

Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality & Formation for Ministry

March 2021



FROM THE DESK OF SR. KATHY...

Dear Friends,

As we commemorate the one-year anniversary of the onset of the Covid Pandemic, may we remember this Lent all those who have lost loved ones during this horrific year. May they know that our prayers are with them. I was happy to be able to facilitate a Lenten retreat and afternoon reflection this past month. I cannot believe that Lent is almost over and I pray you have had a chance to deepen your spiritual life in the three major pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

In this issue of Buzz, I share with you what has been happening in the church globally, nationally and locally. This month we celebrate the great feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. As I am sure you are aware, Pope Francis dedicated a special year beginning December 8, 2020 as the Year of Consecration to St. Joseph. May we each develop the wonderful virtues of Jesus' father: faith, patience, gratitude to mention a few. The Holy Father continues to amaze people with his outreach and movement towards ecumenism.

I have also included some information regarding a special message by our American bishops; and, locally, I share some great news about the papal awards given out at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on Sunday, March 7, 2021.

I pray your holy week is a blessed time for you and your families. It is the most sacred and holiest time of our church year. May each of you experience the deep joy and peace that comes with Jesus' resurrection.

May our gracious and loving God bless you.

Peace and all good,
Sister Kathy, OSF



GLOBAL

Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Iraq

The Holy Father's visit to Iraq this month was the culmination of a Vatican trip decades in the planning. Saint John Paul II wanted to visit this holy place but was unable to do so during his pontificate. Pope Francis is the first pope to ever visit this area of great biblical importance -- home to ancient civilizations. His trip took place despite escalating violence, rising COVID cases and international concerns.

The visit, during which the pontiff wanted to show support for the people of Iraq after years of violence, lasted from March 5 to March 8, 2021. When the Islamic State swept through the north of the country in 2014 promising to establish its leadership in Mosul, it nearly decimated the small Christian community that had survived under the Saddam Hussein regime. ISIS destroyed most of the churches and other Christian symbols before it was forced out and all but destroyed by coalition forces. The pope prayed for peace at the ruins of these churches in Mosul and celebrated mass in the restored

but to reach out to all the religious communities in Iraq. In Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, a prophet important to Christians, Muslims and Jews, an interfaith meeting was held that included readings from the Quran. Members of all the main religious segments were invited.

One of the most important parts of his visit was his meeting with the head of the Shia community in Iraq, the revered Grand Ayatollah Sayyid al-Sistani, at his home in the holy city of Najaf. The 90-year-old cleric is rarely seen in public but his influence was instrumental in overthrowing Saddam Hussein.

The pope and his entourage did not have the usual large crowds attending ceremonies. However, Iraqi television channels covered all papal events live. The Vatican says it organized the trip with Covid-mitigation efforts in mind. Most events were held before a small number of people with masks and social distancing. Every journalist accompanying the pope was vaccinated. The only large event, a mass at the stadium in Erbil, was invitation only using only a fraction of the available seats.



Photo courtesy of msn.com

Highlights of Pope Francis' apostolic journey to Iraq - 2021 March 08



NATIONAL

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee Releases a Pastoral Message on the COVID-19 Global Pandemic

MARCH 9, 2021 BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Administrative Committee has issued the following message today on the global COVID-19 pandemic. The USCCB's Administrative Committee is led by the president of the Conference, and is made up of all the chairmen of the Conference's committees and a representative from each Episcopal Region of the United States and operates as the board of directors.

"This month we mark one year since the pandemic dramatically changed life in our country, ushering in immense suffering. Many have endured extraordinary hardships: sickness, death, mourning, a lack of food, unstable housing, loss of work and income, struggles with education, separation, abuse, isolation, depression, and anxiety. We witnessed racial injustices, the diminishment of the poor and the elderly, and painful divisions in our political life. Yet we know, as the Psalms remind us, that we find comfort in God's *promise that gives us life* (Ps 119:50).

