

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul And the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia



July 24, 2022

Parish Mission Statement

With Jesus Christ as our Head and Foundation, the Cathedral Parish of Saints Peter and Paul forms a vibrant Roman Catholic community in Center City and serves all those who come to the Cathedral Basilica, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our parish community professes our Catholic Faith, ministers to others and welcomes all, as rooted in the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*Adopted by the Parish Council
August 10, 2021*

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Rector

Reverend Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
Rector Emeritus

Reverend Matthew K. Biedrzycki
Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor John Savinski
Priest in Residence

Deacon Jesús M. Burgos
Permanent Deacon

Sister Eleanor McCann, R.S.M.
Pastoral Associate

Sister Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I.
Parish Evangelization

Sister Mary Raphael Paradis, R.S.M.
Outreach Coordinator

Monica Clarke
Director of Religious Education

Charlene Angelini
Director of Cathedral Parish Music

Mark Loria
Principal Organist

The Cathedral Shop is open
Wed. 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM / Sat. 11:00 AM - 5:15 PM
Sun. 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM / 215-665-9032

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass on Saturday
8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM in Basilica
12:30 PM Spanish in Cathedral Chapel
Sta. Misa en español, en la Capilla
6:30 PM in Basilica

Weekdays: 7:15 AM, 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

Saturdays: 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

Holy Days: See website

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM in Basilica
12:00 PM (español) en la Capilla

Weekdays: 11:30 AM in Basilica

Saturday: 4:15 PM in Basilica

Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the:
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE,
SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK,
AND HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK
AND HOMEBOUND

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul
@CathedralPhila

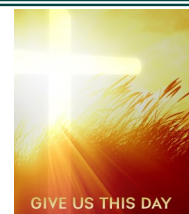


Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-561-1313
www.cathedralphila.org • info@cathedralphila.org
Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel <https://www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com/>

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 24, 2022

*"You have received a Spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, Father." ROM 8:15
R. Alleluia, alleluia.*



July 23	Saturday, Weekday St. Bridget
12:05	Magdalena Leone
5:15	Mario Dercole & Family
July 24	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00	For the People of the Parish
9:30	Domenica Giacomucci & Family
11:00	Mary Wilmer Boccella
12:30	Luz Rodríguez
6:30	Angelo E. Pepe
July 25	Monday St. James
7:15	Maria Grace Grayo
12:05	Edna Koger
July 26	Tuesday Sts. Joachim & Anne
7:15	Intentions of Teresa Lee
12:05	Margaret (Peggy) Egan
July 27	Wednesday, Weekday
7:15	Josephine A. Kurtas
12:05	Mary & Eugene Olcese
July 28	Thursday
7:15	John Forneris
12:05	Lenora Sidorski
July 29	Friday Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
7:15	Intentions of Sr. Mary Marta Abbot, RSM
12:05	James Red McAndrew
July 30	Saturday, Weekday St. Peter Chrysologus
12:05	Ramon Rubinos
5:15	Loretta Hrabovsky
July 31	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00	For the People of the Parish
9:30	Luciana Colavita
11:00	Taylor Ann Schatz
12:30	Mario Lara
6:30	Nancy McQuiston

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The disciples in today's Gospel ask, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples (Luke 11: 1)." What prompted this question? The disciples for sure were good Jews and would have known the prayers of their tradition and have been already people of prayer. It must have been something that they witnessed in Jesus when he prayed. The prayer that Jesus in turn gives to his disciples contains the clue. When Jesus begins "Father" he reveals the quality and character of his own prayer and allows us to share the same. His prayer was one of deep and complete intimacy with his Father, a communion between heaven and earth, an occasion of confident love and providence. Jesus when he teaches us to call his Father "our Father" also hands-on to us the very same relationship the divine Son has with all God's children, especially with this relationship solidified with our Baptism. We should seek to discover then more fully in our prayer all that belonged to Jesus - and recognized by the disciples - when he was at prayer. This comes when we are settled and not anxious when we pray, when we do so with great faith and sincerity of heart, when our prayer is more about the love of God than our own needs. We pray the Our Father rather frequently. The lesson of today's Gospel reminds us to do so then with greater devotion and awareness.

