



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

CURIA REPORTS MARCH 2023

Administration [Frank Napolitano]

- For parish-sponsored trips and off-site events where transportation may be provided by bus, Institutional Commodity Services (ICS) maintains a list of approved bus vendors for use in making transportation plans (contact Ms. Magdoline Messiha at Magdoline.Messiha@nyics or 646-794-2615). These approved vendors provide the required insurance coverages, and each of them has agreed to indemnify the archdiocese and its parishes and schools in the event of claims for damages involving archdiocesan clients. If there is a bus vendor not on this list whom you would like to use for an event, the Insurance Services Division and Catholic Mutual Group must be consulted to determine if the vendor meets or can meet archdiocesan insurance requirements and be placed on the list of approved bus vendors. The vendor will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement and provide adequate insurance. A bus vendor is not approved for use until the Insurance Services Division notifies you, in writing, that the bus vendor is approved. Also note that 10 to 15 passenger vans cannot be leased or used for transport under any circumstances. Contact the archdiocesan Insurance Services Division (Ms. Louise Zacher at Louise.zacher@archny.org or 646-794-2969), or Catholic Mutual Group (Mr. Kevin Quinn at KQuinn@catholicmutual.org or 646-794-2602) at least 7 business days before any scheduled event to ensure that bus transportation is in compliance with archdiocesan policies.
- There are currently 53 capital project RFAs pending approval with a total value of \$22.7 million. 15 new submissions worth \$4.4 million were received in the past month. Projects relate to both school and church building improvements. Thus far in fiscal 2023, a total of 65 capital projects have been approved with a combined value of \$26.8 million.

Adult Faith Formation [Elizabeth Guevara de Gonzalez]

- Tickets for the 2024 National Congress will be available soon.
- The New York Bible Summit will be held on June 3 at Iona University in New Rochelle. Dr. Michael Barber will be the keynote speaker.
- As we head into the parish phase of the Eucharistic Revival, let us know if you are planning a Corpus Christi procession by emailing revival@archny.org. You can also send us any events you would like for us to promote.

ArchCare [Father John Anderson, iv dei]

- To learn more about how your parish can partner with ArchCare to provide health services, bolster health care ministries, or access community health-related resources;

contact Michael Guglielmo, *Dir. of Parish Integration* at mguglielmo@archcare.org or (646) 229-7413.

- For Catholic chaplaincy coverage/access issues to hospitals and nursing homes, please contact John Schultz, *Dir. of Health Care Chaplaincy Apostolate* at jschultz@archcare.org or (646) 942-0640.

Archives [Kate Feighery]

- The project to update the priest personnel records is ongoing. While we have responses from many priests, there are a good number still outstanding. Thank you to everyone who updated their records for the project, and further updates can always be submitted at <https://form.jotform.com/222712364912048>.
- The archives is working with the superintendent of schools office to ensure a smooth transition of the records from the closing schools to the archives. We will be meeting with principals and other staff in the next few weeks to find out how best we can assist in the process.
- Archives staff are working with all 1011 offices to digitize their paper records. We have met with a number of departments to begin their review and will continue the initial meetings through the end of the month.

Black Ministry [Brother Tyrone Davis, cfc]

- OBM continues the daily prayer lines and is preparing for the now annual “Busy Persons Retreat,” scheduled for Holy Week.
- OBM is preparing for the local participation in the National Black Catholic Congress, scheduled for this coming summer (in Maryland.) Additional information can be obtained via the Congress website or by contacting OBM.

Development [Kelvin Gentles and Kathleen McGowan]

- As of March 2, the 2023 *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal* has raised \$5,220,213 in commitments and \$3,920,207 in cash through 10,624 donors.
- St. Joseph's Seminary second annual gala is March 30. Tables are still available for the event honoring William P. Harrington, Esq. Contact Anthony Piscitiello to participate.
- The Cathedral Landmark Restoration Board of Trustees met on March 1. The trustees are excited for the upcoming restoration projects including the organ and uplighting of the exterior. Pew and chapel naming opportunities continue to be available as well. The annual Cornerstone Dinner scheduled for May 17, 2023, will focus on the new projects. Approximately thirty to forty guests are expected to attend.
- The Saint John Vianney Clergy Residence continues to offer tours for interested naming opportunity funders. In addition, the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal is highlighting the residence in this year's campaign. Bishop Walsh recently spoke to supporters giving an overview of what retirement looks like for a priest and how the residence offers a myriad of services to this community.
- The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation board committees are currently meeting in preparation for the April 2023 meeting. Grant awards will be determined at this time and shared with everyone in early May. The 2023 dinner will be held at Park Avenue Armory, as in 2022. Outreach is underway to loyal supporters and a handful of tables have been secured.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Activities, Ethnic Apostolates, Lay Ecclesial Movements and Community Outreach [Father Brian McWeeney]

