

BREAD OF LIFE FAMILY OF PARISHES FAMILIA DE PARROQUIAS PAN DE VIDA



Ordinary Time Tiempo ordinario

LOCATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION | DIRECCIONES E INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO

CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS IGLESIA DE LOS SANTOS ÁNGELES

Parish | Parroquia
1322 Brown St, Dayton 45409
937.229.5911
holyangelschurchdayton.org

School | Escuela
937.229.5959
holyangelsdayton.org

ST. HELEN | SANTA ELENA

Parish | Parroquia
605 Granville Pl, Riverside 45431
937.254.6233
sthelenparish.org

School | Escuela
937.256.1761
sainthelenschool.org

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY LINE: 937.272.4898

ST. MARY | SANTA MARIA

Parish | Parroquia
310 Allen St, Dayton 45410
937.256.5633
stmarydayton.org
stmaryparish@stmarydayton.org
Oficina Ministerio Hispano:
937.258.1309

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA

Parish | Parroquia
820 Bowen St, Dayton, 45410
937.253.9132
stanthonydayton.org

Office | Oficina
1322 Brown St, Dayton 45409

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN

Parish | Parroquia
2300 S. Smithville Rd, Dayton, 45420
937.252.9919; icparishdayton.org

School | Escuela
937.253.8831
icsdayton.org

SCHEDULE & MASS INTENTIONS | HORARIO E INTENCIONES DE LA MISA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 LUNES, 23 DE SEPTIEMBRE: St. Pius of Pietrelcina					
9:00 am	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Len Wenke	+Rita Ann Barry
6:00 pm	Misa	Sta. María	Español	P. Uriel Santos	La Comunidad Hispana
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 MARTES, 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE					
9:00 am	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Satish Joseph	Raffaella Aracri
6:00 pm	Misa	Sta. María	Español	P. Uriel Santos	La Comunidad Hispana
7:00 pm	Liturgy of the Hours	St. Anthony	English		
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 MIÉRCOLES, 25 DE SEPTIEMBRE					
9:00 am	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Satish Joseph	+Rosemary Schneider
6:00 pm	Misa	Sta. María	Español	P. Uriel Santos	La Comunidad Hispana
6:00 pm	Reconciliation	St. Helen	English	Fr. Len Wenke	
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 JUEVES, 26 DE SEPTIEMBRE					
9:00 am	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Len Wenke	Andy Heil
9:00 am	Mass with School	Holy Angels	English	Fr. Uriel Santos	
6:00 pm	Misa	Sta. María	Español	P. Uriel Santos	La Comunidad Hispana
6:00 pm	Reconciliation, Adoration, & Anointing of the Sick	IC	Bilingual	Fr. Satish Joseph	
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 VIERNES, 27 DE SEPTIEMBRE: St. Vincent de Paul					
9:00 am	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Satish Joseph	+Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller, Anniversary Remberance
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 28 DE SEPTIEMBRE					
4:30 pm	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Satish Joseph	+Fred & +Ruth Spang
5:00 pm	Mass (Reconciliation from 4:00-4:45 pm)	Holy Angels	English	Fr. Uriel Santos	Dorothy & Jerry Seubert
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 DOMINGO, 29 DE SEPTIEMBRE: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Vigésimo Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario					
9:00 am	Misa	IC	Español	P. Uriel Santos	La Comunidad Hispana
9:00 am	Mass	St. Anthony	English	Fr. John Klobuka	Richard Phillips
9:00 am	Mass	St. Helen	English & livestream	Fr. Sebastien Abalodo	+Dmitri Wilson
9:45 am	Mass (Reconciliation at 9:15 am)	St. Mary	English	Fr. Tony Geraci	Robert & Anita Wagner 45th Wedding Anniversary; Living & Deceased of the Saluke & Karst Families; Special Intentions of the Klepacz Family
10:45 am	Mass	Holy Angels	English	Fr. Len Wenke	Vincent Trick
11:00 am	Mass	IC	English & livestream	Fr. Satish Joseph	
12:15 pm	Misa	Sta. María	Español	P. Uriel Santos	+Zenaida Hernandez; Pomposo Arias
5:00 pm	Mass	IC	English	Fr. Satish Joseph	+Ida Struve

Please note: The Priest schedule is tentative & subject to change | Nota: El horario de los sacerdotes es provisional y puede cambiar

