



The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

August 2023 - The Week of the Transfiguration

Newly Appointed Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese

Bishop Burgess has announced his appointment of The Very Reverend Fr. Richard I. Lewis to the position of Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese of Springfield. "Serving as the priest at The Church of the Holy Trinity in Danville and Dean of the Northeastern Deanery, Fr. Lewis is already quite active in fostering, strengthening, and maintaining healthy ecumenical relations where it is he serves. He is a devout, learned, and useful priest who speaks, writes, and dialogues at a level that brings glory to God while remaining focused on the characteristics of the Church." Fr. Lewis is a graduate of Illinois State University (BS), University of Illinois (MS), Eastern Illinois University (MS), and Nashotah House Theological Seminary having earned a Master of Arts in Ministry in May of 2016. He was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on May 31, 2016, and to the Sacred Order of Priests on December 8, 2016, by Bishop Daniel Martins. Prior to ordination, Fr. Lewis served over thirty years as a celebrated public school teacher.

UPCOMING:

- 08/15 - Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 08/24 - Feast of Bartholomew the Apostle
- 08/28 - Feast of Augustine of Hippo
- 08/29 - The Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- 08/30 - The Feast of Bishop Charles Chapman Grafton
- 08/31 - Feast of Aidan of Lindsifarne



Ecumenical Officer Appointment *Continued*

As ecumenical officer of this Diocese, Fr. Lewis is charged with: Assisting the Bishop and advising him on ecumenical matters; chairing the diocesan ecumenical commission/committee, when there is one; seeking out and strengthening relations with other churches within the diocese; maintaining relations with councils of churches and other ecumenical agencies; ensuring that diocesan program and budget reflect ecumenical involvement where applicable; keeping the diocese and its agencies informed on ecumenical developments through the initiation of informative programs and consciousness-raising; being a resource for parishes, deaneries, and other bodies within the diocese and provide support for ecumenical developments in congregations; initiating and planning for responsible and effective participation in ecumenical events in the Diocese; ensuring ecumenical dialogues between the "Local Church" and the Provincial Coordinator as representative of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) network.



When introducing Fr. Lewis to the EDEIO network, Bishop Burgess shared, “As I stated a year ago, I wanted to appoint someone to this position who would work mightily for kingdom priorities while representing this Diocese extremely well. I believe those objectives are being met in the appointment of Fr. Richard Lewis.” Please take a moment to congratulate Fr. Lewis and offer your prayer of thanksgiving for his life and vocation among us.



Not An Ending, A Beginning

From Dawn Jung on Cursillo Summer 2023

The display of reflective creations is down, words of understanding folded up, tables cleared, chairs stacked, lights off. It is as if the Cursillo XXXIX Weekend was never at Toddhall. The manmade signs are gone; but this is not an ending. Thursday evening we arrived as strangers, feeling a bit awkward in a new space. Sunday afternoon, we left as friends in Christ. As hugs were shared, quick kisses planted on cheeks and good-byes were offered, every heart was full of the Holy Spirit. The truth is, Sunday was not an ending; it was and is a refreshing reboot for continuing our spiritual journeys toward living a grace-filled life; a life viewed through the lens of God. May that lens be wiped clean each morning with prayer in preparation for a new day.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When darkness seemed to challenge every step of the Cursillo XXXIX path; through storm damage, power outages, injuries and even loss of life, our team persevered in faith.

Daily prayers asking for everyone attending to experience an infilling of God's word in their open hearts were answered. Whether in the Conference Room, Palanca Chapel or Palanca Barn, we grew as a team, we grew as friends, we grew in understanding, and we grew in commitment to sharing the good news of our Lord. Through Holy Communion, prayer, song, learning, journaling, discussing, laughing, and some crying, we marched along personal paths to loving our Lord more deeply. Dark clouds surrounded us on many occasions, but the rays of God's light were not dimmed as He was with us every step during this Cursillo XXXIX Weekend.

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: You are mine."

Isaiah 43:1

Do not allow the challenges of life cause you to doubt God's presence; He is with you always.

*"Jesus Christ, inner light,
Let not our own darkness conquer us.*

*Jesus Christ, inner light,
Enable us to welcome Your love."*

Suzanne Toolan, S.M.

Not An Ending, A Beginning Continued

Serving the Lord in Cursillo XXXIX as the Rectora was a blessing. My journey toward leading a grace-filled life continues, as does yours. God be with you as you travel on, side by side with our Lord, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:9-12

Many blessings and prayers,
Dawn Jung

UTO Spring Ingathering

United Thank Offering Blue Box Prayer: "Almighty God, I give you praise for blessing me in many ways. Create in me a grateful heart and with this gift a blessing starts. Amen."

I hope everyone's summer is going well. In a few more weeks autumn will be here. Many thanks to all parishes, churches and Hale Deanery for your Spring Ingathering gifts.

