

The Torch



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

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

September 2020

Pastor's Desk Memories 20 Years Ago

Twenty years ago, this summer, I was fuming and preparing to begin my assignment as pastor of St. Dominic in October. In March that year, my cousin, Dan Burke, who was very active in the athletic program here, called me in Washington D.C. to tell me that Jack Kaising, the pastor of St. Dominic was just named a bishop, and would I please consider coming to Delhi as pastor! He begged me. I told him that were it next spring, I would consider it. My plans were to finish up my ministry at the National Catholic Educational Association Seminary Department, find someone to do my job with the help of a search committee, do a seminary retreat for the Florida seminary in January, check out the open listings for parishes in the spring, nominate myself for a parish, and take leave appropriately of my seminary friends, before returning to Cincinnati in the Spring (2001).

On May 17, 2000, I got a call from Bishop Carl Moeddel, the priest personnel director, that would change my life. Archbishop Dan Pilarczyk wanted me to be pastor of St. Dominic! He expected me to say "yes!" I was expecting to have some say in where I pastored with the open listing. I called the Archbishop to make sure this was his wish even though I did not want it. He said to me, "Not everyone can do St. Dominic!" St. Dominic had the reputation of being "an athletic program with a parish attached!". Moreover, the west side was not noted for it's enthusiastic welcome of the reforms of Vatican II! Would I say yes? I told him I would only if he held me to my promise of obedience at ordination. I wanted the record to show that I was not choosing this assignment! That is how I came to St. Dominic twenty years ago. I felt manipulated, disrespected, coerced, and on the wrong end of abusive power. That summer of 2000 I was not at peace. I could not sleep.

My assignment as pastor was to begin October 1. In July, I came home to see my mom. During that time, I met with Greg Konerman, the associate pastor. He told me about the strategic plan that the parish was engaged in. He also gave me a tour of the rectory, the church, and the school. I was impressed with his goodness, competence, and maturity. I talked with Sr. Patrick Ann, the principal. I was impressed with her holiness and competence, and her practice of having the school kids spend some time in silent reflection at the end of the school day! It was like a Jesuit "examination of consciousness," i.e. where was God in this school day? I met Marilyn Brunemann and Pat Anderson on the parish staff. They gave me a warm welcome. I also met Bill Rasmussen for lunch. Bill was the president of the parish council. He was a faith-filled man! I really liked him. We had a good meeting about the state of the parish and the strategic plan. He later told Sr. Patrick Ann that he thought I was "the spiritual leader we need." That was encouraging to hear. I was not impressed by the rectory. That Sunday I went to the 11:00 a.m. Mass and sat incognito in the back! My heart sank! Fr. Ted Ross, a Sunday-help priest, was raging and ranting in the homily. The music was uninspiring, and the people seemed bored. I had the sense that here was a people without a shepherd. I did not sleep at all that night! I had a lot of anger and bitterness and desire for revenge. I would show Dan and Carl! I was 58! I resolved to retire the day I turned 65!

Back in D.C., Sr. Joan Fronc, O.P., my good friend from New York, helped me work through the shock, the anger, and the grief. With many phone calls I was able to voice my frustration and feelings of being pressured and manipulated. She listened down the anger and was a true blessing to me during this difficult time. My NCEA friends also helped me work through this. During the summer I came to realize that the anger and revenge were all coming from the “unredeemed” part of me, the ego centered me! This was not coming from my authentic self! This was not “Jimmy Joe, the beloved son!” Yes, this was a cross not of my choosing. But crosses are seldom chosen. That is what makes them a cross!

I also realized that this was a time of deprivation and loss, a time for grieving. I had put my stamp on things in my NCEA ministry. Now I would be starting from ground zero. There was nothing of me at St. Dominic yet! I realized that the enthusiasm would come! I remembered the words of Bill Rasmussen, “I think he is the spiritual leader we need!” That’s it! Spiritual means “of the Spirit!” the enthusiasm will come from the Spirit! I cannot let Dan or Carl determine my life or who I am. I am no longer “executive director,” or “president/rector!” I am “Jimmy Joe!” How does God’s beloved son react to this?