**PRIESTS
SACERDOTES**

Fr. Satish Joseph
Pastor | Párroco
satishjoseph@icparishdayton.org

Fr. Len Wenke
Parochial Vicar | Vicario Parroquial
fr.len.wenke@gmail.com

Fr. Uriel Santos
Parochial Vicar | Vicario Parroquial
usantos@stmarydayton.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ENGLISH**A Message from the Archdiocese:**

Recently there has been a great deal of false information about, and even demonization of, our migrant brothers and sisters irresponsibly spread across the country, including about the Haitian families in Springfield, Ohio, as well as other minority communities. This can also manifest itself in unjust disparagement of those who work and stand in solidarity with these communities, including our own Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio and Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley. It is important that the Catholic faithful continue to recognize the life and dignity of every human person, avoid objectifying others, and join with those working diligently every day for a better future for the marginalized in our society. You can read Archbishop Schnurr's letter here: <https://catholicaoc.org/news/from-the-archbishop/letter-to-the-faithful-regarding-migrants-and-refugees>



Photo by Ernest Barnhardt

Together in Prayer: Family of Parishes Retreat 2024

Saturday, October 5, 2024

9:00 am–1:00 pm

Immaculate Conception Church

Please be sure to have registered for “Together in Prayer” our third annual Family of Parishes Retreat. The retreat will be followed by a fried chicken lunch. There is no cost for the retreat, but pre-registration is required. To register, fill out and turn in the paper registration form available in the vestibule or go to membership.faithdirect.net/events/org/796 or scan the QR code.

**Welcome to Bread of Life Family of Parishes**

- Florendo Family (HA)
- Joseph Martin (HA)
- Quito Family (IC)
- Tovar Caisedo Family (IC)
- S. Barrera Family (IC)
- J. Barrera Family (IC)

Baptisms

Congratulations to all those who were baptized recently. May they continue to grow in Christ's love.

- James Boudinot (HA)
- Daniel Charles Bull (HA)
- Camden Michael Kraus (HA)
- Carter Maxwell Kraus (HA)
- Clara Elizabeth Kraus (HA)

Rest in Peace

A funeral was held recently. Please keep her, her family, & friends in your prayers. May she rest in the eternal embrace of God.

- Irene Jankowski (IC)

Marriages

Wedding Congratulations to those who were united in Holy Matrimony recently. We wish them all the happiness in the world as they begin their new life together.

- Colleen Johnson & Garrhett Via (SA)
- Alex May & Dakota Fiedler (SM)

To learn more about Baptisms, contact:

- **St. Mary:** 937.256.5633
- **St. Helen:** Deb Danner at deb.danner@sthelenparish.org
- **Holy Angels, St. Anthony, IC:** Will Marsh at willmarsh@icparishdayton.org.

Baptism workshops (attending either one is required):

- 2nd Sundays of the month at 9:30 am in Immaculate Conception the Geraci Room. Register at tinyurl.com/IC-Baptism.
- 3rd Sundays of the month at 1:00 pm in St. Helen. Register at sthelenparish.org/baptism.html.

To learn more about Marriages and Convalidations:

Contact Will Marsh: willmarsh@icparishdayton.org. Weddings must be scheduled 9 months in advance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ENGLISH**2024-25 Immaculate Conception CYO Basketball Registration****Immaculate Conception**

Immaculate Conception CYO Basketball

Registration is now open for students in grades 3-8. Registration is \$100 for the season. **Go to <https://tinyurl.com/IC-Basketball-24-25> or scan the QR code to register your child (ren) for IC Falcons CYO basketball.** Deadline for registration is Thursday, September 26 at 5:00 pm. For registrations received after the deadline, participation is not guaranteed and will be based on current roster size and need for players.

Please contact Brandon Meyer (meyerbrandonj@gmail.com) or Nikki Fox (nicoleuhrig@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

**Bereavement Ministry at Holy Angels****Holy Angels**

We are looking for volunteers to support the bereavement ministry at Holy Angels church. Volunteering would include ushering, lecturing, singing in a funeral choir, or volunteering as a funeral sacristan. Also volunteers are trained to plan with the families in preparation for the funeral Mass. If interested please talk to or email Amy Gray at agray@holyangelsdayton.org.

Trivia Night! Make Plans To Play!**St. Anthony**

Friday, Oct. 4, 2024 from 7:00-9:30 pm in Holy Angels Gym

St. Anthony will host their long-running Trivia Night. The doors will open at 6:30 PM and the questions start at 7:00 PM. Teams are invited from **each of our parish families** to compete in friendly competition for prizes through 5 rounds of fun, general knowledge questions. This evening is for adults—21+—and teams are welcome to BYOB and snacks for their tables. The cost is \$10 per person and there will also be an optional 50/50 raffle. Cash prizes and the coveted “Traveling Trophy” are awarded at the end of the evening! Questions??? Please text Betty at 937.272.6024.

