



# Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Bulletin

August 13, 2025 Volume 31, Issue 8

## Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski

### Requiescat in pace

† **Deacon Rafael de los Reyes**, the first and longest-serving permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Miami, died July 22, 2025 at 86 years old. He served in the Apostolate of Divine Mercy, the Charismatic Renewal, Camino del Matrimonio, and Radio Paz. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Augustine Parish in Coral Gables on July 25.

† **Laverna Holtkamp Larson**, mother of Safe Environment Coordinator Jan Rayburn, died July 13, 2025 in Iowa at age 99. Her funeral Mass was celebrated July 23 in Iowa City.

† **Sister Mary Alexius Murray** died July 20, 2025 at age 99. She served as a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Miami and celebrated 75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph last year.

† **John Marino**, husband of St. Jerome School principal Tara Marino died recently overnight from a medical issue. Mr. Marino was a lieutenant in the Hollywood Police Department and served in law enforcement for nearly 29 years.

### Appointments

Effective July 7, 2025

- **Father Mariano D. Veliz, O.P.**, parochial vicar, St. Dominic, Miami.

Effective August 18, 2025

- **Father Gustavo Santos Higuera**, parochial vicar, St. John XXIII, Miramar.

## Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, continued

### Announcements

#### **National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC)**

Please consider publishing in your bulletins:

The NACC provides grace-filled encounters to the sick, the imprisoned, and all those in need of Christ's healing presence. As they celebrate their 60th anniversary and a Jubilee Year, they have launched Works of Hope, a free digital resource highlighting the transformative work of pastoral care ministers throughout the United States. The publication debuted Feb. 11 in honor of the World Day of the Sick. You and your communities are invited to engage with this resource and share it with your parishes and pastoral care ministers dedicated to serving those in need. Works of Hope can be accessed by visiting [www.nacc.org](http://www.nacc.org).

**Jubilee Year 2025** will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world have designated their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Jubilee Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive the faith. The following churches and shrines are designated as special places of prayer for pilgrims:

- **Cathedral of St. Mary**, Miami, 7525 NW 2nd Ave, Miami
- **The National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity (La Ermita)**, 3609 S. Miami Ave, Miami
- **Our Lady of Schoenstatt Shrine**, 22800 SW 187th Ave, Homestead
- **St. Mary Star of the Sea Basilica**, 1010 Windsor Lane, Key West
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish**, 11691 NW 25th Street, Doral
- **St. Clement Catholic Parish**, 2975 N. Andrews Ave, Wilton Manors

The basic conditions to gain an indulgence are that a person is moved by a spirit of charity, is "purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion" and prays for the pope. Groups of faithful who wish to organize pilgrimages to one or more of the designated churches or shrines should coordinate with the site so that the pilgrims can be properly welcomed and have access to the Sacraments, especially confession.

#### **Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women**

The MACCW supports the archdiocese through service, community and shared mission, and offers numerous benefits and opportunities for your parish. Consider establishing a new group within your parish or supporting an existing one. Contact president Fabiola DeArmas at 786-457-6422 or [fabiolas@prodigy.net](mailto:fabiolas@prodigy.net), or their spiritual advisor Fr. Michael Greer at 954-941-7647 or [frgreer@yahoo.com](mailto:frgreer@yahoo.com).

## **Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, continued**

### **Announcements, continued**

#### **Priestly faculties in Ireland**

The Archbishop of Dublin, Ireland, has asked the USCCB to inform local U.S. bishops that any priest who travels to Ireland and seeks to exercise public ministry (as a resident or visitor) needs to be vetted and cleared by the Irish Police first. This requirement is in addition to their bishop's testimonial letter. It is important that at least one month's notice be given for this clearance to come through. To initiate this process of police clearance, it is best to make contact with the Irish diocese in which they hope to minister publicly.

#### **Important Notice**

Rev. Carmelo González González, a priest of the Diocese of Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, was recently reported to the Archdiocese of Miami as offering his services to various unsuspecting parishioners within our territory. Please note that Rev. Carmelo González González is not a priest in good standing according to his own diocese and certainly does not have authorization (faculties) to work in the Archdiocese of Miami. Kindly, be on alert about his whereabouts and report them when known. Obviously, please do not engage him in any ministerial activities and warn your parishioners about him.

