



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## A Look at the Process of INSTALLING A NEW BISHOP *Fr. Godfrey Discusses Administration of Our Diocese and Cathedral Parish*

The Diocese of Belleville is undergoing a big transition as we await the appointment of our new bishop. The Cathedral, as the seat of the diocese, has a unique front-row seat and role in welcoming our new bishop. Fr. Godfrey Mullen, who was elected to serve as the diocesan administrator until a new bishop is appointed, will be guiding the diocese — and the parish — through this transition.

Now that Bishop McGovern has begun his new role as Archbishop of Omaha, the process of selecting a new bishop has begun.

“Likely, the process for the selection of a new Bishop of Belleville is already in the beginning stages, with the Apostolic Nuncio, the papal delegate in Washington, consulting various people about the needs of the diocese,” Fr. Godfrey says.

The College of Consultors, a group of eight priests in the diocese, chose Fr. Godfrey to serve as the diocesan administrator. The role of the diocesan administrator is to maintain and hold things steady until the new bishop arrives.

“My primary task is to continue

*continued on page 5*





# The Digital Apostolate:

SHARING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

In our increasingly interconnected world, the digital realm has become a powerful tool for Catholics to live as active disciples of Christ and express their stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. The internet and social media platforms have transformed the way we communicate, learn, and engage with our faith communities. How can modern Catholics harness the power of technology to give back in gratitude to God and the Church, living out their faith as digital disciples?

**Sharing the Word of God:** Social media provides a vast platform for Catholics to share the Word of God with a global audience. Whether it's posting a daily Scripture verse, sharing reflections on the Sunday readings, or participating in online Bible study groups, the internet allows us to spread the message of Christ to people far and wide. By doing so, we use our time to nurture our faith and that of others.

**Supporting Charitable Causes:** The digital landscape offers numerous opportunities to contribute to charitable causes. Online fundraising platforms, crowdfunding websites, and charity organizations all have a significant online presence. Catholics can use their financial resources to support these causes and organizations, aligning their treasure with the call to care for those in need.

**Volunteering and Advocacy:** Social media is an excellent tool for promoting volunteering opportunities and advocating for various social justice issues. Whether it's sharing information about local volunteer events, supporting organizations working for positive change, or advocating for the sanctity of life and human dignity, the digital space allows us to use our talents to make a difference.

**Online Ministry and Evangelization:** The internet has opened new avenues for online ministry and evangelization. Many Catholics have created blogs, YouTube channels,

and social media profiles dedicated to discussing faith, spirituality, and theology. These platforms serve as a valuable resource for fellow believers and those exploring the Catholic faith. By sharing their talents and knowledge, they actively contribute to the spiritual growth of others.

**Catholic Community Building:** Social media and the internet enable us to form and nurture Catholic communities in the digital world. Online forums, social groups, and virtual events facilitate fellowship, prayer, and support. By connecting with like-minded individuals online, we can strengthen our faith, learn from others, and share our time with a community of believers.

**Leveraging Technology for Prayer:** Various apps and websites offer resources for prayer, meditation, and devotions. Modern Catholics can use these tools to enhance their prayer lives and grow spiritually. By incorporating technology into their prayer routines, they steward their time effectively, deepening their relationship with God.

**Promoting Catholic Stewardship:** Catholics can use their online presence to promote the principles of stewardship — time, talent, and treasure. Sharing stories of their experiences in giving back, emphasizing the importance of responsible financial stewardship, and encouraging others to volunteer and serve their communities are all ways to live out Catholic stewardship in the digital world.

As modern Catholics, our digital presence offers a unique opportunity to actively live out our faith, share our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, and give back in gratitude to God and the Church. By using social media and the internet responsibly and intentionally, we can be digital disciples, reaching a vast audience and making a positive impact on our faith communities and the world.



*A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector*

# *Stewardship and Patriotism Go Hand in Hand*

Dear Parishioners,

**A**s Catholics, we are called to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. This includes our time, talent, and treasure. It also includes our responsibilities as citizens of our nation. We are also called to be disciples of Christ, following His example of love, service, and sacrifice.

Our Catholic faith provides us with a framework for how we can be better citizens and create a better nation. By living out our faith through acts of service and charity, we can make a positive impact on the world around us.

As we celebrate the birth of our great nation on July 4, and as we reflect on the concept of Catholic stewardship and discipleship, let us remember that our faith calls us to be generous with our time and resources, to care for the most vulnerable among us, and to work towards a more just and equitable society.

