

Chautauqua Catholic Community



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

www.ChautauquaCatholics.org
CCCatholicHouse@gmail.com
P.O. Box 106, Chautauqua, NY 14722



A Few Catholic House Rooms Still Available for 2025



Guest room in Catholic House at 20 Palestine near the Amphitheater

We conducted our annual lottery from October 15 through November 15 for room rentals at Catholic House. A few rooms are still available and will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. Rooms accommodate up to two adults and most are priced at \$750 per week. Two with balcony access are \$875. Each room includes a private bath, air conditioning, and use of a basic shared kitchen.

Please visit www.ChautauquaCatholics.org and go to the Accommodations page. Any remaining available weeks are listed there. Simply read our house rules and click the application link to apply. We will confirm your request by email. You need not be Catholic to stay at Catholic House. You must be at least 18 years of age and able to climb stairs without assistance. Please see our website for further details. Remaining rooms will go quickly.

We Welcome Suggestions for 2025

Eileen and Jerry Hodson are currently working with Fr. Jim Daprile to identify and engage Chaplains for each week of the 2025 season.

Tom Lengel is leading a team including Fr. Jim, Jeff Wood, Cathy Nowosielski, and Trish Beagle to identify and engage lay speakers for 2025 Catholic seminars.

Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ and Sr. Elaine Englert, SSJ, are working with Fr. Jim and leading the effort to advertise, recruit, and recommend religious sisters for four Chautauqua Catholic Community scholarships for one-week expense-paid stays at Catholic House during the 2025 program season.

We welcome recommendations for Chaplains, lay speakers, and religious sister scholarship applicants. Please email cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com and use the subject "Chaplains" or "Speakers" or "Scholarships" and we will route your ideas to the appropriate team.



Afternoon Catholic Seminar in the Methodist House Chapel

***May the light of Christ fill your hearts with peace and joy
this Christmas season and throughout the new year!***

2024 Season Activities

The 2024 CCC season was packed with activity. Our chaplains celebrated weekend Masses in the Hall of Philosophy for over 2,000 people. At the first annual blessing of bicyclists, Fr. Jim Daprile and Fr. Benjamin Fiore blessed 167 bicyclists. Almost 1,300 attended weekday Masses in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Our chaplains also provided access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Catholic House.

We are deeply grateful to the priests who served as chaplains in residence at Catholic House. We received kind comments regarding their inspirational homilies and seminars and approachable manner. Residents and visitors also felt blessed by the presence of four religious sisters, each staying one week at Catholic House on scholarships made possible through generous member donations.



Fr. Jim Daprile blesses bicyclists; Fr. Benjamin Fiore sprinkles holy water



Fr. Raymond Guiao, SJ spoke on liturgical music

Special thanks to Don Novak, who coordinated lectors, ushers, and Eucharistic Ministers for Masses. We appreciate the time and talent of all who served in those roles. We are grateful for the gifts shared by pianist Wendy Marlinski and vocalist Anne Eklund who led our music during weekend liturgies.

Over 1,200 people attended our Thursday and Friday afternoon Catholic seminars. This year, we welcomed lay speakers to conduct some of our seminars. We received many positive comments on presentations by priests and lay speakers. At times, the Methodist House Chapel was packed to capacity.

Our host couples, Deacon Jerry and Eileen Hodson, Mark and Bev Beltramo, and Deacon Paul and Gina Kudrav were gracious and kind to Catholic House visitors. Each couple assisted and welcomed guests at the house for three of the nine

weeks. We are pleased that in 2025, the Beltramos will be in residence during Weeks 1 through 3, the Hodsons during weeks 4 through 6, and the Kudravs during weeks 7 through 9.

The Catholic House porch served as a popular location for chats and visits throughout the week. At Tuesday afternoon socials, we welcomed over 550 visitors to our porch, parlor, and dining room for fellowship, snacks, and lemonade. Special thanks to Marcia Bermel, 2024 Vice President, who led our hospitality efforts throughout the season.



Marcia Bermel (left) chats with visitors on the Catholic House porch

Transitions

Two new board members were elected at our August annual meeting. We welcome Terri Calderone, our new Secretary, and Tom Lengel. Watch for profiles of these new board members in our spring newsletter.

We thank Cherie Anderson, whose board term ended in 2024. Cherie served Catholic House for many years, concentrating on hospitality. She coordinated with volunteers from local parishes, prepared Catholic House for Tuesday socials, and always offered a warm welcome to visitors. We hope to see Cherie often, and her delicious brownies are always welcome, too!

