



NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE

May 2022

From the President

At the April 24th Governing Board meeting, Don and Mary Ann Trask ended their long history as officers of the Parents of Priests. Both were recognized and thanked for their numerous activities on behalf of the organization. A document summarizing their work was read and presented to them along with gift certificates to some of their favorite restaurants. A copy of the document will be available at our July 10th picnic for all to read and give thanks to Don and Mary Ann.

Another member of the Trask family has played a significant role in support of the Parents of Priests. Fr. David Trask has been the digital master behind many of the Parents of Priests electronic presence and communications. The Excel roster of our membership that I started with was his work. He set up our website and has continued as its web master. This past year I did the updating on the 25 Club and every time I had a problem, he graciously and quickly worked to fix the problem.

In the week after the Governing Board meeting, Ed Suszynski (outgoing Treasurer), Mike Cubera (new Treasurer) and I met with a Huntington bank manager to change the authorized signatures on our bank accounts, cancel old debit cards, and order a new debit card for Mike. Mike is meeting with Ginny Barnish to learn the standards for non-profit bookkeeping and reporting.

Geoff Goodfellow, the new Vice-President, and I are meeting to gain a mutual understanding on the relationship of our two roles.

Help Needed

There are two short term needs for assistance soon. First two people will be needed in June to help organize the 25 Club solicitation materials, create packets for last year's sellers, stuff envelopes, and prepare them for mailing and/or distribution at the POP picnic in July.

The second need is for a person to coordinate the catering service for the POP Summer Picnic on July 10th. The location of the Mass and Picnic are already set, St. Mary of the Springs Parish in Olmsted Falls.

If you are able and willing to help with either of these needs, please contact me soon.

Changes Under Consideration

As you can read in the draft minutes, the officers and the governing Board meeting are in early discussions on two major issues. One is the pattern of distribution of the donations we make from the 25 Club funds. The second is about increasing attendance at our events.

A separate sheet titled **Notes from Discussions 4/24/2022** contains much of what was put on the table during a brainstorming exercise. Read and offer your comments and suggestions to any of the officers and/or come to the next Governing Board meeting to share your thoughts.

Donations by Parents of Priests

At the Governing Board meeting, we authorized a donation of \$2,000 to cover tuition for four priests to take training in aiding men with discernment about entering the seminary. See Fr. McCandless article about this initiative. Also, we

received information that the Bookshelf Fund was running low, so we authorized a \$3,000 donation to that fund immediately and a provisional \$1,000 additional in August if our finances at that time will support the donation.

Calendar of Events

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.

July 10 and after: 25 Club for 2022-2023 will begin. Packets may be available at the July 10th social. If not, they will be distributed toward the end of July and early August.

Recent Prayer Requests

Date: April 23, 2022
Fr. Russ Lowe
Fr. Carl Uhler
Fr. Art Snedeker
Fr. Michael Smith
Fr. John Vrana
Fr. Jerry Lajack

Fr. Michael Smith
Fr. John Vrana
Dcn Ken Hill

Date: April 29, 2022
Fr. Russ Lowe
Fr. Carl Uhler
Fr. Art Snedeker

Date: May 6, 2022
Fr. Russ Lowe
Fr. Carl Uhler
Fr. John Vrana
Fr. Joe Workman
Fr. Jonathan Zingales
Dcn Ken Hill

Contact Information

Officers

President, Lou Trenta: 330-668-9068,
trentalouis@gmail.com
Vice President, Geoff Goodfellow: 440 724-2443,
geoff@gdgweb.com
Treasurer, Mike Cubera: 330 289-5823,
cuberam@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:

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

Ad Hoc

Bishop's Brunch Representative: +
Bookshelf Fund: Lou Trenta
Seminarian Birthday Gifts: Geoff Goodfellow
Seminarians Prayer Calendar (month by month):
contact Micki Trenta

Internet Addresses

Website: parentsopriests.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/parentsopriests
Priest & seminarian Prayer Calendar:
<http://priests.stpatrick.cc>