Our nation faces many challenges, including social injustice, economic inequality, and environmental degradation. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to work towards solutions that promote the common good and reflect the values of our faith.

By engaging in acts of service and charity, advocating for policies that promote social justice and environmental stewardship, and supporting our local communities, we can create a better nation and a better world.

As we continue our journey of faith, let us commit ourselves to being better citizens and to using our Catholic faith to create a more just and equitable society for all.

May God bless you and your families as we work together toward a better future.



Peace,

*Fr Godfrey OSB*

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB  
Cathedral Rector



# Belleville Parishes *Blessed* With a Strong Forming Our Young Parishioners

**T**oday's Church faces a very real challenge in diminishing numbers, both in parishes and in religious formation programs. Fortunately in Belleville, five parishes have banded together to ensure a robust educational program for their children.

Since 2007, the Parishes' School of Religion (PSR) has been offering religious formation classes for children of St. Teresa, St. Luke, St. Augustine, St. Mary, and the Cathedral of St. Peter. Sister Tess Markus, SSND, coordinates the class schedules. Classes are offered September through May on Sunday mornings from 8:45-10 a.m., or 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the St. Augustine campus.

The classrooms for PSR are in the former Notre Dame Academy building at the St. Augustine campus, which closed in 2024 due to low enrollment. However, there is a silver lining to the school closing — PSR can now use the building for its own purposes, including the smartboards and computers. And thanks to a generous parishioner who has experience in IT, it may be possible to install smart TVs in the classrooms.

"Now that we have the whole school, we can move the desks and hang things on the walls," Sr. Tess says. "We have complete access to the building. Our parishes

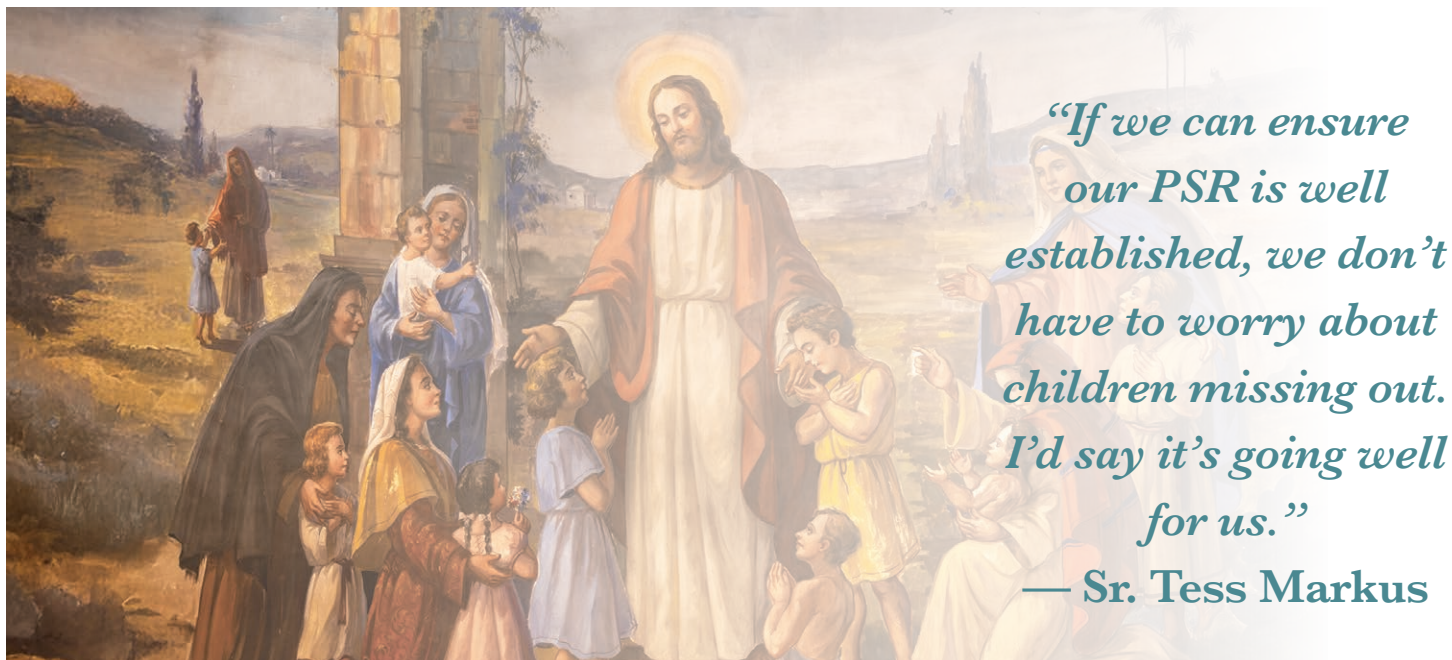
aren't that far apart, and the school is in the center of the five parishes."

