

The Torch



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

**St. Dominic
Parish**

**Delhi Township,
OH**

September 2022

Fr. Jim's Desk

MY LIFE AS A PRIEST

Here are some things that give me life as a priest:

I find life presiding and preaching. I see my role as presider to be a "mystagogue," i.e. one who leads others into mystery. The mystery I lead them into is the awareness of God's love for them. That awareness leads to sentiments of gratitude, which leads them into the action of Thanksgiving, or Eucharist. Celebrating the Eucharist is the most significant thing a human being can do. Preaching is a tremendous opportunity to encounter the Word of God on a daily basis. That should be a key component of any diocesan priest's spirituality! Beside that, you have an opportunity to influence people's lives, bring about change, and build up the reign of God! It's the Spirit of God working through you! What a rush that is!

I love to proclaim the Good News. Paul VI's "Evangelium Nuntiandi," "The Gospel Must be Proclaimed," in 1976, was a landmark document for me. Giving talks on Evangelization for RENEW and NCEA, leading the "Christ Renews His Parish" program in the archdiocese, and teaching the course on Evangelization in the seminary, were life giving and a blessing to me! What Jesus did 2,000 years ago was good, but it is not news. The Good News is that God is alive and active now! God is loving you, challenging you, inspiring you in the here and now! Leading the "Christ Renews His Parish" program and hearing literally hundreds of men and women witnessing to what God was doing in their lives was an inspiration and a blessing to me. From very early on, and throughout my various ministries in seminary work, parish renewal, and priest retreats, I found that witnessing to what God had done and was doing in my life was a powerfully effective and engaging process in my preaching and teaching. "Modern man listens more readily to witnessing than to teaching, and only listens to teaching to the extent that it involves witnessing." Paul VI, *Evangelium Nuntiandi*

Before I was rector, I served on the Master of Divinity testing boards for the seminary. I always asked this question: "One of the main roles of the priest is to proclaim the Good News. Just what is the Good News?" The seminarians would always give me some good things that Jesus did in the past. But it wasn't news! That was why as rector, I decided to teach the course!

As pastor, I get the most satisfaction out of raising up a witnessing and ministering community. I see my role as pastor as calling forth, animating, supporting, and affirming the gifts of the community. What a joy when that is happening! Then you have a parish family who is living the faith in such a way that they are good news in the community. You are an evangelizing parish! People see exciting things going on! People are joyful and alive in the Lord, and other people want in on that! Over the years a good number have come into the parish through our RCIA process! It is flattering!

I drew inspiration early on in priesthood from priest friends that got together on Friday nights. I also took great satisfaction that I was a member of a brotherhood that was as smart, well educated, and competent as any other vocation or career. Realizing that I would have been successful in other careers, was affirming. It felt good being a man and a priest, knowing that your way of life was attractive, knowing that people liked you, and recognized your competence in the ways of God!...and realizing that you were influencing many lives for the better.

In my fifty plus years in this ministry, I have found delight and some significance for my life by confronting the institution with some basic questions. I remember an encounter I had with Archbishop Joe Bernardin in 1975 over a morality course I was teaching for the religious education office. The specific issue was "dissent in the church." I was teaching that in some cases dissent might be the only response which was faithful to the Gospel. Deep down I think he agreed with me.

In 1979 I had a minor confrontation with Joe Bernardin and Dan Pilarczyk concerning the ministry to the divorced and separated in the archdiocese. They were uncomfortable with the social dimension of the ministry. We were sponsoring talks on the various issues for divorced people. After the talks we invited the participants to stay for some snacks and conversation. Joe and Dan were afraid these socials could lead to "marriages outside the church." I argued that people coming out of a devastating divorce need opportunities to socialize more than anything else. Many have lost all confidence in their ability to relate to others in a normal fashion. I reminded them that the church draws the line at second marriage, not socials or phone calls or even going out to dinner! The socials continued!

When I was rector in 1984, I was quoted in the magazine section of the Sunday Enquirer as saying: "celibacy is not essential for priesthood in the Catholic church," i.e. celibacy hasn't always been the case and it can change because it is a mere law of the church, not a divine law. A very conservative retired monsignor in Covington sent the magazine article to the Vatican Congregation for Education (responsible for seminaries). The Vatican wrote to the then president of the U.S. bishops, Jim Malone of Youngstown, who wrote to Archbishop Pilarczyk, who called me. He had to agree with me that the statement was true! The upshot of all this was that I had to write an explanation of what I meant by the quote and Dan Pilarczyk had to write a cover letter saying that I was in good standing and that I was not telling the seminarians that they didn't have to be celibate! And all this in the name of Jesus! The old boy hierarchical network lives!

