

BUZZ REPORT

Office of Spirituality & Formation for Mission and Ministry

October 2020



From the desk of Sr. Kathy...



Dear Friends,

Please take a moment to read our monthly news of what is happening around the globe, nation and locally regarding the Church. Our Holy Father has written and published his third encyclical letter to all the faithful and signed it while in Assisi on October 4, 2020. Nationally, we celebrate Respect for the Dignity of Life and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. And, regionally, much is still happening in the areas of formation and spirituality.

I thank you for keeping abreast of the faith by reading this newsletter and all that you are and do for Holy Mother Church.

Peace and all things good,

Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF

Global News

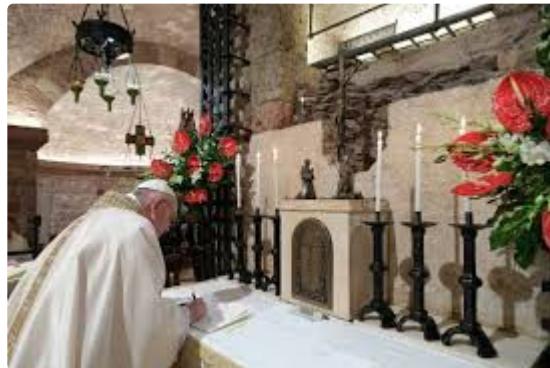


Photo courtesy of catholicnewsagency.com

New Encyclical

Pope Francis signed a new encyclical, **Fratelli tutti** (on Fraternity and Social Friendship) at the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, Italy on October 3, 2020. You will recall that the Holy Father writes and addresses many important issues in such documents as encyclicals, apostolic letters, and apostolic exhortations. (go to: <https://aleteia.org/2018/03/15/a-brief-guide-to-papal-documents/> to learn more.

The new encyclical is a reference to the writings of St. Francis: "Let us all, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd who to save His sheep bore the suffering of the Cross" (*Admonitions*, 6, 1: FF155). The title recalls a central theme of his magisterium. On the evening of his election to the papacy on 13 March 2013, Pope Francis first greeted the world with the words *fratelli e sorelle* – "brothers and sisters". The theme of fraternity is also present in his constant embrace of migrants, epitomized in his pastoral visit to Lampedusa.

This is the third encyclical of Pope Francis. Human fraternity has been an important theme for Pope Francis in recent years. The pope signed "A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together" during a trip to Abu Dhabi in Feb. 2019. Pope Francis' message for his first World Day of Peace as pope in 2014 was "Fraternity, foundation and pathway for peace." Pope Francis' previous encyclical, *Laudato si'*, published in 2015, had a title taken from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun" prayer praising God for creation. Prior to that he published *Lumen fidei*, an encyclical begun by Benedict XVI before his resignation as pope in 2013. (CNA)

I will never forget my visits to the holy city of Assisi. Before I came to the diocese, I was blessed to have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the key places Francis and Clare visited. LaVerna, where Francis received the Stigmata, was truly a special spot where Francis often went to pray with a few brothers. I could not get over the small caves where they spent time praying. Even though Francis was of small stature, he must have been bent over often in the caves as they were so tiny. Should you have the opportunity to visit these holy sites, I guarantee your faith life will benefit.



Picture courtesy of Vatican News

Summary Video of Fratelli Tutti

"FRATELLI TUTTI" With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters on October 3 and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. The encyclical consists of 8 chapters: Dark Clouds over a Closed World, A Stranger on the Road, Envisaging and Engendering an Open World, A Heart Open to the Whole World, A Better Kind of Politics, Dialogue and Friendship in Society, Paths of Renewed Encounter, and Religions at the Service of Fraternity in Our World.

[Click here for a 5-minute summary video](#)

National News

Respect Life Month -- Domestic Violence Awareness Month

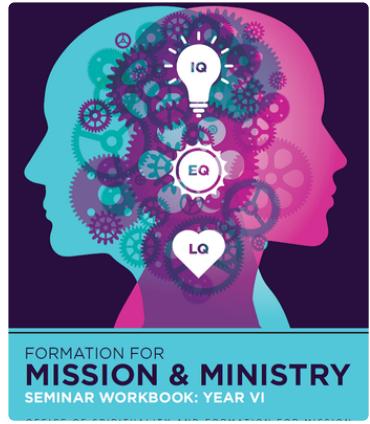
During the month of October, we observe respect Life Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The theme from Respect Life month this year is "Live the Gospel of Life." The Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org) has many resources to celebrate this month (<https://www.respectlife.org/reflection>).

In his encyclical on the Gospel of life, (Evangelium Vitae-1995), Pope St. John Paul II recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. He places particular emphasis, however, on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the "least of these" in our world's estimation. Practices such as abortion and assisted suicide tragically reject the truth that human life is always to be cherished and defended with loving concern.

