

ARCH SUPPORT

Issue 153

May 2022

From The Desk Of The Chancellor...

As I write my column, we are exactly one month since Archbishop Shelton Fabre was installed as our new shepherd. The installation events included an evening vesper service at the Cathedral on March 29th and the Mass of Installation at the Convention Center on the 30th. I hope you were able to join in these celebrations, either in-person or on live-stream. They were vibrant and prayerful gatherings with beautiful processions, great music, historic rituals, and inspiring messages. All gave glory to God and testified to our faith in Jesus.

Archbishop Shelton has already visited more than a dozen parishes as he traveled to the many scheduled Confirmations. Transitions of bishops include elements beyond the public celebrations. Appointments of canonical staff, signing dozens of legal business documents, finalizing pastor assignments, meeting with staff, boards, and committees, and connecting with civic officials are all important. However, our new archbishop has made it a priority to meet as many of the faithful as possible in the first few months. Beginning early this month he will preside at eleven “Welcome Masses” scheduled in every region of the Archdiocese. Each one is open to anyone wishing to attend from any parish. I hope you will make time to attend one, pray with Archbishop Shelton, and greet him at the receptions that will follow.

Meanwhile, no doubt your work, like mine, has required time to finalize budgets for the coming year and prepare for the inevitable staff changes that occur during these months. May certainly is an event-filled month with graduations, first communications, lots of weddings, and of course Derby, Mother’s Day, early summer festivals, etc hope you stay well amid these hectic times.

There are dozens of workshops and training programs offered by archdiocesan agencies throughout the year. This past week there was a wonderful workshop hosted by the Office of Mission Advancement where ten parish teams gathered for a full day on the topic of “*Cultivating Generous Congregations.*” Experts from Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, which is a part of the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, led the workshop. These parishes will gather two more times as a part of this program designed to assist parishes as they reinvigorate their stewardship programs.

The day allowed the parish teams to learn many new lessons. One, in particular, focused on generosity as a virtue we all can practice. The common stewardship message of using our time, talents, and treasure as gifts to share remains important. However, the concept of generosity as a basic orientation to life gave participants a new language or lens through which to view stewardship.

The program examined the present landscape for religious giving and what has changed in recent years. It became clear once again that seeing themselves as a member of a parish directly determines whether a family worships at the parish, volunteers in ministry, and shares financial gifts as a donor. Today, less than half of Catholics say they are affiliated with a parish. We clearly have more to do to connect and re-engage families in the life of the parish.

Each team left the day with one or more specific task they will work on in the coming months before they gather again with each other later in the summer.

Speaking of stewardship, as you likely saw in *The Record*, the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal has reached and exceeded its goal. This success is possible because of the splendid work of pastors and parish administrative staff. The CSA supports hundreds of ministries and services from seminary education, deacon formation, youth ministry programs, Catholic Charites, and Catholic schools. Thank you! We are all grateful for the combined efforts of so many. In the theme echoed by Archbishop Shelton in his Installation Mass, “we are all in this together.”

Oh, and since you asked, an update on Sam, my 2+ year old grandson. Over Easter weekend he visited a petting zoo and was excited to see and pet the animals. On the way in through the gift shop, he picked out a book about goats, and his mother bought it for him. Sam took the book, and on his own walked to the goat pen and proceeded to read the book page by page to the goats that quickly gathered around him. He taught us that day about service to others – a lesson on generosity.

May, of course, will give way to summer months which for many is a slower pace. I hope you enjoy the warmer weather and hopefully take time to relax and recharge.

Let us pray for one another.



Take Note...From Brad Harruff CATHOLIC MUTUAL CLAIMS/RISK MANAGER

The pandemic is waning, the weather is warming, and you are likely enjoying increased activity at your locations. With the extra activity, you may have the occasion for a volunteer or guest injury.

Be sure you have an accident form available to the staff, to include the school, should there be a need to log an injury. By completing the incident report, you protect the injured person, staff, and the church by preserving a record of what happened. Should the injury be a serious one or there is a need for additional action you will be able to forward it to the appropriate person.

It is also picnic season and this may be your biggest function of the year, so it's important for you to get it right. In addition to following "Financial guidelines of the Archdiocese", please also consider using the CMG website and view the picnic and festival video. It serves as a guide and checklist for business managers and picnic chairpersons to assist in organizing a smooth-running activity.

CMG Connect is free and you do not need any passwords to log in and create your own account and reference point. You will find many other training courses in video form you may wish to utilize, most of which are very brief but informative.

Have fun and be careful out there.



Mileage Rate

Effective July 1, 2022, the Archdiocese of Louisville reimbursement rate for business related travel **increased** from 56 cents to a new rate of 58.5 cents. Please be sure to change your mileage reimbursement rate forms to reflect this change for all mileage incurred **after** July 1, 2022.