In 1986, while I was rector, the seminary was visited by a Vatican visitation team as part of the study of American seminaries. We received a glowing report on our program of priestly formation. We were, however, confronted on a couple of things we were doing. We had trained women religious doing spiritual direction. The Vatican and John Paul II wanted priests as spiritual directors, even if untrained! I raised the objection; "Does the Vatican want competent spiritual direction for the seminarians, or does it want to initiate the seminarian into the old boy clerical culture?" We were also questioned about having too many lay faculty! The ratio of lay faculty to ordained faculty was one third ordained, two thirds lay, including women religious. We explained the rationale for what we were doing, and the visiting team saw the wisdom and adjusted their recommendations. These were confrontations with the institution that I took delight in. I always like to remind bishops and hierarchs in the church that they serve the pastors who serve the people... that according to Jesus' mindset we serve "down" the hierarchy and evaluate "up!" We ask the people, "Are the pastors serving you well?" We ask the priests and people, "Are the bishops serving you well?" And we ask the bishops, priests, and people, "Is the Pope and Vatican bureaucracy serving you well?" Using this understanding, when I wanted Dan Pilarczyk to evaluate my ministry as president/rector, I had the faculty and students send him their evaluation of how well I was serving them! To my delight the approach had him do a double take! I reminded him that this approach was Gospel!

I love to come to the office! At the office I am involved with the people and life of the parish! I also get to work with some great people on the staff. Chris Lack and I have been working together since shortly after I arrived. I look upon him as a spiritual son. Mark Bardonaro does most of the difficult administrative work of the parish, but always keeps me informed and involves me in the big decisions. Over our years together he has become a trusted friend. Karen Brandstetter and I go way back to the seventies in religious education. Her insights and expertise have been a blessing to our staff and parish. Charlie DeZarn, our business manager, brings competence, humor, and extroversion to the office! Carole Campolongo does so many things in the front office! She has become a good friend, who looks out for my health and well-being. Maria Moster is our master communications minister among many other things. Carol and Maria keep the parish running effectively and are the "frontline good news" to visitors to the office! Jan Wright pays the salaries and the bills and is the office minister of hospitality with her expert baking and her luncheon parties! Marilyn Brunemann is part-time and semi-retired. She has been with me from the start and has been a rock of stability. She holds the wisdom of the office and history of the parish, and she knows where all the bodies are buried! Jenny O'Brien, the principal, is new, but I am already impressed with her competence. She will be fun and easy to work with. Jim Dickman is our faithful and mild-mannered music director, who has been playing music here at St. Dominic since the sixties! He already knows what the hymns will be for the next fifty-two Sundays! Dan Jacobs and Jason Tuemler are always ready to do whatever needs to be done to maintain the facility, generous with their time and effort. God has blessed me with the perfect staff. I enjoy being around them!

My sister Joni, her husband Jim, and my nephews, Jeff, Mark, Brian, and their families have always been loving and supportive of me. Sr. Joan Fronc's friendship since 1990 has been a grace and a blessing.

What keeps me going in the ministry is the people of the church! Communion with people who are in touch with God's movement and activity in their lives, who are responsive to the gifts and challenges of God in their daily lives, and who are willing to share that and celebrate that and live that reality in the world! That is exciting! The vision of the church as a community of disciples and intimate companions of Jesus, called to be the Body of Christ for the world, keeps me going! I also get energized, as I've said, by the challenge to confront the dysfunctionality in the institutional church, that is, the phoniness, clericalism, the old boy network, etc. But the bottom-line answer as to what keeps me going, is not a dysfunction to challenge, but a sharing of a vision of church to proclaim and a sharing of the life and the movement of God within a wonderful faith-filled people! Thank you, Lord, for having had the time of my life! I look forward to experiencing what being "Jimmy Joe" beloved son, is like in the kingdom of heaven!

Pet Blessing

Join us on Saturday, October 1 for our Annual Pet Blessing! Bring your pets, big or small, as we celebrate the wonderful companions God has given us following in the way of St. Francis of Assisi. Meet in the parking lot near the grotto at 9:45 a.m. – the Blessing begins at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Mark Young, husband of Loretta Young and father of Nathan and Julie Young, Christy and Jason Roth and Stephen and Jenna Young.