As the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's prophetic encyclical, let us reflect on how we personally live out the Gospel: Do I talk about and act towards others as I would talk about and treat Jesus himself? Do I inform myself of the Church's teachings and engage in the civic arena by understanding the social teachings of the Church? Do I support and advocate for laws and policies that protect and defend all human life, including the unborn, the immigrant, the unfairly imprisoned? Do I help pregnant and parenting mothers in need? Am I ready to support a loved one nearing death and not see care as a "duty" but an obligation to one's parents and grandparents?

Domestic Awareness Month was first observed in October 1981 as a national "Day of Unity." Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is held each October as a way to unite advocates across the nation in their efforts to end domestic violence. Domestic violence is an evil that threatens the social fabric of our Nation. It is a widespread attack on the most sacred and intimate of institutions – the American family. Domestic violence tears families apart, with devastating consequences that can last for generations. Tragically, more than 10 million Americans suffer at the hands of loved ones each year, and women are twice as likely to be targets of this heinous crime as men. (*The President's Domestic Violence Proclamation of September 30, 2020*)

Local News



**Staff at St. Mary
Magdalene Church
Attend Year Six**

**Blessed Sacrament
Faculty Retreat
Learn About
Emotional IQ**

Formation for Mission and Ministry Year Six Seminars

Our Formation for Mission and Ministry seminar has been going very well amidst the global pandemic. I have gone in person to a few deaneries, but some wished to attend ZOOM seminars. Of course, seeing and listening to all of you in person is the best option.

I have been very pleased with the functionality of zoom: video, chat function, breakout sessions, to mention a few. Cathy, my assistant, has been remarkable in setting everyone up for the meetings. I could not have done so well without her. I do hope that those who have attended either in person or virtually have found some meaning in IQ, EQ and LQ as paradigms helping all of us to be the best missionary disciples we can be.



**University of Dayton Partnership for Virtual Learning
Community for Faith Formation**

I am happy to report that some of our parish staff and parishioners have taken advantage of our partnership with the university. University of Dayton is sponsored by the Marianist Brother and Priests. Each year, the virtual learning offers seven (7) cycles. Most courses run for five weeks with some seminars running for three weeks. Seminars are available for as little as \$20. The diocesan rate for courses is \$50. If you are interested in receive a tuition grant, please contact Sr. Kathy at kadamski@charlestondiocese.org.

Space in Cycle 7 courses is still available with registration closing October 14. Cycle 7 courses run October 18 - November 21.

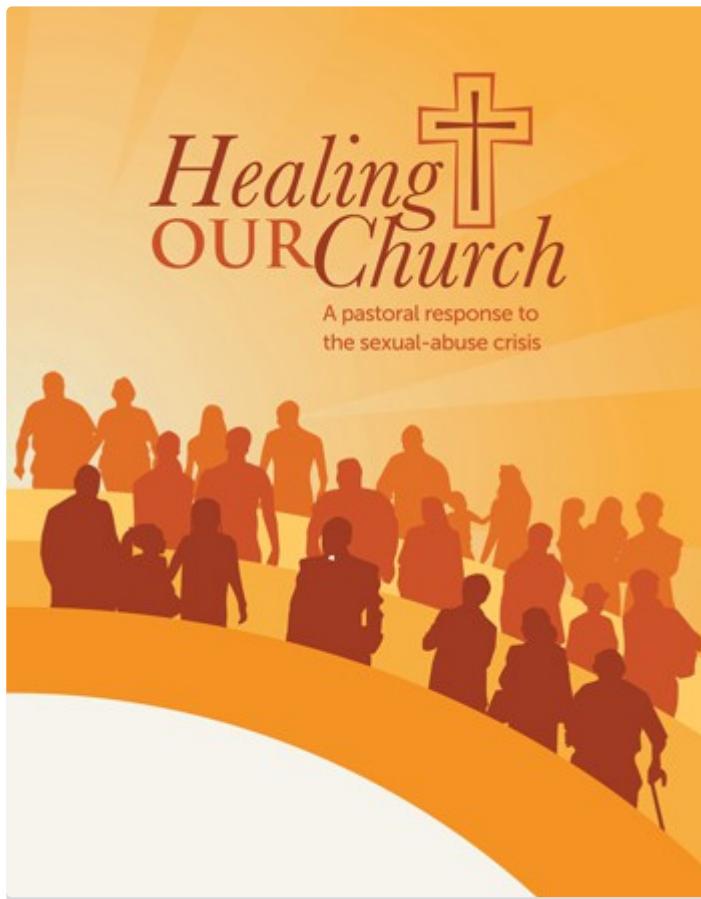
Registration for Cycle One courses which run January 3 through February 6 begins on October 2. The deadline for Cycle One registration is December 30. through December 30.

[View Available Courses & Register Here](#)

VLCFF Courses Review by Cathy Roche

During Cycle 6, I was blessed to be able to take both a seminar and a course through University of Dayton's Virtual Faith Formation program and it's partnership with the Diocese of Charleston. I found the content to not only be worthwhile and challenging, but also uplifting during this time of uncertainty and forced solitude. Both instructors were responsive, personable, and knowledgeable. The workload was not as heavy as I had feared and it was possible to schedule my participation throughout the week and still maintain a full-time work schedule and participate in family life.

