

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

JULY 18 - 24, 2026

Century-Old Bishop's Ring Is *Discovered in the Archdiocese of Hartford*

- Story by Shelley Wolf

On the Monday after Easter, an archdiocesan employee sifted through a very large pile of mail at the Archdiocese of Hartford's Pastoral Center in Bloomfield.

After opening a white letter envelope addressed to the Archdiocese of Hartford, she was taken aback by what she found inside and immediately delivered it to the office of Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne.

Inside was a hefty gold ring with a large purple stone. Images, a bishop's crosier and a mitre, appeared in relief on either side. The stone, possibly an amethyst, was etched on the front with a mitre, star and three initials: "GHK."

Archbishop Coyne confirmed it was a bishop's ring, typically presented at ordination to signify the bishop's apostolic ministry and fidelity to the Church.

Words etched inside the gold band offered more clues to its owner: "From W.M.J. to his beloved friend G.H.K. AD1892 Mizpah."

"'Mizpah' is a greeting of affection by people who are separated by distance," Archbishop Coyne says. Still, everyone in the archbishop's office was puzzled.

"When the ring was first brought to my attention, I took it as a bit of a mystery since it was clear that it was not the ring of any of my predecessors here in Hartford," Archbishop Coyne recalls. But perhaps it belonged to a bishop in another Catholic diocese?



Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne displays the mysterious envelope and bishop's ring that was delivered to the Archdiocese of Hartford. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

"Working with my staff, we were fairly quickly able to discern that it was not the ring of a Catholic bishop, so we branched out into other Christian faiths that have a tradition of bishops," Archbishop Coyne notes.

After online research failed to match to a Catholic bishop, living or dead, the archbishop's team searched for bishops in the Episcopal Church and found a match in multiple online sources. They found those initials around 1892 and the more they kept digging, the more they kept finding.

G.H.K. appeared to be Bishop George Herbert Kinsolving, who was appointed assistant bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas in 1892 and a bishop of Texas in 1893, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

A visionary, he is remembered as the founder of All Saints' Episcopal Church on the University of Texas campus in Austin. Seeing an opportunity to reach students, he initially built the Gothic Revival church as a chapel, which opened in 1900, to serve both female and male students.

Kinsolving died on Oct. 23, 1928, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, until his body was moved in 1940 to a crypt in what is now All Saints' Episcopal Church.

With this information, the Archdiocese of Hartford contacted the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and the office of its current bishop, Bishop C. Andrew Doyle, in Houston. The archdiocese shared the discovery of the ring and also shared photos.

Sara Marlatt, executive assistant to Bishop Doyle, confirmed the ring was theirs, writing via e-mail, "Bishop Doyle says the ring has been missing for some time. Wow, what a lovely Easter gift!"

In response, the Archdiocese of Hartford arranged to return the ring to its rightful owners.

Still, no one knows how the ring originally traveled to Connecticut, where it was kept all these years, or who addressed the envelope to the Archdiocese of Hartford. Despite all the research, Archbishop Coyne says, "It's a mystery."



Upcoming Events



JUNE 4 - AUGUST 27 @ 6 - 8PM
SUMMER ALPHA YOUNG ADULT GROUP
 St. Margaret Mary Church,
 Rectory Basement, South Windsor

Welcome to all people ages 18 to 39 years old. Join us for food, friendship, faith, and fun, every Thursday throughout the summer! Every week we share pizza, watch faith-based videos, and participate in small group discussions. If you have any questions, text 860-816-6149. Our welcoming group would love to have you join us!



AUGUST 13 - 16
UNIQUE BOUTIQUE TAG SALE
 St. Teresa Of Calcutta Parish,
 St. Bridget Church, Manchester

Come join and explore at the St. Bridget Church Tag Sale! On Thursday, August 13th from 5pm - 8pm admission fee is \$10.00. Thursday admission includes wine and cheese while you shop. Admission Friday, August 14th from 4pm - 8pm is \$1. Admission on Saturday, August 15th from 9am - 4pm is free. Admission on Sunday, August 16th from 9am - 11am is free.

Items for sale include furniture, books, jewelry, collectibles, toys, hardware, artwork, household items, linens, glassware, sporting goods, holiday items, crafts, stationery, gardening supplies, luggage, pocket-books and much more!



AUGUST 6 - 8 @ 5PM - 10PM
HOLY ROSARY'S ANNUAL ITALIAN FESTIVAL
 Our Lady of the Valley Parish,
 Holy Rosary Church, Ansonia

Our Annual Italian Festival offers wonderful Italian food, featuring our handmade meatballs, lasagna, pasta e fagioli, porchetta, fried calamari, fried dough and more! Don't forget to grab some Italian pastries for dessert! Enjoy live music, dancing, raffles, and fun for the kids. Bring your family and friends and your appetite!



JULY 24 - 26 @ 7PM
TRIDUUM IN HONOR OF GOOD SAINT ANN
 Blessed Michael McGivney Parish,
 St. Michael Church, New Haven

The Saint Ann Society would like to invite you to the annual Triduum in honor of good Saint Ann. The dates of the Triduum will be July 24th, 25th, and 26th (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) at 7:00pm. The Triduum begins with two nights of rosary and prayers invoking the intercession of Saint Ann. The third and concluding night is a Mass with a reception afterward. Please extend this invitation to anyone whom you feel may benefit from this experience or just wants to join us. Also, we are always actively looking for women who may want to become new members of the St. Ann Society.



JULY 29 @ 5:30PM
HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR THE END OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
 All Saints - Todos Los Santos Parish,
 The Shrine of St. Anne, Waterbury

Human trafficking is a grave offense against the God-given dignity of every person. An estimated 27 million women, men, and children worldwide are exploited through sex and labor trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Task Force of the Archdiocese of Hartford invites you to a bilingual Eucharistic Holy Hour to pray for victims and survivors of human trafficking, and for an end to this exploitation. This service, to be held on the eve of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, will be in English and Spanish.

Following the Holy Hour, attendees are welcome to stay for the Parish's daily Mass at 6:30 P.M. or to speak with Task Force members about ways to support awareness, prevention, and survivor assistance through this important ministry.

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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



Total Goal: \$10M 94.94% as of 7/7/26

\$9,494,020.68 in pledges from 26,161 generous donors

**This figure does not include bequests given to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal*



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www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal