

The Torch



"Generations Growing in Faith for more than 75 years!"

**St. Dominic
Parish**

**Delhi Township,
OH**

May 2016

Pastor's Desk

The Archdiocesan Auditors recently performed a complete financial and child protection review of our operations. I am proud and overjoyed to report that they commended us on our operations in these two areas. Although we have a few minor items that we can improve, they informed us that our financial controls, our accounting of our income and expense, including payroll, our reporting and follow-up is one of the best that they have seen thus far.

They congratulated our staff for their efforts in these areas, especially Skip Roos, for his leadership of our financial management processes, and Theresa Eagan for her leadership of our child protection process. They told us that until they audited us at St. Dominic, in every other parish audited, they found issues in employee payroll and benefit administration and child protection. We broke their string! No issues for concern at St. Dominic! All of this good news is a further indication that we at St. Dominic Parish take seriously our responsibility to protect our children and to be good stewards of the resources you provide. Theresa and Skip both agree that this outcome could not be achieved without the fine efforts of all our parish staff, who so diligently accomplish their part, especially Jan Wright for her work with the payroll and Lisa McDonald for her work with child protection. Please join me in thanking them for their ministry.

Fr. Jim

May They Rest in the Peace of the Lord

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following parishioners, as they have entered eternal life.

Connie Vogt, wife of Larry Vogt and mother of Chris and Alli Heiland, Larry and Shawna Vogt and Steve Vogt

George Scherer, husband of Joyce Scherer and father of Kevin and Michelle Scherer, Kelly Johnson and Keith and Lisa Scherer

Mary Jean Schutte, wife of Edward Schutte and mother of Deborah and James Wasserbauer, Don and Rick Schutte, Dan and Karen Schutte, Diane and Chris Seeman and Dori and Trey Moellering

Mary Backscheider, wife of Charles H. Backscheider and mother of Bonita and Rick Weber, Robert and Julie Backscheider, Barbara and Jim Cornett and Barry and Kim Backscheider

Community Dinner

Our next Community Dinner is scheduled for
May 19 in O'Connor Hall, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
Hope to see everyone there!!!

Welcome

After months of preparation and prayer, members of St. Dominic's RCIA entered the church at the Easter Vigil on March 26. We are excited for them to join us! Photos of our newest members, now referred to as Neophytes, are in the Gathering Place. Please say "Hello" and make them welcome when you see them at Mass or other parish activities. The following received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil: Natalie Coleman, Kalleb McDowell, Jordan Robbins, Myla Baldwin-Friedhoff, Grace Boling, Joseph Hinton, Kirra Koch, and Braylen Stanley. Rachel Appenfelter, Kandie Baldwin, Brenda Fields, Valerie Wandstrat, Gabriella Clifton and Gwyneth Clifton became members in full communion with the Catholic Church, via their Confirmation and receipt of the Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil. In addition to members of the RCIA, Austin Combs, a St. Dominic student, received the Sacrament of Confirmation and these children were baptized into the Catholic Church: Kennedy Elizabeth McDowell, Dominik Reid Koch, Kaiden Reid Koch and Grace Elizabeth Wittich. If you know someone who may be interested in learning about the Catholic faith, now may be the time to encourage him or her to ask the questions and perhaps become part of our RCIA process. Call Theresa Eagan at 471-7741, ext. 481 for more details.



Children and the Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (RCIA)

Many of us are aware that the RCIA is the process through which adults come into the Catholic Church. What might be confusing to many people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, is how children who are no longer considered "infants" are to come to Baptism and full initiation in the Catholic Church.

The RCIA process is required not just for those whom society considers adults, but for those children who the Church considers adults for the sake of Baptism. **Therefore, once one reaches the age of reason (usually considered seven years old) he or she must be initiated in the Church through the RCIA process.** This requires Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – in that order. All three of these Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Faith are received at the Easter Vigil Mass for those who are in the RCIA process. This is not up to those coordinating the RCIA, the school administration, or even the Pastor. These are requirements of Church law (see below).

Following these rules, as you may have seen, often means that some children are confirmed and receive their First Holy Communion earlier than their peers. Some have expressed that this seems "unfair" to the peers, who must wait to be fully initiated, however, it is in fact what is required by Church law.

The full initiation of a child who has reached the age of reason is not something that happens lightly or without preparation. On the contrary, these children are required to go through formation in the parish's RCIA, even if they attend the parish school. Here at St. Dominic, our children in RCIA meet with their catechists throughout the year in preparation for their full initiation in the Catholic Church.