[Click here to read the full text.](#)



Photo courtesy of usccb.org

LOCAL

Solemn Vespers and Papal Award Celebration

On Sunday, March 7, 2021, Sr. Kathy participated in the Solemn Vespers and Papal Award celebration at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, South Carolina and was honored to receive the Benemerenti Medal, "Good Works or Merits" for her ministry over the past 12 years in the Diocese of Charleston. The day began with the liturgical service and ended with a beautiful gathering of friends and food at the Pastoral Center's Assembly Hall in West Ashley.

Sr. Kathy said "I was both humbled and delighted at the same time to have been recognized by this Papal Award of Pope Francis, as suggested by our Bishop Guglielmo. Participating in this event is something I will always remember fondly and with deep joy. Thank you Bishop."

[Click here to watch the Solemn Vespers and Papal Awards](#)

Those awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross included:

- **John L. Barker**, Chief Financial Officer for the diocese.
- **Deacon Gabriel Cuervo**, Director of Operations and Field Offices for Catholic Charities for the diocese.
- **Manfred Freissle** and **Christina Freissle**, Catholic World benefactors and for their contributions to the diocese.
- **Sandra Leatherwood**, retired Superintendent of Catholic Schools who served the diocese for 40 years guiding our schools.
- **Dr. Lawrence Minette** and **Iris Minette**, for their generosity to the parishes of St. Anthony in Florence, Prince of Peace in Taylors, and St. Mary in Greenville.
- **Dr. Helen Ryan**, for her contributions to the diocese in education and community outreach.

Those awarded the Benemerenti Medal included:

- **Franciscan Sister Kathleen Adamski**, Associate Director of the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry who provides pastoral formation for the lay staff of parishes and the chancery office.
- **Erena Allen**, active board member for Catholic Charities and previous stewardship director and capital campaign manager for St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville.

- **Frank Dirks**, longtime member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist who has been actively engaged in parish life since moving to Charleston in 1997.
- **Peter Freissle**, co-founder of the Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network who is actively engaged in ministry to those suffering homelessness.
- **Richard Fromholtz**, founding member of St. Theresa the Little Flower Church in Summerville, who has participated in many ministries associated with the parish. At 83, he is still an active member of several parish committees.
- **Rhoda Hiott**, active member of St. John the Beloved Church in Summerville as well as the parish secretary.
- **Sister Sandra Makowski, SSMN, JCL**, Chancellor of the diocese since 2009 and the Vicar for Religious. In addition, Sister Sandra is also the author of “The Side of Kindness” and “The Invisible Women.”
- **Kathleen Merritt**, employed with the diocese since 2001 and is the Director of Ethnic Ministries and a strong spokesperson for African American Catholics.
- **Helena Moniz**, recently retired, who worked with the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, organized the annual Priest Convocation program, devoted time to raising money for world missions, and was the longtime secretary of St. Theresa the Little Flower Church.
- **Dr. William Neglia**, longtime member of the Basilica of St. Peter in Columbia and a most generous benefactor to both his parish and the various diocesan ministries in which he participates.
- **Deacon Gregory Sams**, former deacon at St. Gregory the Great Church in Bluffton, now serving St. Clare Parish on Daniel Island. Deacon Sams has also led numerous sessions of “Christ Renews His Parish” retreat programs throughout the southeast.
- **Bonnie Sigers**, the safe environment manager for the diocese who has guided the Diocese of Charleston in keeping our child protection policies up to date and has instituted safe protection programs in all our parishes and institutions.
- **Keith Waring**, a longtime member of St. Patrick Church and a native Charlestonian who has used his financial expertise to help build a solid financial base for the diocese.



Virtual Faith Formation Classes Tuition Grants Available

The Diocese of Charleston, through the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry, has partnered with the University of Dayton to offer continuing education courses to **ministry leaders, catechists, directors of religious education, youth ministers, RCIA team members, parish volunteers, and parish staff**. Anyone involved in parish ministry may apply for a grant through the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry.

