



## NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE

November 16, 2023

### From the President

#### ***Governing Board Meeting***

The major items approved at the meeting were the donations to the Parents of Priests Textbook Fund and the Dad's Wallet funds for the two seminaries and approval of all the proposed changes to the Bylaws. For details about the meeting, see the draft minutes later in this update. Also, the revised Bylaws are attached for those receiving this update electronically.

#### ***Thanks***

To Fr. Ed Suszynski and the Our Lady Help of Christians Parish for hosting our Quarterly Mass and Governing Board meeting. Special thanks to Fr. Suszynski for baking the five delicious pies we enjoyed after Mass. A special thank you note and a donation to the parish in the name of the Parents of Priests was sent to Father.

Special thanks are also due to Liturgy Committee (Debbie Goodfellow, Lois Butkowski, and Dee Denk) and to Debby Suszynski for making the arrangements for the Mass and the pies.

#### ***Congratulations***

To all those who both donated to the 25 Club and who obtained donations from others. Don and Mary Ann Trask lead the way with over 100 solicited donations to the 25 Club.

#### **25 Club 2023-2024**

On November 12<sup>th</sup> 17, Parents of Priests members joined the seminarians and guests for Mass and Brunch. As the meal was concluding, our presence and support of the seminarians was acknowledged, and we were invited to the podium. We offered thanks to the seminarians and the faculty for their dedication to discernment and education. We presented a check for \$5,000 to Fr. Garris for the Parents of Priests Textbook Fund. We also give \$2,500 checks to seminarian representatives of the two seminaries for the Dad's Wallet Funds and encouraged them to use the funds to explore the diversities in culture in our country.

#### **Finances**

**Balances:** President's Account: \$732.26  
Treasurer's Account: \$25,847.66  
Total: \$26,579.92

#### **Comments**

The major outstanding obligations are \$10,000 in outstanding checks, and an obligation for \$3,800 in raffle prizes, about \$1,700 in birthday gifts, and memorial donations at the death of a priest or a parent of a priest.

### From the Treasurer: Mike Cubera

#### ***Comments:***

Below is our [25 Club] "sales" total for fiscal year 2023-24. We probably will get some additional checks in the coming months, but I do not expect the sales total to change significantly from today's totals.

2023-24 current sales are 785 tickets generating \$19,625 of income.

2022-23 sales were 827 tickets generating \$20,675 of income.

2023-24 sales are 42 tickets (\$1050) lower than 22-23

## Calendar of Events

**February 4, 2024, Mass & Winter Social**, starting with 11:30 Mass at Holy Family Church, 3179 Kent Rd, Stow, OH. A catered lunch will follow the Mass in the lower level of the Church. An elevator allows access to all. A request for RSVPs will come in January.

**March 24, 2024, 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 in the Cathedral rectory follows.

**April 21, 2024, Sunday:** Governing Board meeting at the CPL, 2:00 in the seminarians' dining room.

**August 4, 2024, Sunday:** Mass and Summer Social at the 10:30 Mass at St. Paschal Baylon 5384 Wilson Mills Road, Highland Heights, OH. After Mass there will be a catered meal and socializing in the Parish Life Center.

## Recent Prayer Requests

Date: 8/23/2023: Death  
Fr. Lawrence Martello

Date: 9/1/2023: Death  
Fr. Bob Clancy

9/1/2023 Prayer Request  
Deacon Dave Lundeen

9/15/2023 Prayer Requests  
Fr. Joseph McNulty  
Deacon Joseph Bourgeoiss  
Deacon Dave Lundeen

11/10/2023 Death  
Michael McCandless, father of Fr. Michael  
McCandless

## 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,  
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

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

### Ad Hoc Services

*Bishop's Brunch Representative*: Tom Barnish

*Seminarian Birthday Gifts*: Geoff Goodfellow

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

### Internet Addresses

*Our website*: parentsofpriests.net. It has general  
information and the *Seminarian Prayer Calendar*  
*Website for the Priest & Seminarian Prayer Calendar*:  
<http://priests.stpatrick.cc>

**Parent of Priests**  
**Minutes of the Governing Board – October 22, 2023**

The Governing Board meeting on October 22, 2023 followed the 10:30 Sunday Mass at Our Lady, Help of Christians in Seville, Ohio. There were 24 members present.

Lou Trenta (President) led the meeting. All members attending signed in on the registration sheet. Minutes of the previous Governing Board meeting held on April 23, 2023 were approved as printed in the August newsletter. Copies were also included in the meeting handouts.

Debbie Goodfellow gave the Liturgy Committee report. The next Mass will be on November 12, 2023 at the Seminary. The Winter Mass and Social will be held on February 4, 2024 at Holy Family Parish in Stow. The annual Palm Sunday Mass will be held at the Cathedral with Bishop Malesic on March 24, 2024. The Summer Mass and Picnic will be held on August 4, 2024 at St. Paschal Baylon in Highland Heights.

Communications: Micki Trenta (Secretary) gave an update on the communications since April.