If you have any questions about the RCIA adapted for children or Baptism for younger children, please contact Theresa Eagan, Pastoral Associate, in the Parish Office at 471-7741, ext. 481 or teagan@stdominicdelhi.org.

Pertinent Canons:

- (851 1f) An adult who intends to receive baptism is to be admitted to the catechumenate (a phase of the RCIA process).
- (852 B1) The provisions of the canons on adult baptism apply to all those who, being no longer infants, have reached the use of reason.
- (866) Unless there is a grave reason to the contrary, immediately after receiving baptism an adult is to be confirmed, to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist and to receive holy communion.

CHANGES TO VOLUNTEER VERIFICATION PROCEDURES - COMPLIANCE TO ARCHDIOCESE DECREE ON CHILD PROTECTION

The purpose of this message is to share with you changes to the volunteer verification processes/confirmation of compliance to the Archdiocese Decree on Child Protection at St. Dominic Parish. Effective March 15, 2016, all prospective volunteers will be validated via a new "In-Compliance Volunteer List." This report will be updated on the 15th of each month (or the next workday if the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday.)

This process change is driven by a recent review of St. Dominic's VIRTUS accounts by Archdiocesan auditors. Changes are designed to help all volunteers adhere to the true purpose of the Decree on Child Protection, that is, awareness of the types of and signs of abuse, knowing how to communicate actual or suspected abuse situations, and knowing who is volunteering with our children.

What is changing?

1. Effective March 15, 2016 with the publication of the monthly "In-Compliance Volunteer List," all activity coordinators (teachers, lunchroom coordinators, PTO resources, Athletic Association sports coordinators, etc.) will need to confirm that their potential volunteers' names are on the Certified Volunteer report.

- Volunteers must be in compliance with their names present on the report that is published on the 15th of the month prior to the start of the particular activity. (i.e. the first team tryouts, the date of a field trip, first day of lunch room duty, date of the class party, etc.)
- If a volunteer's name is not on the In-Compliance report they are ineligible to volunteer until they meet the compliance requirements and are included on the next monthly report.
- Activity coordinators can access the list via the St. Dominic Parish Website > Ministries > Volunteering with Youth > "In Compliance" Volunteer Listing.

2. After confirming the eligibility of their volunteers, activity coordinators will submit their list of confirmed volunteers to the Parish Secure Environment Coordinator (SEC) prior to the start of the activity.

3. Coordinators for activities that last longer than 3 months (Room Parents, Lunch Room or Library Volunteers, etc.) are also required to recheck volunteers for compliance every 90 days and provide a list of these volunteers to the parish SEC.

As a reminder, compliance to the Decree on Child Protection for volunteers includes:

- 1.) A current (unexpired) background check and
- 2.) Remaining up to date on monthly continuing education bulletins (not more than 2 missed bulletins). Also, effective going forward, anyone who falls behind six monthly bulletins will be required to repeat the live training session to return to compliance and be able to volunteer.

The process to create a VIRTUS account, register for training and access monthly education bulletins remains unchanged and can also be found on the Parish website. Contact the Secure Environment Coordinator, Theresa Eagan (471-7741, ext. 481), or your Activity's Coordinator if you have any questions related to this procedure change.



2016-2017 Tuition and Program Fees
Yes, Our School's Tuition and Program Fees
Are Being Reduced for Next School Year

Our K-8 Tuition: Although we presented a potential range of K-8 tuition increase for next year of \$0 to \$25, I am very happy to inform you that our parish school's K-8 tuition for next school year will be reduced by \$50 per student. This was proposed to and recommended by our Finance Council and approved by Fr. Jim and Deacon Mark. This is most probably the first time in our Parish School's history that a reduction in tuition has taken place. The reasons why this reduction has been accomplished are:

1. The success of our Parish Tuition Reduction Program. This program is contributing around \$70 per K-8 student towards next year's tuition and over \$5,500 to our Sr. Patrick Ann Tuition Assistance Fund. Please join us in giving a great big Thank You to Amy Walter and Pam Kent, who head this program. Their efforts and creative ideas have made this program a success. Also thank you to all those who participated in the program's many fund-raising activities. Your increased support of this program will continue to help us keep our tuition at a reasonable level.
2. The generosity of a deceased Parishioner. This parish member bequeathed a considerable sum to St. Dominic Parish to be used for education throughout the parish. Please keep this person in your prayers.
3. The generosity of our Parishioners in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati 1Faith 1Hope 1Love campaign. St. Dominic Parish will get back 20% of the pledges the Archdiocese receives from our parish members. Fr. Jim has designated that these funds be used to assist our school families with tuition. Funds have already started to come back to our parish from the Archdiocese.
4. The continuation of our Parish Festival. Thank you to Julie Patrick and Joan Mattei for stepping up and taking on the leadership roles for this year's festival. Thank you also to the many others who have volunteered to chair and work in each of our booths. We appreciate the generous gifts of time and talent that each will be devoting to this very important parish event.

