

Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality & Formation for Mission

May 2021



From The Desk Of Sr. Kathy...

Dear Friends:

May is such a wonderful month – Mother’s Day is celebrated, and I pray all mothers had a wonderful day with family and friends, First Holy Communions are celebrated, Confirmations are celebrated, and Baptisms. Everywhere we turn we see new life, reinvigorated life, and the pandemic is finally showing signs of weakening here. We still need to pray for India and other very poor countries that have not received enough vaccines.

In this Buzz news, we share global news about the missions, the mafia and Marian prayers. Many of us grew up realizing the importance of giving to missionaries and the missions. I remember my mother kept a copy of a small Maryknoll magazine on our coffee table, and recently we have been receiving it at our home. I grew up with the realization that our faith needed to be proclaimed to all God's people and to the farthest corners of the earth.

In national news, we highlight a new certificate that the Catholic University of America is offering regarding keeping our children safe and our own program that some of our pastors began pre-pandemic. In local news, we share about a women's home that opened in the upstate for unwed mothers who need support and assistance with their pregnancy.

Also, please consider taking a University of Dayton class. They are from three to five weeks long. Also, consider spiritual direction to deepen your life in Christ. So many wonderful things are happening in our church. Do not be afraid to share with others in your neighborhoods, in your parish bulletins and in the grocery store all the good news.

Please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me about any questions regarding how this diocesan office can best serve you. Please remember all service people who have honored our country in the past or those presently serving in the armed forces, as we commemorate Memorial Day this month. My grand pap from Ireland served in WWI, and my dad served in WWII.

Have a wonderful spring. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF

Associate Director



GLOBAL NEWS

Association For The Propagation Of The Faith

Preparations have begun for next year's Pontifical Mission Societies (*Missio*). May 23, 2022 will mark the 200th anniversary of their official foundation as the "Association for the Propagation of the Faith". It also marks the 100th anniversary of the *Motu Proprio* (an edict issued by the Pope personally to the Roman Catholic Church or to a part of it.) *Romanorum Pontificum*, with which Pope Pius XI declared this a "Pontifical" society.

The origin of the society began with Pauline Jaricot. Born in Lyon, France, on July 22, 1799, she suffered a fall that caused her serious physical damage, and had a somewhat difficult growth. But she felt the call to missionary life. On 3 May 1822, together with a group of lay people, she founded the association of the "Propagation of the Faith", approved by Pius VII in 1823.



Marathon of Prayer

Pope Francis has called for a marathon of prayer during the month of May to appeal for divine assistance in bringing about an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Marian shrines around the world have been chosen by the Holy See to lead the rosary each day of the month with specific prayer intentions focused on those impacted by the pandemic.

A special prayer intention for the various categories of people most affected by the pandemic has been proposed for each day. A full list of the various shrines and the daily intentions can be found on the [website](#) of the Pontifical Council.

Read the full story [here](#).

Pope Francis leads the faithful in prayer before the image of the Madonna del Soccorso in St Peter's Basilica. (Photo Courtesy of Vatican Media)



Vatican Group Aims To Excommunicate Members Of The Mafia

The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has announced the creation of a working group with the aim of excommunicating members of the mafia. The formation of the group coincided with the 9 May Beatification ceremony in Agrigento, Sicily, of the Sicilian magistrate, Rosario Livatino, who was killed by the Mafia in 1990.

Our past three popes, John Paul II, Benedict and Francis have denounced the mafiosi. Pope Saint John Paul II made a vibrant historic appeal for the conversion of the mafiosi in the Valley of the Temples in southern Italy's Agrigento city in Sicily in May 1993. Pope Benedict XVI defined the mafia as a "road of death" during his visit to Palermo in 2010. Pope Francis excommunicated the mafiosi in Sibari, in 2014. On that occasion, in a homily at Mass on 21 June, he described Calabria region's 'Ndrangheta" crime syndicate as "worship of evil and contempt for the common good". He said the mafiosi "are not in communion with God: they are excommunicated."

