



OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2020

consecratedlife.archchicago.org

Note: Information about housing, employment and events pertinent to religious should be sent by the 23rd of each month to kmcnulty@archchicago.org for consideration for the OFR Newsletter and/or website publication.

**Wishing you a blessed
Christmas and a New Year
filled with hope!**

RESOURCES, EVENTS and OPPORTUNITIES



With the approach of Advent and a new liturgical year, there are many resources available across the Archdiocese in which to engage and deepen our relationship with God. Our **Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship** team has curated a host of **ways to journey through the Advent season**. Among the calendars, reflections, activities and more you are bound to find something to enrich your experience of Advent. There are sections specific to Catholic educators, as well as ideas for young people.

Liturgy Training Publications has a great resource for parishes: **Keeping the Seasons for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021**

Mundelein Seminary invites all to kick off the Advent season with the annual "**Sounds of the Season**" **Christmas Concert** featuring our seminarian choir under the direction of Linda M. Cerabona on Sunday, December 6 at 2 p.m. CT. Even though current conditions prevent us from gathering in person, the seminarians hope you will join them virtually during this special time of year. The online concert is completely free and will be available to watch at any time afterward. You are also welcome to prepare your heart for Christmas by signing up to receive a **weekly Gospel reflection throughout Advent written by seminarians**

Loyola University's Institute for Pastoral Studies is offering a free virtual Advent Retreat Series, "When They Saw the Star." IPS' retreat series will explain and "explore the beauty and message of Christ's birth within the context of our new 2020 reality." **Learn more about the series and how to register.**

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The **Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness** is hosting an Advent evening of prayer and reflection. All are invited to join, especially anyone living with a mental health concern and their loved ones. To register and receive the link, please email Deacon Tom Lambert at tlambert@ourlmc.org.

And the **St. Agatha Gospel Choir** is pleased to share that in 2019 it recorded a live CD of contemporary Gospel Music that contains some uplifting hymns, nine of which were written by the St. Agatha Music Director, Mr. Dennis Smith. The CD, titled, "It's Over, It's Alright," is on sale through St. Agatha for \$12 plus \$1 mailing and is also available on major music platforms, iTunes, Spotify, etc. Contact Cynthia Smith, Director of Operations at 773.522.3050. Fr. Larry Dowling is on the CD, reciting an original prose piece – he assures everyone not to worry, he doesn't sing on the CD! Proceeds go toward the ongoing community outreach programs at St. Agatha.

The Archdiocese continues to offer online Mass.

Visit: <https://radiotv.archchicago.org/television/broadcast-masses>

Archdiocese of Chicago Radio Programs

The Office for Radio and TV has a list of shows airing everyday live from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Go to: <https://radiotv.archchicago.org/radio> for schedules:

Black Catholic Initiative | Built on the Rock | Catholic Chicago Week in Review
Catholic Chicago | Catholic Conference Hour | Catholic Schools Today | Dare to Love
Diakonia: A Call to Service | Focus on the Liturgy | Fully Alive | Lifelong Journey
On the Way | Mission Matters Live | Chicago Católico | Voice of Charity



2021 RFC CONGRESS
NOVEMBER 4-7 | CHICAGO



ReligiousFormation
CONFERENCE

Save the date!

RFC Congress | November 4-7,

Become a member of NRVC:

National Religious Vocation Conference: For downloadable and video resources, workshops, and research to promote vocations to religious life including VISION Vocation Network, HORIZON Journal and the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations. For more information visit nrvc.net. **Ctrl+Click** Download and print (nrvc.net) **and for more info: Ctrl+Click** Membership Benefits & Fees | NRVC

RAICES y ALAS 2021 - September 22-26,2021 – Save the Dates

<https://ncchm-us.org/2020/03/01/raices-y-alas-2021/>

The National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry will convene the RAICES y ALAS 2021 – National Catholic Congress in Hispanic Ministry on Sept. 22-26, 2021 in Washington, DC. NCCHM is working in Pastoral de Conjunto with the USCCB's Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, the V Encuentro, national organizations and leaders to create the program for the national congress, which is expected to gather over 500 national Hispanic ministry leaders.



Among other areas, the congress will be focused primarily on the Priority Areas that emerged from the V Encuentro and recommend actions steps and plans that will be presented to the V Encuentro leadership and bishops as part of the national pastoral planning for Hispanic ministry.

Applications for Sacred Presence Program

Mayslake Ministries in Downers Grove, Illinois is accepting applications for the Sacred Presence Class which is a 10-month intensive program for the formation of Spiritual Directors. For more information visit the website at mayslakeministries.org to download a brochure and application. Send completed applications to Dr. Mary Amore at mamaore@mayslakeministries.org.

Season of Creation

During the anniversary year of Laudato Si', we continue to invite and spread awareness about climate change and its impact on our world, especially the marginalized. Please take time to learn from these young people from DePaul University. Click on the link to watch their video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3Zn5Vk0lww>



Monthly Homicide Vigil

All are welcome to join Chicago Catholic Sisters for monthly homicide vigils to unite together, name those lost to violence, and pray for the end to violence in our city. The vigils are held on the last Saturday of each month at the site of a homicide. The purpose of the homicide prayer vigil is to serve as a public witness to the sacredness of life when it has been lost through homicides. Follow "Chicago Homicide Vigils" on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChicagoHomicideVigils/

SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious) COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant

Religious communities in need due to the Covid-19 pandemic may want to investigate the possibility of a grant through Soar. According to Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, the President of SOAR, these grants will focus specifically on congregations with an immediate need that a rapid response grant is likely to address or mitigate; and communities with an average age of 70 or older. Send the contact information of the religious congregation to Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, 3025 4th Street NE, Suite 14, Washington, DC 20017 Tel. 202.529.7633 | email info@soar-usa.org

Vocation Ministry and Charism Advancement of Consecrated Life



Over 40 years ago, the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA) was established in the Archdiocese of Chicago to support vocation directors, discerners, and to promote a culture of vocations. Mindful of current realities in the world, our Church, and congregations, we invite you to consider joining CAVA in its ministry to help seekers recognize and respond to God's call in their lives, and to bear witness consecrated life.

Watch our **Why CAVA? Video**

Email Lpammit@archchicago.org - let's talk! Check out the latest studies on recent vocations at: <https://nrvc.net/509/publication/9180-2020-study-on-recent-vocations-to-religious-life>

EMPLOYMENT – POSITIONS OPEN

Siena Retreat Center is seeking a Spiritual Guidance Coordinator

Siena Retreat Center is accepting applications for the position of Spiritual Guidance Coordinator to oversee the Center's ministry/practice of spiritual guidance- full-time, year-round, salaried position with a broad and generous benefits package. **Click here for a full job description.**

Digital and Print Communications Manager

The Society of Helpers is seeking to fill a full-time position that is shared between the Province and its two sponsored ministries: Casa Esperanza and the Circle. The qualified person will focus efforts to utilize social media, our websites and creative videos to enhance our public image and encourage audiences to connect with us through formal relationship or support of our ministries. This position takes responsibility for gathering pertinent and interesting information on the mission and activities of the Society of Helpers, Casa Esperanza and the Circle to engage and inform our audiences internal and external by strategically planning and utilizing different communications mediums – primarily electronic. For more information please contact Sr. Jean Kiely at 773.405.9884 or email at jeankiely@yahoo.com.

RETREATS and OTHER OFFERINGS

Portiuncula Center for Prayer (Ctrl+Click on titles to visit website info)

Dec 7, 2020: **Where are you? What are you looking for?** An Advent Morning Reflection via Zoom

Jan 11-15, 2021: **Open the Door of Your Heart** – “Stay-treat” via Zoom (All day)

Jan 18, 2021: **Soul Collage** 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Jan 23, 2021: **Women's Sacred Spa Day:** Winter Wellness 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Jan 25, 2021: **Deep Relaxation Guided Meditation** via Zoom – 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Siena Retreat Center

Contact our Arrangements Coordinator at: (262) 898-2580 | arrangements@racinedominicans.org

"That Divine Eccentric"--Caryll Houselander Monday, January 11, 2021,

presented twice, 10:00am-11:15am and 6:30pm-7:45pm, free.

Born in 1901, Caryll Houselander began having mystical experiences at the age of ten. By her early 20s she believed strongly that Christ is to be found in all people. We will look at the messages of her mystic vision and how they continue to provide inspiration today.



"Taking the New and Unknown Journey: A Virtual Retreat with Paula D'Arcy" Friday, December 18 - Saturday, December 19 - During these times, we look for light. Advent is a time to dwell on the light hidden in the depths of life, a light that wants to be born in us. What better way to spend part of the Advent season than with Paula D'Arcy? This virtual retreat will include a Friday evening session and two sessions on Saturday morning. **Click to register**

Mayslake Ministries

Women's Saturday Afternoon Tea Series: Sister Thea Bowman, A Voice for the Voiceless