#### **Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN)**

The following message can be used in parish bulletins to promote FLCAN and encourage subscribers to opt-in:

The annual Florida legislative session starts soon and your elected officials need to hear from you. Are you a Florida Catholic who wants to put your faith into action? The Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN) provides opportunities to stay informed and use your voice to advocate for the protection of human life and dignity in our state's law and public policies. As an FLCAN subscriber, you will receive important updates and calls to action directly from the public policy office of the bishops of Florida. Sign up now and start advocating on behalf of vulnerable and marginalized populations who often have no voice of their own, including preborn babies, low-income families, children, individuals who are sick and dying, immigrants and refugees, persons who are incarcerated, and others in need. To learn more and opt in to receive FLCAN emails and/or text messages, visit [flaccb.org/flcan](https://flaccb.org/flcan).

## Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, continued

### Priest retreats

#### St. Paul Center Priest Lifetime Membership

The St. Paul Center is offering free all-access membership for priests. Resources include:

- The Word of the Lord weekly reflections on the Sunday Mass Readings
- Over 20+ course on Scripture and Theology
- Flagship Journey through Scripture studies on the Mass, the Virgin Mary, and more

Priests may visit [StPaulCenter.com//Priest-Membership](https://StPaulCenter.com/Priest-Membership) to register.

#### St. Paul Center Priest Conferences

Experience four days of spiritual and intellectual renewal for priests, presented by the St. Paul Center. Three different dates and locations are offered:

- Jan. 5-8, 2026 in Huntington Beach, CA
- April 13-16, 2026 in Austin, TX
- July 6-9, 2026 in Wheeling, WV

Costs vary, from \$425-\$700. Register online at [StPaulCenter.com/Priests](https://StPaulCenter.com/Priests) or contact [events@stpaulcenter.com](mailto:events@stpaulcenter.com) or call 740-264-9535 ext. 20 for more information.

## Office of the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs

#### Presbyteral Council Elections

The term of the current Presbyteral Council, 2022-2025, is coming to an end. By late July, the priests of the Archdiocese of Miami should receive paper ballots via regular mail. Kindly ask you to follow the instructions and submit your votes expeditiously. The first meeting for the new Presbyteral Council, 2025-2028, will take place at Convocation, on Tuesday, Sept. 16.

## Office of Vocations

### **Burse Fund Collection 2025**

Dear Pastors and Parish Communities, on behalf of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, our seminarians, and all who labor in this sacred work, thank you for your generous support of this year's Annual Seminary Burse Fund. Your generosity and prayers make a lasting difference in the formation of our future priests, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to fostering vocations in our Archdiocese.

### **St. Andrew's Discernment Gathering**

By the end of August, we will have completed our first full cycle of monthly visits to all ten deaneries. Providentially, we will conclude this first round in the Monroe Deanery with a gathering at the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea, one of our Archdiocese's pilgrimage sites, on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025. Priests of the Monroe Deanery, the Office of Vocations is coming to the Keys! We warmly invite you to join us and, if possible, to encourage at least one young man between the ages of 17 and 35 to attend this Saturday's gathering. Registration can be completed using [this form](#).

**Upcoming gathering: September 2025** – We begin a new cycle of deanery visits, starting with the Northwest Broward Deanery at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Parish. For more information, please contact the Vocations Office at 305-762-1137 or reach out to Fr. Milton Martínez at [mmartinez@theadom.org](mailto:mmartinez@theadom.org).

### **One Hail Mary a Day for Vocations**

Thank you for continuing to pray [#AHailMaryADay!](#) Please pray for the seminarians and their vocation as they continue to minister in your respective parishes throughout the summer.

### **Vocation Awareness Weekend - Fall 2025:**

Do you know a young man between the ages of 17 and 35 who may be discerning a call to the priesthood? Invite him to attend the upcoming Vocation Awareness Weekend at St. John Vianney College Seminary, taking place Nov. 14–16, 2025. Registration is available [here](#).

## Office of Development

**Bridging the Gap 2025** is a two-day conference that will take place on Friday, Sept. 26 & Saturday, Sept. 27 at St. Brendan High School, 2950 SW 87 Ave, Miami. It is open to the entire archdiocesan community, free of charge, and will feature a variety of workshops relevant to all of those involved in the many ministries across the Archdiocese of Miami. The keynote speaker will be Andreas Widmer, Associate Professor of Practice in Entrepreneurship at The Catholic University of America's Busch School of Business. The five breakout session tracks will be: Schools & Catechesis, Development & Stewardship, Parish Life & Evangelization, Human Resources, and Communications & General Topics. Deadline to register is Sept. 19 at 5:00 p.m. Register at 2025 Bridging the Gap <https://adomdevelopment.typeform.com/BTG2025>

### **Friday, Sept. 26th Agenda:**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. Welcome & Introductions  
9:05 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Opening Keynote: How May I Help You? The Key to Flourishing in Work and Life by Andreas Widmer  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session #1  
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski  
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Networking  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Session #2  
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Breakout Session #3

