANNUAL



