



Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Bulletin

Sept. 10, 2025

Volume 31, Issue 9

Office of Archbishop Thomas Wenski

Requiescat in pace

† **Msgr. James Fetscher** died Aug. 16, 2025 due to respiratory issues at the Catholic Hospice at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. He was 84. He was pastor of St. Louis Church in Pinecrest for 28 years and St. Sebastian Church in Fort Lauderdale for 13 years. He served as an archdiocesan priest for 57 years. The funeral Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski on Aug. 28 at St. Sebastian Church.

† **Carlos Sanabria**, project manager for the Building & Properties Office at the Pastoral Center, passed away on Sept. 8, 2025.

† **Maria Berta Barahona**, mother of Edith Barahona, died August 25. Her funeral Mass took place Aug. 30 at Cathedral of St. Mary.

† **Oscar Gonzalez**, father of Janet Milian, died Aug 8. The family had a private viewing and burial on Aug. 13.

Appointments

Effective June 30, 2025

- **Father Luis Pavon**, Director to FIU Campus Ministry/ADOM Campus Ministry office, in residence at St. Agatha Church, Miami.

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.

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.

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 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 or contact events@stpaulcenter.com or call 740-264-9535 ext. 20 for more information.

Office of Respect Life

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>.

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.

Office of Vocations

Welcome seven new seminarians

We are overjoyed to announce that, with gratitude to God and your continued prayers, seven new seminarians have joined the Archdiocese of Miami:

- **Rafael de la Cova** – Our Lady of the Lakes, Miami Lakes
- **Abin Kalladanthiyil** – Saint Gregory the Great, Plantation
- **Connor Lannon** – Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Pembroke Pines
- **John Murdock** – Saint Augustine, Coral Gables
- **José Rodríguez** – Saint Andrew, Coral Springs
- **Addel Valdes** – Our Lady of the Lakes, Miami Lakes
- **Rowan Vollmer** – Saint Thomas University, Miami Gardens

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, especially your daily Hail Mary for priestly vocations.

St. Andrew's Discernment Gathering

As we begin a new cycle of monthly visits to all ten deaneries, our first gathering will take place at the Northwest Broward Deanery, hosted by St. Gregory the Great in Plantation, on **Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025**. We invite the priests of the Northwest Broward Deanery to encourage at least one young man (ages 17–35) to attend. Registration can be completed using [this form](#).

Upcoming gathering: Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 – We will continue our new cycle of deanery visits with the East Dade Deanery at St. Michael the Archangel 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.

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](#).

One Hail Mary a Day for Vocations

Thank you for continuing to pray [#AHailMaryADay](#)! Please pray for the seminarians and their vocation as well as for new vocations.

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 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 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, or <https://detentionministry.org>

Office of Marriage and Family Life

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 línea)

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

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. 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 program is **Sept. 26-28 (in English)**. For more information call 305-915-4607 or visit www.marriagelifeline.org.

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.

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 or contact 877-CHS-4ALL.

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.

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 for more information about the Child Development Services or to find a center near you.

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 | 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.

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.

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.