



NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE

November 2022

From the President

Mass & Brunch with the Seminarians

Thirteen of our members attended the Sunday, November 6th Mass and Brunch with the seminarians this year. Two others has planned to be there but last minute obligations arose and they had to bow out.

When we were invited to address those attending, (seminarians, priests, and Parents of Priests members), we thanked the seminarians for their willingness to be in the seminaries and to be discerning the possibility of a call to the priesthood. We thanked the faculty for their formation work with the seminarians.

We briefly explained our 25 Club fund raising program including that each seminarian is entered in the drawings and could win one or more times.

We presented a check for \$5,000 to Frs. McCandless and Garris for the revised Bookshelf program. It is now the *Parents of Priests Textbook Fund* and is open to all seminarians who need help with the cost of philosophy and theology textbooks. The Fund will continue to be administered by the Diocesan Vocation Office. In addition to the \$2,000 that we donated in the spring and this donation, we will continue to make memorial gifts to the Textbook Fund at the passing of priests and/or parents of priests.

Next we introduced the new fund that we call "Dad's Wallet." These monies are to be available to individual seminarians as well as small groups. The concept is that the men in formation are being prepared to service people of many cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. As such, they ought to have opportunities to experience some aspects of those various backgrounds. While not required, the

seminarians were urged to use the funds to experience socio-economic cultures other than those with which they are familiar. The funds are to be administered by the seminarians of each house. Checks for \$2,500 were presented to representatives of the two seminaries with the urge that they cash the checks promptly.

As a side note, the Dad's Wallet fund received the most attention from the seminarians and many personal thanks after the Brunch and during the rest of our stay at the seminary.

Finally, we presented a \$1,000 check to Fr. Latcovich to be used in support of a social event for the 70 people (seminarians, faculty, priests, and Bishop Malesic) who will be on the 2023 spring trip to Rome.

Borromeo's November 6 Open House

Tom and Ginny Barnish and Micki and Lou Trenta attended the Open House to talk with some of those present. We each had multiple conversations. For me (Lou) the one that stood out came at the end of the question-and-answer session that ended the day. A woman asked several questions of the presenting seminarian family that showed she was struggling with how to respond to her son's desire to enter the seminary. I met her and acknowledged her struggle and gave her a copy of the *Parent to Parent* brochure the POP had published recently.

Micki joined us and we talked some more. She was impressed with what she saw of the seminary and the seminarians. Many of her concerns seemed to be greatly reduced if not eliminated. Her son is a high school senior who wants to enter the seminary and she is a parent who wants the best for him. We got

the impression that she would support her son in his desire.

Parent to Parent Meeting

We are about to begin serious planning for a Parent-to-Parent meeting in the Spring. The basic idea is to host a meeting of a few Parents of Priests with the parents of those being ordained in 2023 and the parents of those being ordained to the transitional diaconate for ordination in 2024, God willing.

There are nine men potentially being ordained in 2023—not all for the Cleveland Diocese—and five men up for ordination to the transitional diaconate in preparation for ordination to the priesthood, God willing, in 2024.

The purpose would be twofold: (1) to encourage dialogue and foreshadowing about the near future for the parents of those about to be ordained priests or transitional deacons, and (2) introduce the Parents of Priests organization to those parents.

The early thought is to keep the number of POP members to four or five. That could be the officers of Parents of Priests and the Chair of the Membership

committee. However, that is not cast in stone. A member who has a personal relationship with a parent of one of those to be ordained would be a good host, also. If you are interested in participating in this or have ideas about what to raise for discussion, please contact Lou Trenta.

25 Club Update

As noted in Mike Cubera's report below, we have matched last year's total tickets for the 25 Club. In addition to 25 Club tickets, last year we received a nearly \$2,000 final donation from Fr. Beatty's estate that we donated to the Bookshelf Fund in the Spring. We would need eighty more 25 Club donations to match that level of giving in the Spring of 2023. New 25 Club donations can be put into the hopper at any time. I have more tickets available for the asking.

Mike Cubera has written birthday gift checks for about half of the seminarians, and Geoff Goodfellow, our Vice-President, is mailing out this quarter's checks along with a birthday wish to the seminarians with birthdays in November, December, and January.

From the Treasurer

From the Treasurer:

High level summary is that the 2022/2023 sales were essentially the same as 2021/2022.

The specific details are:

- In 2022/2023 we have sold 810 tickets generating \$20,250.00 of income.

- For comparison the 2021/2022 final sales were 810 tickets sold which generated \$20,250.00.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Mike Cubera

Calendar of Events

February 5, 2023: Winter Social with Mass at 10:00 AM in St. Bernard Parish, the church is located at the corner of E. State St. and S. Broadway St. in Akron. Parking in parish lot north of the church on S. Broadway and in the West Campus Parking deck south of the Church accessible from S. Broadway and/or S. High St. Lunch will follow in the parish social hall below the church.

March 2023: Tentative Quarterly Mass early in the month.

April 2, 2023: Palm Sunday Mass with Bishop Malesic, 10:30 AM at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 1007 Superior Avenue, Cleveland OH 44114. Continental brunch following in the Cathedral rectory.