### **Friday Night Event**

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Theology on Tap: Empowering Young Catholic Professionals

### **Saturday, Sept. 27th Agenda:**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session #4  
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Breakout Session #5  
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Networking  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Closing Keynote: The Miracle of Teamwork: Building Flourishing Ministries Around Talents by Andreas Widmer

## **Office of Safe Environment**

### **Safe Environment Local Coordinator**

The Archdiocese of Miami's administration has reevaluated the Safe Environment Office in all aspects including the general policy, staffing and assigning of responsibilities, reporting procedures, requirements to serve as either an employee, vendor, or volunteer, and compliance procedures all in accordance with the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

An imperative part of ensuring compliance for our entities is the assigning of a Local Coordinator for your site. The Local Coordinator is responsible for compliance and record keeping of the Archdiocesan Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments for Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Essentially, this means ensuring that compliance is met and that it can be proven. (Remember the SE Office is an independently audited office.)

The role description is extensive and requires training before access is given. If your site does not have a local coordinator, please contact the Safe Environment office at [jrayburn@theadom.org](mailto:jrayburn@theadom.org) for the Role Description, and consider your choice carefully. Once a candidate is identified, contact the Safe Environment Office with the name and email address of the candidate to receive the appropriate training. This person must already be compliant in Virtus, fingerprinting, and a signed pledge to promote safe environment.

Ultimately, the responsibility falls to the Pastor, Principal, or Director of the site. Thank you for joining the archdiocesan efforts to protect children and vulnerable adults.

## **Office of Marriage and Family Life**

### **Rediscovery/Retrouvaille: A Weekend of Transformation**

Step away from daily distractions and invest in what matters most - your marriage. Find real marriage help through Retrouvaille's proven program. We've helped thousands of couples worldwide rebuild trust and restore their relationships. Whether you're facing communication challenges or considering separation, Retrouvaille offers hope and practical solutions for couples at all stages.

## Office of Marriage and Family Life, continue

Experience powerful communication techniques and practical tools for rebuilding trust and intimacy in your relationship. Continue your journey with our essential post-weekend sessions that reinforce your progress and provide ongoing support for lasting change. Our upcoming programs is Sept. 26-28 (in English). For more information call 305-915-4607 or visit [www.marriagelifeline.org](http://www.marriagelifeline.org).

## Fully Engaged Training for Mentor Couples

Fully Engaged Pre-Marital & Convalidation Inventories are offering New Facilitator Webinar Trainings via ZOOM (ONLINE).

- Sábado, 13 de septiembre 2025 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Spanish (En linea)

Please register at least 10 days prior to the class. To register, email Jill at [jill.svihel@gw.stcdio.org](mailto:jill.svihel@gw.stcdio.org), visit <https://getfullyengaged.com/new-mentor-training/> or call 320-258-7611.

## Office of Respect Life

**St. Gianna and Pietro Molla Miscarriage Ministry** wants to invite you to honor your child/children lost through miscarriage. Memorializing a loved one can be a very powerful part of the healing process. Many parents and relatives find it helpful to name their babies.

If you have not done so, visit us on our Heaven's Littlest Saints wall:  
[https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Memorial\\_Miscarriage\\_Ministry](https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Memorial_Miscarriage_Ministry).

**Florida Culture of Life Conference** will take place Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 at Archbishop McCarthy High School, 5451 S. Flamingo Rd., Southwest Ranches. For more information, visit <https://flaccb.org/florida-culture-of-life-conference>.

## Catholic Health Services

**Please consider publishing in your bulletins:**

### **Carrying Forward Christ's Healing Mission: Catholic Health Services**

For centuries, the Catholic Church has served as a beacon of compassion, healing, and shelter—caring for the sick, the elderly, the poor, and the vulnerable. Catholic Health Services in our Archdiocese continues this sacred tradition today, offering high-quality, faith-centered care that preserves the dignity of every person, regardless of age, background, or ability to pay. Our services reflect the Church's commitment to human life and the common good.

We are proud to offer the following services to our Archdiocese:

### **Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers & Specialty Rehabilitation Hospitals:**

Compassionate care and services for those recovering from various injuries and surgeries that require post-acute physical, speech, and occupational therapy. State-certified skilled nursing services and long-term care

**Assisted Living and Independent Housing for Seniors:** Safe, respectful, and community-oriented residences designed to support aging with dignity.

**Palliative and Hospice Care:** Holistic and spiritual support for those facing terminal illness and their families.

**Home Health Services:** Medical and personal care delivered in the comfort of one's home, enabling independence and healing.

