



BELLEVILLE DIOCESE flocknote



A MESSAGE FROM FR. GODFREY MULLEN



Recently I announced to the priests of the diocese that Fr. Patrick McDevitt, CM, tendered his resignation from the positions of Chancellor and Director of Planning and Mission. In just a few months, Fr. Pat had directed more than a dozen listening sessions throughout the diocese. Happily, the notes from all those listening sessions will be reviewed carefully for continued planning.

While Fr. Pat's departure creates a wrinkle in the forward movement of *Servants on Christ's Mission*, the original pastoral plan promulgated by Archbishop McGovern in 2024, which set the direction for the past several months, remains in force. The priorities of that plan remain important: **ministry to youth and young adults, support of family life, development of faith formation, revitalizing parish life and ministry by growing God's family.**

Soon, I will be engaging the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the College of Consultors, and the Diocesan Staff, among other groups, to discuss ways to maintain the energy brought about from the listening sessions and to plan a way forward until a new bishop is appointed and takes up this work. Your prayers are a very important part of our future. Your input remains vital to the plan God has in mind.

The pioneers of our parishes, people who left behind parishes they loved and founded new parishes when the time came, remain a powerful model for us and might rightly inspire us to ask what we might be asked to do, to offer, to sacrifice in the days ahead. Some have already faced sharing a pastor with another parish or two. Some parishes collaborate on important faith formation opportunities like OCIA (Becoming Catholic), religious education, and baptismal preparation. The challenge for all of us will be to envision a future that is filled with grace, a future of goodness that God has in mind for us so that instead of ministering to buildings, we will grow the family of God.

During this Jubilee of Hope, we have every reason to hope. While there may very well be more sacrifices that are required of all of us, there will be so much more grace, so many more blessings. May God bless our beloved Diocese and lead us forward in genuine faith, toward the Kingdom Christ established, the Kingdom we, as disciples of Jesus, are commanded to increase.

God bless you all. Count on my daily prayers. And please pray for me!

Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB

Diocesan Administrator



Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage

January 15-20, 2026

Cost: \$2994

Hosted by Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Belleville

Registration Deadline: has been extended to August 1, 2025

Join us for a 6-day pilgrimage to Mexico to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and to witness the work that Catholic Relief Services does on our behalf. Pilgrimage leaders will be Fr. Bob Flannery, a retired priest in the Diocese of Belleville; Cheryl Sommer, volunteer for Catholic Relief Services; and Sue Huett Asbeck, retired Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Belleville. Register at gocatholictravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Sommer-2026-Mexico-Brochure.pdf or email crsdiobelle@gmail.com.



Synodal Listening Session for Social Services/Ministries

On Pentecost Sunday 2024, Bishop Michael McGovern called the Diocese of Belleville to come together in a spirit of prayer, discernment, and dialogue on where God is calling the Church of Southern Illinois.

The name of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan is “Servants on Christ’s Mission.” The aim of Servants on Christ’s Mission is to revitalize our relationship in Christ and to deepen our commitment to serve Christ’s mission to proclaim the Good News.

Everyone who participates in any of the wide varieties of social ministries within the Diocese of Belleville is invited to a morning of prayer and discussion about our future call as a Diocese. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, hopes, and dreams about our Church.

The date for the meeting is **Saturday, August 2, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – noon in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mary Church, 1550 Main Street, Mount Vernon, IL.**





Diocese of Belleville

YOUNG ADULTS PRESENTS

BIBLES AND BREWS

WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST
13



With Fr. Charles Samson,
Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology &
St. Louis Catholic Young Adults Chaplain

FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35

Location: Eckert's Cider Shed
951 S Green Mt Rd, Belleville, IL 62220

6:30 - 7:00 PM SOCIAL
7:00 - 8:30 PM EVENT



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

CATHOLIC SPEED DATING

Social event for single young adult Catholics ages 21-33

\$15 fee includes hors d'oeuvres & drinks

Scan the QR code to register by Aug. 18
or email mskorch@diobelle.org



DATE:

Thursday, August 21, 2025

TIME:

Check In at 6:30pm

Event at 7pm

LOCATION:

Holy Trinity Parish

505 Fountains Parkway
Fairview Heights, IL, 62208