By the end of the summer, 2000, I was able to write a letter to my representative on the personnel board, with a copy to Dan Pilarczyk and Carl Moeddel. I expressed my disappointment with the process of my assignment and feeling disrespected. I had no input into the assignment, and little if any choice in the matter. Moreover, I was the only priest not able to make use of the open listing policy! I concluded the letter this way! “I believe the archbishop has the final word in assignments, but not the only word! I also believe the exchange of words should take place in the context of dialogue and mutuality. But on a deeper level, I believe that God is in this! I believe that God is calling me to be pastor of St. Dominic Parish! With God’s grace I will do it well! I look forward to loving and serving the people of the parish! Sincerely in Christ, Jim Walsh.”

There is more to the story as you know. Stay tuned!
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.

Patricia Ann Huster, mother of Christopher and Aimee Huster, Angela and Brian Murphy and Samantha and Eric Riechman.

Marilyn Boerger, wife of Francis Boerger and mother of Karen and Michael Schachleiter, Debbie and Chuck Meyer, Bob Boerger, Diane and Dave Helmers, Mary and Andy Menninger and Jeni and John Paul Case.

Barbara Sally Phillips, wife of Richard Phillips and mother of Sally and Mike Flesner, Elizabeth and Bill Ginn, Leslye Federmann and Nancy Phillips.

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 471-7741, ext. 481 or kbrandstetter@stdominicdelhi.org for more information about St. Dominic’s RCIA.

St. Dominic Festival

Due to the pandemic, our traditional festival has been canceled for this year. Originally, we tried to push back the date of our festival until October, but unfortunately, we still do not feel that is the best option due to safety guidelines regarding Covid. However, we are still moving forward with our Major Award and a drive-thru pulled pork dinner. By now you should have received the Major Award tickets in the mail. I hope you can support the parish festival this year by buying some Major Award tickets. The tickets and money can be returned to the parish office, collection basket, or using WeShare at <https://stdominicdelhi.weshareonline.org/MajorAwardRaffleTickets>. Tickets are \$20.00 each or buy 5 get 1 free. Don't miss your chance to win \$10,000.00! Mark your calendars for our pulled pork dinner on October 3. Please try to preorder, so your food will be guaranteed. Thank you for your support as we move forward with our plans to help St. Dominic Parish.

You can get updates and information on the Festival Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/StDominicFestival>). For specific questions email them to stdominicfestival@gmail.com.

St. Dominic St. Vincent De Paul Society

Thanks to the members of St. Dominic Parish. Since 1951 St. Vincent de Paul Society has been at the heart of St. Dominic's charitable giving. For over sixty-nine (69) years the people of this parish have helped their neighbors in need with their donations to St. Vincent de Paul.

Remember that the St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul Conference has NO overhead, personnel, or office expenses. Every cent that is donated is used to help our neighbors. If you wish to donate "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 our neighbors.

Because of the pandemic, and due to ages of the volunteers and the dangers of meeting face-to-face, St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul has replaced our weekly in-person meetings with telephone conference meetings every other week. Rather than in-home visits, we now conduct all interviews on the phone. When we deliver food to our neighbors, we wear our masks and put the food on our neighbors' porches.

However, Covid-19 has NOT slowed down the generosity of the parishioners of St. Dominic or the needs of our neighbors. You have been amazingly generous to St. Vincent de Paul. St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul's total receipts for the first half of 2020 were \$39,985.44 from the poor box collections, parishioner donations, the schoolchildren, member donations, and an unusually large donation.

Because of your generous donations, from January through July 2020, St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul provided \$38,060.60 in aid to 75 of our neighborhood families made up of 326 adults and children. Since St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul did receive the generous donation, we had more funds than we needed to solve our neighbors' immediate problems. After getting approval from the donor of the large donation, St. Dominic St. Vincent de Paul shared their generosity with some of our neighboring parishes who were struggling to meet the requests from their needy neighbors. St. Vincent de Paul calls this process "Twinning". The breakdown of the aid that was given is as follows:

Rent & Mortgage Assistance	\$ 13,686.34
Duke Energy	\$ 3,911.15
Water Bills	\$ 1,398.80
Food & Kroger Gift Cards	\$ 5,234.87
Beds, Walmart Gift cards and other Services	\$ 3,070.44
"Twinning Help" to neighboring Conferences	\$ 10,759.00

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
St Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic's Conference

Eucharistic Adoration

At St. Dominic, Eucharistic Adoration with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Wednesday starting after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until noon. Please come by for a visit with our Lord. Spend a few minutes, an hour, or whatever your schedule allows at the time.