At the heart of Catholic Health Services is a mission not only to provide care, but to be Christ's hands in the world—to see the face of God in every patient, resident, and family we serve. To learn more about Catholic Health Services and how you can access care, please visit [www.CatholicHealthServices.org](http://www.CatholicHealthServices.org) or contact 877-CHS-4ALL.

## Catholic Hospice

The Volunteer Services Department offers volunteer opportunities for individuals looking to join an organization committed to providing care to vulnerable populations. You can choose to join: Companion Care, Acts of Kindness Project, Camp Erin, We Honor Veterans, Pet Peace of Mind and more! For more information, email [volunteerservices@catholichospice.org](mailto:volunteerservices@catholichospice.org).

## Catholic Charities

### **Pastors, please consider publishing in your bulletins:**

**Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program** is looking for adults to become foster parents to refugee minors. The requirements to be a foster parent include:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be able to provide adequate bedroom space and a separate bed for each foster child.
- Have reliable transportation.
- Be willing to participate in a 30-hour free training.
- Be prepared for adults in your household to undergo complete background checks.
- Be able to meet basic resources to support the household.

Catholic Charities provides 24-hour case management, monthly stipend to help with the care of the refugee minor or youth, continuing education, and more. For more information, call 305-883-3383 or visit [www.ccadm.org](http://www.ccadm.org).

### **Wilton Manors Adult Day Care**

Provides services for elder adults in a safe environment. Our center is designed to promote well-being through social and health-related services. Services include nutritional meals, assistance with activities of daily living, educational workshops, live musical entertainment, caregiver assistance and referrals. We accept Medicaid Managed Care Programs. Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Servicios disponibles en español. Location: 1503 NE 26 St., Wilton Manors. Call 954-630-9501.

### **Head Start and Early Head Start**

Offer qualifying families of children up to the age of five a range of services including:

- Social Services
- Nutritional Services
- Health Services
- Mental Health and Disability Services
- Assistance Obtaining SNAP/food stamps for: Housing, Public Assistance, etc.

Enrollment for 2025-2026 is open, but spaces are limited. Visit [www.ccadm.org](http://www.ccadm.org) for more information about the Child Development Services or to find a center near you.

## Office of Detention Ministry

**Pastors, please consider announcing the following in your parish bulletin:**

**Volunteers Needed:** The Office of Detention Ministry of the Archdiocese of Miami is looking for priests and lay volunteers for one of 30 correctional facilities in Miami-Dade. For more information, email Deacon Edgardo Farias at [efarias@theadom.org](mailto:efarias@theadom.org), or <https://detentionministry.org>

## Office of Communications

**Follow the Archdiocese of Miami on Social Media:**

*Please Include in your Parish Bulletin:*



Facebook [@ArchdioceseofMiami](https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofMiami) |



[@CatholicMiami](https://twitter.com/CatholicMiami) |



Instagram [@CatholicMiami](https://www.instagram.com/CatholicMiami)

**Pastors, please add the following announcements in your parish bulletins:**

### **Sunday Mass for shut-ins: online, on TV and on YouTube**

The greatest gift that you could give a sick or homebound person is to remind them that hearing God's word in livestreamed and recorded Masses is only a few clicks away. To watch the Mass in English or Spanish, visit [miamiarch.org](http://miamiarch.org) | Offices & Ministries | Communications | Television Mass; or watch the Spanish Masses on our YouTube channel, CatholicMiami. Mass recordings become available at 6 p.m. every Saturday through midnight Sunday, and a direct link is posted on the News Center on the home page of the archdiocesan website. Masses also are broadcast in Spanish on Univision 23 on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. Those who are homebound and would like a visit from an extraordinary minister of Communion may contact their parish office directly.

## **Office of Communications, continued**

### **Beware of scammers**

The Archdiocese of Miami has heard reports of scammers impersonating Archbishop Thomas Wenski and some of our priests on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms, as well as via texts and phone calls. Please be aware that no archdiocesan priest or bishop will ever contact you directly asking for money, gift cards or anything else.

If you, your friends, family, or parish staff receive a direct message from anyone impersonating Archbishop Wenski or one of our priests, please do not respond. Report the fake account immediately to the social media platform and let the archdiocesan Communications Office know by emailing [mrivas@theadom.org](mailto:mrivas@theadom.org).

Impersonator scams also should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-877-382-4357; or Florida's Consumer Protection Division, 1-866-966-7226. Find out more about the types of scams making the rounds at [myfloridalegal.com](http://myfloridalegal.com).

### **Events:**

#### **Italian Mass**

Church of the Little Flower in Coral Gables has begun celebrating a new Mass in Italian on the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. The parish is located at 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables, and is pleased to offer this new Mass in the service of the Italian community of South Florida.