Today is the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Grandparents play a very important role in our lives. In recognition of this, Pope Francis established the fourth Sunday of July, the Sunday closest to the July 26 Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of the Lord Jesus, as an observance of the *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*. The Holy Father reminds us with this observance, "Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith."

We welcome Monica Clarke as the Directress of Religious Education for our Cathedral Parish. Monica will be responsible for the overall coordination of the religious education and formation programs in the Cathedral Parish. At present, Monica's position will be part-time. She comes well equipped for this new role with many years as a teacher in a Catholic School and has recently received her MA in Theology. Over the past several years the number of children preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Penance, and First Holy Communion has significantly increased, especially among our Spanish-speaking families. The growth in this area alone suggested that we have a DRE on our staff.

Our parishioner, Francis Gestada, has been accepted to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. This is a great blessing to our Cathedral Parish. Please join me in praying for Francis and all of the seminarians at Saint Charles, especially those beginning their first year, that they will have the grace of perseverance as they prepare for the Holy Priesthood.

The second collection at Mass next Sunday will be directed to the religious education programs of the Cathedral Parish. If possible, please make use of the on-line possibility of making your weekly offering. Thank you so very much for all of your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish.

God bless you!
Father Dennis Gill



PRAYER | PARTICIPATION | GENEROSITY



Make a gift that continues the God-given gifts you receive and give during your lifetime. A gift to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul Parish Fund through your will or other planned gift creates a perpetual legacy of support. Consider supporting the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in this very special way. Your support makes a difference in the life of our Church. Consider a gift of stock, insurance, real estate, retirement plan or cash to provide for the future of our parish.

Thank you for being a blessing to the Cathedral parish!

For more information, visit: www.cathedralphila.org.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Pray for us.

And let us remember to always pray for each other!

Your generosity on 7/17 was:

Regular	\$4,862
Special	1,380 (for summer landscaping needs of the
Electronic	2,561* Cathedral Basilica)
Total	\$8,803

*Electronic giving is your average weekly giving for June.

Thank you!

**We hope that your generosity will exceed
\$13,000 this week.**

Please consider a gift to support the good works of our Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

- You are invited to become a member of our parish family and take part in our ministries, programs, events, and worship. Please speak with Deacon Burgos or Sr. Eleanor McCann after any Sunday Mass or make an appointment with Father Gill or Father Biedrzycki, and one of them can help you register.
- Consider the Cathedral in your Financial Plan – call Rose at the Cathedral office 215-561-1313. She can help with your Estate planning – such as adding the Cathedral as a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA, annuity or a memorial gift. She can also help you with Tax Planning – such as a gift of appreciated stock or a distribution from your IRA.
- Text to Give** anytime, especially for your Sunday Mass offering – text “Cathedral” to 215-709-9955.
- Venmo us @cathedralbasilica**
- Donate on-line** at <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/> or scan this QR code:



Cathedral Sacramental Preparation 2022-2023

The Cathedral Parish will offer classes again this coming year for children who need to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This is NOT a full religious education program.

Your child may attend these classes whether he or she is attending a Catholic school in the Archdiocese, is in a religious education program at another parish, is NOT in religious education, or is in a home-based program.

There will be a section of each class for primarily English-speaking children/families, and another for primarily Spanish-speaking children/families.

The schedule for 2022-2023 will be out very soon! Classes for the English-speaking section will start on October. Children coming for First Holy Communion preparation will be prepared for the Sacrament of Penance during the fall; after New Year classes will focus on the Holy Eucharist and specific preparation for First Holy Communion. Confirmation preparation will follow the same schedule.

More information will be on this website very soon, along with registration forms! Please stay tuned!