PARENTS OF PRIESTS

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting --- April 24, 2022

- This gathering of the Parents of Priests began at 2:00 in St. Anthony Hall at the CPL in Wickliffe. Lou Trenta, President, presided at this meeting which began shortly after 2:00 PM. using the printed agenda as a guide. There were 7 members present.
- The minutes of the October 17, 2021 meeting were mailed out prior to the meeting and were approved as written.
- **Membership**: Virginia Kovacina, was unable to attend. She already has the names of the three sets of Parents for those to be ordained for our Diocese in May and plans to contact them. They will be invited to join our membership and will also be contacted prior to any meetings during the next year.
- **Communication**: Micki Trenta, Secretary, prepared a list of thank-you notes (6) and cards (5) that were received since our last meeting. Don Trask also mentioned that he had received 7 thank you notes for the birthday gifts. It was noted that Lou sends out updates, newsletters, and other information as-needed both through email and USPS. Micki sends email updates using information from the Vocation Office for those clergy who have prayer requests and for those who have died. Thinking of You cards are sent when appropriate.
- **Membership**: Lou reported that there are 150 families/235 members. To date, dues have been received from 13 individuals and 27 couples, or about 25% of our membership. Dues collected to date = \$615. A proposal was suggested that in the future each member receive a mailed copy of the membership form along with a return envelope.
- **25 Club**: Ed Suszynski reported that \$19,975 has already been received. Of the funds distributed to winners, there are \$800 worth of checks still uncashed. Several winners donated their checks back to the Parents of Priests. A mailing will go out soon to all those who purchased tickets and it will include the names of the winners. The program for the 2022-2023 raffle will begin in the summer.
- **Program**: Mike Cubera, Chair, is coordinating this with Debbie Goodfellow. No further report at this time.
- **Liturgy**: Debbie Goodfellow, Lois Butkowski, and George Spicer work on this. The next liturgy event is the summer gathering on July 10, 2022. Mass will be @ St. Mary of the Falls, Olmsted Falls, followed by a catered lunch / summer social.
- The **Treasurer**, Ed Suszynski, supplied an update on the finances and his report was approved by voice vote. There is a current balance of approx. \$13,000. His report was distributed to the members present. Proposals for the use of additional funds were discussed. Following the discussion, a motion was made to distribute the funds as follows:
 - ✓ \$2,000 for the DVO to support the Discernment Training of priests that will help encourage vocations.
 - ✓ \$3,000 additional money for the Book Shelf Fund to allow more students to use it.
 - ✓ Hold back \$1,000 at this time to insure that our organization will get through the summer months financially. At that time a decision will be made about donating more money to the seminary.The motion was passed without dissent.
- The members also approved payment of the bills which include regular office expenses for mailing, etc.
- Lou led a discussion about ways to energize the membership. Several ideas were presented that focused on the goals related to our organization. These included ways to develop more community appeal, as well as ways to financially support the Rector's Fund and direct seminarian support.
- **Nominating Committee**: Ginny Barnish represented the following names for the 2022-2024 term of office: Lou Trenta - President; Geoff Goodfellow - Vice-President; Micki Trenta – Secretary; and Mike Cubera -Treasurer. Ginny moved that this slate be approved; Don Trask seconded the motion. This slate of officers was approved unanimously. Installation took place immediately.
- Lou continues to look for members to chair the 25 Club Raffle and to represent the Parents of Priests on the Bishop's Seminarian Brunch committee.
- The final topic of the meeting was the presentation of a plaque and gift to Don and Mary Ann Trask recognizing their many years of service and leadership on the Parents of Priests Board.
- The meeting concluded with the Vocation Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Micki Trenta, Secretary
April 26, 2022

PARENTS OF PRIESTS FINANCIAL REVIEW APRIL 2022

Account Number	October 2021	April 2022
2344	\$ 863.51	1097.96
2357	<u>25395.64</u>	<u>12951.74</u>
Total:	\$26259.15	14049.70

EXPENSES/DONATIONS - October 2021 through April 2022

<u>DONATIONS:</u>	<u>2357</u>	<u>2344</u>
St. Mary Bookshelf Fund	350.00	
Rector's Fund	8000.00	
St. Mary Activities Fund	1000.00	
Borromeo Activities Fund	1000.00	
Seminarian Birthday Fund	1700.00	
Bishops Brunch	<u>500.00</u>	
	12550.00	

EXPENSES:

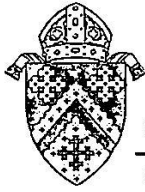
Postage	58.00	\$ 162.40
Printing & Mailing	130.00	
Christmas	200.00	106.75
Check Printing	27.64	
Winter Social	<u>455.76</u>	
	871.40	269.15

<u>DONATIONS RECEIVED:</u>	375.00 (Misc)	
	<u>300.00</u> (Return 25 Club) 45.00	
	675.00	

25 CLUB SALES: \$ 19975.00

25 CLUB PAYOUTS: 4180.00

DUES: 615.00
MONEY REC'D FOR WINTER SOCIAL: 230.00
TRANSFER TO 2344 (12/28/21): 500.00



Diocese
of
Cleveland

Diocesan Vocation Office

SECRETARIAT FOR CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

Parents of Priests

General Meeting - Vocation Office Initiative & Proposal

Sunday, 2/24/2022

Pastoral Situation:

Every year there are studies done to identify the most influential factors within an ordinand's life, factors that make high levels of influence upon his decision to enter and remain in the seminary. Annually it is the influence of priests that offer the highest levels of influence over a man's decision to consider priesthood. Therefore, a pastoral initiative would be to identify ways we can maximize priestly influence, presence, and accompaniment with discerning men within our own diocese. Additionally, we would want for these priests to feel maximally confident and capable to assist others in their discernment

"...Around seven in ten responding ordinands (68%) were encouraged to consider priesthood by a parish priest..."

