

Prayer for Peace

*O God, Creator of the universe,
who extends your paternal concern over every creature
and guides the events of history
to the goal of salvation,
we acknowledge your fatherly love
when you break the resistance of mankind and,
in a world torn by strife and discord,
you make us ready for reconciliation.
Renew for us the wonders of your mercy;
send forth your Spirit
that he may work in the intimacy of hearts,
that enemies may begin to dialogue,
that adversaries may shake hands
and peoples may encounter one another in harmony.
May all commit themselves to the sincere search
for true peace which will extinguish all arguments,
for charity which overcomes hatred,
for pardon which disarms revenge.
Amen.*

St. John Paul II

For more prayers, visit www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-for-peace.cfm

Have An Old Car?

Wondering what to do with that old car? Help a neighbor in need by donating it to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Your used car can become food, medicine and rent for the poor in our community.** And when you donate your late model car, truck or boat to SVDP Cleveland, not only will you receive a **tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law**, you will be free from the troubles of insuring, licensing, repairing and selling your vehicle. We will even provide free towing within 24 hours. **To donate, please call 800-322-8284 or visit www.svdpusa.com.**

Help The Needy in Northeast Ohio

The Cleveland Furniture Bank provides basic home furnishings to people in need who are trying to rebuild their lives. They are in need of couches, chairs, kitchen tables and dressers to provide to over 3000 people referred to them each year. **If you are downsizing, remodeling, redecorating or just have furniture items you no longer need, call 216-459-2265 x101 or visit www.clevelandfurniturebank.org/donate to schedule a pickup of your furniture.** If you have other items such as clothing, household goods, pots and pans, dishes, etc. they will pick those up at the same time. **Mention Mother of Sorrows Parish and they will waive the pickup fee.**

Thank You!

The Women's Board of Catholic Charities Communities Services of Summit County wishes to thank all those who so generously contributed to our Bags of Love project in December 2015. Your assistance in helping so many families is greatly appreciated!

Camp Christopher Winter Family Camp

Take a break this winter and join us at **Camp Christopher** for a fun-filled family camp weekend, **January 15-18, 2016!** Children can enjoy activities with their parents, as well as activities designed just for them. Program options include snowshoeing, sledding, the ropes course (weather permitting), arts & crafts, and more. Alternatively, you may prefer to relax by the blazing fire with a good book! Accommodations are in heated cabins. Cabins are equipped with bunk beds and are of varying sizes. Participants are responsible for bringing their own blankets, pillows, linens, and towels. Enjoy delicious, hearty, and well balanced meals family style in the St. Francis Dining Hall. A one-of-a-kind family get-away where adventures abound and where friendships are made to last a lifetime. **For more information and to register, visit www.campchris.org or call 1-800-296-2267.**

Cleveland Retrouvaille

Someone once said “marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth.” Have you become so distracted by outside pressure that you neglect your spouse? The Retrouvaille program can help you put your troubled marriage back on track. This program is supported by the Catholic diocese of Cleveland. **The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held January 15-17, 2016.** A **registration fee of \$150** is required to confirm your reservation. **For more info concerning the program, or to register, call Diane or Al Miskinis in complete confidence at 330-665-3506 or (from a 216 or 440 area code) 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.**

Get Catholic News Emailed to You!

The official magazine of the Diocese of Cleveland, Northeast Ohio Catholic, is a vital instrument of inspiration and formation highlighting personal faith stories and columns aimed at helping Catholics live a more faith-filled life. **To sign up to receive our weekly diocesan eNewsletter and stay connected to timely news and information from the Vatican and our Catholic community, please visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org.** If you haven't been receiving Northeast Ohio Catholic magazine by mail and would like to, **please contact Deacon Jim Armstrong, Executive Director for Communications at 216-696-6525 x3290 or at jarmstrong@dioceseofcleveland.org.**

Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.

Northeast Ohio Theology On Tap

The next **Theology on Tap** event will be held **January 21, 2016** at **Pizzazz Pizza, University Hts. Social at 6pm and speaker at 7pm.** Cost is \$5. Northeast Ohio Theology on Tap affords young adults and their friends, married and single, in their 20s and 30s an opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith with dynamic speakers, a casual setting, and good company. **For additional information, please contact Mark Delsander at 216-334-1261 x25 or mxdelsander@ccdocle.org or visit <http://ccdocle.org/program/neo-theology-on-tap>.**

LEAF Ministry

Listening, Encouraging, and Assisting Families

Do you have families in your parish, 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 these 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. **For more info and to verify schedules, call 216-696-6525 x3500 or 800-869-6525 x3500, email info@leafministry.org, or visit www.leafministry.org.** No pre-registration is necessary.

Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry

The **Saint John Vianney Parish Support Group for Families and Friends of Gay and Lesbian Catholics** and the **Cleveland Diocesan Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry** will co-sponsor a **presentation by Eve Tushnet on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 10am, at the Saint John Vianney Father Kline Social Center, (7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor, OH).** Eve Tushnet is the author of a recently released book entitled *Gay and Catholic: Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, Living My Faith.* The presentation is open to all. **Eve will share some of her experiences of the challenges and joys of living as a same-sex attracted individual who is deeply attached to her Catholic faith. She will also share some practical tips for helping same-sex attracted individuals, their friends and family.**

Exalt!

Join us for an evening of **prayer, time for reconciliation, song, and praise with Eucharistic Adoration** on **January 28, 2016, from 7-9:30pm** in **Sacred Heart Chapel** on the campus of the **Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe.** Visit www.clepriesthood.com or call **440-943-7630** for more details. **Upcoming 2016 XLT! Dates: February 25 and April 28.**

Year of Consecrated Life - Closing Mass

As the Year of Consecrated Life moves towards its completion in February 2016, **a closing Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Lennon on Sunday, January 31, 2016, at the normally scheduled 5:30pm Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.** Religious orders around the diocese have been made aware of this celebration to close this year of prayer, pilgrimage, petition, and witness. Faithful across the diocese are encouraged to attend. May those discerning be given great courage as they seek their vocation, and may this year bring a great harvest from our local diocese.

2016 First Step Programs

During this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Mercy, we are called to renew our relationship with God and the Church. Attempting to pick up the pieces of one's life after the tragedy of divorce is an area that can impact a person's relationship with God and the Church. One of the significant issues that a person faces is their place in the Church. Does the Church still care about me even though I am divorced? Am I allowed to go to Mass? Can I receive Communion? How can the Church help me heal? If I decide to marry again, what do I have to do? The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland, especially during this Jubilee of Mercy, offers its First Step Program in order to help individuals deal with these questions in order to renew and/or strengthen their relationship with God and the Church. **This program is offered to help anyone 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. Everyone is welcome to deepen knowledge of the Church's teaching on marriage, learn about the Church's ministry to the divorced/separated in the Diocese, hear about the annulment process and how to submit a case, and discover a path to healing after divorce in order to strengthen and/or renew a relationship with God and the Church. In any endeavor, taking the "first step" is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure. **The 2016 general meetings schedule is: Tuesday, March 8 at St. Peter Parish, Lorain, at 7pm; Thursday, May 19 at St. Noel Parish, Willoughby Hills, at 7pm; Tuesday, September 13 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cuyahoga Falls, at 7pm; Tuesday, October 18 at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm. Note that the Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process.** For testimonials about the program from past participants and for more information visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal or call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525 x4000.

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