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

Vatican to formally excommunicate all members of mafia groups



NATIONAL NEWS

Child Protection and Safe Environment Certificate Program Offered by Catholic University of America

The Catholic University of America has launched a new certificate program and is educating Church leaders on the causes, prevention, and most empathetic responses to reports of sexual trauma and abuse.

The Child Protection and Safe Environments certificate program was launched by [The Catholic Project](#) this fall, in conjunction with Catholic University's [National Catholic School of Social Service \(NCSS\)](#) and the [School of Theology and Religious Studies](#). The Catholic Project is the University's response to the sexual abuse crisis, which seeks to renew and build up the Church. In the past year it has held a series of conferences on the sexual abuse crisis, including a one-day encounter between survivors of sexual abuse and Church leaders.

The Diocese of Charleston's Office of Spirituality and Formation for Mission encourages those parishes who launched the Healing Our Church program pre-pandemic to either review and complete or restart the program, especially since many parishes have already purchased the books for this very valuable program. We are hoping to see the Healing our Church program restart this coming fall. Any parish interested in the Healing Our Church sponsored by RENEW International should contact Sr. Kathy at 843.261.0498 or kadamski@charlestandiocese.org for more information.

Trailer for Certificate in Child Protection and Safe Environment



2021 Eucharistic Conference

Can we ever know enough about Christ in the Eucharist?

This Corpus Christi weekend, **June 4-6**, join Catholics from across the globe as we ponder again the mystery of Christ's Body and Blood at the Eucharistic Conference. Imagine what a little renewal of our Faith in the Eucharist could do to transform the Body of Christ. How might Jesus wish to ignite that revival in you?

[Conference Registration](#)



LOCAL NEWS

St. Clare's Home Opening Message from Our Bishop

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to announce that we are opening a home for unwed mothers called the St. Clare Home of Joyful Hope. After over a decade of preparation and planning, this home will serve women who are pregnant and have no home or family to take care of them. It offers women a real alternative to abortion by providing them education, security, and community.

I am honored that the Sisters of St. Michael, the Archangel, are staffing the home to provide the shelter, love and nurturing needed to help moms and their children thrive.

The timing of Mother's Day is both to honor the women in our lives who have chosen life, and to focus our attention on assisting those mothers in the most need. Please watch this [video](#) about the founding of St. Clare's Home and join me in supporting healthy mothers and babies.

In the Lord's Peace,

St Clare's Home - Mother's Day



Precious Blood of Christ Parish Gets An Unexpected Visitor

Precious Blood of Christ Church had an intruder in their Parish Life Center recently. This faith-filled turtle ambled his way into their classroom hallway, possibly aided by the electricians working there who had propped the door open. Rocky Gray, title, came to the rescue and resettled him outdoors rather in the pond because he knows that turtles cannot swim. Rock is a wonderful example of caring for all of God's creation!



Spiritual Direction

Great news! Over 100 individuals are meeting either in person or through zoom with the spiritual directors in our diocese. For more information, please visit:

<https://charlestdiocese.org/formation-for-ministry/spiritual-direction/>



Pictures from a recent spiritual direction retreat led by Lisa Buss at the Heart Ridge Retreat and Cultural Center.



Virtual Learning for Faith Formation Through University of Dayton

As you may recall, the Diocese of Charleston signed an agreement to partner with the University of Dayton in offering Adult Faith Formation opportunities for those who need continual education credits: teachers and principals, parish staff, parish managers and coordinators, DRE's, and youth ministers. In fact, any lay person interested in learning about our faith and becoming a more intentional disciple of the Lord may participate.

It is our hope that parish personnel will take advantage of this new connection that the diocese has formed with the University of Dayton, which is supported by the Society of Mary (Marianists). The partnership does incur a cost for the diocese, so we hope diocesan and parish personnel -- and parishioners -- sign up. You can receive college credit while growing in your faith.