The Sacrament of Confirmation for school age children will be on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass.

Bishop Joseph Coffey will administer the Sacrament.

First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, May 7, 2023 At the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass.



The Divine Mercy Chaplet

Daily Divine Mercy Chaplet

Following the **12:05 PM** daily Mass the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be offered in the Chapel of the Cathedral Basilica in order to pray **for an end to the war in Ukraine and for the protection of refugees from the conflict.**

Please join our Parish community as we pray for peace in Ukraine and throughout the world.

Also Each Friday at 3:00 PM we will pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy **for peace in Ukraine and the conversion of Russia.**

Join Via Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567068541?pwd=Wmo1V01XWEIQLzRuZ0JnOWU2T3Rsdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 6706 8541

Passcode: Mercy

Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ Oren por los enfermos:

Catherine, Sharon, Michael, Flavia Langan, Edmund Kirk, Gary Hentz, Victor Adolfo Bracamonte, James Brenner, Dylan Rounds, Joseph szejemba and his intentions, Jennifer McPherson and her intentions, Sisters Rose Marie, Yvonne, Bernadette, Barbara Schoener, Judy Andrade and her intentions, Victoria Grace Roberts, Frances and her intentions, Deprest and Luebke Families, Monica McGurgan, Brian McGurgan, Clara, Jim, Allison Torres, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick.

To add or remove parishioners, friends or family members to the prayer list, please send an email to: prayingforyou@cathedralphila.org. Por favor envíe un email o llame a la oficina parroquial para añadir o remover los nombres de la lista de personas que estén enfermas.

***Declaración de la Misión de la
Parroquia Catedral de los Santos
Pedro y Pablo***

Con Jesucristo como nuestra Cabeza y Fundamento, la Parroquia Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Pablo forma una vibrante comunidad Católica Romana en el centro de la ciudad y sirve a todos aquellos que vienen a la Catedral Basílica, la Iglesia Madre de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia. Nuestra comunidad parroquial profesa nuestra fe católica, ministra a los demás y da la bienvenida a todos, enraizada en la Palabra de Dios y la celebración de los sacramentos de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y Salvador.

*Adoptado por el Consejo Pastoral
Parroquial, agosto 10, 2021*

Misa Televisada en Español

En UNIVISIÓN 65 - Todos los domingos a las **6:30 AM**

La Santa Misa Grabada en línea

SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIACIÓN

Los domingos a las 12:00 PM en la Capilla

BOLETIN INFORMATIVO

Oficina para Católicos Hispanos

CLICK HERE

<https://oficinahispanacatolica.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/July-July>



**ARCHDIOCESE
of PHILADELPHIA
SCHOOLS**
AMERICA'S FIRST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Feria

Profesional del Educador

Regístrese hoy para el evento virtual
jueves, 28 de julio de 2022
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

La Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia está contratando

MAESTROS

***negocios *inglés *artes
*salud/educación física *matemáticas
*ciencias *estudios sociales
*educación especial *teología
*idiomas del mundo.**

Por favor visite: www.AOPcatholicschools.org

Si tiene preguntas comuníquese con:

Barbara Guiliano – bguiliano@archphila.org

REFLEXIÓN DEL PÁRROCO

Estimados feligreses,

Hoy es el decimoséptimo domingo del tiempo ordinario. Los discípulos en el evangelio de hoy piden: “Señor, enséñanos a orar como Juan enseñó a sus discípulos (Lucas 11:1)”. ¿Qué motivó esta pregunta? Los discípulos seguramente eran buenos judíos y habrían conocido las oraciones de su tradición y ya serían personas de oración. Debe haber sido algo que presenciaron en Jesús cuando oraba. La oración que Jesús dirige a su vez a sus discípulos contiene la clave. Cuando Jesús comienza “Padre”, revela la calidad y el carácter de su propia oración y nos permite compartirla. Su oración fue de profunda y completa intimidad con su Padre, comunión entre el cielo y la tierra, ocasión de confiado amor y providencia. Jesús cuando nos enseña a llamar a su Padre “Padre nuestro” también nos transmite la misma relación que el Hijo divino tiene con todos los hijos de Dios, especialmente con esta relación solidificada con nuestro Bautismo. Deberíamos tratar de descubrir más plenamente en nuestra oración todo lo que pertenecía a Jesús, y reconocido por los discípulos, cuando estaba en oración. Esto viene cuando estamos tranquilos y no ansiosos cuando oramos, cuando lo hacemos con mucha fe y sinceridad de corazón, cuando nuestra oración es más sobre el amor de Dios que sobre nuestra propia necesidad. Rezamos el Padre Nuestro con cierta frecuencia. La lección del evangelio de hoy nos recuerda que lo hagamos entonces con mayor devoción y conciencia.

Hoy es el segundo Día Mundial de los Abuelos y Ancianos. Los abuelos juegan un papel muy importante en nuestras vidas. En reconocimiento de esto, el Papa Francisco estableció el cuarto domingo de julio, el domingo más cercano al 26 de julio, Memoria de los Santos Joaquín y Ana, los abuelos del Señor Jesús, como una celebración del *Día Mundial de los Abuelos y Ancianos*. El Santo Padre nos recuerda con esta observancia que “no sólo los nietos y los jóvenes están llamados a estar presentes en la vida de los mayores, sino que también los ancianos y los abuelos tienen una misión de evangelización, de anuncio y de oración, y de animación de los jóvenes en su fe.”

Damos la bienvenida a Monica Clarke como Directora de Educación Religiosa de nuestra Parroquia Catedral. Mónica será responsable de la coordinación general de los programas de educación y formación religiosa en la Parroquia de la Catedral. En la actualidad, el puesto de Mónica será a tiempo parcial. Ella viene bien equipada para este nuevo rol con muchos años como maestra en una escuela católica y recientemente recibió su maestría en teología. En los últimos años, el número de niños que se preparan para los Sacramentos de la Confirmación, la Primera Penitencia y la Primera Comunión ha aumentado significativamente, especialmente entre nuestras familias de habla hispana. Solo el crecimiento en esta área ha sugerido que tengamos una DRE en nuestro personal.

Nuestro feligrés, Francis Gestada, ha sido aceptado en el Seminario San Carlos Borromeo. Esta es una gran bendición para nuestra Parroquia Catedral. Únase a mí para orar por Francis y todos los seminaristas de San Carlos, especialmente aquellos que comienzan su primer año, para que tengan la gracia de la perseverancia mientras se preparan para el Santo Sacerdocio.

La segunda colecta en la Misa del próximo domingo estará dirigida a los programas de educación religiosa de la Parroquia Catedral. Si es posible, aproveche la posibilidad en línea de hacer su oferta semanal. Muchas gracias por toda su bondad y generosidad a la Parroquia Catedral.

¡Dios te bendiga!
Padre Dennis Gill

EVANGELIZATION NEWSLETTER

Office for New Evangelization

[CLICK HERE](#)

<https://phillyevang.flocknote.com/note/16888044>

Listening to God More Closely: *Spiritual Direction*

If you are interested in developing your relationship with God, and are looking for ways of making this happen, you may want to consider seeking the help of a spiritual companion or director. Sister Eleanor McCann, RSM is available by appointment, on any Tuesday or Thursday at the Rectory, to spend time with you to discern where God may already be present in your life. The initial meeting will clarify the process and determine the fitness or compatibility of director and directee.

We offer this pastoral service at no cost, but a stipend or freewill offering, if offered, will contribute to the Renovation Project at the Basilica.

Please call the Rectory at the following number: **215-561-1313** for an appointment through the receptionist or through a direct voice mail line.

THE ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

The **Summer Intensive on July 25-28** is an Evening School that provides a survey of content offered from the first four quarters of the **Encounter School of Ministry** over a fast 4-evening period.