Jeff Cushman, husband of Michele Cushman and father of Denise and Matt Pelton, Tracy and Gary Daugherty, Douglas and Teresa Cushman and Christine and Doug Bryant.

Jeanne Young, mother of Amy and David Brandhorst, Diane and Bob Davis and Joe and Elizabeth Young.

Elizabeth Tharp, mother of Mary and Gary Hilvert, Joe and Kim Tharp, Tom Tharp, Jim and Michele Tharp and Julie Lincoln.

Rev. James R. Collins, brother of Mary Lee and David Wetzel, Janet and Ken Luhan and Pat Collins.

Donald Roseberry, husband of Donna Roseberry and father of Deron and Lisa Roseberry and Melissa Cox.

Ruth Ann Bittner, mother of Andy Bittner, Elisabeth and Matthew Ryan, Paul and Corrin Bittner, and Julie Bittner.

Diane Kessler, mother of TJ and Kristen Kessler and Robbie and Kathy Kessler.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children

St. Dominic's RCIA process continues year-round. Because of this, adults and children can begin at any time. Most who come to the Catholic Church as adults do so because God has called them through other people. If YOU know someone who may be interested in the Catholic Faith, ask him or her to call us, or ask if he or she would like for you to call and make the first "contact." While new Inquirers may join St. Dominic's RCIA process at any time, because of our lingering "school year mindset," many people begin to really consider inquiring about the faith as the new school year begins. **Now is a great time to reach out and mention becoming Catholic to someone you know who may be considering it!** Contact Karen Brandstetter at 513-471-7741, ext. 481 or kbrandstetter@stdominicdelhi.org for more information about St. Dominic's RCIA.

2022 Festival Booth Sponsors

We would like to thank the following merchants and individuals who sponsored booths. Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Dominic Parish.

Altenau's Automotive Service Inc.

Anderson Ferry Dental

Bianco Custom Tailors

Boyles Roofing

Brinker Animal Hospital

Chicken Man's Proud Rooster Restaurant

Corcoran & Harnist Heating & A/C, Inc.

Delhi Skyline

Fr. Jim Walsh

Frank & Linda Panzeca

From Our Angels to Yours, Inc.

Fuller Information Technology, Inc.

Grove Transportation Services

Kraft Electric

Max Hofmeyer & Sons, Inc.

Nancy & Tom Ward

Revere Dance Studio

St. Dominic Athletic Association

St. Dominic Goldenaires

St. Dominic-Delhi Knights of Columbus

Parental Preparation for Their Infant's Baptism

Parents requesting Baptism of their first child are asked to attend a preparation session. During this time, we will look at the history and theology of the sacrament, reflect on our own Baptism, and look at ways to pass the Catholic faith on to our children. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Our next session is scheduled for Sunday, October 2 after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in church. Contact the Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0 with questions about Baptism or to let us know that you will join us on October 2.

St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our receipts from April 1-June 30, 2022 were \$10,735.76 from the poor box collections, the parishioner envelopes, donations via "We Share," the schoolchildren, member donations and a couple of generous benefactors.

Since we had a balance in our checkbook from the preceding quarter, we were able to provide \$17,757.29 in aid to 69 of our neighborhood families made up of 212 adults and children during this time.

The breakdown of the aid that was given is as follows:

Duke Energy	\$ 2,077.93
Water Bills	\$ 686.74
Food and Kroger Gift Cards	\$ 3,901.17
Rent & Mortgage Assistance	\$ 10,891.45
"Twinning Help" to neighboring SVdP Conferences	\$ 200.00

If you wish to make a donation "In honor of" or "in memory of" someone, there are envelopes and donation cards at all the entrances to St. Dominic Church. The gift will be acknowledged by a handwritten note to the recipient. The honoree will know you have honored them with a gift to help the needy in our area.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic Conference

Safe Parish Requirements for Those Volunteering with Children

SafeParish is the child protection platform for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. All new volunteers should follow the SafeParish registration instructions for creating a SafeParish account. You can find a copy of the SafeParish registration instructions and a link to SafeParish on our website at www.stdominichelhi.org. Click on the SafeParish button on the left side of the page.

During the registration process, new volunteers will be invited to complete their background check and child protection training online. The \$25.00 fee for this can be paid by credit card or with a "token." Contact the parish ministry for which you volunteer to get information on obtaining a token for payment. For any questions concerning SafeParish, please go to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Safe Environment webpage at <http://catholicaoc.org/offices/safe-environment>.

