

Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality & Formation for Mission

September 2021



From the desk of Sr. Kathy...

Dear Friends:

September has many memorable anniversaries. On September 11th, we prayerfully remembered the devastating attack on our nation where almost 3,000 Americans were killed at the hands of suicide bombers. May we continue to pray for those who lost loved ones and are still grieving their loss. Their lives changed forever that day.

On September 17th, I celebrated my entrance into my Franciscan community, as we commemorated the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis. I cannot believe it has been 43 years since I left my life as a young woman in the business world and entered my Franciscan community. My life forever changed that day, and the one question I always get from young people is, "Sister, would you do it again?" And, of course, I answer in the affirmative knowing that any vocation has its rewards and challenges.

This Buzz I will spend most of my communication on the upcoming Synod on Synodality called by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Pope Francis has a vision for the Church which is inclusive, and he wants all the People of God to have influence on how the Church responds to the needs of her people, especially the poor.

I also want to mention that our Year Seven of Formation for Ministry has begun with Diocesan Offices and the Rock Hill and Myrtle Beach deaneries. The reviews have been very positive, and I mention more below.

September 1st through October 4th (Feast of St. Francis) is the Season of Creation. I hope you are commemorating this time by praying and actively getting involved in your church and civic community to remember God's beautiful creation and reflect on what needs to be done to save it for future generations. On September 25th, we celebrate the anniversary of the United Nations adoption of Sustainable Development Goals. We remember the Integrity of Creation and Human Dignity. These goals offer a framework for ensuring that all people and the earth can live with dignity. [The 17 Sustainable Goals](#)

September is also Suicide Awareness Month. Let us recall those people we have known who have taken their life because of mental illness. I especially remember the parents of those children who have taken their life. May we remember the compassion of the Lord Jesus for those who were most troubled and be confident that they are at peace.

Last, let our faith be our guide as we continue to deal with Covid 19. Let us pray for unity in our country and world. May all see the light and become vaccinated so that all people can be safe. Know that I hold you in prayer during these very difficult days.

Peace and all Good,



GLOBAL

Synod for Synodality

As I shared last month with you, Pope Francis would like all dioceses in the world to take part in the “walking or gathering together” (meaning of Synod) so that future conferences of Bishops deal with both the practical and pastoral issues people in the pews see as important in helping them live their faith. On October 17, 2021, the Synod will begin in all dioceses with most having a “opening liturgy” at the Mother Church of the diocese. Bishop Guglielmone will be presiding at the 11:15 am Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston. I asked all Deans in our seven deaneries to commemorate this process with a Mass in their local churches, as well as all parishes in their respective deaneries. The priest can use any of the prayers in the back of the book for “special Masses” and petitions can be made that weekend for the success of the Synod. The music minister can also choose songs appropriate for the Mass and Synod.

During September and October, the Synod committee will be meeting and preparing the questionnaire to be distributed at listening sessions throughout the diocese. Specific parishes representing all deaneries will be asked to host these sessions but any parish can have a “listening session” or join in at a larger parish. The Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry will be offering zoom sessions to prepare anyone facilitating a session. All material for the sessions will be provided on a web site in the near future.

We also will be asking parishioners to complete a questionnaire survey online through Flocknote. Those surveys will be collated and information prepared with your responses and broken down as to how many responded to the various questions and the responses given. It is our desire to get as many organizations and groups involved in this process as we possibly can. **ROME wants to hear from US!**

I ask that parishes set up a “Prayer Group” for the success of the Synod. Perhaps after each Mass or Rosary or novena, the people could say the official “Synod” Prayer found below.

On September 5, 2021, each diocese received a preparatory document and a document outlining the process for the Synod. These documents will be on our Diocesan Synod web site so that you can become more knowledgeable about the process and guidelines of the Synod.

Those of you that were in the diocese in 1993 remember the Diocesan Synod in which Bishop Thompson invited all to participate so that the future pastoral needs of our diocese would come from the people and be implemented over time. There was much excitement at that time which renewed the Church of Charleston; and, hopefully, our involvement in this Synod will also bring much energy at a time so badly needed.

