

2015 UPCOMING EVENT — MARK YOUR CALENDARS

As the New Year begins we have several events all set: Our first gathering for 2016 will be in January. So mark your calendars now for this special date:

SUNDAY, January 31, 2016 is our parents of priests Winter Picnic. As for the past several years we will gather at Harry's Steak House for our Sunday afternoon dinner. The cost is \$5.00 per person. *It's not too early to call in your reservation to Don Trask - 440-729-4684.* We would love to see you. A reminder email will go out in early January. Come, enjoy dinner.



Blessings to our five new transitional Deacons who were ordained on October 24th.

- Rev. Mr. Andrew John Hoover
- Rev. Mr. Kevin Joseph Klonowski
- Rev. Mr. James Joseph Kulway
- Rev. Mr. John Steven Mulhollan,
- Rev. Mr. Patrick Richard Schultz

God bless you one and all, you are in our prayers as you prepare for your ordination to the priesthood in May.

Prayer for Priest Sons

Lord, bless our sons whom You have called to Your Priesthood. In Your Spirit we are with them, as they do Your work. May our prayers and sacrifices help them. Keep them close to You, Lord. When they make mistakes, or when human frailty brings them criticism, have mercy on them. Lord, we love our sons, and we thank You for using us, to share in Your plan of creation and redemption. May each of us grow in Your Love, and may Mary and Joseph, intercede for us until we rejoice in Your heavenly kingdom. Amen

Prayer for Military Chaplains

Heavenly Father, bless and protect our Military Chaplains and fill them with the joy and courage of their vocation of Christ in preaching Your Word and nourishing us with the Sacraments. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Vocation ABC's

Attend a weekday mass Be humble Call forth Dine out with a priest Encourage someone Frequent church Give of your time Help a seminarian Invite someone Just ask someone Keep learning Laughter is prayer Maintain love for one another Nurture friendships Offer time Pray for vocations Quietly pray for a seminarian Remember to pray Serve others Trust God Uphold your faith Visit the adoration chapel Write a note to a priest/seminarian/nun eXpect vocations Yes, Lord Zip around with joy.

.....God is good all the time; all the time God is good...



Vocation Article *Fr. Michael McCandless*

“A good pastor renounces the love of a family precisely in order to focus all his energies, and the grace of his particular vocation, on the evangelical blessing of the love of men and women who carry forward God’s plan of creation, beginning with those who are lost, abandoned, wounded, broken, downtrodden and deprived of their dignity. This total surrender to God’s agape is certainly not a vocation lacking in tenderness and affection! We need but look to Jesus to understand this (cf. Mt 19:12). The mission of a good pastor, in the style of God - and only God can authorize this, not our own presumption! - imitates in every way and for all people the Son’s love for the Father. This is reflected in the tenderness with which a pastor devotes himself to the loving care of the men and women of our human family.”

—Pope Francis, *Meeting with Bishops participating in World Meeting of Families, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, September 27, 2015.*

As parents raise and care for their children they encounter parent-teacher conferences, review report cards, give support at graduation and award ceremonies, and will probably meet the parents of their son or daughter’s prom date. One particular meeting that is more rare is when a young man and his parents come to visit the seminary and have a meeting with a vocation director. What thoughts do the parents of a young discerning man have? Also, what may the young discernor need from his parents, for this conversation vastly differs from his peers’ plans regarding college? As a vocation director approaching his 5 year mark in the ministry, I have a few thoughts to share with parents of priest, parents of discerning men, or those parents that might even support another couple in this unique situation.

First, whether ordained, discerning, or ‘playing Mass’ as a 5 year old, your children are real men and women, normal men and women, with real stories. This “human” quality is the only seedbed that a priestly vocation can sprout from. Young men who are discerning diocesan priesthood have a range of thoughts, imaginations, memories, desires for both lofty and secular goals, and varying feelings of “peace” and “promise” that surround these diverse thoughts and desires. They are in the process of processing some of life’s most difficult challenges for early life: seeking true happiness, learning authentic love is self-gift instead of believing it is driven by feelings and considering the balance of work, education and commitments. There is no such thing as being too “normal”, too “red-blooded”, to “capable of other achievements” to consider priesthood. Many, many current priests and seminarians had high school achievements and honors, attended prom with a stunning date, and passed up scholarships, college sports, and high salaries. It is sometimes thought that priests and sisters are on a vocational trajectory from early in life and they didn’t have other options... *but this is not the case!* Priests are humans and men first, and let me share that the seminary wants to build and develop that humanity. Not all of our Cleveland priests are the same by a long shot and as a diocese we prove St. Catherine of Siena’s quote for living our authentic identity: *“Be who you were made to be and you will set the world on fire!”*

Next, your sons want family as much as married couples do. It is true, believe it. Being a priest is about family love and responsibility as a shepherd; this is the heart of Pope Francis’ words above. In priesthood there are hungry mouths and faces, request for “allowances” - from the parish reserves instead of Dad’s wallet, sibling rivalry, Christmas celebrations, making plans to set the “table” for a family meal = the alter itself is a symbol of Jesus’ presence among his assembly each Sunday, and many others. Domestic fatherhood and spiritual fatherhood are more similar than perceived. Men desire to give, to be generative—to be agents for new life, to fight for and even hurt for their “family”, to lead, to listen, to work with, and share sorrows and woes. For parents—those who have themselves chosen marriage and family life—there can be a long list of desires and anticipated experiences for their sons, at times concluding the joys of family are only truly seen upon entering into matrimony. But, I hope to widen the fatherly image of our priests for you and to say that priesthood is not lonely, includes numerous “children”, and the joys and challenges of spousal living.

Lastly, I’d like to solicit your help. Who better to talk with parents of discerning men than parents who have a priestly son or one currently discerning? I believe you have more “street creed” with them than I do most times. Please share good news with parents of discerning men in times to come, even starting conversations with others at the parish or around the diocese of the surprise and joys that come with having your son ordained, or enter formation.

It is a privilege to help bring clarity to all “discerning sons” in the diocese, whether it be marriage, religious brotherhood, diocesan priesthood, or single living. My personal thanks for creating a strong family identity here in CLE, for this is where our sons first begin to see the inherent goodness of committed family love, and then ask “How am *I* to be a father?”

PEACE AND GOODNESS,
Fr. Michael McCandless



PARENTS OF PRIESTS Diocese of Cleveland



2016 DUES

YOU are a very important part of the continuation of Parents of Priests. Annual dues for our organization - January thru December are \$5.00 per person. Dues cover the cost of printing and mailing.

ALL OTHER FUNDS RAISED BY Parents of Priests, ARE GIVEN TO THE SEMINARIES.

Help us to be vibrant and active in the year of 2016. Come to our gatherings if you are able. You are always welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.....and hope you will join us during the year.

Please also include your EMAIL as it is a valuable tool for contacting you. Emails sent out, are sent 'blind copy' so you will see only your name when it arrives.

Make your check payable to --> Parents of Priests, Diocese of Cleveland
And mail to: Mr. Al Majikas, Treasurer
8396 Cranwood Drive
Chesterland, Ohio 44026



Parents of Priests Dues - 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Your Parish: _____

Is your son a Diocesan Priest: _____ Order Priest: _____

Come to any of our gatherings. Replacement POP pins / key fobs are always available