The Summer Intensive is a powerful experience that helps bridge the gap between the supernatural lifestyle of Jesus and the everyday experience of many believers. Participants in this quick-paced, jam-packed Summer Intensive course will get a taste of the joy, transformation, and renewal that is at the heart of Encounter's mission!

Rooted in Scripture and Catholic Tradition, the Encounter School of Ministry teaches students how to live a lifestyle that demonstrates the goodness of God in the world and their spheres of influence. The Encounter School of Ministry provides a safe space for students to learn, discern and take risks in developing their gifting, calling and confidence in stepping out in faith. The school offers students with a dynamic 2-year training program to catapult you to the next level in ministry.

Visit our Summer Intensive Registration Page @ <https://encounterministriesdoylestown.regfox.com/encounter-doylestown-summer-intensive-2022>

For more information, send a email to Fr. Rafał Walczyk, OSPPE at rafal@czestochowa.us



SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

On **Saturday August 20th at the 5:15 pm Mass**, we will celebrate the Feast day of the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael McGivney.

Location: Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul
Please come out and join us.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 22, 2022

9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Join Catholic women from the greater Philadelphia area for a day of fun, friendship, faith formation and prayer at the Catholic Women's Conference. The 2022 theme is **"Be Not Afraid: Finding Your Freedom in Christ,"** in which together we will discover the healing and freedom of heart that Jesus Christ desires to give each of us.

Speakers:

Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Michelle Benzinger, Regina Boyd, Matt and Jenn Lozano, Katie Weiss, Sr. Cora Caeli, SV, Martha Reyes and Sue Gudenkauf.

Location:

National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown

More info & registration:

<https://www.catholicwomensconference.org/>

Career Fair for Archdiocesan Catholic Schools

Thursday, July 28 – 9 AM-2 PM

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Schools are hiring teachers. Education Professionals are invited to apply for High School Theology Teaching Opportunities. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited Catholic college or university for Theology teaching positions. Pennsylvania Teacher Certification is preferred. All clearances and Safe Environment Training are required to be current for hiring. Classroom instruction at school locations is required - not remote opportunities. Please visit AOPcatholicschools.org... for information about Secondary Schools, Schools of Special Education, and the Office of Catholic Education.

Location: Archbishop Carroll High School

More Information: [Click here for the flyer](#); Please contact Barbara Guiliano, HR Assistant for Secondary Schools at bguiliano@archphila.org

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
VISITING LISBON, SANTAREM & FATIMA
WORLD YOUTH DAY
OFFICE FOR MINISTRY WITH YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 19 - 39) PILGRIMAGE
July 30 - August 7, 2023
\$3,999
per person from Philadelphia (PHL)
TRAVEL INSURANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL RESERVATIONS
SCAN ME
Spiritual Director:
Archbishop Nelson J. Perez
www.pilgrimages.com/archphlwyd

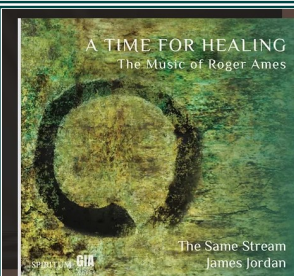


Low-Gluten Hosts

For Catholics who have been diagnosed with Celiac Disease, or any similar gluten intolerance, we have the availability of low-gluten altar breads (hosts) that can be prepared for consecration.

These hosts, produced by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, have been tested to contain less than .001% (10ppm) gluten. In this way, they are both approved for use at Holy Mass and are safe for almost all people who have a gluten intolerance. Additionally, both in storage and throughout the celebration of Mass, these hosts are kept separate, for the sake of those who have more extreme sensitivity to gluten.

To request that a low-gluten host be prepared for you, please come to the sacristy before Mass and make this known to the priest and/or sacristan, who will offer further instructions.