Behind the Scenes

Our President, Fr. Jim Daprile, was present every week at Masses, Catholic seminars, and socials. In addition, he was generous with his time behind the scenes with Catholic House renovations, making various off-season trips from Ohio. He also organized chaplains for 2024 with some assistance from Jane McCarthy. He worked closely with our host couples, our Board, and committees throughout the year.

Planning and executing the care of Catholic House is a year-round project, and Steve Drabant leads that effort for us in a most capable manner. Steve was especially busy this year because of HVAC and plumbing updates that enhanced the comfort and safety of our guests. While Steve keeps the house in good repair, Laura Anfang, our registrar, assigns guest rooms. She reviews all room applications, conducts our room lottery, and interfaces with guests regarding their rental documents, payments, and questions.

Treasurer Mike Metzger lends expertise to work with Fr. Jim and the board, playing a lead role with regard to our finances and budgeting. He also ensures proper accounting of all room payments and donations.

Trish Beagle leads communications activities such as preparation of brochures, newsletters, and notices in *The Chautauquan Daily*. We welcome volunteers to assist with communications work such as our website. Please email cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com with the subject "Communications."

We are always grateful for the spiritual guidance, prayers, board meeting participation, and visits to Catholic House from Fr. David Tourville, our Spiritual Director.



2024 Pre-Season HVAC Work at Catholic House

Sacrament Policy at Catholic House

Occasionally, questions arise regarding Catholic sacraments at Chautauqua. Of course, the Eucharist is administered at daily and weekend Masses. Reconciliation is available at the small Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Catholic House by calling to make an appointment with the priest in residence.

Chautauqua Institution does not permit weddings and funerals during the nine-week program season, and Catholic House is staffed only during the nine-week season. Local parishes such as St. Mary of Lourdes in Mayville and Bemus Point are happy to celebrate with and support families seeking weddings or funerals.



Daily Catholic Mass at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd

For baptisms, Catholic House does not have sufficient space or necessary items such as a font, oils, paschal candle, and ritual book nor are we able to provide the proper preparation for parents and godparents. St. Mary of Lourdes in Mayville and Bemus Point must be involved in any local baptisms, to provide preparation, necessary items, and register the baptism in parish records.

A Catholic baptism on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution is not a simple matter and would require various steps and authorizations as well as a fee to the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepard, the only appropriate sacred space on the grounds for baptism. For more information, see www.ChautauquaCatholics.org/sacraments-policy.

**Address correction? Add a friend to our newsletter mailing list?
Please email cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com**

Religious Sisters Grateful for Catholic House Scholarship Experiences

Funded by our donors, one-week scholarships for religious women include lodging at Catholic House, Chautauqua Institution program and parking passes, and a meal allowance. Multiple donors are needed for each scholarship. To contribute to our four 2025 scholarships, please see the last page of this newsletter.

Sr. Norma Raupple, OSU Reflects on Week 1

Sr. Norma Raupple, OSU of Youngstown, Ohio, worked as a teacher, Director of Religious Education in parishes, and worked with immigrant families in Brownsville, Texas. On a Catholic House scholarship for women religious, Sr. Norma visited Chautauqua for the first time.

At a religious women's session led by Jane McCarthy, Sister was inspired by a young woman United Methodist pastor from Florida. She also participated in the Peace Pole morning prayer and the service of blessing and healing. Sister appreciated weekday Mass and Fr. Ed Noga's seminar regarding steel workers of Youngstown, Ohio. She was touched by a homily given by Fr. Greg Boyle about connecting with others on a deeper level.

Sr. Norma learned a lot by attending the daily amphitheater lectures, and she registered for "Chautauqua Assembly" remote access to additional Chautauqua programming. She plans to introduce others to YouTube recordings by Fr. Greg Boyle and Jon Meacham and will share books she obtained in Chautauqua.

"The Catholic House was very comfortable," she said. "I reflected on the porch with coffee each morning. The kitchen was a great gathering space to get to know everyone in addition to the Tuesday social hour. The program was more extensive and varied than I expected, and I didn't want to miss anything. Thank you for such an impactful week that was socially and spiritually fulfilling. I will be living out this experience all summer and beyond."



