



NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE
January 2022

From the President

As the new year begins, I have been reflecting on the functional goals of the Parents of Priests activities. A major purpose from the establishment of our organization has been to encourage, develop, and maintain a sense of comradery and support among we parents. Although affected by the current pandemic, thanks to our committee chairs for Membership, Liturgy, Program, we have good opportunities for this via our Quarterly Masses, the Palm Sunday Mass and continental brunch with the Bishop, the summer and winter "picnics," and Mass with the seminarians in early November.

A second major purpose has been to provide support for our sons beyond the familial support our families provide. In the early years of our group, priest-sons were frequently present at and shared in the activities noted above. It would be very nice to return to that kind of interaction. We could be more pro-active in sharing our calendar with our sons and in inviting them to join us at our functions.

However, the demographics of 1975 and today are quite different, with many fewer priests and no less call for their services. Currently, our support in this area includes joining with the Avila's in the daily prayer calendar for seminarians as well as financial support of the Rector's fund, some student activities, and annual birthday gifts to the seminarians.

While the number of men in our seminaries has remained relatively stable recently, the number of men discerning for the Cleveland Diocese has declined slightly. This is a major concern for Fr. McCandless, our Diocesan moderator. While the seminaries do a good job helping the seminarians discern about a priestly vocation, the Diocesan Vocation Office needs help in reaching men to discern about entering the seminary. Fr. McCandless has begun a process to train current priests in the art of religious vocation discernment. Last year we contributed enough money to his office to provide the training for one priest. More are needed. Hopefully, we will be able to direct some help to this effort come April.

Donations by Parents of Priests

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, we attended Mass with the Seminarians in the Sacred Heart Chapel. After Mass we shared Brunch with the seminarians. Toward the end of the Brunch, we thanked the seminarians for their willingness to consider and study for the priesthood. We thanked the faculty for their dedicated work in forming the seminarians and helping them discern their vocation. Finally, we gave Fr. Latcovich two \$4,000 checks for the Rector's

Funds and \$1,000 checks to the St. Mary's and the Borromeo Student Activities Funds.

We noted that the seminarians are all entered in the 25 Club raffle this year and can expect a small birthday gift from the Parents of Priests during the school year.

We believe we will have about \$5,000 to donate in support of the seminaries in the spring.

Bishop's Seminary Brunch

The Bishop's Seminary Brunch is a fund raiser and a morale booster for our seminarians. It is a gathering of a thousand Catholics to let the seminarians know we appreciate their willingness to discern for the priesthood and to provide emergency financial support through the Rector's funds. Approximately 90 people sponsor one or more tables of attendees who are invited to attend and bring their checkbooks. The seminarians attend and are seated at tables with the other invitees.

This year the Brunch is from noon to 3PM on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at Landerhaven, 6111

Landerhaven Dr., Mayfield Heights. The Parents of Priests has purchased a table of 10 seats for \$500. The \$50 per seat just covers the cost of the first-class meal and production of the event. Parents of Priests members are invited to reserve a seat with the understanding that they will donate to the Rector's funds. Our attendees do not reimburse the Parents of Priests for the seat but increase their donations by the \$50 per seat.

To reserve a seat, contact Lou Trenta (email: trentalouis@gmail.com; leave a message at 330 668-9068; or text to 330 612-0615).

From Fr. McCandless

The Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate based in Georgetown, or "CARA" as we commonly call it, annually surveys newly ordained priests to identify contributing factors that most influenced a young man's decision to enter seminary. One of the major and consistent findings over the last 25 years is that well over 50% of ordinands each year were most impacted by the invitation of their parish priest to consider seminary. More than friends, more than their bishop, even more than their parents, young discerners make the leap into seminary because of the invitations of priests in their lives.

There are some spiritual reasons for this. Not only do priests have a particular place and role of influencing the mind and the heart into faithful decisions. But, I also think that priests carry within themselves a powerful testimony that gives courage to those who are invited. Priests experience and possess a very human situation as a normal man - from growing up in a family to having dreams of careers and grandchildren, yet they have offered themselves to become like Christ - like Him as a shepherd, especially - for the Church. Though we do this imperfectly, I believe this does a wonderful job of inspiring young men into selflessness, and we lend our voice to Christ especially when we make

invitations to others who we think are called into this priestly vocation.

This background is some of the reason why in the vocation office we have begun the process of offering more training for priests within our diocese to support and call forth priestly vocations from our youth and young adults. As vocation director, I have found it to be an important priority not only to spend time in making many invitations, but increasing the number of those inviting. A few years back I began inviting younger priests to attend the NCDVD training sessions that help to form new vocation directors each year for dioceses across the US. To date, we have eight Cleveland priests that have taken the time to become more aware and more capable of inviting discerners throughout our diocese to consider entering seminary.

An initiative like this requires annual travel, the cost of the conference itself, some follow up sessions, materials, and ongoing communication with the vocation office and with various discerners - all despite having a full parish assignment! In hoping to support this effort, I made a specific request to the Parents of Priests just within the last year to help send a group of our Cleveland priests to this annual training, and all of you were very generous in approving

financial support for this. I am grateful for your making it possible. Five priests, all ordained within a couple of years, and myself, traveled to Minneapolis for four days in early September 2021 and we were able to experience various sessions, to learn from those who were experienced in vocation ministry, and we began putting together a solid team effort to help discerners more effectively here at home in Cleveland.

I wanted to make sure that I thanked you for your support, while also describing more in depth how I was using the funding. In my personal belief as a vocation director, increasing

the number of those who confidently invite and accompany discerners through various discernment moments will pay off over the long term, especially when priests get in the habit early on of sharing the fire of their calling.