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$3,152.89

Joyce C. Wright
UTO Coordinator
Diocese of Springfield



From Province V

The Province V 2024 Big Provincial Gathering will be held April 26-27 in South Bend, Indiana. For more information check out provincev.org/bpg24. Saturday, April 27 will be full of workshops offered "ministry fair" style. Do you have something to share with others? Are you particularly proud of a project you did or a ministry you support? Start thinking about if you'd like to host a workshop. All information about workshops will be needed by December 1. [Click here](#) to see more details and fill out the form!

Is your parish near an institution of higher learning? (this might be: community college, trade school, specialty training schools - anything that provides post-high school education)

We want to hear from you!

Province V is currently discerning if they should hire a person to be a "Campus Ministry Consultant." This person would work with parish leaders to help them build relationships with the faculty, staff, and/or students of nearby post-high school educational institutions.

If you would like to share your thoughts, questions, or ideas, please contact Heather at 989-413-3229 or provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

More details about this discernment will be coming soon!

From Emmanuel-Memorial

For those in the Champaign area, Emmanuel will begin to offer more formation opportunities for our children and adolescents and Young Adults/Young Families. Confirmation class for kids and teens 6th grade through 12th grade will begin in September — first meeting is on the 10th at 4! — and we will also be launching a children's Sunday School hour between services. These classes and activities will be designed to help our younger parishioners to learn more about Jesus and about our faith and then take that with them to mass — which is where Christ has promised to meet us.



From Emmanuel-Memorial *Continued*

Emmanuel will celebrate the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Solemn High Mass on August 15th at 6PM. A cheese and wine reception will follow after Mass in their Great Hall.

Church Pension Group

Register now for our Planning for Wellness Conference—designed especially for active clergy members. You, and your spouse or partner, will spend two interactive days with experts in finance and health, focusing on:

- Strategies to improve long-term financial security
- Health management tips to improve your overall well-being
- The many resources and benefits available to you

**Click here to
register!**

When: September 13, 2023 – September 14, 2023

**Where: Marriott St. Louis Grand 800 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri, 63101, USA**

The Feast of the Transfiguration

by Father Mark Ohlemeier

On the first Sunday in August this year, we have a unique opportunity to depart from the normal weekly service readings and celebrate a major feast in the year. I'm talking about The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, August 6 on the church calendar, which doesn't typically fall on a Sunday and therefore isn't usually celebrated in the church at all during the year.

The Feast of the Transfiguration Con't

Now, I know what you're thinking: But Father Mark, don't we celebrate Christ's transfigured glory every year in February or March, on the last Sunday before Lent, seven weeks before Easter, on "Transfiguration Sunday?" Well, sort of. As with many traditions in the Episcopal Church, the observance of this feast has a complicated history.

The Feast of the Transfiguration made its first appearance in the Eastern Church by the fifth century and in the Western Church by the ninth, however, its recognition was not widespread at the time. It wouldn't be until the mid-fifteenth century when the feast was officially established by the church in Rome on the date of August 6, in celebration of the successful defense of Belgrade against Muslim invaders. It then became part of the regular Latin rite and was celebrated every year on that date.

One hundred years later, churches that were part of the Protestant Reformation revised the calendar and removed the feast, replacing it with an annual reading of the transfiguration narrative on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. While most protestant churches adopted this new calendar and lectionary, the Church of England (and later the Episcopal Church) incorporated the reading of the Transfiguration before Lent while still keeping it on the calendar as a low-level feast in August. The 1892 revision of the American Book of Common Prayer then restored the Feast of the Transfiguration as a major feast in the church year, to be celebrated every year on August 6 and taking precedence over any other observance when that date falls on a Sunday, and at the same time continued the practice of reading the story of the transfiguration on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany (which, incidentally, we do not officially refer to as "Transfiguration Sunday").

Today, the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6. The Lutheran, Presbyterian, and other protestant Churches observe it on the Sunday before Lent. We

Anglicans-one might say in true via media fashion--have taken the "middle way" by recognizing both: we proclaim Christ's transfiguration each year as we transition from the season of Epiphany into Lent, and we maintain our official celebration of the event on its traditional feast day in early August, especially when that date falls on a Sunday.

Other Information

Please include those in our Diocese who are pursuing Holy Orders in your prayers: Pete Sherman, Postulant, St. Luke's, Springfield & Danny Shuler, Postulant, St. Thomas, Salem

You can visit our website to check out the most up-to-date prayer calendar ([click here](#)) information or our diocesan calendar ([click here](#)) with feasts and other events listed for around the Diocese.

The upcoming content deadline for the Michaelmas 2023 Springfield Current will be September 15th. If you have stories or news submissions please [click here](#) or email our Communications Coordinator at communicator@episcopalspringfield.org. To access the Current online please visit our website by [clicking here](#).



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