**Calling All NE7 Family Knitters & Crocheters****St. Helen**

You're invited to our Prayer Shawl Ministry. We make shawls and lap robes for those in need of a hug and comfort in times of difficulty. Join us for community building and prayer. We have made and given away some 700 shawls and lap robes. **We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 1:00-3:15pm at the Julie Center at St. Helen Parish.** For more info, please call Sadie Seward at 937.426.9942.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is back this fall and invites children from all families within the Bread of Life Family of Parishes! We welcome children in grades 1–8 to join us. Rehearsals are conducted in English. No prior singing experience needed. **Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00 pm.** If you or your child are interested in learning more, please let us know by emailing IC Music Coordinator Madeleine Demetriades: madeleinedemetriades@icparishdayton.org.

**Music Ministry at Holy Angels & St. Anthony****Holy Angels & St. Anthony**

One of the many profound ways to worship during Mass is through song. Holy Angels and Saint Anthony choir and musicians are looking for new singers and instrumentalists that would like to participate. **Rehearsal for Holy Angels are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the choir loft at Holy Angels church. Rehearsal begins for Saint Anthony are Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the choir loft at Saint Anthony.** If you have questions, please talk to or email Amy Gray at agray@holyangelsdayton.org. We would love for you to join us in music ministry.

Blessing of Pets

There will be a Blessing of Pets at the Shrine of Our Lady of Belmont next to Immaculate Conception Church for our family of parishes on Friday, **October 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm.** All pet owners and their pets are welcome.

**Lost & Found****St. Helen**

St. Helen is cleaning out our lost and found box. Please take a moment to check out the table near the confessional on September 22 or 29 to see if anything belongs to you or a family member. Any items left unclaimed at the end of Mass on the 29th will be donated.

iVote Catholic

Let faith guide your vote. Learn how at iVoteCatholic.org! Find resources learn how to live out your faith by the way you vote, gain a better understand of the Church's teaching which guides us to be advocates for life and human dignity, and guidance on how to inform your vote with discernment, prayer, and a universal call to holiness and compassion. Visit www.ivotecatholic.org. Email Jill Foster (jfoster@catholicaoc.org) with any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ENGLISH

Kairos Cookies

St. Helen

Bakers of the parish, it's that time again! We need more than 20,000 dozen cookies to make the Kairos retreat a success. The next retreat will be held at the Lebanon Correctional Institution September 28 & 29. Bags & instructions are available at all doors this weekend. Please ensure all cookies meet the guidelines included in the bag & are dropped off at the Parish Office no later than **Tuesday, September 24**. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

For Those In Need

St. Mary

St. Mary Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is in the St. Mary Church Parish Center at 427 Steele Avenue in Dayton. The food pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. We serve zip code areas of 45403, 45410, 45417 and those who are registered as parishioners of St. Mary Church. Each individual or family needs to bring proper ID and a piece of mail to prove their address. Families/individuals who reside at an address can receive food every 30 days. The homeless are served once a week. If in need of clothing, clothing vouchers can be issued every three months. You may contact the food pantry at 937.256.5528. Thank you.



St. Vincent Meal Sign-Ups

St. Anthony

This weekend is the St. Anthony St. Vincent de Paul signups for the monthly meals to the St. Vincent shelter. Pans, lids, recipes, and sign-up sheets are at the back of the church. We need cookies and fruits and juices. All food donations are to be brought to the Holy Angels Parish Office (1322 Brown St.) on **Tuesday, September 24** between 7:30–9:30 am. Thanks for your continued support of this important ministry.



St. Vincent de Paul Hotel

Immaculate Conception

Each month we provide casseroles for the guests staying at the St. Vincent de Paul Hotels. Recipe: icparishdayton.org/ministries/SVDP. You may provide a casserole or canned vegetables or fruit (#10 size can preferred). Casseroles are collected at the parish on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the South parking lot and taken to St. Vincent de Paul's central kitchen facilities.

The next collection date is: September 25.

Contact Dona Carlson at 937.469.0121 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your help caring for our unhoused sisters and brothers!