Additionally, the church is open every day after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until noon, so please come and adore our Lord Jesus Christ present in the tabernacle, any day you prefer. He is waiting for you!

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. Find training locations, registration details and steps to create your VIRTUS user account at www.VIRTUS.org. Click on training, then live training to see a list of all scheduled live training sessions.

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 the Parish Office at parishoffice@stdominicdelhi.org or 471-7741 ext. 0 with questions.



St. Dominic Parish School of Religion (PSR)

PSR Classes will not meet in person this year. All instruction will be online. Classes begin on Sunday, September 13.

- *There is no fee this year for PSR.*
- *PSR is for registered parish families whose children attend public schools.*
- *If you have not registered your child yet, you can still register by going to our website at www.stdominicdelhi.org. Click on the PSR registration button on the left-hand side.*

Contact Megan Mattei at mmattei@stdominicdelhi.org or 865-607-2070 if you have questions about the PSR program.

Back to School Prayer

Dear God, with a new school year upon us, we pray for our...

STUDENTS, that You would ease their anxiety about going back to school amidst the pandemic. We pray for safety for those returning to in-person classes, and for the needed technology, self-discipline, and adult oversight for those learning online. Would you ensure that every child has enough to eat, a supportive network of friends and family, and perseverance to face every challenge with Your strength?

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, that You would grant them wisdom about which schooling option to choose. We pray for your provision physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially. We pray for a support system that they can turn to when the challenges of life are overwhelming. We pray for churches and believers to surround local families with more prayer and support this year than ever before.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF, that You would grant them supernatural peace and discernment. We pray for wisdom for school district leaders, and for the safety of every staff person on every school campus. May the community rally around our schools to provide the sanitization, supplies, and emotional support needed by our teachers and school staff as they educate our children.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS, that Your faithfulness and goodness would be evident through our actions as we love the students and school staff as You first loved us. Especially amidst this pandemic, grant us opportunities to develop meaningful relationships in safe ways, and may we strive to serve as Jesus did with grace and humility. We pray that students and teachers would see You through us.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



St. Dominic Tuition Credit Program

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

Kroger Update - It has come to our attention that some people have been noticing that their Kroger Rewards cards are not linked to St. Dominic School anymore. Just to be sure you haven't been affected, please double check your account. If you find that yours is no longer connected, you can reconnect by logging into your Kroger account and going to the Community Rewards tab. We are listed as St. Dominic R.C. Parish School or you can use the organization number FV769. Kroger did confirm that the unlinking shouldn't happen, so we aren't entirely sure why we have seen a few cases.



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.

- 1.) Sign in or create an account at krogercommunityrewards.com
- 2.) Click on Enroll Now
- 3.) Under "Find Your Organization" enter 80206 (St. Dominic R. C. Parish School)
- 4.) Click on school name.
- 5.) You'll receive confirmation that you've enrolled.

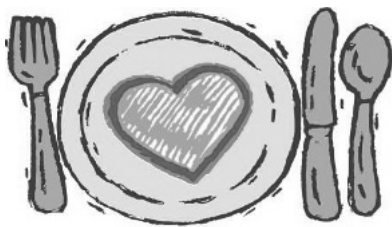


AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that offers the same selection of products as Amazon.com. However, when you shop at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by customers. There is no cost to you! You only must remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and St. Dominic 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 310-0045 at rachel@lahni.com. Thank you for supporting the Tuition Credit Program!

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
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COMMUNITY DINNER

**At this time, we are
not sure when we will
be able to resume the
Community Dinner.
Please keep watching the
bulletin and Torch for
updates.**

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