THE SAME STREAM CHOIR – ROGER AMES: A LEGACY CONCERT

Thursday, August 4, 2022
at 7:00 pm

Cathedral Basilica of Saints
Peter and Paul

For tickets and more information, please [CLICK HERE](#)
10% of all ticket sale revenue will go to the ALS Association

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE



Saint John's Hospice is a Catholic Social Services shelter for men located in Center City Philadelphia. Established in 1963 by Monsignor Anthony J. O'Neill, Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Church, and The Little Brothers of The Good Shepherd, Saint Johns was created as an outreach ministry to serve and assist the poor and homeless in the community. Saint John's continues to provide crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia. Saint John's Hospice is an independent 501c3 agency associated with the charitable work of Catholic Social Services.

Programs: Residence with 40 bed residential facility for men and a 12 bed residential facility for medically fragile men in St. John's Hospice & Good Shepherd programs; Case management, medical and counseling for all residents and day service guests; Mail Room for over 900 homeless men; 160 showers with clean clothing, underwear & shoes every week; Over 3,000 meals each week to homeless & needy men; Emergency bed overnight shelter for 28 homeless men where they can receive a meal & bed every night.

Donate: Monetary donations: [//saintjohnshospice.org/](https://saintjohnshospice.org/)
Contact information 1221 Race St. Philadelphia, PA 19107 adicesare@chs-adphila.org (215) 563-7763.



Evangelization 101



The Abundant Fruitfulness of Chastity Part II

For the celibate person, chastity is not simply a decision to refrain from marriage, and therefore, from sexual intercourse. Chastity for the celibate person is a deliberate decision to surrender the full meaning of one's body and sexuality to God, who, in response, renders the celibate person spiritually fruitful. The celibate man or woman who is truly chaste experiences himself or herself as a spouse – totally and completely given to Christ in love – and, as a result, also a mother or father in the spiritual order. Chastity in the celibate person bestows upon the heart the ability to live in the world as totally given to others, with hearts widened through the right ordering of passions and the desire to receive the sons and daughters of God as their own sons and daughters. The truly chaste person who has chosen the life of celibacy experiences the tremendous fruitfulness of allowing authentic love to govern and shape their lives in this way.

For the single person, too, chastity is a rich gift. It affords the single person a deep peace because it enables the single person to live in relationships with others that are full of respect and reverence. The chaste single person also enjoys freedom from the anxiety and turmoil that accompanies sexual promiscuity. Chastity gives the single person an understanding of the meaning of his or her own body and sexuality and enables him or her to choose daily to order his or her own desires and passions to the things of God who, in turn, opens up new avenues of fulfillment for the single person. This brings a peace and joy to the life of the single person, whether waiting for marriage or a vocation to celibacy, whether single through divorce or widowhood, or whether having chosen a single life to devote oneself to God. Like all of the virtues, living the virtue of chastity is not easy. Yet, no matter what our state of life, Christ's command of love makes chastity not optional, but essential to each of our lives. It is the Church's great desire that men and women in all situations of life experience the abundant fruitfulness of a chaste heart and life. Now more than ever, it is necessary for the Church to accompany men and women and help them respond to Christ's call to chaste love. Many apostolates are emerging that are doing just this. There are the numerous Theology of the Body based apostolates that help us understand the dignity of the person and the true meaning of the body and sexuality. For youth and young adults, there is the Love and Fidelity Network, The Culture Project, Chastity Project, and the Anscombe Society, to name a few. There is also the beautiful Courage Apostolate, which helps men and women who experience same-sex attraction to live a chaste life.

No matter what our particular struggle with chastity, all of us are called by Christ to live it. Thankfully, the virtue of chastity, while certainly requiring our cooperation and real exertion of will, is primarily a work of the Holy Spirit, a gift that is ours for the asking. Through a life of prayer and the sacraments and through the support of the community of Christ's disciples, may chastity become for each of us a life-giving path to peace, a journey towards deeper personal healing and a conduit for the healing of wounded or broken relationships.

~ Meghan Cokeley, Office for the New Evangelization