ANUNCIOS: ESPAÑOL

Un mensaje de la Arquidiócesis

Recientemente ha habido una gran cantidad de información falsa sobre, e incluso la demonización de, nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes que se han extendido de manera irresponsable por todo el país, incluido sobre las familias haitianas en Springfield, Ohio, así como otras comunidades minoritarias. Esto también puede manifestarse en un desprecio injusto hacia aquellos que trabajan y se solidarizan con estas comunidades, incluidas nuestras propias Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Ohio y los Servicios Sociales Católicos del Valle de Miami. Es importante que los fieles católicos continúen reconociendo la vida y la dignidad de cada persona humana, evitando objetivando a los demás y uniéndose a aquellos trabajan diligentemente todos los días por un futuro mejor para los marginados de nuestra sociedad. Puede leer la carta del Arzobispo Schnurr aquí: <https://catholicaoc.org/news/from-the-archbishop/letter-to-the-faithful-regarding-migrants-and-refugees>.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI



Foto por Ernest Barnhardt

Retiro de la familia de parroquias: Juntos en oración

Asegúrese de haberse registrado para “Juntos en oración”, nuestro tercer retiro anual de Familia de Parroquias. El retiro será el sábado 12 de octubre de 9:00am a 1:00pm, después del retiro se servirá un almuerzo de pollo frito. El retiro no tiene costo, pero se requiere inscripción previa. Para registrar, usa los formularios papeles, visite membership.faithdirect.net/events/org/796, o escanee el código QR.



ANUNCIOS: ESPAÑOL**¡Bienvenidos a la Familia de Parroquias Pan de Vida!**

- Familia Florendo (Santos Ángeles)
- Joseph Martin (Santos Ángeles)
- Familia Quito (IC)
- Familia Tovar Caisedo (IC)
- Familia S. Barrera (IC)
- Familia J. Barrera (IC)

Bautismos

Congratulaciones por su bautizo. Deseamos que continúen creciendo en el amor de Dios.

- James Boudinot (Santos Ángeles)
- Daniel Charles Bull (Santos Ángeles)
- Camden Michael Kraus (Santos Ángeles)
- Carter Maxwell Kraus (Santos Ángeles)
- Clara Elizabeth Kraus (Santos Ángeles)

Descanse en Paz

Recientemente se llevó a cabo un funeral. Por favor, manténgalo en sus oraciones. Que descanse en el abrazo eterno de Dios.

- Irene Jankowski (IC)

Matrimonios

Congratulaciones por su boda a los que se han unido en Santo Matrimonio recientemente. Les deseamos toda la felicidad del mundo al comenzar su nueva vida.

- Colleen Johnson y Garrhett Via (San Antonio)
- Alex May y Dakota Fiedler (SM)

Clase de Bautismo

Cuando una familia busca el bautismo de un niño, le pedimos que al menos un adulto participe en nuestra clase de bautismo.

Sta. María: Primer Domingo del mes a las 9:00 am. Se requiere registro previo. Contacta a la Oficina Ministerio Hispano: 937.258.1309 o Maria Leticia Castillo: mlcastillo@stmarydayton.org.

Inmaculada Concepción: Segundo Domingo del mes en la planta baja (MSH) de IC a las 10:15 am. Se requiere registro previo. Contactar Sonia Trejo: 937.252.9919 ext. 205.o soniatrejovalerio@icparishdayton.org.

Para más información sobre Matrimonios y Convalidaciones:

Contactar Will Marsh: willmarsh@icparishdayton.org o 937.252.9919 ext. 208. Se anima a las parejas comprometidas a que se comuniquen con la oficina de la iglesia tan pronto como comiencen los planes para su matrimonio, al menos con 9 meses de anticipación.

El Coro de Niños

Los niños en los grados 1-8 pueden unir al Coro de Niños. Los ensayos se llevan a cabo en inglés y comienzan **el martes 24 de septiembre a las 6:00 pm.** Si usted o su(s) hijo(s) está interesado en aprender más, contactar Madeleine Demetriades: madeleinedemetriades@icparishdayton.org.

**Registración de baloncesto de Inmaculada Concepción CYO****Inmaculada Concepción**

Registración de baloncesto de Inmaculada Concepción CYO está abierta para los estudiantes en los grados 3-8. Registración es de \$100 para la temporada. **Visite a <https://tinyurl.com/IC-Basketball-24-25> o escanee el código QR para registrar a su(s) hijo(s) para IC Falcons CYO baloncesto.** Fecha límite de registración es el jueves 26 de septiembre a las 5:00 pm.

Por favor, comuníquese con Brandon Meyer (meyerbrandonj@gmail.com) o Nikki Fox (nicoleuhrig@yahoo.com) si tiene pregunta.