I thank all of you for your involvement in the Synod on Synodality no matter where you live and practice your faith. Know that there will be much more happening...videos, prayers, listening sessions and reports in the future.

Prayer for the Synod for Synodality

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.





Season of Creation -- September 1 through October 4

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. Christians join the Psalmist in proclaiming the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. (Psalms 24:1) However, the current climate crisis is accelerating ecological instability, which results in the loss of habitats that are homes for millions of species, including humans whose homes are at risk due to climate conflict, loss and damage.

We hope that this Season of Creation renews our baptismal call to care and sustain an ecological turning so that life may flourish, and all creatures may find their place to flourish among our common home.

[Catholic - Season of Creation](#)



SEASON OF CREATION

NATIONAL

Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this highly taboo and stigmatized topic. We use this month to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services

[September: National Suicide Prevention Month | Columbia River Mental Health Services \(crmhs.org\)](https://www.crmhs.org)

Five No-Nonsense Tips to Help Someone in Crisis

1. Ask direct questions

Even though it's hard, ask a person directly if they're thinking about suicide and if they have a plan.

2. Listen to their answers

People with suicidal thoughts often feel alone, so be sure to let them know that you care deeply about what they have to say.

3. Do a safety check

If you're concerned for their well-being, try removing anything they could use to harm themselves, such as alcohol, drugs, medications, weapons, and even access to a car.

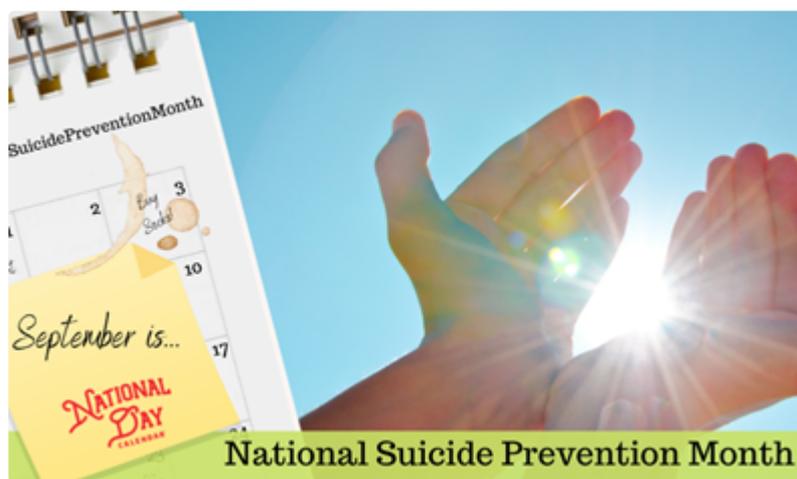
4. Don't keep this a secret

Let them know you'll help come up with a plan that involves telling a professional who can utilize the many services and resources available to help.

5. Ensure they seek professional help

Unless you work in the mental health industry, it's important to suggest they seek additional help from other people, such as a doctor, counselor, psychologist, or social worker.

If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.



LOCAL

Year VII Faith Formation

Almost eighty diocesan and parish staff members have participated in Intellectual Formation so far this year, as we discuss Prophets Yesterday and Prophets Today. I first give an overview of how the Old Testament is arranged and then we look at how the Old Testament prophets functioned and also some of their characteristics. The last session deals with the question of how we need to be prophetic today, and I take the first principle of Social Justice, Human Dignity, and look at the issue of racism and what the Church currently teaches. There is much group sharing and thinking that goes on, and I am happy that one participant e-mailed me today to tell me how she thought about the seminar in regard to the reading in Timothy from two Sundays ago. What a joy for any teacher to hear. I look forward to being with the Greenville Deanery soon.



Rock Hill Deanery Participants

The Oratory
September 1, 2021



Myrtle Beach Deanery Participants

St. Michael the Archangel
Church

September 9, 2021

University of Dayton's Virtual Faith Formation Offers New Course on Aging

If we don't listen to the world's stereotypes, myths and jokes about getting older, our lives are filled with possibilities, growth, depth and joy, particularly in the things that matter. The spirituality of our maturing years enables us to be maturing persons of integrity, touching the world with gifts that are so needed. This seminar explores the needs of people in their later lives: what is happening and how to maximize these times for the deepening of our spirituality. "Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act" is a Basic Level course.