Summer Office Hours

Once again, Archdiocesan agency office hours will be adjusted for a ten-week period this summer. Effective Monday, June 6 and continuing through Friday, August 12, each department will extend their workday by thirty minutes in the morning or afternoon and shorten their lunch break to 45 minutes to allow the offices to close on Fridays at 12:30 PM.

Finance Office News – From Robert Cecil:

Throughout the COVID pandemic our parishioners and families have continued to generously give of their financial resources. Their generosity through difficult times has been a blessing and more than most of us would have expected. At the same time because of the Affordable Care Act and other available assistance, our parishes, schools, and day cares have received needed funds to keep the doors open and provide necessary services to parishioners and students in our schools. These things combined with a focused discipline on spending has resulted in many parishes having improved cash positions. For many the best in their recent history.

Each day I review a great number of projects and activities going on across the Archdiocese. Many of these wonderful projects are enabled by the financial circumstances I described above. It is true the cash position has improved for many, but our collections and income excluding these one-time items have not returned to pre-covid levels. Remember these one-time grants are for the most part one-time. Some grants may be for more than one year, but all have an end date and will not renew.

We have entered a financial environment where there are many unfriendly variables in our economy. Whether it be rising inflation, rising interest rates, increase in wages and a continued inability to fill open positions, the recent market correction, supply chain shortages and delays, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and lingering rumblings of COVID and future variants. While these each are their own issue they collectively impact and compound on one another. These may all be simply bumps in the road that quickly pass or they may create sustained economic uncertainty and possible future difficulties.

The truth is no one knows for sure. As faithful stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us by parishioners and parents of children in our schools it should give us a reason to pause. I ask each of you as you plan your budget this year to carefully review how you spend your money. Especially on capital projects. For some this may be counter intuitive because of feelings around increases in current cash and income levels.

Just like many of you, the current prices of goods are affecting me and my family. We can also expect that the daily choices of all our parishioners and parents are being impacted. In turn this may impact how they give during uncertain times. As good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, we should ask ourselves, "are we being more cost conscious and reevaluating our spending?"

Perhaps just because the contractor said prices will go up if we don't move this project forward now, we should do the opposite and delay if the project is not an absolute necessity. There is a lot to be said for saving for a rainy day.



Message from the Office of Mission Advancement

Hello!

I am Susan Putnam, in the Office of Mission Advancement at the Pastoral Center. I began working here six years ago in my position as Data Processing Specialist and have counted myself blessed ever since! The Data Processing Team has the important responsibility of maintaining updated records for all parishioners throughout the Diocese. This is critical in order for the Archbishop and the Diocesan Agencies to be able to minister to the faithful in 24 counties throughout Central Kentucky.

In addition:

- We prepare a mailing list for *The Record* every week, which goes to well over 57,000 households as well as prisons and nursing/assisted living facilities. Countless subscribers tell me they look forward to this publication every week, and greatly miss it when it doesn't arrive. The paper is also a lifeline to the homebound, who don't have the regular personal contact with their parish community that spiritually strengthens the rest of us.
- With your accurate data, we are able to credit your parish for your members' donations to the annual Catholic Services Appeal.
- We send sympathy cards to the bereaved throughout the Archdiocese.

If you work in a parish in the capacity of secretary, administrative assistant, business manager, or in communications, you probably received a letter from me early in February with guidelines as to how best to provide us updates in your membership.

So many of you are diligently sending me copies of registration forms and updating me daily – or even more frequently – of address changes, marriages, divorces, deaths, transfers to other parishes, phone numbers, and email addresses. I want to take this time to offer my heartfelt thanks for your tremendous response. It is a joy to work with you!

If you are not familiar with the parishioner update process, or you have heard of it but face an overwhelming amount of data to handle, please do not be disheartened. I will be happy to help you in any way I can. We can begin by providing you with a roster of your parish membership as it exists in our database, and you can compare that roster with your records, notifying me of any errors in our data. Then you can follow a manageable schedule for sending me changes as they occur from that point forward.

Feel free to begin by sending me an email at sputnam@archlou.org, and we'll tackle the matter together.

You are the ones who see your parishioners at liturgies, who visit them in nursing homes, who comfort them when they are bereaved. We understand that you know them better than we do. With your help, we can work as partners with you in responding to their needs. As Archbishop Shelton has told us: "We are all in this together."

I cannot emphasize enough how powerful your participation in this ministry is, and the positive impact of what you do.

May God bless all your efforts.

Susan





The answer to your questions is to stay the course

It's only natural to be concerned with the economy and how it affects your personal financial circumstances. Though retirement may be a faraway thought for many of us, the truth is that the volatility of the stock market today could challenge the decisions you've made.

When markets are uncertain, it can be tempting to move all your assets into less risky investments. Economic strains may even lead you to delay investing altogether. But history tells us that downturns are a normal part of the market cycle — and sticking to a consistent investment strategy may be your best bet.

That's because taking your money out of the market could make you miss the days the market provides the greatest return on investment. In fact, if you missed the market's 10 best days from 2001 to 2020, your return would be 4.12% less.

Cost of missing the market's best days 2001–2020*



WITH 10 BEST DAYS



WITHOUT
10 BEST DAYS

FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. Refers to the S&P 500 TR USD. Source: Morningstar Direct. S&P 500 returns January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2020. Returns expressed as total returns. This chart is intended for illustrative purposes only; it is not investment advice. *Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.* Calculations relating to lost investment return created by Advised Assets Group LLC, a registered investment adviser and wholly owned subsidiary of Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company (GWLA).

* An index is not actively managed, does not have a defined investment objective, and does not incur fees or expenses. Performance of an index fund will generally be less than its benchmark index. You cannot invest directly in an index.

► Have questions? Call **866-467-7756** and we'll help you understand your options.



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As with any financial decision, we encourage you to discuss your options with a financial advisor and consider costs, risks, investment options and limitations prior to investing. You should choose the option that is right for you and your specific situation.

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Humana Go365 Members



May is Mental Health Awareness Month which is a great reminder that your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Did you know that 67% of Americans say they have experienced increased stress over the course of the pandemic? With everything going on in our world, it's no surprise an increasing number of us are struggling with our mental health, from stress and anxiety to depression and loneliness. You are not alone!

While a lot of stressors may be out of our control, there are things we can do every day to reduce our stress, lift our mood and make our mental health a priority!

Let us help support you!

- Listen to [Go365's Say Goodbye to Stress webinar](https://www.brainshark.com/1/player/humanaeg?pi=zIJzf1QuSzdsAqz0&r3f1=&fb=0) - to learn how Go365 can support you mentally and physically.
<https://www.brainshark.com/1/player/humanaeg?pi=zIJzf1QuSzdsAqz0&r3f1=&fb=0>
- Schedule 10-minute **Mental Health breaks** on your calendar every day in May (*stretch, walk, meditate, yoga, get fresh air, make a healthy smoothie, etc.*).

Have a happy and healthy May!

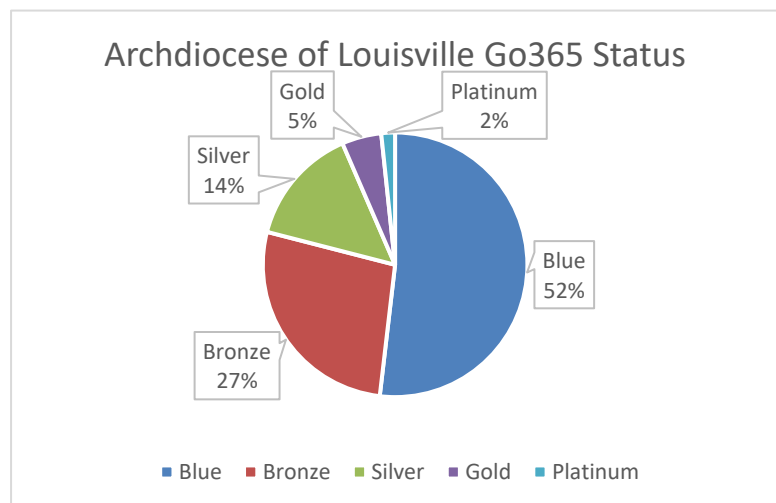
GO365 STATUS UPDATE:

Each January all employees and their spouses enrolled in our Humana medical insurance start in Go365 "Blue" status. Once you move out of the blue status you start earning points that help you move into the bronze, silver, gold or platinum status. Each August, Humana uses the percentage of participants in the silver status or above to provide discounts on our medical costs for the upcoming plan year. Healthy initiative though GO365 help in many ways.

Our March Employee Sponsored Event focused on employees and spouses completing their annual health assessment and moving out of the "Blue" status.

You can still complete your health assessment by going to myHumana.com or using the GO365 app by looking for health assessment.

The chart to the right displays the percentage of Go365 eligible employees and spouses as of April 30, 2022



Parish and Regional Schools Business Manager Roundtable

June Roundtable

Wednesday, June 15th at 11:30am

Location: St. Margaret Mary

Hosted by: Susan White

RSVP & agenda items to: swhite@stmm.org

2022 PARISH MAILING DATES

May 20
June 3
June 17
July 8
July 22
August 5
August 19
September 9
September 23
October 7
October 21
November 4
November 18
December 9



ARCH SUPPORT ON THE WEB

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