**Hotel St. Vincent - Alimentar a los desamparados (Anotarse para ayudar)****Inmaculada Concepción**

Cada mes, nosotros proveemos una cena para los huéspedes del Hotel St. Vincent. **Este mes la donación se llevará el miércoles, 25 de septiembre.** Como tal, necesitamos que se anoten para ayudar una semana antes de la fecha. Por favor contacte a Dona Carlson 937.469.0121 para anotarse para donar una caserola, vegetales o frutas en lata (#10 por favor). Se le dará toda la información cuando se anote. Gracias por su generosidad y su tiempo en el cuidado de los huéspedes del Hotel St. Vincent.

**Para los necesitados****Sta. María**

La despensa de alimentos St. Mary Saint Vincent de Paul está en el centro parroquial de la Iglesia St. Mary, 427 Steele Avenue en Dayton. La despensa de alimentos está abierta los martes y jueves de 9:00 am a 11:30 am. Atendemos áreas de códigos postales de 45403, 45410, 45417 y a aquellos que están registrados como feligreses de la Iglesia St. Mary. Cada individuo o familia debe traer una identificación adecuada y un correo que acredite su dirección. Las familias/individuos que residen en una dirección que tenga los códigos postales mencionados, pueden recibir alimentos cada 30 días. Las personas sin hogar son atendidas una vez por semana. Si se necesita ropa, se pueden emitir vales para ropa cada tres meses. Puede comunicarse con la despensa de alimentos al teléfono: 937.256.5528. Gracias.



ANUNCIOS: ESPAÑOL

Encuentro

Sábado, 19 de octubre

7:00 pm a 10:00 pm

Iglesia Sta. María: 310 Allen St, Dayton 45410

Únete a otros jóvenes de la Arquidiócesis de Cincinnati en una noche de Adoración, alabanza y comunidad. ¡Evento gratuito!

Por favor regístrate para propósitos de planación.



Para más información comuníquese con

Mario Amaya

(mamaya@catholicaoc.org/513.263.6645)

o Ana Ramirez

(aramirez@catholicaoc.org/513.263.3384)



Bendición de Mascotas

Habrà una bendición de mascotas en el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Belmont al lado de Parroquia Inmaculada Concepción para nuestra familia de parroquias el viernes **4 de octubre de 2024 a las 6:30 pm.** Todos los dueños de mascotas y sus mascotas son bienvenidos.

Para más información sobre Ministerio Hispano, contactar:

Santa María

- Oficina Ministerio Hispano: 937.258.1309
- María Leticia Castillo: mlcastillo@stmarydayton.org

Inmaculada Concepción

- 937.252.9919
- Sonia Trejo: soniatrejovalerio@icparishdayton.org
- Mary Alice Ordoñez: maryaliceordonez@icparishdayton.org
- Heidi Acuña: heidiacuna@icparishdayton.org



PARISH DONATIONS | DONACIONES DE LA PARROQUIA

With heartfelt thanks, Stewardship of Treasure:

Holy Angels Santos Ángeles	St. Helen Santa Elena	St. Mary Santa Maria
Aug. 2024: \$33,197.03	Aug. 2024: \$43,175.93	Aug. 2024: \$18330.12
St. Anthony San Antonio	Immaculate Conception Inmaculada Concepción	
Aug. 2024: \$15,932.05	Aug. 2024: \$55,415.85	

SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-BULLETIN

INSCRÍBASE AL BOLETÍN ELECTRÓNICO



Immaculate Conception & St. Helen: Faith Direct

Faith Direct enables you, the parishioner or friend of the parish to make your Church contributions through either direct debit from your checking/savings account or through your credit/debit card. Please participate by visiting www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely online. **Immaculate Conception's parish code is OH796 & St. Helen's is OH790.**

Holy Angels, St. Anthony, & St. Mary: WeShare Giving

Your Financial Support Needed!

St. Anthony: Just go to our website, stanthonydayton.org: Online Giving tab (located on the right of the home page).

Holy Angels: Just go to holyangelschurchdayton.org click on the GIVE tab and then click Sunday collection tab.

St. Mary's: Donors can go to St. Mary's website and click on the WeShare icon on the home page.

Donation Envelope Exchange Policy

If you are a member of another parish & attend Mass here, we have an envelope exchange agreement. If you drop your donation envelope in the collection basket, we will see that your home parish receives your donation.