- We received a thank you note from Father Garris who thanked us for the donations to the Textbook Fund that were made by Parents of Priests in memory of three priests and one parent of a priest.
- There were fifteen thank you letters from seminarians for the Dad's Wallet money and their birthday gifts.
- Communications to the POP members included 3 newsletters and 2 postcard mailings since the April meeting.
- Weekly clergy updates are sent whenever the Vocation office forwards information for prayer requests.
- No "Thinking of You" cards have been sent to priests/deacons recently as no one has been on the prayer request list repeatedly.

Financial Update: Mike Cubera presented his financial report which included:

- Bank statement information and balance in the accounts total \$20,704.92 as of October 17, 2023.
- POP 25 Club Ticket sales: 701 tickets sold to date, which is 6% less than last year.
- Seminarian Birthday Gifts: They are being sent to the 60 seminarians currently registered at the seminary during the month of their birthdays.

Financial Transactions: Lou Trenta presented the proposed recommendations for the spending of the 25 Club raffle proceeds.

- \$5,000 for the Textbook Funds
- \$2,500 each for the Borromeo and St. Mary Dad's Wallet Funds
- \$25 Birthday gifts to seminarians
- Memorial Gifts to the Textbook Fund as needed:  
A motion was made to accept these recommendations by Laura Bruck; seconded by Ginny Barnish. Motion passed.
- A request was made to authorize the funds for the administrative operations of the Parents of Priests. Motion made to accept the recommendation by Joan Hoover; seconded by Debbie Suszinski. Motion passed.

Nomination Committee: Lou Trenta announced the appointment of the members of this committee: Tom Behrend, Laura Bruck, and Debbie Suszinski.

Further Business Items:

The new business was the discussion and approval of the changes to the bylaws. These include the new job descriptions for the Officers of the organization. Motion made to accept the changes was made by Ginny Barnish and seconded by Debbie Goodfellow. Motion passed.

President's Report:

- Lou Trenta expressed his thanks to Father Ed Suszinski for hosting the Parents of Priests for this gathering.
- He also thanked Father for making the five pies for our refreshments for this gathering.
- The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Micki Trenta, Parents of Priest Secretary  
October 23, 2023

## **Discernment at Work at Work**

I don't remember when I first heard the word "discern" used in conjunction with making or taking work assignments but I do remember my feelings and thoughts. In essence they were, "What a sneaky way to get me to do work I don't really want to do." It has taken me awhile to recognize discernment as a way for me to get honest with myself, to recognize that it is much more complex than just moving someone to take on a particular task voluntarily.

Discernment, as I have come to understand, is about wisdom, humility, motivation, and judgment. It is about wisdom in that it depends on personal knowledge of our inner qualities and an understanding of the relationships between those qualities and the needs of the various levels of community in which we live. It is about humility in that it requires us to be honest about our capabilities and our motives. It is about motivation in that we are called to act out of love and care for our communities—family, neighborhood, parish, civic, and work. It is about judgment in that it calls for us to make decisions based on this knowledge and these understanding, decisions that bring about good for all who are touched by the decision.

It is impossible to discern the possibilities, let alone the best action, without knowing ourselves, particularly our goals, that which we desire. These are paradigms or screens that will filter all that we sense and shape our perceptions to fit our hopes and expectations. Knowing ourselves well enables us see and be open to what we might not expect.

My initial reaction to discernment came from a prideful belief that I could do any of the tasks before us and do them better than just about anyone else. I had to learn the limits of my capabilities and the wonderful range of capabilities of my companions. Humility, that is, recognition and truthful understanding of the limits of my gifts, had to be learned before I could engage in anything resembling a faith centered discernment process. All the talents in the group were gifts from God and needed respectful acknowledgement in discerning our paths and actions.

Faith based discernment is also about motivation, about why I act or don't act. The personal transformation called for here is to move, as one writer put it, from "desire fueled by selfishness to desire fueled by concern for others." We may know ourselves, our deep desires; and yet, we choose to exercise our free wills to act for others rather than self.

Judgment in discernment is not only about the final decision but also about each of the elements that go into a truly faithful, loving discernment. Do I know myself, my goals, and my desires in this situation well enough to be open to alternatives? Do I have the time to do the task? Do I have a truthful knowledge of my capabilities and those of my companions? Where are my strengths and my weaknesses? How can both my strengths and my weaknesses contribute to the resolution of the work we are about? What is the loving thing to do for each of the relationships I am a part of? What decision of mine will bring about the best situation for all involved?

Discernment may be about saying, "No," as much as about taking on a new task. In the end it is about transforming me from self-centered to other-centered, humbly and with love.

# BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I

### NAME OF ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as PARENTS OF PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND. The organization shall be under the patronage of THE HOLY FAMILY.

## ARTICLE II

### NATURE AND PURPOSE

#### Section 1

The PARENTS OF PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND shall be, not for profit and operate on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year.

#### Section 2 - Purpose

The purpose of the organization is to bring parents together for mutual support and in support of the vocations of their priest-sons. This organization shall also promote the good interests of the Diocesan Seminaries, either directly by its moral and material support, or indirectly by aiding the educational interests of the students. All activities of this organization shall have the approval of the moderator(s).