There are over 100 students and 11 teachers in the PSR program. Sr. Tess says that by offering two different class times during the week, more families benefit from the flexibility throughout the year.

With so many students from several parishes coming to two different class times, it can be difficult to foster a sense of community. Fortunately, Sr. Tess organizes two gatherings for all the families signed up for PSR.

"We do one family gathering before Christmas, including a prayer service and craft time, and then Ash Wednesday Mass together," she says. "I try to include all the children in the Mass — some as lectors, some bringing up the gifts, and some reading the prayer petitions. We have a full crowd every year."

When it comes to sacramental celebrations, managing five different parish schedules is no small task! Sr. Tess tries to combine the five parishes' First Communion celebrations into one, switching the location each year to keep things equal. It may take an extra amount of patience and organization, but Sr. Tess says there are advantages to combining parishes for faith formation.



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I'd say it's going well  
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— Sr. Tess Markus



# Parishes' School of Religion Program and Their Families in the Faith

If we can ensure our PSR is well established, we don't have to worry about children missing out. I'd say it's going well for us."

With five different parishes that contribute to the PSR budget, Sr. Tess is able to offer the teachers a small stipend for their time. Several teachers have experience in the public schools, and Sr. Tess appreciates their professionalism.

"The teachers are very responsible about their role," she says. "They are very consistent. I believe it's only right they get paid, and I think they appreciate that. They are

very dedicated."

Managing schedules, logistics, and curriculum for the PSR program is Sr. Tess's way of offering her time and talent to five local parishes. She says that it has been a joy to serve in this capacity.

"I taught in Catholic grade school, and I have my master's in religious education," she says. "I like to organize and prepare people to teach. I've worked with kids for over 50 years, and they are such a joy to be around. It's been a blessing."

*If you missed registration for next fall's PSR, look out for a registration reminder in your email.*

*To volunteer as a teacher, contact Sr. Tess Markus at [tmarkus@ssndcp.org](mailto:tmarkus@ssndcp.org) or 618-234-1166.*

## A Look at the Process of Installing a New Bishop

*continued from front cover*

the administration of the diocese in the absence of a bishop along the path of Bishop McGovern," Fr. Godfrey says. "Innovations are not permitted by Church law. Let's pray that God will bless us with a bishop soon!"

Aside from this, the main change for Cathedral parishioners will be not seeing Bishop McGovern at Mass. Substitute priests have been helping to fill in until Fr. Godfrey's assignment as pastor of Blessed Sacrament and Queen of Peace ends on June 30.

While there is no standard length of time for a bishop to serve one diocese, the appointment and movement of bishops to different dioceses is normal and helps to meet the needs of the whole Church.

"Every bishop brings his own skills and gifts to the office," Fr. Godfrey says. "Bishop McGovern brought the genuine delight of being a pastor to his work as bishop here the past five years. Those strengths were obvious in the way he served. Whoever our new bishop is will also bring a set of skills, ideas, and hopes. He will also bring a vision for

how the diocese might grow. In some ways, Pope Francis set some of those directions — synodality, hope, joy."

Once the new bishop is selected, there will be either an ordination, if he is not already a bishop, or an installation if he has already been ordained a bishop. The ordination or installation will be a time of prayer and celebration with many faithful and clergy in attendance.

"As the Cathedral, we will have a particular role to play in it all — especially a role of hospitality, a pillar of stewardship we've been developing for some time now," Fr. Godfrey says.

*To stay up-to-date on diocesan news and the appointment of the new bishop, visit the parish website at [www.cathedralbelle.org](http://www.cathedralbelle.org) or our Facebook page.*

# HABEMUS PAPAM: POPE LEO XIV

## *A Faithful Steward for a New Chapter in the Church*



The Catholic Church entered a new chapter on May 8 with the election of Pope Leo XIV — formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A. — as the 267th successor to St. Peter. A Chicago native and member of the Augustinian order, Pope Leo XIV is now the first American pope in the Church's history. His election is a powerful reminder of the Church's global reach and the vital role of the Americas in its future.

He follows Pope Francis, who died in April after more

than 11 years as our Holy Father. Pope Francis made a lasting mark through his deep concern for the poor and marginalized and his call for a “Church that goes out.” His papacy inspired many, as he pushed boundaries around certain pastoral and doctrinal issues.