Política de Intercambio de Sobres de Donaciones

Si usted es miembro de otra parroquia y viene a la Misa, nosotros tenemos un acuerdo de intercambio de sobre de donaciones. Si usted pone el sobre de su donación en la canasta de la colecta, nosotros nos aseguraremos que su parroquia recibe su donación.

ANUNCIOS PARA EL BOLETÍN PARROQUIAL

Para promocionar sus eventos programados, por favor contactar a la Hermana Emily a emilysandoval@icparishdayton.org. Envíe la información **al menos 3 semanas antes del evento.**

La información debe incluir:

- El tema del evento
- Para quienes (edades)
- Fecha: día y hora
- Lugar (salón o centro de la iglesia)
- Costo del evento
- Información del contacto que realiza el evento

PARISH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

To promote your event in the bulletin, email Sr. Emily: emilysandoval@icparishdayton.org. Please submit them at **least 3 weeks in advance.** Information to include:

- What the event is
- Who the event is for (ages)
- When will it be (date & time)
- Where the event is (church hall, center or room)
- Cost of event
- Contact for more information



September 19, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ and all people of goodwill,

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is asked by a scholar of the law, “And who is my neighbor?” when faced with upholding the greatest commandment. Jesus replied with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Today, our nation is divided by partisanship and ideology, which blind us to the image of God in our neighbor, especially the unborn, the poor, and the stranger. These negative sentiments are only exacerbated by gossip, which can spread quickly across social media with no concern for the truth or those involved.

From the beginning, the human race was made in the image of God, which distinguishes us from all other created things. The arrival of Jesus Christ in human history confirms the dignity God has given to each of us, without exception. It is our belief in the dignity of human life that guides our consciences and rhetoric when engaging in politics or personal conversation. Each of us, therefore, must turn to God and ask for eyes to see the infinite dignity of every person.

Throughout our nation’s history, Catholic immigrants have come to our shores seeking freedom to worship and raise their families. Over 70 years ago, Pope Pius XII urged the Body of Christ to understand the Christian responsibility to care for migrants and refugees, writing, “Indeed, there never has been a period during which the Church has not been active in behalf of migrants, exiles and refugees.” Today, we witness newcomers to our dioceses who have escaped extreme violence and poverty and are seeking work to support themselves and their families. Some are Catholic, some are not, but all are welcome in our parishes, and all are individuals loved by God. What is our duty, as Catholics, to ensure all segments of our society, including our political leaders, view newcomers first as children of God while understanding the need to enforce reasonable limits to legal immigration? Do we ask ourselves how we would want to be received if forced to flee our homes?

Though national attention has turned to Springfield, we know that throughout Ohio our neighbors include Haitians and others fleeing inhumane conditions in their countries. Our Haitian brothers and sisters in Springfield have been granted ‘Temporary Protected Status,’ a humane federal program that protects foreign nationals from deportation to unsafe home countries. Like all people, these Haitians should be afforded the respect and dignity that are theirs by right and allowed the ability to contribute to the common good. The recent influx of so many migrants in a brief time has caused a strain on the city’s resources. We applaud all those community groups working hard to advance the flourishing of Springfield, given the need to integrate newcomers into the social fabric. If we remain true to our principles, we can have a dialogue about immigration without scapegoating groups of people for societal issues beyond their control.

The Letter of Saint James warns, “Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire... With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings

who are made in the likeness of God” (James 3:5-6, 9). As the residents of Springfield, Ohio struggle with violent threats and life disruptions fueled by unfettered social media posts, we exhort the Catholic faithful and all people of goodwill not to perpetuate ill will toward anyone involved based on unfounded gossip. Instead, we ask for prayers and support for all the people of Springfield as they integrate their new Haitian neighbors and build a better future together.

Pope Francis, like Pope Benedict XVI and Pope St. John Paul II before him, reminds us that we are all migrants on this earth headed toward the “true homeland,” the Kingdom of Heaven. On September 29, the [World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#), we are asked by the Holy Father to reflect upon the need to open our eyes to those brothers and sisters who might live in the shadows of our parishes and communities. The Catholic Church continues to pray and work in places of violence and economic despair so that individuals and families do not have to flee their homeland. In the meantime, let us reject a mindset of judging who belongs to our community and put on the mind of Christ to understand that God walks with all his people, especially those in need.

With you in Christ Jesus,



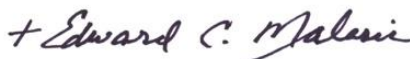
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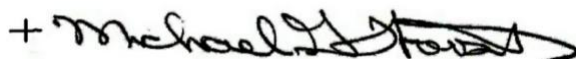
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