April 30, 2023: Potential small group social with parents of newly ordained Transitional Deacon(s) and of parents of the deacons scheduled to be ordained priests in May 2023.

June 25, 2023: Quarterly Mass 10:00 AM at St. Mathias Church, 1200 W. Sprague Rd, Parma OH.

July 2023: Summer Social will be held in the last half of the month.

August or September 2023: Tentative Quarterly Mass late August or early September.

October 22, 2023: Quarterly Mass 11:00 AM at Our Lady Help of Christians in Nova, 240 State Rte 511, Nova OH

November 5, 2023: Mass with the seminarians at 10:00 followed by Brunch with them. We will be presenting checks for our major donations from the 2023-2024 25 Club.

Recent Prayer Requests and Deaths

Death Date: September 30, 2022,
Brian Redmond

Date: October 14, 2022:
Fr. Larry Bayer
Fr. Tim Gareau
Fr. George Vrabel
Fr. Larry Jurcak

Date: November 4, 2022:
Fr. James Maloney
Fr. Ralph Wiatrowski
Deacon David Streeter

Contact Information

Officers

President, Lou Trenta: 330-668-9068,
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Vice President, Geoff Goodfellow: 440 724-2443,
geoff@gdgweb.com

Treasurer, Mike Cubera: 330 289-5823,
cuberam4@gmail.com

Secretary, Micki Trenta: 330-668-9068,
mickit930@gmail.com

Committees

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

Deceased & Ill: Micki Trenta

Liturgy: C= Debbie Goodfellow 440 759-8517, Lois Butkowski 440-327-0884, Dee Denk 440 376-4892

Membership: C=Virginia Kovacina 440-473-6107 & George Spicer 440 268-6181

Program: (volunteer needed)

Ways & Means: Tom (216 469-6154) & Ginny Barnish (234 380-3022)

Ad Hoc

Bishop's Brunch Representative: Tom & Ginny Barnish

Bookshelf Fund: Lou Trenta

Seminarian Birthday Gifts: Geoff Goodfellow

Seminarians Prayer Calendar (month by month):
contact Micki Trenta

Internet Addresses

Our website: parents-of-priests.net: It has general information and the *Seminarian Prayer Calendar*

Website for the *Priest & Seminarian Prayer Calendar*:
<http://priests.stpatrick.cc>

If we pray, we will believe.

If we believe, we will love.

If we love, we will serve

St. Mother Teresa

LOVE — A Faith Based Value at Work

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” was given by Christ as the second greatest commandment. For many years I struggled with what this meant; how this worked in real life. Loving myself I frequently and easily allowed myself to stray from right paths, to put my pleasure before all else. Was I to express my love for my neighbor, my fellow workers, by accepting whatever they did without reservation if what they did gave them pleasure? Was I to accept or ignore the poor performance of co-workers even when that poor performance affected me and others? Was I never to hurt their feelings?

Deep into my career as an educator, I came across an analogy which helped me understand and better apply this teaching of Christ. The analogy is that of a grandparent with a grandchild. Some infants learn to move, stand, and walk relatively quickly; others struggle and take what seems like forever to rollover, stand, and take the first steps. With the infants who struggle, it is the grandparents who have complete confidence in the final achievement. They pick up the infant time after time, no matter how often he/she falls down. They hold the infant’s hands and assist with first movements repeatedly, until the child masters the physical skill.

Again, some children learn to speak early and others are much delayed. Grandparents have the confidence that the child will speak and accept all the early attempts as progress toward speaking. Grandparents reward every effort and continuously and endlessly repeat words and phrases so that the child experiences the desired sound(s).

The grandparents do not express frustration or anger that the infant’s early or latest efforts are not perfect. They love the child. They see the effort; they endure the imperfect results with joy and a deeply felt expectation that the child will succeed. They love the child so much that there is no question of rejection of the child. The child is accepted, and the child’s lack of certain abilities and attitudes are continually attended to until success is achieved.

So it should be, I believe, in applying Christ’s commandment at work. Co-workers, whether peers, subordinates, or supervisors, should be treated as beloved grandchildren. I don’t mean they should be looked down on as beginners in life. Rather they should be accepted and worked with as people worthy of our consideration and our repeated efforts to help them succeed in their responsibilities. As peers, we should offer feedback and suggestions about how their work appears to us and how it affects us. As supervisors, we should provide truthful evaluations of performance with directions and help for the improvement of that performance.

A flip side for all is that of being the subordinate. All, from the entry job employee to the CEO, have one or more people making judgments about our performance usually with thoughts about how we could do better. As a grandchild accepts the assistance of his/her grandparent as natural and supportive, so we need to see and accept evaluation and criticisms as efforts by others to support our own development.

Love in the workplace is about attitude. It is about the attitude we hold as we interact with those around us. No matter how people treat us, the attitudes they express about us, verbally or non-verbally, we always can choose the attitude we project. We can choose to be angry, vindictive, and in denial. Alternatively, we can choose to be caring, accepting, and supportive. In short, we can interact with the attitudes that grandparents and grandchildren take with each other.