Thank you for being supportive parents to our diocesan priests, and thank you for your support to our future generations of priests who are being called forth at this time to serve the next generation.

Peace & Goodness,
Fr. Michael McCandless

Calendar of Events

February 27, 2022, Sunday: Winter Social. Mass at 11:30 AM at St. Adalbert Church, 80 Adalbert St., Berea OH. After Mass we move to Tony K's Bar and Grille, 841 Bagley Rd., Berea (about 5 minutes from the church). We will choose from a special, limited menu. We are asking for a contribution of \$10 per person toward the toward the costs of the meal, beverages (other than alcohol), and gratuity.

Please **RSVP** to Debbie Goodfellow by email at deb@gdgweb.com, or call or text her at 440 759-8517 before February 24, 2022.

March 20, 2022, Sunday: Bishops Seminary Brunch, at Landerhaven, from noon to 3PM. To reserve a seat, contact Lou Trenta (email: trentalouis@gmail.com; leave a

message at 330 668-9068; or text to 330 612-0615).

April 10, 2022, Palm Sunday: Attend Bishop Malesic's 10:30 Mass at the Cathedral followed by a continental brunch with the Bishop in the Cathedral Rectory.

April 24, 2022, Sunday: Governing Board meeting at 2:00PM. All members who attend in person or via zoom are part of the Governing Board. The meeting will be in St. Anthony Hall (the building next to the Field House) at the Center for Pastoral Leadership.

July 10, 2022, Sunday: Summer Social. Mass at 11:00AM at St. Mary of the Falls, 25615 Bagley Rd., Olmsted Falls OH. The social will follow the Mass in the parish's community center. Lunch will be catered.

Recent Prayer Requests

From: Fr. Daniel F. Schlegel
Date: 22 October 2021; Prayers Requested
Fr. James Schorr
Fr. Jim O'Donnell
Deacon Rich Woods

10/27/2021 Fr. James Schorr deceased

Date: 29 October 2021
Fr. Jim O'Donnell

Deacon Rich Woods

Date: 4 November 2021
Trask's grandson Bret (continuing need as of 12/2/2021)

Date: 5 November 2021
Fr. Larry Bayer
Deacon Rich Woods

Date: 12 November 2021

Fr. Fred Pausche

Deacon Rich Woods

11/15/2021 Fr. Joseph Cappelletti deceased

11/15/2021 Fr. Edwin Leonard deceased

11/30/2021 Mrs. Virginia Fortuna (mother of Fr. Joseph Fortuna) deceased

Date: 3 December, 2021

Fr. Fred Pausche (Convalescing post-surgery)

Deacon Tom Long

Deacon Rich Woods

12/6/2021 Mrs. Mildred Jasany (mother of Fr. Robert Jasany) deceased

Date: December 10, 2021

Fr. John Wessel

Fr. James Reymann

Deacon Tom Long

Deacon Rich Woods

12/09/2021 Fr. Don Cozzens deceased

Date: December 17, 2021

Fr. John Wessel

Fr. James Reymann

Fr. Joseph Labak

Deacon Rich Woods

Contact Information

President, Lou Trenta: 330-668-9068,

trentalouis@gmail.com

Vice President, Don Trask: 440-729-4684

Treasurer, Ed Suszynski: 440-257-4797

Secretary, Micki Trenta: 330-668-9068,

mickit930@gmail.com

Website: parentsofpriests.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/parentsofpriests

Priest & seminarian Prayer Calendar:

<http://priests.stpatrick.cc>

Seminarians Prayer Calendar (month by month)

contact Micki Trenta

Committees

25 Club: C=Lou Trenta, Ed & Gail Pfeiffer 330-322-9452

Membership: C=Virginia Kovacina 440-473-6107 &

George Spicer 440 268-6181

Deceased & Ill: Micki Trenta

Program: Mike Cubera 330-650-2832

Liturgy: C= Debbie Goodfellow 440 759-8517, Lois

Butkowski 440-327-0884, Dee Denk 440 376-4892

Ways & Means: Tom (216 469-6154) & Ginny Barnish

(234 380-3022)

Each day is a step we make towards eternity, and we shall continue thus to step from day to day until we take the last step, which will bring us into the presence of God. Venerable Catherine McAuley

The will of God is always love. St. John Paul II

PARENTS OF PRIESTS



DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

2022 Membership Dues

YOU are a very important part of the continuation of Parents of Priests. Annual dues for our organization, January through December, are \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a couple.

Dues cover the cost of printing and mailing. **The other funds raised by Parents of Priests are given to the seminarians, St. Mary Seminary, and Borromeo Seminary.**

Help us to be a vibrant and active organization in the year of 2022. Our gatherings, Quarterly Masses and social events, are planned for all parents of priests. Some members come frequently and others infrequently, but all are welcome at every event. We look forward to seeing you.

Make your check payable to: Parents of Priests, Diocese of Cleveland

Mail to: Mr. Ed Suszynski, Treasurer
8686 Hilltop Drive
Mentor OH 44060

Cut here ✂ and mail Dues' form with check: -----

Parents of Priests Dues 2022

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

1st Person Landline Phone: _____ Cell _____

1st Person Email address: _____

2nd Person Landline Phone: _____ Cell _____

2nd Person Email address: _____

Your Home Parish: _____

Your Son: _____ Assignment: _____

Enclose check for the dues: Individual \$10 Couple \$15.

Make your check payable to: Parents of Priests, Diocese of Cleveland

Mail to: Mr. Ed Suszynski, Treasurer, 8686 Hilltop Drive, Mentor OH 44060