Our Pre-School Program Fees: We are happy to announce that our Pre-School Program Fees have been reduced by \$1 a day across the board, due to an increase in enrollment.

Our Before and After School Program Fees: We are also happy to announce that our Before and After School Program Fees will be reduced by 5% to 10% due to the increased participation of our School Families.

2016 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th, 70th and 75th Wedding Anniversaries during 2016 should contact the Parish Office at 471-7741, ext. 0 no later than June 17.

For those celebrating their Golden Anniversary in 2016, Most Reverend Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr will be the principal celebrant at the Mass at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral on Saturday, August 27, at 4:30 p.m. for those parishes located in Hamilton County.

LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Financial Wrap-up: A big THANK-YOU for your support of our Las Vegas Night held February 27, 2016. We netted \$13,685.87 from this event, which will be used for capital improvements in the parish. **If you were unable to attend, please consider a donation using the Capital Improvement Fund Envelope in your box of envelopes.** THANK YOU for your donations throughout the year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 LAS VEGAS NIGHT WINNERS!

First Prize - \$1,000 – Rita Steinbeck
Second Prize - \$500 – Dorothy Poettker
Third Prize – \$300 – Kimberly Luebbering
Fourth Prize –\$100 – Mary Jo Kumpf
Fifth Prize – \$100 – Claire Gibbs

Thanks to everyone who supported Las Vegas Night 2016

Acknowledgements: A special thank-you to the Men's Society and Mark Caskey for taking the leadership for this year's Las Vegas Night. Thank you to Dan Doll, Mike Young, Matt Kandra, Knights of Columbus, Scott Stenger, Dan Jacobs, Jason Tuemler, Marilyn Brunemann and all the volunteers who helped with Las Vegas Night. Different parish organizations contribute to the pool of workers who make operating this event possible. We thank these hard workers for volunteering their time and efforts as well.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SPONSORED OUR PARISH LAS VEGAS NIGHT.

<p>Altenau's Automotive Service, Inc. Brinker Animal Hospital Cincy Electrical Solutions, LLC Del-Fair Barbers Max Hofmeyer & Sons, Inc. MRW, Inc. – Subway Paul Rappoport, CPA Schaefer Insurance Agency Wishbone Tavern St. Dominic Goldenaires St. Dominic Men's Society Thursday Night Prayer Group Mark & Patty Bardonaro Bill & Patty Cook Dan & Jen Dugan Friends of the Parish Melvin Family Ruth Rattermann Skip & Pat Roos Fr. James Walsh</p>	<p>Bonomini Electric Co., Inc Brose Tours Corcoran & Harnist Hillgrove Services Robert Jones Plumbing, Inc. Proud Rooster – Clifton Robben Florist & Garden Center Vitt, Stermer & Anderson St. Dominic Athletic Assoc. St. Dominic Knights of Columbus St. Dominic P.T.O. Anonymous Tom & Theresa Burnside Mike & Roberta Davoran Ron & Betty Fraley Mark & Nancy Gibbs Bob & Elaine Murphy Jack & Alice Roch Lynn Seaburn From Our Angels To Yours – The Wittich Family</p>
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**A Special Thanks to Grove Transportation, Vitt, Stermer and Anderson Funeral Home,
Max Hofmeyer & Sons, Inc., LaRosa's for sponsoring advertisements in the local papers.
Ticket sponsor was Veid & Veid, Certified Public Accountants.**

GOLDENAIRES



Taft Museum – Tuesday, August 16 – Final arrangements have been made. The cost will be \$26 and covers the Museum ticket, bus and the driver's tip. We will leave the "Park n' Ride" on Delhi Pike next to the Waffle House at 10:00 a.m. and return about 2:00 p.m. Please send your cash/check to Maureen Vonderahe, 5659 Treeview Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45238 or you can drop it off at the parish office. We still have several tickets left. If you have any questions, you can call Maureen at 451-5657 or Mary Ann at 251-6144.