January 30, 2021 - 1:00 pm | Presenter: Chris Hannighan Wiehn

Pour a cup of tea and join us as Chris Hannighan Wiehn offers a wonderful presentation on Sister Thea Bowman a convert, a Franciscan religious, an educator, and a civil rights leader of the 20th century who left an indelible mark on her community and on her Church. Sr. At a time of much division in the Church, Sr. Thea had the ability to bring healing and great joy. See what lessons her life has to offer us today. Chris Hannighan-Wiehn is a Franciscan lay associate, wife, mother, and retired high school teacher. Chris holds a degree in Education from Northeastern Illinois University, a Master's in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, and a certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Claret Center. Chris serves as the Faith Formation Director for Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Joliet. Her passion in ministry is listening to the stories of others, seeing the beauty of nature, and serving as a voice for those without a voice. Registration Fee: \$10 | Register online at mayslakeministries.org or by phone at 630-852-9000.

All participants will receive an email with the Zoom invitation and password approximately two days before the event.

Redemptorist Retreat Center

Preached Retreats for Women and Men: <https://www.redemptoristretreat.org/preached-retreats>

February 5 & 13 | March 19-21, 2021 | March 26-28, 2021

Offerings from The Well

- **Journey to Earth** - January 5, 2021 9:30 am **Click for more info**

5-week retreat. Give yourself to discovering the intimate connection you share with all beings and God. "Integral Ecology" will take on new meaning for you. Retreat Director: Pat Bergen, CSJ

- **Lenten Retreat** | February 17, 2021 | 7:00 pm **Click for more Info**

Nothing is more important than coming home to our deepest Self, for here we come into alignment with the Spirit of the Living God. This is the call of Lent. 2-week virtual retreat.

Upcoming Retreats at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

Call 563-336-8414 or visit theprairieretreat.org for more information and to register

Nov 10 Zoom: Blessings of the North

Nov 17 Zoom: Circle of Life: Autumn

Dec 1&8 Zoom: Integrating Mary's Magnificat

Dec 4 Zoom: Resting in God

Dec 8 Zoom: Celebrate Divine Incarnation

Jan 14,21,28 Zoom: Letting go of Stress

Jan 19 Zoom: Ecumenical Prayer Service

Feb 9 Zoom: Circle of Life: Winter

Feb 10 Zoom: Come to the Quiet

Feb 18 Let God be God

Feb 24 Zoom: Lenten Nights with Barb

Feb 26-28 Grief Retreat: Healing from Loss

Mar 3, 10,17 Zoom: Lenten Nights with Barb

Mar 5-6 Men Encounter Christ in Prayer

Mar 13 Spring Equinox: Act of Power

Mar 19-20 Pause and Refresh

Mar 24 The Heart of Forgiveness

Mar 30 No Fear, No Fail Yeast Bread Making

LIST OF VENUES

For a list of retreat centers, visit our website:

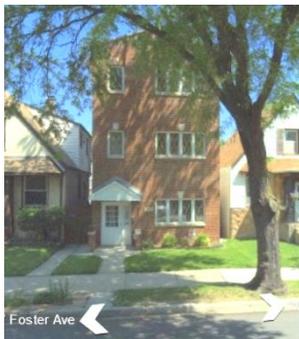
<https://consecratedlife.archchicago.org/resources/retreat-resources>.

PROPERTIES/HOUSING AVAILABLE

Oak Park—St. Catherine of Siena/St. Lucy Parish **Apartment for Rent**. 28 N. Austin Boulevard. Newly renovated apartment includes 2 bedrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen, mud room and parking. \$1,400 per month includes utilities: gas, electricity and water. Religious Preferred. Conveniently located to PACE and CTA Bus stops. One block to Blue Line and Green Line trains.

ALSO< **Rectory Suite**: 2 suites for priests or brothers only. Rent is \$850 per month including utilities, heated garage and stair lift. Contact: Fr. George Omwando at 708.386.8077.

Oak Park--Apartment for Rent: 2-bedroom, 1 bath apartment. A 1200 square foot apartment within unit full washer and dryer. Rent is \$1600/month for an extended lease. Contact Patricia Knabe at 708.204.6650 or ob2knabe@gmail.com.



Apartment available at 2148 West Foster Avenue, Chicago. This is an SSND-owned building with a furnished three-bedroom apartment on the third floor. The location is near bus routes, elevated train, expressways, Churches, stores, etc. Separate indoor entrance via 32 carpeted stairs with a double railing. Carpeted with 3 bedrooms, a large living room with skylights, a full bath, a second bath with a shower off the rear bedroom, large kitchen with a tiled floor and appliance, separate heating, hot water, central air conditioning and washer and dryer. A small back porch off the kitchen provides stairs to the rear yard and the parking area where there is space behind the building to park one car. Street parking. No attic or basement; limited storage. Equipped with a security system. Interested Sisters should contact Sr. Jane Forni, SSND, at jforni@amssnd.org or 443-519-8167.