I urge anyone who is considering certification as a catechist or who wants to deepen their knowledge of the faith, to avail yourself of this wonderful opportunity!



Healing Our Church: Finding a Way Forward

Renew is pleased to announce several new opportunities for participating in and completing *Healing Our Church/Sanando Nuestra Iglesia*, a small-group program created by RENEW International to help the faithful deal with the sexual-abuse crisis and move toward healing and renewed discipleship. Unfortunately, most participating parishes were not able to finish this past Lent due to Covid-19. Therefore, we are happy to offer the following opportunities for the faithful, regardless of whether your parish formally participated:

- **Virtual Healing Our Church Small Groups led by RENEW staff on Wednesdays at 7pm beginning October 14th.** You can participate in the entire *Healing Our Church* process (six sessions in English) or start with one of the later sessions if you already completed some. Please click [here](#) to register. You will also need a book to participate, which can be purchased [here](#).
- **Webinar: "Healing Our Church: Finding a Way Forward" on Thursday, November 19 at 7pm.** Sr. Terry Ricard, OP, President of RENEW International and Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF, Diocesan Coordinator of *Healing Our Church/Sanando Nuestra Iglesia* and Associate Director of the Office of Spirituality & Formation for Ministry will discuss the path toward healing and renewed discipleship and respond to your questions. All are welcome to participate in this discussion whether or not you have participated in a *Healing Our Church* small group. Please click [here](#) to register.
- **Looking ahead to 2021: Healing Our Church small groups and other RENEW opportunities.** For those who wish to wait to meet in-person, we hope to offer in-person opportunities for *Healing Our Church/Sanando Nuestra Iglesia* and more this upcoming Lent. Stay tuned...
• If you have questions about the fall virtual Healing Our Church faith-sharing sessions or the "Healing Our Church: Finding a Way Forward" webinar, please contact RENEW International staff member Paul Krenzelok at 908-769-5400 x119, paulk@renewintl.org.

All other questions related to *Healing Our Church/Sanando Nuestra Iglesia* may be directed to Sister Kathleen Adamski, OSF, Associate Director of the Office of Spirituality & Formation for Ministry, at 843-261-0498 or kadamski@charlestondiocese.org.



*Let RENEW help
you prepare for
Advent*

FREE Webinar from Renew International

Advent 2020: God Invites Us to Ever Deeper

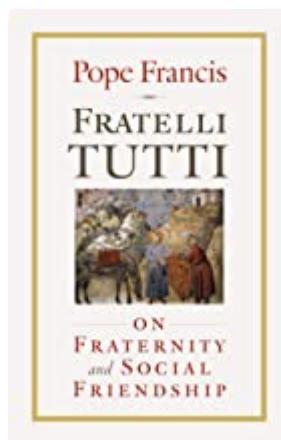
Tuesday, October 13, 3PM ET

Advent invites us to take time to enter deeper into the season. During this webinar, Sr. Donna L. Ciangio, OP will explore the invitation to prepare our hearts as we once again wait with joy for the coming of Christ. For some, this may mean returning to celebrate with their parish community after a long pandemic pause, if not physically, most certainly in soul and spirit. On a deeper level, this Advent invitation means allowing God to guide us and reassure us amidst the fears and struggles that have made us anxious. Come and explore how God is inviting you in a special way this Advent with Sr. Donna, author of *Waiting with Joy*, a leader in small-group ministries and Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Newark.

If you can not attend on that day, don't worry. Register now and after the webinar is complete, Renew will send you a link to a recording.

[Register Here](#)

Book Of The Month



Fratelli Tutti

On October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis released a new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*: On Fraternity and Social Friendship. This social encyclical explores building a culture of peace and dialogue in order to work together to care for each other as a human family, especially as we recover from the pandemic.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns has compiled a study guide offering key points and quotes from each chapter, along with reflection questions and the two prayers that Pope Francis includes at the end of the encyclical.

[Click Here to Download the Study Guide](#)

Film Of The Month



Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton in Select US Theaters

Although this film is not yet scheduled at a theater in South Carolina, stay tuned for upcoming information on Video on Demand and Streaming and DVD's. More information is available at [PrayTheFilm.com](#).



CARA Report -- The American Parish: By the Numbers

30% of Catholics attend a parish other than the one closest to them.

Elements that Attract Parishioners to a Parish

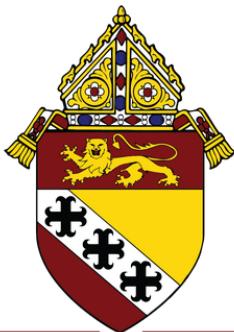
68%: An open welcoming spirit

64%: The sense of belonging one feels at a parish

62%: The quality of preaching

60%: The quality of the liturgy

How is your parish doing??



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

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