



PARENTS OF PRIESTS NEWSLETTER

Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio
46 Years of Prayerful Support



September, 2020

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*Priest & Seminarian Prayer Calendar may be found at:
Priests.StPatrickWellington.com*

PARENTS OF PRIESTS LOOKING FORWARD....

As we look forward to the Parents of Priest Board/Business meeting on Sunday, October 18, at 2PM at the seminary, and with a desire to update or regenerate the best of the POP's past, there are three thoughts I would like to share.

First, the consistent growth of the 25 Club both in donations received and support given to the seminaries requires our special attention this year. The limited social interaction due to the Covid virus may be cutting into contacts and donations. I have taken to approaching a fellow parishioner after Mass, handing them a 25 Club envelope, telling them it is about a fund raiser for seminarians sponsored by the Parents of Priests, and asking them to read about it. If they are willing to donate, great; if not, please pray for the seminarians.

Second, in preparation for the meeting, I ask that you focus on the good things Parents of Priests are doing and Don has done in the past. These things, particularly those we do best, are the key to improvement. We need to build on what we do and have done well.

Third, think about how you might contribute to the updating, the reinvigorating, of the Parents of Priests. What activity of the Parents of Priests from the past or present would you find some joy and pleasure in doing? It could be prayer, writing or planning. It could be leading or assisting in some activity such as the Quarterly Mass, the winter/summer "picnics," visitations to homebound priests or Parents of Priests, attending wakes/funerals of priests and parents, or..

Whatever you can do, come to the October 18th meeting and help establish our priorities for the near future. God bless you all.

Lou Trenta,
President, Parents of Priests

- Please mark you calendar for our POP meeting on Sunday, October 18th @ 2:00pm
- Meeting will be in St. Anthony Building, with the Green Awning walkway
- Park in the East Lot at the Seminary. Take Elevator to 2nd floor - Room 109
- RSVP to Lou Trenta at: trentalouis@gmail.com

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH PARENTS OF PRIESTS?

With the onset of the Covid-19 virus, the officers of the Parents of Priests (POP) had to hold a virtual meeting to bring about the transition of officers for 2020-2022. The transition officially took place July 1, 2020. Lou Trenta became President; Don Trask, Vice President, Micki Trenta, Secretary; and Ed Suszynski remains as Treasurer. Mary Ann Trask continues publishing the POP Newsletter and handles the POP Facebook page. Laura Retar keeps track of the deaths of diocesan priests and POP members, and is our Sunshine Person—wishing ‘get well soon cards’ and offering prayers.

The officers started the process to change Parents of Priests information with the State of Ohio and the IRS. We worked with Huntington Bank on signature authorizations and access to the POP accounts. We are in the process of changing our business address to the Diocesan Vocation Office so that it doesn't need to be changed every time the officers are changed.

Don Trask and Mary Avenoso have begun the work on the ‘25 Club’, and leadership on the program was transferred to Lou Trenta, with Don Trask continuing as advisor/coach. Since the social activities of the POP had been cancelled due to Covid-19, distribution of the tickets and sellers packets had to be by mail, first to those who were listed as sellers of multiple tickets and then to those who had not listed a seller other than themselves. Then, letters were sent to about 70 pastors asking them to participate and to put information about the 25 Club in their parish publication.

Lou Trenta uses email to communicate approximately weekly with about 75 members who have shared their emails. Usually the emails are about requests for prayers for clergy and parents of priest and/or notice of deaths of priests, deacons, and/or POP members, but they also include new developments and ideas. There are about 95 members who either do not have email or who have not shared their email addresses. Those members receive letters or postcards to inform them of information shared in the emails. Since the mailing of letters cost POP over \$50 per mailing, each letter will summarize several weeks' worth of email communications.

Lou read many files and documents from the past of Parents of Priest and has shared much of that information. Recognition of what POP has accomplished has led to an effort to recapture some of the widespread involvement in the POP. There are many opportunities for both fun and altruistic activities. We can be both social and supportive.

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 all of us, parents, priests and families, grow in love.
 Mary and Joseph, intercede for us, until we all rejoice in
 Your Heavenly Kingdom. Amen



A BRIEF HISTORY OF PARENTS OF PRIESTS



THE STORY OF A SEED

By **Theresa Snedeker Beatty**

(25th Anniversary of Parents of Priests of the Diocese of Cleveland)

45 years ago a seed was planted, and has grown into a beautiful tree whose branches continue to grow. Look closely at the branches, many names are carved with pride .

May we continue to branch out and do the same for others.

On June 11, 1974, the parents of the newly ordained priests gathered for a Liturgy of Thanksgiving and dinner. One mother in particular looked around the room at all the smiling faces. Her name was Theresa Snedeker. She thought to herself: “Tonight we will say goodnight, and our friendships may be gone. Something must be done.”

In August of 1975, Theresa wrote to Bishop James Hickey about initiating an organization involving parents of priests who would support and encourage vocations to the priesthood. Bishop Hickey was receptive and interested and asked Theresa to see Fr. Anthony Pilla,

In early September of '75 the parents of the '74 ordination class began meeting at each other's homes, sharing ideas and planning for the future.

In February of 1976, POP met for the second official meeting.

1976 brought us a newly retired priest as our first chaplain, Fr. Joseph Buescher. He liked the idea of the organization using P.O.P. as their initials, but he strongly urged the parents never to call themselves “POP” He told them to use and say “Parents of Priests” with pride, because with the Lords help they had an important part in the development of vocations.

The “25 Club” was to become a major source of income for the works of charity that P.O.P. would perform.

A 90's update - the seminaries gave P.O.P a framed plaque of recognition for all the work done for them.

The neat thing was how Parents of Priests always incorporated laughter and fun into all they do. Every summer families gathered together for Mass; picnic, games (even a water balloon toss) and many lively discussions.

In 1983 a logo was designed and accepted. The Parents of Priests banner was made for the tenth anniversary in 1985.

In April of 1988 an article about the organization was written for the St. Anthony Messenger. Members were interviewed and the spirit of Parents of Priests was truly captured. Other parents from all over the US asked for information that would help them to start such a group.

The seed that was planted has grown 45 years into a wonderful organization that supports and prays daily for our priest sons. God is good, and all the time, God is good.

Thanks to all the priests, parents and sisters who have helped us thru the years.

OUR LIFE IS A JOURNEY, AND IF WE STOP THINGS DON'T GO WELL

Pope Francis 2/14/2013

A few words from the Past President

I want to Thank All of you for helping both MaryAnn and myself to keep Parents of Priests on the course originally set by the 1974 group of parents.

I can remember presenting the 25 Club Checks to Msgr. Bacher; Rector of St. Mary Seminary on Ansel Road. Then to Rector Fr. Allen Laubenthal and on until today. This was only possible with a lot of support, help and prayers from our fellow Parents of Priests.

In todays world, commitment is the only way that good things can happen. We may not have done everything perfect, but our Goal has always been to be available to All Parents of Priests, and all Priests in good times or bad, in sickness, and death.

We also have remained committed to our Seminarians in Prayer and Support.

We have always worked closely with our Bishops and Rectors to help our priest sons and seminarians realize their vocation to priesthood.

I want to Thank Louis Trenta for accepting to be President of Parents of Priests of the Diocese of Cleveland,, and I ask for your support and prayers in the future for all Priests and Parents.

Don Trask

*O Lord my God,
teach me to seek you,
For I cannot seek you
unless you teach me,
Or find you unless you
show yourself to me.*

*Let me seek you in my desire,
Let me desire you in my seeking.*

St. Anselm of Canterbury