Source: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Ordination%20Class%20of%202020%20Report-Final.pdf>

Pastoral Approach:

Annually the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors hosts a training for new vocation personnel. It is often referred to as "Vocation Directors' Boot Camp". I attended this in 2011. This Boot Camp offers an introduction to the various aspects of vocation ministry: How to organize vocational efforts and priorities, how to organize events for vocational promotion and evangelization, case studies, psychological information that approaches sexuality as well as other areas encountered during discernment, and more. All is communicated through a team of experienced vocation directors who are called upon to put this presentation together.

It seems that if priests from the Diocese of Cleveland - specifically those who have yet to take a pastorate - could incorporate their own vocational journey, experiences from their ordained life to date, their access to youth and young adults [which is very typical for priests this age], and this training, we would be making an integrated effort for our younger clergy to become more vocationally aware and capable with discerners.

Sustainable Opportunities and Means:

Annually send 3 or more "recently ordained priests" to this Boot Camp so that we will create a very wide community and network of connected and supportive priests that will help our vocational ministry in Cleveland. This will require not only attending this Boot Camp - which I think is the single most effective aid for achieving this goal - but the vocation director will also take on the responsibility of meeting with these priests and giving them ongoing formation and support. It is the director's hope that each of these priests will take on individual discerners, will attend sessions for ongoing formation with the vocation director, and will enter into one apostolate event monthly at a high school or college.

Proposal & Request:

The NCDVD New Vocation Personnel Training Conference costs about \$500 per participant. This does not include airfare or the hotel stay. Also, the Vocation Office's budget does not include extra amounts for additional priests to attend conferences during the year, but only currently provides for the vocation director to attend a conference for returning vocation directors held at another date.

Would the Parents of Priests invest in our current priest sons as they help the future priests of our diocese? Helping them to attend this conference and begin a process of becoming a better evangelist of vocations, as well as a better equipped guide for individual discernment, will be a solid effort with a great return of increasing the annual number of effectively accompanied discerners for our diocese.

Notes from Discussions 4/24/2022

- Increasing attendance at our events
 - Purpose: to build community spirit, relationships; have some fun; get to know each other better; expand circle of friends with POP
 - Be about Memory, Celebrating, Community
 - Celebrate Anniversary Masses
 - For example, all for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25... years since ordination
 - Priests share stories of their journeys over past 5 years at social after Mass
 - Each event of the year features a different anniversary year
 - Meal after Mass— “donut” brunch or catered meal
 - Have anniversary celebrations outside of regular Mass events
 - Personally invite new members to attend an event
 - Membership Committee call and invite parents of newly ordained during their 1st year
 - Officers call and invite a member or two who has not been attending.
 - Chairs call and invite a member who has not been attending and invite them to an event.
 - Chairs call and invite a member to help their committees with a task.

- Supporting the Diocesan seminaries and the 25 Club going forward
 - Although POP donation amounts to the rector’s funds have remained the same, recently they have declined in value from about 10% of fund income to about 5% of the fund..
 - Bookshelf Fund has dropped from about \$14,000 to about \$6,000 recently.
 - There is a request from the DVO for funds to assist in training a cadre of younger priests in discernment coaching with potential enrollees to the seminaries.
 - An expressed desire to have the POP funds make a more personal connection with individual seminarians.
 - Keep the birthday gifts
 - Make the gifts closer the birthdates than semi-annually
 - More funding to the Bookshelf Fund
 - Consider a” Dad and Mom Wallet Fund” that seminarians could access individually for “human formation” activities of personal interest
 - Tickets to plays
 - Tickets to concerts
 - Tickets to sporting events
 - Assistance in participating in individual sports of interest
 - Entrance fees to museums
 - Some funding toward tuition for the IPF program

- Leadership roles in POP, officers and others
 - Suggestions of members who might be open to requests to active roles in POP
 - Involve the Vice-President in the 25 Club activities
 - Involve individual members in preparing some of the activities.