Cycle 3: April 11 – May 1, 2021

Registration Opens February 24 and Closes April 7

[Click Here for Cycle 3 Course Offerings in English](#)

Ciclo 3: 11 de abril – 1 de mayo

Las inscripciones comienzan el 24 de Febrero y terminan el 7 de Abril

[Click Here for Cycle 3 Course Offerings in Spanish](#)

[Click for Grant Application Form](#)

For more information, please contact Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF at 843.261.0498 or kadamski@charlestdioocese.org.

VLCFF Online



The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is an online adult religious education and faith formation program you can access, anytime, anywhere via the internet.

- Learn on your schedule.
- Learn in just 3 or 5 weeks.
- Learn with a global community.

"The VLCFF is a pioneer in the e-learning field, delivering 24-7 remote classes to dioceses worldwide long before the pandemic prompted schools to go online and offer hybrid learning."

Eric F. Spina
University of Dayton President

More than 100 courses English, Spanish, Arabic

- Catholic Beliefs
- Disabilities in Parish Life
- Laudato Si
- Ecclesiology
- Images of Jesus
- Prayer
- Catholic Doctrine
- and more !



Catechist Formation



Certificate Programs

VLCFF.UDAYTON.EDU

University of
Dayton



Teacher Certification



Deacon Formation

Lifelong Learning to deepen your Faith

St. Patrick's Day Mass Celebrations -- March 17, 2021

St. Patrick was a brave man who returned to Ireland, where he had been kept as a slave, to help convert the people of Ireland to Christianity from paganism. He lived with constant danger to his life. Legend has it he drove away the snakes of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. This year make St. Patrick's Day about the man and the beauty of the Catholic faith.
(catholicdigest.com)

In Charleston, mass will held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on March 17 at 8:00 a.m. as well as the diocesan Holy Family Chapel at the Pastoral Center at 11:30 a.m. Please check with parishes in your local area to see if they will be holding special masses in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

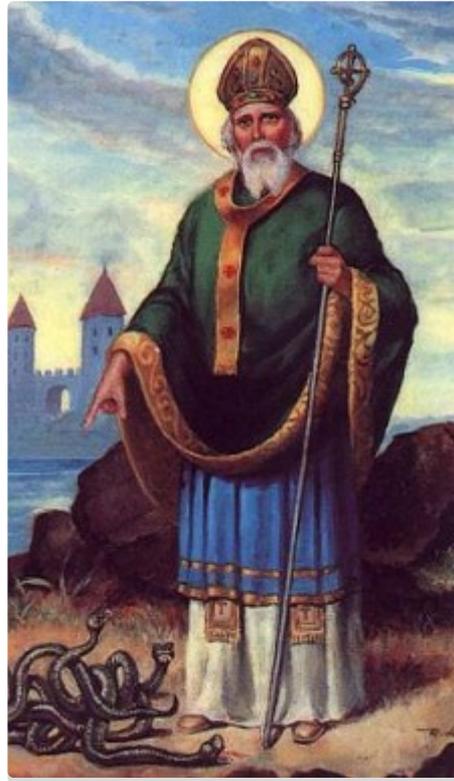


Photo Courtesy of www.catholic.org

St. Peter's Catholic School Lenten Retreat

On March 4, Sr. Kathy had the pleasure of facilitating a faculty Lenten retreat at St. Peter's Catholic School in Beaufort on . Everyone was most responsive and the morning ended with a wonderful lunch. All practiced social distancing and wore masks.



HOLY WEEK RESOURCES

The Augustine Institute Bible Conference

Prepare for Holy Week!