Sr. Norma Raupple

Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ, Ed.D. Reflects on Week 6

It was a dream come true! Sister Elaine Englert and I had discussed so many times the possibility of spending some time at Chautauqua, but it was out of our budget and so out of our reach. When a friend, and a donor to the Catholic House, suggested that we investigate the possibility of staying there, we were heartened, but the cost of the access pass to the performances and presentations was out of the question. So, we were stymied there. But then the same friend said that the Chautauqua Catholic Community offered scholarships for women religious. In the language of bygone Catholics, "Bingo!" We applied and got in.

The week we spent at the Catholic House was as awesome as the offerings. It was great to see and hear Renée Fleming, but even more awesome was meeting Fr. Jim Daprile, our sponsor donors for the week, our hosts (Bev and Mark), and the other Catholic House denizens. By the evening of Day One, we were on a first-name basis and thrilled to be living in such a warm, welcoming community.

The best place in Chautauqua? The front porch of Catholic House. It is the Times Square of Chautauqua, and the crossroads of all that goes on. Its proximity to the amphitheater makes it possible to hear concerts without having to go there. People climb the porch steps just to chat, and one has a front-row seat to all the hustle and bustle of the place.

By the end of the week, we were hooked! Chautauqua is a marvelous place, rivaled only by the Catholic House. We count ourselves the most fortunate of people to have been gifted with such an experience. We are grateful to the donors who made it all possible, and to the Chautauqua Catholic Community who welcomed us so warmly. May God continue to bless this wonderful haven.



Sr. Carol Cimino

- Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ, Ed.D.

Thank you to our 2024 Catholic Seminar Speakers!



Mary Novak discussed multiple equally-sacred issues to consider when voting

Over 1,200 people attended our informative, inspirational Catholic seminars during 2024. We thank our exceptional speakers. To suggest a speaker or chaplain for 2025, please email cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com with the subject "Speakers" or "Chaplains." Many thanks to:

Rev. Richard Augustyn
Rev. Michael Balash
Christine Bochen, PhD
Rev. Peter Daly
Michael DeSanctis, PhD
Rev. Benjamin Fiore, SJ
Rev. Francis Gargani, CSsR
Rev. Ray Guiao, SJ
Rev. Jacob Ledwon, PhD

Tom Lengel
Re. Paul Milanowski
Rev. David Mowry
Rev. Edward Noga
Mary J. Nowak, JD
Rev. Kevin O'Brien, SJ
Rev. Ed Palumbos
Maureen Rovegno, M Div (Harvard)
Rev. Scott Van Derveer

2024 Catholic House Guest Comments

We received many favorable comments from Catholic House guests. Priests and host couples were singled out for their kindness, graciousness, attentiveness, and inspirational presence. Catholic House is made possible only because of generous donors to the Chautauqua Catholic Community. We receive no diocesan funding.

Here are a few comments from 2024 guests:

- Best deal in the Institution!
- A lovely, well-run, friendly place.
- Hosts were great, priests were great! Thanks for daily Mass.
- Best spiritual and entertainment!
- Staff/hosts very welcoming and helpful.
- Gracious hosts. Fantastic daily Mass.
- Wonderful place; great week!
- Excellent availability and hospitality of hosts and availability and helpfulness of priest in residence.
- I experienced only help and kindness. I was comfortable, relaxed, and happy to be here.
- Very hospitable place and supportive house staff.
- We loved the camaraderie of the other guests.
- We appreciated all the hard work and friendliness of the host couples.
- Great experience. Comfortable and pleasant. We love the congeniality here. Staff and guests alike.
- We thoroughly enjoyed our stay here in this beautiful community.
- Overall, wonderful experience. Thanks so much!!
- Your gracious hospitality made my stay memorable!
- A wonderful week here. Room excellent!
- Can't imagine how it could be any better. It was absolutely awesome all week. Hope to return!
- Outstanding week! Hosts were marvelous. Room was perfect. Entire house is simply the best.
- Loved being here: heaven on earth!
- A wonderful time spent at Catholic House and hope to come back.
- Thanks to all who continue to provide this opportunity for us to visit. Your work for Catholic House is so appreciated.
- Best week ever in terms of housing and guests!
- A wonderful week – hope I can return.
- Welcoming hospitality, smile, kindness, troubleshooting.
- Good location, good facility, plus friendly people. We enjoyed staying here.
- Very welcoming! We would like to come back.
- Marvelous host couple. Best location ever! Great communications.
- Loved our stay at Catholic House. Lovely people and generous hosts.
- As always this was a very positive experience.
- We had a great week at the Catholic House.
- We loved the Catholic House!