New classes are starting in the spring and typically cost \$50. Visit the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community, create your student profile, chose a course, and content the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Mission to inquire regarding tuition assistance.

<https://vlcff.udayton.edu>.

VLCFF Certificate Programs



RESOURCES

May is Asian American Awareness Month

USSCB is offering resources to support Asian American Awareness.

Click [here](#).



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Ave Maria Press offers **Catholic resources** to give you spiritual guidance and encouragement as well as **practical tips** to help maintain your mental and emotional health.

Click [Here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH *Awareness Month*



Laudato Si' Week

From May 16 to May 25, we celebrate *Laudato Si'* week, "a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. *Laudato Si'* Week 2021 will also be a time to reflect on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us and prepare for the future with hope."

[Click here](#) to view all the events of the week. Inspired to take a fresh look at *Laudato Si'*? Consider [this study guide](#). Take some time to learn about the [Laudato Si' Action Platform initiative](#) and [Laudato Si' Goals](#). [Prayer resource](#).

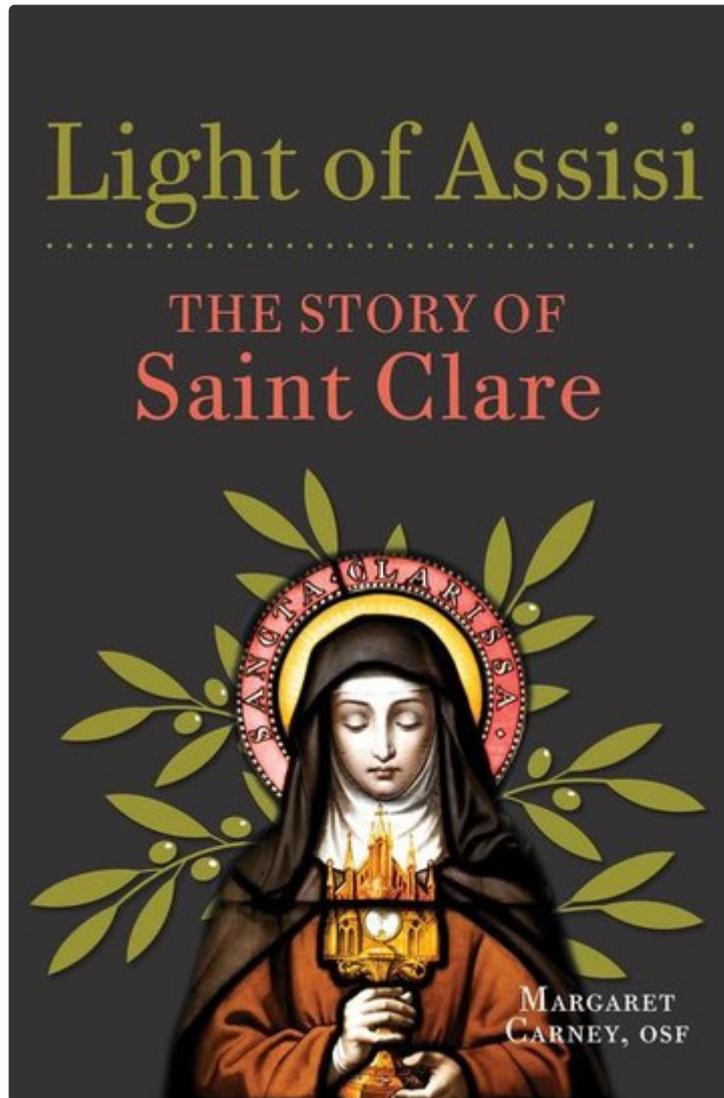
Pope Francis invites you to celebrate Laudato Si' Week 2021 (English)



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Light of Assisi: The Story of St. Clare by Margaret Carney, OSF

Newly published and written by one of the Franciscan sisters. Available through [Franciscan Media](#) for \$16.99,



FACTOID

"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." -- St. Thérèse of Lisieux:



Photo Credit Archives Du Carmel De Lisieux



ROMAN CATHOLIC
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