Bridgeport—**Apartment for Rent**: One bedroom on the second floor/front. Non-smoking building; no animals. Central heat and air conditioning at 2950 Keeley Street. Contact Alice Mesec at 630.243.7390 or 630.301.0034 (cell).

Irving Park/Kilbourn Park—**Home for Rent**: 3 bed, 2 bath bungalow. Hardwood floors and full basement with 2 car garage. Freshly painted and maintained. Seeking a long-term rental, as previous tenants were there for ten years. 4150 W. Melrose Avenue. Call or text Nick at 630.776.3909. Rent: \$2,100 per month.

Brookfield 2-bedroom apartment available February 1. Women religious in other apartments. 2nd flr, laundry on premises, \$950, heat included. Contact Bill at 708. 248.2275.



House for Rent - 5045 South Ellis Avenue
 Call for details - 847-412-1617 or 847-412-1621 |

This classic, traditional house in the historic Kenwood neighborhood welcomes you with an inviting front porch. The three-story, 13 room house has eight bedrooms, 5 ½ bathrooms and a sitting room and elegant vintage features. A sunny screened porch overlooks a tranquil backyard. The wonderful outdoor space is a restful haven in the midst of the city.

House for Rent: St Mary of the Lake Parish, 4216 N. Sheridan Rd. Chicago.
 Delightful 4 bedroom / 2-bathroom home situated on 2 floors + finished basement | parking available | close to CTA bus stops and Red Line transit (Irving Park). Contact Pastor Manuel Dorantes 773 280 7700

Jefferson Park—House for Sale (Possible rental): 5240 N. Ludlam Avenue, 60630. 3 bed/1 bath; oak floors and maple kitchen with a great layout. 2.5 car garage with a yard and 6-foot fence on all sides. House has light streaming in from the east which creates a peculiar ambience. Basement has a space which was another apartment in past years. The house does need some cosmetic work, mainly floor which need sanding and an exterior paint job. Some work is also needed on the 3rd bedroom and basement apartment. Some new windows will be needed for next winter. The current occupant has lived in this residence for 25 years and the home is dedicated to Our Lady. As is: \$230,000. Contact Julie at jmccreevy099@gmail.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION REQUEST

Note: This request came to the Office for Religious as an email attachment with no link to the compiled information. The following information lists the contents of the attachment.



What's Happening?

- Immigrant children denied the chance to request asylum face deportation - BuzzFeed
- Biden faces early test with immigration and Homeland Security after Trump - NY Times
- Immigration officers have been told not to communicate with Biden's transition team - BuzzFeed
- Fed'l judge blocks efforts to expand crimes for denying asylum - AP
- White House nixed deal to pay for mental healthcare for migrant families separated at border - NBC News
- Fed'l judge halts 'public health' expulsions of children at the border - NY Times
- Fed'l judge rules restricting DACA program were invalid - The Record
- Compliant filed against SF immigration judge accused of hostile treatment - NBC News
- Critics call new citizenship test, which takes effect Dec 1, too long, politicized - Wash Post
- Border work builders carry on, but project may never be completed - NPR
- Immigration office postpones staff furloughs to end of August - C

Action One: Prayer

O Blessed Mary, Mother of Mercy, you fled into exile in the moonlight, carrying your son, our Lord Jesus. You shared his journey to the Cross, and are now robed in the light of peace. Mary, Mother of

the Poor, watch over migrants and refugees holding their families close on fearful journeys. Comfort and protect them, we pray, as they walk beneath the shining stars. Bless our communities, loving Mary, fill our hearts with compassion, help us to shelter the stranger, and share the goodness of God's consoling love with all our neighbors. Amen. *(Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD)*

Action Two: Calls/Letters

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell President elect Joe Biden to urge Congress to pass the Peoples Act (HR 1) as a first priority in his administration. Sign the petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/the-next-president-congress-must-enact-democracy-reform?source=10062020swap-fan&referrer=group-franciscan-action-network&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=d927f4ca-0792-4819-ae90-f4bea3fb4bc0>

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell Congress to make family reunification a top priority until every single separated family is reunited. <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-congress-make-family-reunification-a-top-priority>

NATIONAL LEVEL - Send a message to the San Antonio ICE Field Office and demand that these families get access to legal support they need to fight their cases.