Tuesday social hour in the parlor

With Grateful Thanks to our donors!

We are deeply grateful for financial contributions to the Chautauqua Catholic Community! We thank all who have donated since our last newsletter. We are in need of support for the upkeep and operation of our beloved Catholic House and to bring chaplains, seminars, and religious sisters to Chautauqua in 2025. Please see the last page of this newsletter for details. **May God bless our donors:**



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Anonymous
Janet Archibald
Fr. Richard Augustyn in memory
of Dorothy & Henry Augustyn
James & Mary Barnes
Patricia Beagle
Jonathan & Ling Bickham
Alan & Barbara Blackburn
Lydia & Dennis Blasiolo
Kathryn & Vincent Butera
Catherine Clark
Mary Lou Clark
Denise Daniels
Amy Darcy
The Denion Family
Toni Douglass
Nancy Eichelsdorfer
Rev. Francis Gargani,
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Susan Urban
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Carolyn & William Weber
Patricia White



Mass at the Hall of Philosophy

Explore Donation Strategies for Tax Advantage

If you are over age 70-1/2, have you considered making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA? Making a QCD to a charity such as the Chautauqua Catholic Community (a 501(c)(3) organization) directly from an IRA can make the withdrawal non-taxable and the withdrawal amount (up to certain limits) will not increase your adjusted gross income. If you prefer instead to make a tax-deductible contribution, you may donate from assets such as a bank account. Please consult your financial advisor and/or tax adviser for professional advice, and see our donation form at the end of this newsletter.

Chautauqua Catholic Community (CCC) 2025 Season Support

Join the Choir of Catholic House Angels! Your support helps provide Chaplains, Mass, seminars, Reconciliation, spiritual guidance, hospitality, and our ability to maintain Catholic House. We will provide recognition in publications, announcements, and/or postings in Catholic House unless anonymity is requested. Catholic House is privately owned by the CCC. **Donations are our only means of support and enable us to provide a Catholic presence during the Chautauqua program season.** The CCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and contributions are tax-deductible. All donations help fund overall expenses of the Chautauqua Catholic Community. **Please indicate support you wish to provide:**

Seraphim Level Support

_____ **\$10,000** Recognition for supporting all seminars and priests for the 9-week season

Cherubim Level Support

_____ **\$ 5,000** Recognition for supporting all seminars or priests (circle one) for the 9-week season

Support Recognition at Thursday and Friday Catholic Seminars

Recognition for helping make our seminars possible.

_____ **\$2,000** Thrones Level Support of Thursday and Friday seminars for the full 9-week season

_____ **\$1,000** Dominions Level Support of Thursday or Friday seminars for the full 9-week season

_____ **\$ 500** Archangel Level Support of one week of seminars (Thursday and Friday)

_____ **\$ 250** Angel Level Support of one Thursday or Friday seminar

Support Recognition for Making Possible Priest-in-Residence (Chaplain) for One Week

Recognition for helping make Chaplain stays possible. We provide Chaplains with lodging and partial board at Catholic House, parking, and arrange for gate passes. Each Chaplain stays at Catholic House for one week.

_____ **\$1,000** Dominions Level support of one priest for one week

_____ **\$ 500** Archangel Level support of one priest for one week

_____ **\$ 250** Angel Level support of one priest for one week

Support Recognition for Making Possible Religious Sister Visits

Recognition for helping make Religious Sister visits possible. Each season, we provide one-week stays for four Religious Sisters including lodging at Catholic House, a stipend for meals, a gate pass, and a parking pass.

_____ **\$1,000** Dominions Level support of one religious sister for one week

_____ **\$ 500** Archangel Level support of one religious sister for one week

_____ **\$ 250** Angel Level support of one religious sister for one week

Guardian Angel Level Support - Gift in any amount to support expenses of the Chautauqua Catholic Community

\$ _____ Guardian Angel Support (Specify any amount below \$250)

\$ _____ Total Support and Donation Amount

Donor Name(s) _____

Special Note (such as in memory of) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone (____) _____

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We recognize supporters in publications and announcements unless you request anonymity.

_____ I prefer for my support to remain anonymous.

**Please make checks payable to Chautauqua Catholic Community, Inc. and return to:
Chautauqua Catholic Community, P.O. Box 106, Chautauqua, NY 14722. THANK YOU!**