**2017 Catholic Charities**

**Thank you for your kind support of the Catholic Charities Appeal!** This appeal represents the chance for all Catholics to make a significant pledge, payable in installments, to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland. **To donate, please fill out a Catholic Charities Annual Appeal envelope found in your pew.** Your support helps carry out the mission Jesus entrusted to us: **I** **say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for** **me.’** Please pray for the success of the appeal, which provides essential programs and services throughout all 8 counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. On behalf of the needy of Northeast Ohio, thank you! For more info: [**www.catholiccommunity.org/2017Appeal**](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/2017Appeal)**.**

***DSWC***

*The* ***Divorced, Separated & Widowed Catholics of Akron*** *will be sponsoring a* ***talk by Fr. Ralph Thomas****. Fr. Thomas is a retired priest in residence at IHM and is our DSWC spiritual advisor. His* ***topic is “The Rich Years,”*** *touching on our thoughts, beliefs, worries, and social concerns as we age. Held at the* ***Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail in Cuyahoga Falls****,* ***Monday, May 8 at 7:30pm****. Open at no cost to single people of all faiths.* ***Refreshments at 7:15. Speaker begins at 7:30. For more info, call Sue at 330-554-5626.***

**National Catholic Singles Conference**

Join hundreds of single Catholics of all ages at the **National Catholic Singles Conference**, **May 19-21** held at the **DoubleTree Pittsburgh-Green Tree in Pittsburgh, PA**. The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, prayer, food, fellowship and more! Space is limited so register now! **For more info and to register visit** [**www.NationalCatholicSingles.com**](http://www.NationalCatholicSingles.com)**. Use promo code NCSCPA to receive a special discount. Please call 888-267-8885 x4 for more information.**

**LEAF Ministry**

**Do you know someone who because of the incarceration of a loved one, experience isolation, shame, guilt, and an overwhelming sense of being alone? The LEAF Ministry has been formed to be of support to families.** Groups meet monthly offering an opportunity to those who come to listen and share community, network and learn from others who understand their situation, challenges, fears and emotions. All are welcome to participate irrespective of faith affiliation. No registration is necessary. It is our intention to continue to form additional groups in the various areas of the diocese. **If interested in beginning a group, call Sr. Rita Mary, SND at 800-869-6525 or 216-696-6525 x2200. For more info, locations and schedules, call 216-696-6525 x3500 and visit** [**www.leafministry.org**](http://www.leafministry.org)**.**

**Street Evangelization Training**

**Ever wanted to share your Catholic faith with others, but didn’t know how to get the conversation started?** **Come learn how!** St. Paul Street Evangelization provides a non-confrontational avenue for you to share Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture. We have developed a practical method for breaking the ice and asking some simple questions to quickly determine where a person is in their faith journey. This method provides you with a road map of how the conversation will go and how to plant seeds by sharing your own personal experiences to help the person move to the next step. **Basic Evangelization Training will be held from 9am-5pm at St. Francis de Sales Parish on May 13.** Space is limited. Sign up today! **Register at** [**www.streetevangelization.com**](http://www.streetevangelization.com) **and click our link under Upcoming Workshops. Registration closes April 29. For more info, contact Mike Powers at 330-618-7688 or at** [**2016.spse@gmail.com**](mailto:2016.spse@gmail.com)**.**

**2017 First Step Programs**

**Marriage and Divorce in the Catholic Church**

**The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland’s First Step Program is offered to help everyone, especially those who have experienced divorce, learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will also be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced.**

**Taking the “first step” is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure.**

***The schedule for the general meetings in 2017 is:***

***Tuesday, May 16, at St. Mary Parish, Chardon, at 7pm.***

***Tuesday, Sept. 12, at St. Paul Parish, Akron, at 7pm.***

***Tues., Oct. 10, at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm.***

**The Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process. For more information, please call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525, x4000 or visit** [**www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal**](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal)**.**

**Amish Country Theatre**

Join the members of the **OLG Young at Heart Group** on **Tuesday, May 23** for a spring treat as we visit **London’s Chocolate Outlet**, **St. John Basilica Shrine**, and lunch at the **Amish Country Matinee Comedy Show**. Trip price is **$80**. **Departing Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (9080 Shepard Rd., Macedonia, OH 44056) at 8:15am** and **returning at 6:30pm.** Please call **Mary Rizzo at 330-467-3465** for reservations or more information.