- The Ethnic Apostolate Office has participated in the Masses for African and African American Families as well as the Worldwide Marriage Day.
- In the Area of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs we concluded the most recent dialogue on Church polity with the Episcopal community. The director took part in International Meeting sponsored by Peace Island, an interfaith work of a Moslem Community. Members of each of the Abrahamic faiths attended including members of our USCCB dialogues. The Catholic-Moslem Dialogue met later in the month. Locally, the office attended the Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast with the Director of Hispanic Ministry, Additionally, meetings took place with the Argentinian Consul General and lunch with the Cuban Ambassador to the UN. At both meetings the subject of religious freedom was discussed extensively.
- A national meeting of ecclesial ministries was held to prepare for the national revival activities of Eucharistic teaching. Our archdiocesan council is preparing for the annual day of reflection: Food for the Journey. Every one of the members are encouraging attendance at the Mariopolis Luminosa in Hyde Park.

Education [Michael Deegan]

- The office of teaching and learning is in the process of academic planning for the school year 2023 – 2024, charting goals, initiatives, and professional development activities.
- The office of early childhood has partnered with regional leadership in offering professional development for all early childhood professionals in the schools, including teaching assistants and aides. During the second half of the designated regional active shooter training days, teaching assistants and aides are trained in how to support children who require additional supports in learning and self-regulation.
- Efforts are underway to complete a grant proposal to the Gerstner Foundation to fund \$1M in both capital and academic improvement efforts at St. Philip Neri Catholic Education and Family Center.
- Directors of enrollment are immersed in the process of family accompaniment for students affected by the closures and mergers. These staff members, dedicated to seeing parents through the entire process, assist in identifying new schools and working with the family through to being fully enrolled.

Family Life [Ted Musco]

- Pastors are reminded to return the marriage and family life directors form sent in the February combined mailing. Complete the form and return it by March 24. It can be completed online and returned digitally or can be printed and mailed. [Click here](#) to access the form.
- The office has updated its website at <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/>.
- Make plans to attend one of the following meetings to learn more about *Strong Catholic Families—Partnering with Parents*, an initiative to help Church leaders envision how the Catholic Church can more effectively partner with parents to help foster Catholic family life. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/4dv9rehk>.

Finance [Bill Whiston]

- After suffering their worst returns in over a decade, the broader equity and fixed income markets reversed course in January. The S&P 500 Index and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index had their best starts to the year since 2009 and 2001, respectively. Fixed income prices shared in the recovery.
- The GRSS and DOE have begun to receive funds through the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) program. \$17M has been received to date with an additional recoupment of \$600k forthcoming. The GRSS and DOE have begun to receive their FEMA reimbursements for Covid-19 emergency expenditures. \$9.8M has been received to date with a recovery of potentially \$22M of expenditures being possible. The GRSS received \$1.3M of grant funds through the EANS (Educational Assistance for Non-Public Schools) program to reimburse the GRSS for Covid costs not covered by FEMA. An additional \$1.4M of reimbursements are potentially recoverable.

Hispanic Ministry [Wanda Vasquez]

- The archdiocesan Our Lady of Guadalupe team serving under its chaplain, Father Jesus Ledezma in collaboration with the office of Hispanic ministry has begun coordinating the visit of the pilgrim statue and the visit of the postulator of the cause for Juan Diego and canon of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Monsignor Eduardo Chavez.
- Hispanic Liturgy at Saint Patrick's Cathedral for Saint Oscar Romero and the Martyrs of El Salvador on March 26 at 4 pm.

Marketing [Rachael Sheehan]

- We redesigned the monthly *Combined Mailing* and will continue to work to present content in the most reader-friendly manner.
- *The Good Newsroom* is covering news of the archdiocese. Currently we are focused on Lenten stories, and there is a "Lent" content category at the top of the website homepage (www.thegoodnewsroom.org).
- We have had over 4,700 downloads of *The Good Newsroom* app.