ST. DOMINIC ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We wish to extend a very big "THANK YOU" to all the parishioners of St. Dominic. Through your generous donations we were able to provide help to many families.

From January through March of 2016 your St. Vincent De Paul Society was able to help 63 families and 195 adults and children in the Delhi area. Our total receipts for the first quarter of this year were \$7,702 from poor box collections, fund-raising projects, the schoolchildren and member donations. We were able to pay out \$11,108 in client aid during January through March. The breakdown is as follows:

Rent and Mortgage Assistance	\$3,725
Duke Energy	\$2,051
Water Bills	\$1,332
Food & Gift Cards	\$1,457
Other Services & Beds	\$2,243
Other St. Vincent De Paul Societies	\$ 300

Once again, thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity. Your donations really do make a difference.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
St. Dominic St. Vincent De Paul Society

REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE VOLUNTEERING WITH CHILDREN

As a reminder, all volunteers are required to attend one VIRTUS live training session. You can attend this training at any location at a date/time that works best for you. Preregistration is required. Find training locations, registration details and steps to create your VIRTUS user account at www.VIRTUS.org.

The second requirement for volunteers is to complete an online background check request. Payment for this is by credit card or "token" at the time of your online request. Contact the organization for which you volunteer to get information on obtaining a token for payment. To initiate the online background check, sign in to your VIRTUS.org user account, click the "Toolbox" tab then click the selection.com background check link. Contact Theresa Eagan at teagan@stdominicdelhi.org or 471-7741, ext. 481 with questions.

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP - "A Way of Life"

Who is a Catholic Steward?

"One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."



TREASURE



PRAYER



MINISTRY

AWARENESS Is

"THE BEGINNING OF SPIRITUAL LIFE"

GRATITUDE Is

"THE BEGINNING OF TOTAL STEWARDSHIP"

PRAYER Is

"SPENDING TIME COMMUNICATING WITH GOD"

MINISTRY Is

"ACTION - IN THE SERVICE TO OTHERS"

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Remembering that everything we possess and earn is not ours, but gifts from God, who is the Creator of all things, and that we are merely stewards of God's resources, He calls each and every one of us to give according to the gifts we have been given. We are called to give our "First Fruits" in gratitude to God, and not what is merely leftover. He asks us to give our time, talents, and treasures. He calls us to give all 3, not just one in place of the others.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus calls upon us, his disciples, to trust and depend on God to fulfill all of our needs and not to depend on money or possessions for our well being:

*"Look at the crows: they don't plant seeds or gather harvest; they don't have storage barns; God feeds them! You are worth so much more than birds! Can you live a bit longer by worrying about it?... Look how the wild flowers grow; they don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers... So don't be all upset, always concerned about what you will eat and drink. Your Father knows you need these things. **Instead be concerned with His Kingdom, and He will provide you with these things.**"*

Luke 12: 24-31

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

Jesus looked around and saw rich people dropping their gifts in the Temple treasury and he also saw a very poor widow dropping in two little copper coins. He said, "I tell you that this poor widow put in more than all the others. For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on."

Luke 21:1-4

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sacrificial giving means letting go of our financial treasures. It requires us to make a true sacrifice by giving up something else. We should not look at giving as making a "contribution", but a "commitment" to God.

Sacrificial giving is a total free will offering without the desire for public recognition, the expectation of a return, or the control of funds or programs. We are called to return our love to God unconditionally, just as He loves us unconditionally.

As Mother Teresa had said,

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"

We, your Parish Staff, are certainly grateful for all the gifts that you have bestowed on all of our parish family. **You certainly have shared your treasures** – your prayers, your time and talents, and your financial treasures with your parish community. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We pray that each of you, our parishioners, are grateful and tell the Lord, daily through prayer, that you thank Him for all His gifts, great and small.

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
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**2016 ST. DOMINIC PARISH FESTIVAL
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

- Set Up:** Tuesday, May 24, at 6:00 p.m.,
Wednesday, May 25, at 6:00 p.m.
- Festival Workers:** Any day for a few hours would be helpful!
Call Joan Mattei at 884-0641 or
email jmattei@fuse.net.
- Take Down:** Sunday, May 29, starting at 10:30 p.m.
- Donations:** We need unopened cans of 6 oz. PRINGLES
for a fun new game. Donation boxes are in the
Gathering Place and School Office.

St. Dominic Parishioners, Working Together
Will Make the 2016 Festival A Great Success!
Pray for GREAT weather!!