



Branches on the Vine

MAY 17 - 23, 2025



PHOTO BY FATHER ANTHONY FEDERICO
Zach Wehner, video production specialist for the Archdiocese of Hartford, directs a group of seminarians who have pledged to pray 100 rosaries each for the "Rosary 100K" challenge being sponsored by the Office of Vocations.

VOCATIONS OFFICE LAUNCHES 'ROSARY 100K' DURING THE MONTH OF MARY

- Story by Shelley Wolf

If you've been telling yourself you really should pray the rosary more often, now is the perfect time to start building the habit. The Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Vocations is asking Catholics of all ages to commit to praying the rosary for an increase in vocations.

Father Anthony Federico, director of Vocations and director of Seminarians, is asking Catholics to pray 100,000 rosaries as part of a "Rosary 100K" challenge that is kicking off this May, during the Month of Mary.

"I read a quote from Our Lady to St. Dominic. She said something to the effect that if you promote the rosary, 'I will unleash a torrent of vocations.' And so, we are taking her at her word," Father Federico says.

"Together, the archdiocese is going to pray 100,000 rosaries for new vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious and consecrated life, holy Catholic marriage and family, and the generous single life – for all the vocations of the Church," he explains.

And everyone is invited. "We are sending the invitation to join the campaign to every parish,

every school, every high school, every college, and every apostolate and institution in the archdiocese," he reports.

How will Father Federico be able to keep track of all these prayers, you may ask. Kevin Healy, an archdiocesan seminarian, is creating a web landing page where the archdiocese can keep track of the many pledges that come in. Go to the website hartfordpriest.com, where you can sign up and make a pledge indicating how many rosaries you plan to pray.

Kickoff day was May 11, which was both Mother's Day and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "What better way to start?" Father Federico asks. The sizable goal might seem daunting, but the campaign is already off to a good start.

The 20 seminarians of the archdiocese have pledged 100 rosaries each, for a total of 2,000 rosaries, and others made early pledges for a total of 14,000 rosaries before the campaign even launched.

People may choose to pray outdoors in good weather or indoors at church or at home.

"I think it would be great if families could pray the rosary together," the priest says.

Leaders or individuals may choose to announce their intention before each rosary, but Father Federico says not to get hung up on that. "God can do the math," he says in jest. It's primarily about "the spirit of praying the rosary and asking the Blessed Mother to intercede for us," he explains.

"The rosary is at the heart of the Christian life, and I believe it will be the unified collective commitment of the archdiocese that will be the cause of such great fruit. We already saw this when the archdiocese came together and began praying for priestly vocations, how our numbers exploded after that," he reminds everyone. "So, I think there's something in our combined effort," he says, "that really brings out the Lord's generosity."

To submit a pledge, visit hartfordpriest.com/rosary-100k, email vocation@aohct.org, or call the Office of Vocations at 860.761.7456.



Upcoming Events



06/4 WEDNESDAY 6PM - 9PM
IN MY LOVE, ABIDE IN SONG
 Holy Family Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Rd,
 West Hartford

Music ministers are some of the most faithful members of any parish community. Music has assisted many faith-filled people to "abide" or remain with God through participation and reflection. Gather with others who share in the ministry of music for an evening retreat at Holy Family. We will sing, learn, laugh, and pray together in a spirit of love and service. The evening includes dinner, a retreat conference and the celebration of the Eucharist.

NPM members attend at a reduced cost. Pastors are welcome at no charge. Music directors attend free with ten or more choir members.

Offering: Non-NPM Member - \$45

NPM Member - \$35

Clergy - Free

Music directors - Free when registering with a group of 10 or more choir members.

Contact Ted in our registrars office to sign up your choir.
 860.521.0440



PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH 1ST ANNUAL FAMILY FIELD DAY!

JUNE **21** SATURDAY 1-3 PM

FOOD - GAMES - RAFFLE PRIZES
 - ACTIVITIES & MORE!
 FREE ADMISSION & FOR ALL AGES!
 Christ the Redeemer 325 Oronoque Rd. Milford
 For more information, contact
 LISA @ lmonahan@pbpmilford.org



05/29 - 05/31 WEEKEND 6PM - 10PM
ST. BERNARD CHURCH CARNIVAL
 St. Bernard Church, 426 Hazard Ave,
 Enfield

Get ready for fun, food, and festivities at the St. Bernard Church Carnival! This family-friendly event promises an exciting weekend filled with games, rides, delicious fried dough, and other food booths. Kids will love the monitored play area, giving parents a chance to relax and enjoy the carnival atmosphere. There's something for everyone, from thrilling rides to tasty treats, and plenty of surprises in between.

We're also looking for volunteers to help make this event a success—if you're interested in lending a hand, please contact Gary Cote at 860.481.2626. Come out and be part of a great community tradition!

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code
to learn how you
can make a
lasting impact!



Total Goal: \$10M



71.43% as of 5/6/25
 \$7,143,303.37 pledges from
 21,450 generous donors

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