Pope Leo's background tells a story of missionary zeal and service. He spent years in Peru, walking with the people, building community, and forming future priests. He knows the importance of meeting people where they are, and will hopefully demonstrate how truth and charity can go hand in hand.

His choice of the name “Leo” reflects inspiration from Pope Leo XIII, known for his teachings on social justice and the dignity of work. It's a name that signals a pope who wants to lead the Church with wisdom, courage, and deep concern for the common good.

For those of us committed to stewardship as a way of life, there's much to admire in our new Holy Father. From his years of missionary service to his humble leadership style, Pope Leo XIV has lived the call to stewardship — receiving God's gifts gratefully, nurturing them faithfully, and sharing them generously.

In one of his first public messages, he said, “The mission of the Church is Christ's, not ours. We are stewards, not owners.” That simple statement gets to the heart of what stewardship is all about. It's not about control, but trust. It's about placing our time, gifts, and resources in God's hands and using them for His glory.

Pope Leo XIV is a reminder that living our faith fully — with truth, charity, and courage — is the best witness we can give in a divided world.

Let's pray for our new Holy Father as he begins this sacred mission. And let's follow his lead — living as good stewards, grounded in the Gospel, and ready to serve the Church and the world with joyful hearts.



# YOUNG ADULT BASKETBALL NIGHTS

## *Open Cathedral Space to Community in Valuable Way*

Those with school-age kids and older adults seem to have natural places to plug into the Cathedral — there are opportunities like Faith Formation, Knights of Columbus, and the Rosary Makers Guild, to name a few. But young adults fall into a place where they may not feel there are as many chances to get involved in meaningful community activities.

With such a need in mind, Ron Lassman approached Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, last year to inquire about adding a young adult basketball opportunity twice a month.

“I’m so thankful Fr. Godfrey has made the gymnasium available for this purpose,” Ron says. “This is a good chance for these men and women to be together and be active.”

Ron and his wife, Debra, have three sons and one daughter. Their youngest son, Michael, plays basketball regularly at the basketball nights, along with some friends and neighbors.

“I know he and his friends needed more chances for activity, so I reached out to Father to see if they could use the gym twice monthly,” Ron says. “Fr. Godfrey was happy to allow it.”

The group plays full-court basketball for a few hours twice a month at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Up to 15 players have been playing at one time. Gym space isn’t easy to come by, and it’s not free, so the players all appreciate the opportunity. The YMCA is an option, but even that has a cost.

Of course, while getting these young adults into our parish space isn’t a direct route to Mass attendance, it can’t hurt!

“It’s good getting them here,” Ron says. “Plus, it’s keeping them social and active, which is also essential. It’s good for the body and the mind.”

A couple of the players even volunteered to help with the parish garage sale.

Ron wants to express his gratitude to Fr. Godfrey for allowing the use of the gym for this ministry. Ron knows from experience that interaction is crucial. He’s a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and he finds joy in learning about his fellow members.

“I love having this option to get young people off the screens and active,” Ron says. “Who knows — maybe some of them might become interested in the Catholic faith.”



*All young adults are welcome to come play basketball. Contact Ron Lassman for the monthly dates at 618-540-0313 or [rlassman90@yahoo.com](mailto:rlassman90@yahoo.com).*



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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## St. Francis Solanus **Feast Day, July 14**

### The Apostle of Peru and Argentina



**S**t. Francis Solanus, known as the “Wonder Worker of the New World,” embodied virtues relevant even in our digital era. Born in 1549 in Montilla, Spain, to pious parents, he embraced Franciscan spirituality early on. Initially drawn to martyrdom in North Africa, he eventually focused on missions in the Americas.

Renowned for his healing abilities in Spain, St. Francis embarked on a fateful journey to South America in 1589. Despite a perilous voyage aboard a slave ship, where he comforted and baptized slaves during a deadly storm, he continued his mission in present-day Argentina and Paraguay. His dedication extended to learning native languages and providing musical solace to the indigenous people.

Anticipating his death, St. Francis passed away in 1610 in Lima, Peru, leaving behind a legacy of prophecy and service. Canonized in 1726, he is honored on July 24 by the Franciscan Order and on July 14 in the United States. Patron saint of several South American nations, his life inspires emulation of strength, selflessness, and Gospel devotion, regardless of our modern pursuits.

#### **MASS TIMES**

*Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. | Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m.*

#### **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)**

*Monday-Friday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. | Thursday: 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m.*

#### **ADORATION**

*Tuesday 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m.*