Are you seeking to grow in your love and knowledge of God's Word? Join some of the nation's most dynamic Scripture scholars on March 27 for a one-day virtual event that will be streamed via Zoom. This event is free for all registrants and will start streaming at 10 a.m. MDT. [Register Here for Free.](#)



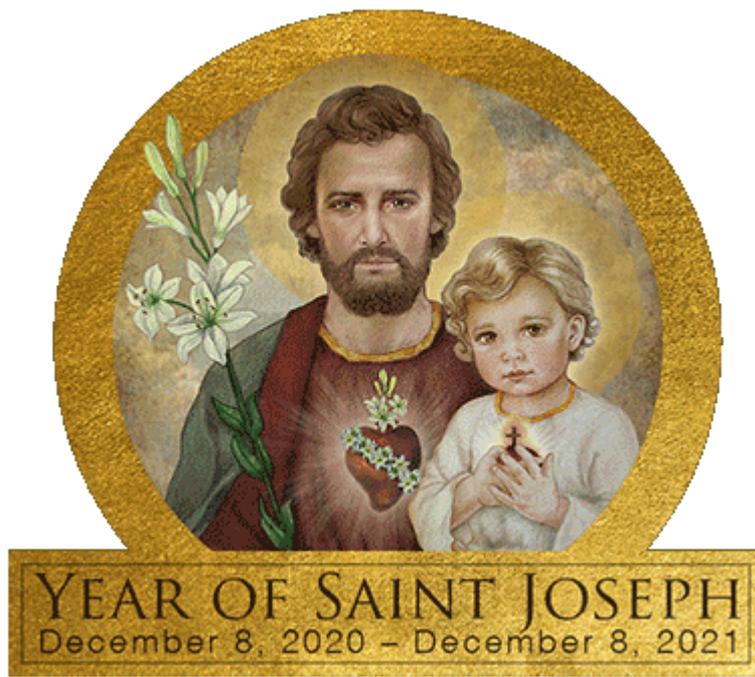
FACTOID

Year of Consecration to St. Joseph

Be sure to visit our departmental webpage for resources and prayers for the Year of Consecration to St. Joseph. A special thank you to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Columbia for providing us with these excellent resources.

[Click here to view the webpage.](#)

Additional resources can be found [here.](#)

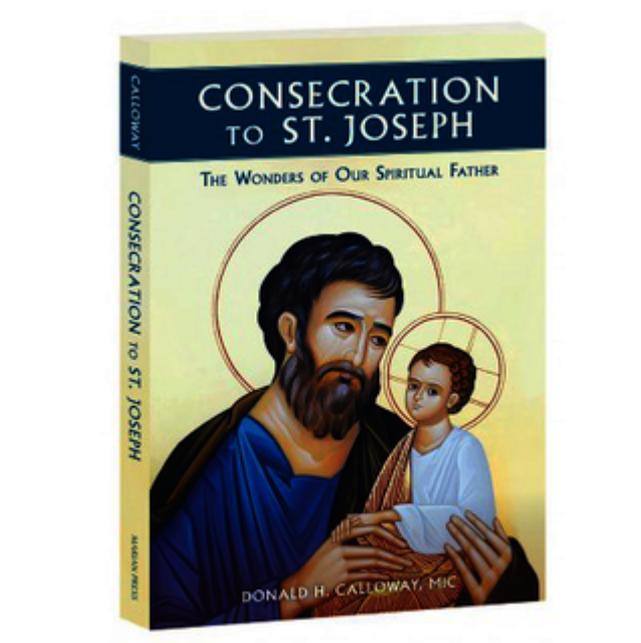


BOOK OF THE MONTH

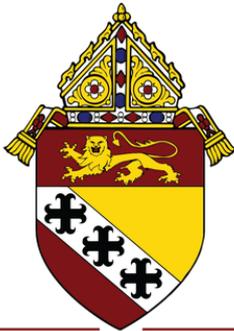
Consecration to St. Joseph

In recognition of the emphasis the Church has placed on St. Joseph in recent centuries, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, has introduced a similar Consecration to St. Joseph complete with 33 days of readings and prayers leading up to a prayer of consecration recited on a feast day connected to St. Joseph. Begin the readings on on March 30, 2021.

Click [here](#) to purchase the book.



Consecration to St. Joseph - Day 1



ROMAN CATHOLIC
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OF CHARLESTON

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