Through a partnership with the Diocese of Charleston and the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry, University of Dayton's Virtual Learning for Faith Formation community is offering courses at reduced prices. Classes are available in both **English** and **Spanish**.

Registration for Cycle 7 begins August 25 and runs through October 6. Classes begin October 10.

GRANT MONEY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE. Contact Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF in the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry to apply for your grant via email to kadamski@charlestdiocese.org or call 843.261.0498.

[Click Here for Cycle 7 Course Offerings in English](#)

[Click Here for Cycle 7 Course Offerings in Spanish](#)

See what UD has to offer at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu>.

Sister Angela Ann talks VLCFF Online



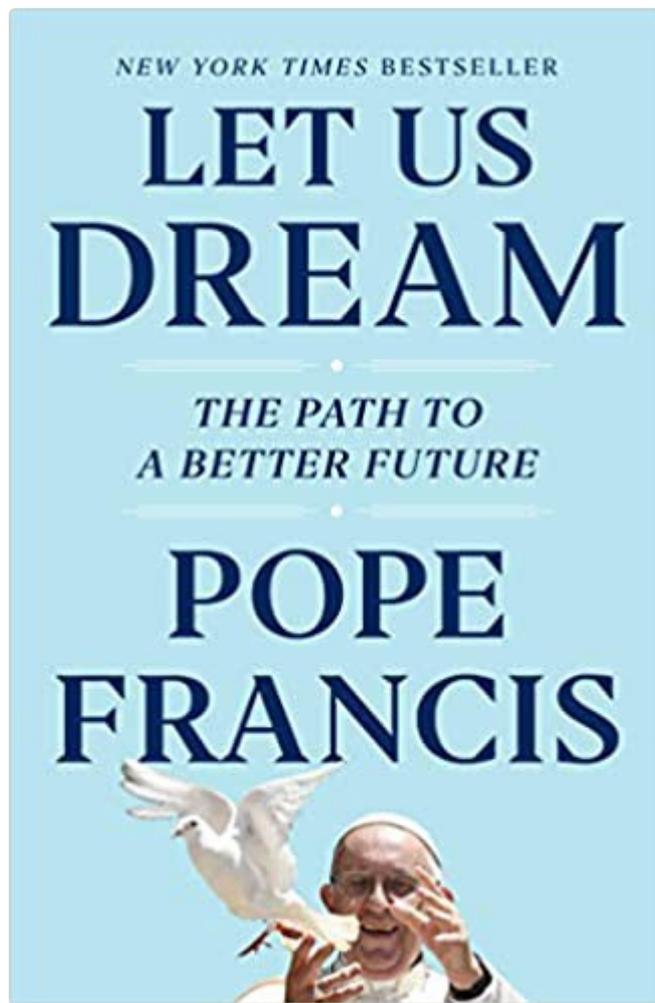
Sister Stories!
interview with Catholic Telegraph

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Let Us Dream

In this uplifting and practical book, written in collaboration with his biographer, Austen Ivereigh, the Holy Father explains why we must—and how we can—make the world safer, fairer, and healthier for all people now.

Let Us Dream by Pope Francis is an easy read and a great way to prepare for our Synod.



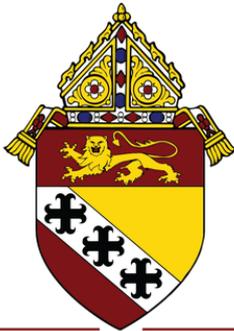
FACTOID

St. Clare's Home

St. Clare's Home in Greenville County, SC, is open to pregnant women in crisis who need support in welcoming their baby into the world. While living at St. Clare's, women are offered life and parenting skills classes, and have the opportunity for further education at either a high school or college level. Since its opening, there have been two babies born!

Check out more at their web page: <https://www.stclareshomesc.org/>

St Clare's Home



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry

 Facebook

 901 Orange Grove Road, Charle...

 kadamski@charlestdioocese...

 843.261.0498

 charlestdioocese.org/formati...