Weekly Emails - Each Tuesday, SafeParish sends an email regarding the updated child protection and workplace safety articles that are posted on the SafeParish website. These articles are NOT required but are recommended reading.

Quarterly Bulletins - Everyone registered with SafeParish will receive a quarterly video. The training bulletin must be completed in 30 days to remain active and in compliance with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Child Protection Policy.

An In Compliance list is posted to the St. Dominic Parish website on the 15th of each month. No one may work with children if they are not active and in compliance. If you did not get the bulletin, check your spam or junk mail. You can also sign into your account, go to the Training Tab and click on the "Due" link to see which bulletins are due and their due date.

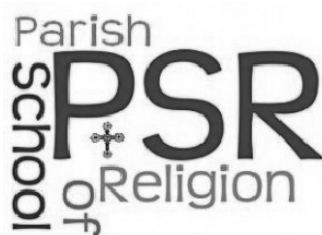
St. Dominic Men's Society Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

September 15 at Aston Oaks Golf Club. Cost is \$100.00. Top Prize is a custom set of clubs. Everyone is welcome to play. For additional information or to sign up, call or text Rick Veid at 513-218-6064, John Burns at 513-300-0572 or Rick Wieland at 513-720-9504. The golf outing is sponsored by the St. Dominic Men's Society and all proceeds benefit St. Dominic School.

Goldenaires

Belterra Park Casino – This is a reminder for those with a reservation that we will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the “New” Park and Ride at The Farm on September 8.

Goldenaires Annual Dinner – **SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, November 13. Details in the October Torch and bulletins.



St. Dominic Parish School Of Religion (PSR) Registration 2022/2023

We welcome all registered parish families whose children attend public schools to attend our Parish School of Religion (PSR). The PSR staff and teachers are here to assist parents in their task of raising their children in the Faith.

Instruction in PSR is offered during the school year (September – May) for children in grades 1 – 8. There is special emphasis on the sacramental years, usually 2nd, 7th and 8th grades, with added activities for parents and candidates.

Registration for the 2022/2023 school year is online. Access the online registration form via the Parish Website (www.stdominichelhi.org). Click on the PSR Registration button on the left side. There will be no fee for PSR for the 2022/2023 school year. If you have not already registered, it is not too late! Classes for all grades (1-8) begin on Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m.

If you have any questions about PSR, you can contact Megan Mattei, PSR Coordinator at mmattei@stdominichelhi.org or 865-607-2070.

St. Dominic Tuition Credit Program

Supporting the tuition credit program is easy with Kroger community rewards and AmazonSmile.

The Kroger Community Rewards Program was designed to support organizations by simply using your Kroger Plus Card! If you are not already enrolled, sign up right away to start earning rewards for the St. Dominic Tuition Credit Program. Your purchases will begin earning rewards within 7 – 10 business days after registering your Kroger Plus Card.

Sign in or create an account at krogercommunityrewards.com:

- 1.) Click on Enroll Now
- 2.) Under “Find Your Organization” enter 80206 (St. Dominic R. C. Parish School)
- 3.) Click on school name.
- 4.) You’ll receive confirmation that you’ve enrolled.



AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that offers the same selection of products as Amazon.com. However, when you shop at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by customers. There is no cost to you! You only need to remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and St. Dominic’s students benefit! You can search “St. Dominic Cincinnati” on AmazonSmile, or simply visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538541> or <https://amzn.to/2Nb2qtY> to set your charitable organization to St. Dominic.

If you have any questions or need help registering for either program, contact Rachel Lahni at 513-310-0045 at rachel@lahni.com. Thank you for supporting the Tuition Credit Program.

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
4551 DELHI PIKE
CINCINNATI, OH 45238
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 6356



**The Community Dinner is
BACK!!!**

Join us
Wednesday, September 21
5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
We hope to see you there!!

Contents...

<i>A Message from Fr. Jim</i>	<i>p 1-2</i>
<i>Rest in Peace</i>	<i>p 3</i>
<i>RCIA</i>	<i>p 3</i>
<i>Festival Sponsors</i>	<i>p 3</i>
<i>SVdP</i>	<i>p 4</i>
<i>SafeParish</i>	<i>p 4</i>
<i>PSR</i>	<i>p 5</i>
<i>Tuition Credit Program</i>	<i>p 5</i>