https://www.raicestexas.org/2020/11/19/ice-transferred-families-from-hotels-to-immigration-prisons/?ms=em20201119_karnes_tellice&emci=164d5f89-b32a-eb11-9fb4-0003ff196a4c&emdi=80b87d8f-b32a-eb11-9fb4-0003ff196a4c&ceid=98335

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell ICE to stop deportation of children and their families - <https://act.amnestyusa.org/page/59764/action/1>

NATIONAL LEVEL - Demand McConnell and Senate to pass Covid19 relief not more federal judges. https://actionnetwork.org/letters/sign-and-send-the-petition-to-the-us-senate-you-must-focus-on-covid-19-relief-immediately-not-more-federal-judge-confirmations?source=2020SenatePassCOVIDNotJudges_CHN&referrer=group-coalition-on-human-needs&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/covidsenateletters&link_id=2&refcodeEmailReferrer=email_992551&can_id=03b6cd570a93aeb040c5391b4bcd3e28&email_referrer=email_992551&email_subject=sign-if-you-agree-the-senate-must-finally-pass-pandemic-relief

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell Congress to deliver a Covid19 health and stimulus bill that actually works for immigrant families. <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/take-action/>

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell Congress to pass Covid19 relief now. https://secure.bread.org/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=00000000.app30038b?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=393&autologin=true&NONCE_TOKEN=82014D0998329CA4971FF5EE95C16065

NATIONAL LEVEL - Stop the deportation of survivors and witnesses of ICE abuse - <https://action.mijente.net/petitions/protect-survivors-of-medical-abuse-in-ice-custody>

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell DHS to restore the right to asylum. <https://jesuitmigrantsolidarity.org/restore-right-to-asylum/>

NATIONAL LEVEL – Take the families belong together pledge. Add your name to our pledge to step up commitment in the fight to liberate families. <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/take-the-families-belong-together-pledge>

NATIONAL LEVEL - Tell the Senate to protect migrants and refugees in a Covid19 relief pkg. <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.salsalabs.org/WorldRefugeeDay2020/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=24106526-ce35-4684-8bd3-fe2784bfbb82>

Action Three: Education

Border work builders carry on, but project may never be completed -

<https://www.npr.org/2020/11/16/934784015/trumps-border-wall-builders-carry-on-even-though-projects-may-never-be-completed>

'I CAN'T FEED MYSELF': DC RESTAURANT FAMOUS FOR FEEDING THE HOMELESS DAILY

NOW STRUGGLING [HTTPS://WJLA.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/DC-PAKISTANI-IMMIGRANT-RESTAURANT-VIRAL-FEEDING-HOMELESS-STRUGGLING-COVID?FBCLID=IWAR1UDPYJDRS74PW0NWBNAK3R6HTIFDLHYAMYUWFOFZYT1S3QWM47P3PEYMC](https://wjla.com/news/local/dc-pakistani-immigrant-restaurant-viral-feeding-homeless-struggling-covid?fbclid=IWAR1UDPYJDRS74PW0NWBNAK3R6HTIFDLHYAMYUWFOFZYT1S3QWM47P3PEYMC)

Can Biden reverse Trump's immigration crackdown? -

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2020/11/13/will-a-biden-administration-really-reverse-the-trump-administration-crackdown-on-immigrants/>

Fashion activism in 2020: How brands are fighting for immigrants' rights -

<https://www.glossy.co/fashion/fashion-activism-in-2020-how-brands-are-fighting-for-immigrants-rights/>

Federal judge rules restricting DACA program were invalid - <https://therecordnewspaper.org/federal-judge-rules-restricting-daca-program-were-invalid/>

Inside the lives of immigrant teens working dangerous night shifts in suburban factories -

https://www.propublica.org/article/inside-the-lives-of-immigrant-teens-working-dangerous-night-shifts-in-suburban-factories?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=majorinvestigations&utm_content=feature

Building a new regional migration system: redefining US cooperation with Mexico and Central America - <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/new-regional-migration-system-us-mexico-central-america>

Action Four: Action

ONGOING: BROADVIEW FRIDAY MORNING VIGILS: The ICDI Broadview Prayer Vigil is still happening but we are doing it weekly online. As is customary, First Fridays are interfaith and other weeks we pray the rosary. Anyone who wants to get the meeting access information can email hello@icdichicago.org with a request.

Action Five: Social Media: (@Sen/Rep) Since the start of the pandemic, immigrants have been working the frontlines. As we prepare for the holidays, we need to remember essential workers' lives are on the line. They are important and not disposable so please support them. Thank you for your efforts!

USCCB.org Downloadable Advent Calendar (English and Spanish)



Ctrl + Click on the calendar you wish to download from the USCCB.org website.



**Wishing you a blessed
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