## ARTICLE III

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be for parents of diocesan priests but shall include any parent of a priest. Parents of priests of the Diocese of Cleveland are automatically enrolled as members upon their son's ordination. Parents of priests from other dioceses and/or religious orders are accepted as members upon their request to join this organization.

There shall be two classes of membership: Active and Non-Active.

#### Section 1 Active

ACTIVE MEMBERS pay dues and commit themselves to planning and organizing the activities of Parents of Priests. They participate in various meetings during the year and assume the responsibility of perpetuating the organization.

#### Section 2 –Non-Active

NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS pay dues and may attend and participate in any of the activities sponsored by the Parents of Priests but would not be responsible for the operation of the organization.

## ARTICLE IV

### SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

All members shall share in the spiritual benefits enjoyed by this organization. The benefits include, but are not limited to,

special Masses for deceased priests and parents of priests, four times a year.

## ARTICLE V

### MODERATOR(S)

There shall be one or more Moderators of the organization. Such Moderators will be appointed by the Cleveland Diocese and shall serve until their successor(s) be duly certified. The Moderator(s) shall be ex-officio members of all Boards and Committees.

## ARTICLE VI

### GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board shall consist of the Moderator(s), officers, and the Active Members.

## ARTICLE VII

### OFFICERS AND DUTIES

The elected officers shall be: President; Vice-President; Secretary; and Treasurer. All terms of office shall be for two years. No member shall hold the same office more than three consecutive terms.

#### Section 1

The PRESIDENT shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committee chairpersons, and be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. The President shall be responsible for the administration of this organization with regard to membership and interaction with any and all governmental and/or Diocesan entities, laws, and regulations. The President shall also provide for publishing periodic updates to the membership.

#### Section 2

The VICE-PRESIDENT shall perform all the duties of the President in case of the absence or unavailability of the President and such other duties as assigned by the President. The Vice-President shall be responsible for the fund-raising activities of this organization, for example, the 25 Club donation appeal.

#### Section 3

The SECRETARY shall record the proceedings of all meetings. Upon approval, copies of minutes of all meetings shall be presented to the President and Moderator(s). The Secretary shall be responsible for receiving and preserving correspondence received by the organization and for developing and publishing the monthly seminarian prayer calendar and the periodic requests for prayers for members and/or priests of the Cleveland diocese.

#### Section 4

The TREASURER shall receive and safely keep all monies in proper depositories approved by the

organization. The same shall be disbursed under the direction of and to the satisfaction of the Governing Board. It shall be his/her duty to keep an accurate account of the finances of this organization and shall render an account of its financial condition at all regular meetings of Active members. The report and its underlying documents shall be reviewed by the Ways and Means Committee. Upon approval, copies of such financial report shall be presented to the President & Moderator(s).

#### ARTICLE VIII

##### STANDING COMMITTEES

There shall be the following Standing Committees and such other Committees as the organization deems necessary: Social Events, Liturgy; and Ways and Means.

#### ARTICLE IX

##### MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Active members shall be held at least semi-annually. Special meetings of the Active members may be called at the request of the President and/or Moderator(s).

Active members may attend, participate, and vote in the Governing Board meetings either in person or virtually by electronic means.

Meetings of the Standing Committees or Special Committees may be held as requested by the various Committee Chairpersons.

#### ARTICLE X

##### ORDER OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

Unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present, the order of business at all regular meetings of the Active members of THE PARENTS OF PRIESTS shall be as follows:

1. Meeting. Called to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Roll Call of Members
4. Minutes of Regular and Special
5. Introduction of New Members
6. Communications
7. Report of Standing Committees
8. Report of Treasurer
9. Financial Transactions
10. Report of Special Committees
11. Unfinished Business
12. Election of Officers
13. New Business
14. Installation of Officers
15. Closing Prayer

#### ARTICLE XI

##### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

At the first meeting of the second year of his/her term, the President, shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of Active members. The Chairperson of the committee is to be selected by its members. The nominating committee shall present a slate of nominees at the next regular meeting and election of officers shall immediately follow. Installation shall take place—at the end of the meeting at which they are elected.

All records of this organization are to be presented to the newly installed officers within 10 days of this meeting.

A vacancy in any office shall be filled by majority vote of the Governing Board at a regular or special meeting.

#### ARTICLE XII

##### REVENUES

###### Section 1 - Dues

All members shall pay dues. The annual rate of dues shall be established from time to time by the Governing Board. Non-payment of dues shall not affect members' voting rights. This money shall be used to benefit the Parents of Priests activities.

###### Section 2 - Other Revenue

Revenue derived by this organization shall be used primarily to further vocations to the diocesan priesthood in the Diocese of Cleveland and to help support seminarians as needs arise.

#### ARTICLE XIII

##### PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

"Robert's Rules of Order Revised" shall be the parliamentary authority of this organization, except when not consistent with these By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE XIV

##### AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of Active members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment(s) shall have been submitted in writing or by electronic communication means to all voting members three weeks prior to that meeting.



By-laws amended October 22, 2023.