**June Golfing**

**Borromeo Seminary Golf Outing will take place on Monday, June 26, 2017, at Signature of Solon Country Club. Proceeds go toward scholarship support for incoming students at Borromeo Seminary. For registration information or parish sponsorship opportunities, please contact Maggie Zbiegien at 440-943-7631 or at** [**mzbiegien@dioceseofcleveland.org**](mailto:mzbiegien@dioceseofcleveland.org)**.**

**Touch a life… Become a Hospice Volunteer**

Hospice is a philosophy of care, not a place. We care for our patients wherever they call home. As a vital part of our **team volunteers come from all walks of life, and have a variety of skills, talents and abilities.** Opportunities to serve are diverse: **visit patients and families to provide companionship, socialization, and comfort, help with legacy work, sit vigil with dying patients (By Your Side), provide transportation to patients being served at home, provide help with light housework, meal preparation, run errands, make phone calls, help with clerical work, attend health fairs and more**. Volunteers with specialized professional qualifications and training are also needed: **attorneys, licensed hair dressers, Massotherapists, pet therapy dogs and their handlers**. Volunteer education is held frequently throughout northern Ohio. **Teen and most volunteers not having contact with patients take 4 hours of training while patient care volunteers take 16 hours.** **Please visit** [**www.hospicewr.org/volunteer**](http://www.hospicewr.org/volunteer) **for adsditional information or to fill out an application or call us at 216-255-9090.**

**50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

The **annual 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration** will be held on **Sunday, July 30, 2017** at the **2:30pm Mass** at the **Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**. Reservations will be accepted for couples married 50 years (married in 1967). Couples who are celebrating other significant anniversaries (55 or over) or have missed previous celebrations are welcome to register and attend. Seating is limited in the Cathedral. The number of guests will be determined by the seating capacity and total number registered. **Please call the Mother of Sorrows Rectory at 330-657-2631 to register.**

**Catholic Radio**

**The Living Bread Radio Network, AM 1060 (Canton, Akron and Cleveland) and 94.5 FM (Canton vicinity), produces 12 local programs. Our AM 1060 frequency is 15,000 watts, making it the largest Catholic Radio signal in the State of Ohio. Download our free cell phone app and listen live 24x7 at** [**www.livingbreadradio.com**](http://www.livingbreadradio.com)**.**

**Magnificat**

**Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Chapter of Magnificat**, a women’s ministry modeled after the Visitation, invites you to a **breakfast Saturday, June 10** at **Walsh University, Barrette Center (2020 East Maple St., North Canton, OH)**. Join us in a special time of fellowship and sharing. **Mary Tohill** will be the guest speaker. Cost is **$18**. Make checks payable to “Magnificat of Stark County” and send to Debby Bentivegna, 5575 East Blvd. NW, Canton, OH 44718. Seating is limited. Plan on getting your reservations early! Reservations cannot be accepted after June 3. Open seating. **Doors open at 8:30am with Breakfast at 9am.** There will be an **optional Mass at 8am** in **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University. For more information, call Shirley DeOrio at 614-620-3169.**

**Mercy & Mary Weekend Retreat**

**Join the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy from June 23-25**, for an inspiring **Mercy & Mary Weekend Retreat**, featuring bestselling author of 33 Days to Morning Glory and acclaimed speaker **Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC**. Spend a weekend in quiet prayer at **Walsh University, North Canton, OH**. Join us for a full immersion experience into Divine Mercy and Mary. **Enjoy talks by Fr. Gaitley, daily Mass, Adoration, quiet prayer time, meals with the Marian Missionaries, and more!** **Register before April 24 at** [**www.events.marianmissionaries.org**](http://www.events.marianmissionaries.org) **the early bird rate. For more info, call 413-944-8500 x100.**

**NFP**

**Natural Family Planning classes will be held at Holy Family Parish in Stow beginning July 12 at 7 pm. Classes give all the resources necessary to easily, simply, and successfully practice NFP in your marriage. The classes are great for both married and engaged couples seeking to bring their relationship in accord with the Church's divine teaching on contraception, as well as those seeking to lead a more natural, healthy lifestyle. NFP is perfect for all couples including those having problems getting pregnant and also for those who wish to postpone pregnancy. Set these dates aside: 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/30. For more information, or to register call Leo and Toni Doty 330-689-0632 or** [**akdoty@kent.edu**](mailto:akdoty@kent.edu)**.**

**Department for Marriage & Family Ministry**

**Visit** [**www.foryourmarriage.org**](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) **for ideas and resources for your marriage.**

**Also, find and like us on Facebook at** [**www.facebook.com/clevelandmarriageandfamily**](http://www.facebook.com/clevelandmarriageandfamily)**.**