Parish Planning [Eileen Mulcahy]

- Meetings are scheduled with the pastors to discuss the best way for parishes to collaborate at the regional level; and at the collaborative parish group and parish levels to discuss potential parish mergers and the sharing of resources among neighboring parishes. After consultation with their parish councils, trustees, and finance councils, some pastors have requested canonical guidance. Holding a series of meetings with the pastors of merged parishes where both churches have a regular schedule of Masses and sacraments. Parishes were on a two-year review schedule, these meetings will include a pastoral, financial, and real estate review of each parish.
- Demographic maps and data are available to the department of education and Catholic Charities, which will be included in presentations and will assist with decisions being made about the allocation of archdiocesan resources.

Respect Life [Sister Virginia Joy, sv]

- 40 Days for Life began Ash Wednesday and continues until April 2. For more information, visit <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/respect-life/>

- Come in out of the Rain – Retreat for Pro-Life leaders -March 3-5 – About 25 leaders from the archdiocese will be hosted for a weekend retreat of prayer and renewal.
- The Cardinal’s Pro-Life Commission met with His Eminence on March 7 with special guest Matt Valliere from Patients Rights Action Fund, to discuss strategies to fight assisted suicide.

Safe Environment/Public Policy [Ed Mechmann]

- Conducting parish meetings to oppose the New York State bill that would legalize assisted suicide (in conjunction with the respect life office).
- Distributing education materials on the FDA decision to permit local pharmacies to dispense chemical abortion drugs (also in conjunction with the respect life office).
- Monthly young adult discussion group ("Discussion and Discipleship") on issues of Church teaching and current events.
- Parish rosters have been sent out. These must be returned to our office, either in print or via the online roster portal.
- Continuing efforts to get back rosters from schools, religious education programs, and CYO, which were sent in the Fall but have not yet been returned.
- Return of rosters is essential so that compliance can be assessed. Please ensure that all rosters are returned from your parish and programs.
- Compliance visits have resumed to parishes and religious education programs.

Sheen Center [MaryLou Pagano]

- There are many wonderful events happening this spring. Find the information [here](#).

Special Projects and Events [Melecia Ming and Melissa Tepe’]

- In March, we provide support to the *Cardinal’s Annual Stewardship Appeal* on regional cultivation and stewardship events for donors in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Rockland/Orange counties; and for Cardinal Dolan’s St. Patrick’s Day schedule; Family Life Conference; St. Joseph’s Seminary, in conjunction with the development office.
- Registration for the Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass on Sunday, June 4 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral has opened. The Mass is for couples celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 2023. Registration will close on Monday, May 15 at 5:00 pm. Couples interested in attending must contact their parish secretary to register.
- We continue to work with the offices of adult faith formation and marketing on the Eucharistic Revival. We are shifting our focus from the diocesan phase (year one) to the parish phase (year two) and making plans for the National Congress in 2024.

University Apostolate [Vinny DaSilva]

- The food cupboard extension of our Catholic Campus Ministry at Rockland Community College continues to support up to 100 students and their families weekly.
- Over 400 students began Lent by participating in Ash Wednesday related services on UA campuses, and in neighboring parishes.
- The Merton Institute at Columbia University officially opened in February 2023.
- The offices of youth ministry and university apostolate are partnering on an initiative this spring to bring the FOCUS SEEK23 conference to the archdiocese with their distanced, self-paced program *Seek where you are*. Three colleges and regional high

school youth ministry programs will host a series of events to connect students with an opportunity for prayer, reflection, praise, and worship throughout their local communities.

Vicar for Religious [Sister Joan Curtin, cnd]

- We are offering to Religious Sisters/Brothers, via zoom, on Monday evenings, a 3-part Lenten scripture series “A New Kind of Fasting” based on Matthew’s Gospel. The presenter is Sister Carol Perry, SU who gave the Advent 2022 series. Many who had participated during Advent requested that Sr. Carol be the presenter for the Lenten series.
- Meeting with the ACWR executive committee to continue planning for their Spring 2023 conference.
- Continuing to meet with individual sisters and congregation major superiors to assist with their concerns and issues.

Young Adult Outreach [Kaitlyn Colgan]

- Colin Nykaza has officially moved from his position as director of young adult outreach to his new position at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
- Upcoming special events include St. Patrick’s Day Mass and social and upper counties leaders’ meeting.

Youth Faith Formation [Ela Milewska]

- Resources to boost participation in parish faith formation went out in February’s combined mailing. Priests are needed to hear confessions at NY Catholic Youth Day, April 22, and the Middle School Rally, April 23, at St. Joseph’s Seminary. Confession will be offered all day on Saturday and from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm on Sunday. If you can spare a couple of hours for our young people, please email taiza.sierra@archny.org.

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