

The Torch



"Generations Growing in Faith for more than 75 years!"

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

August 2022

A Message from Fr. Ben

The Lord Sent Them Out

"If someone offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes, then learn how to do it." This is the advice of the incredible British entrepreneur, Richard Branson, surely one of the most successful, creative, and adventitious businessmen of our time. We are not always ready for the opportunities that present themselves to us. Sometimes we don't know if we can accomplish what is expected, or even if we know what is expected or where the opportunity will lead or what it will demand. In Luke chapter 10, Jesus sent out 72 disciples; two by two, He sent them. Surely, they could not have known what that "opportunity" involved, where the road would take them, or the demands that it would make upon them. And yet, off they went! That took courage, faith, and spirit.

Almost 200 years ago, a small group of Catholic men, women, and children, began a community here on the westside of Cincinnati. They could not have known that that small little start would lead to such a great movement and Catholic presence. Not only are there the five parishes of our Family of Parishes, but many more in this small area, all growing from that courageous, faithful, and spirited group of Catholic immigrants. What we have, who we are, and what we value, all began as an act of Catholic faith. Our courageous, faith-filled, tenacious, and determined ancestors, families, and parents, first built churches, then schools, then parishes, convents, hospitals, and then an entire Catholic culture. Being Catholic defined who they were. They were disciples of the Lord and had the courage to be Catholic, in a day, a time, and a country, where they were not always welcomed and embraced because of their Catholic faith. Here on the westside of Cincinnati, they had the courage to build a Catholic community, a Catholic presence, and a Catholic culture. Being disciples of the Lord, sent out to build the Kingdom of God. Being family defined who they were and what they were about.

They began small, but they dreamed big. Who could have known what was to come of their efforts? And here we are! Today, the task of going out two by two, the commission to build the Kingdom of God, to be a light in the world, is passed on to us. It is our turn to have the courage, to be tenacious, to be faithful and faith filled. It is our turn to dream big and to build an even greater legacy. God has given us an amazing opportunity and we say "yes" to God. For every gift, we need to do what God asks of us, God has already given to us. Together, we will form a vision, together we will move forward, together we are sent out by the Lord, and together we have the potential to make a true difference for everyone. "Don't be afraid," the Archangel Gabriel said to our beloved Mother, "for with God, all things are possible." Like Mary, all we have to do is say "yes" to God and great things will happen.



Family Of Parishes

The name of our new Family of Parishes, which includes St. Dominic, St. Al's on-the-Ohio, St. Simon, St. Vincent de Paul, and Our Lady of Victory, is Mary, Queen of All Saints. Each parish will retain its own name, but as a group, we will be Mary, Queen of All Saints. At this time, Mass schedules for Sundays, Weekdays, and Holy Days will remain the same. It may be necessary in the future to make some changes, but that situation is not immediate, and we will give plenty of notice of any changes.

We would like to welcome Fr. Ben and Fr. Cordier to St. Dominic Parish. Fr. Ben will be resident at Our Lady of Victory, Fr. Michael Cordier will be resident at St. Simon/St. Al's

and Fr. Chris will remain at St. Dominic. Fr. Jim Walsh and Fr. Don Rettig will also serve as part of the clergy at our Family of Parishes as retired senior priests with the honorary title of "pastor emeritus." Fr. Walsh will serve at St. Dominic and Fr. Rettig at St. Vincent de Paul. We very much appreciate that both of these priests will remain active in our new family of parishes serving God and the members of our parishes.



MEET OUR PRIESTS

Fr. Benedict O'Cinnsealaigh

I was born in Dublin, Ireland, January 14, 1964. My parents are Gerry (deceased) and Martha. I have four siblings, David, Gerard, Deborah, and Stephanie, all living in Dublin. My sisters are identical twins. I have 11 nieces and nephews and two great nephews. I graduated from Scoil Fursa (Catholic Elementary School, Dublin) and Belcamp College (Catholic High School, Dublin) as well as All Hallows College (Dublin), The University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum, Rome), and the International Marian Research Institute, University of Dayton (Ohio). Ordained in Ireland in 1993, I came to the United States for post-graduate studies. I became a citizen of the United States in 2000. After serving as a parochial vicar at Holy Angels, Sidney, Ohio for three years, I was appointed by Archbishop Pilaczkyk to the faculty of the Athenaeum of Ohio and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in 2000. In 2011, I was appointed first recipient of the Daniel E. Pilarczyk Chair of Systematic Theology. In 2011, I was appointed by Archbishop Schnurr President of the Athenaeum and Rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West. After completing my seven-year term as President/Rector I was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Victory July 2018. I began my new appointment as pastor of our parish family on July 1, 2022, which happens to be the feast of St. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, a martyr – which seems appropriate. I have two dogs name Blathene (Irish for Little Flower) and Dev, and three cats: Gail, Maggie, and Boo-boo.

Fr. Chris Lack

My name is Chris Lack and I will be serving as one of the associate pastors for our new family of parishes and am delighted to be a part of this community. I grew up in Colerain Township (Corpus Christi Parish, Franciscan friars), and am a product of the public schools there (Northwest High School). I am the fourth of five sons, born to Edward and Mary Lack (both deceased). After studying at the University of Cincinnati and Mount St. Mary's Seminary, I was ordained for service to the Archdiocese in 1990. My previous assignments have been at Sacred Heart parish in Fairfield, Ohio, and Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Westwood. I have served as associate pastor at St. Dominic since 2002.

The greatest blessing in my life as a priest has been the people of God I have been called to walk with and serve. By their example, they have inspired me and challenged me to be more authentic in my faith-life. I look forward to that blessing growing as I become a part of the communities of Our Lady of Victory, St. Simon, St. Aloysius and St. Vincent de Paul. May we all walk as one family in God!

Fr. Michael Cordier

Hello, my name is Fr. Michael Cordier. My parents (of happy memory) were Eugene and Laura Cordier, who were married in 1950 and had six children, myself being number three. I was born in 1956 here in Cincinnati. My siblings and I attended St. Saviour church and grade school. I graduated from Moeller High School in 1975, then Xavier University in 1979 with a degree in Information Systems. I worked as a computer programmer at three companies over a period of 17 years. Over this time, I was blessed to be able to travel, play many sports, became a big brother for a few years, volunteered at a nature center for many years, became engaged once, and finally, was able to help my parents in their senior years. After many years of prayer and discussion, I eventually entered the seminary in 1997. I enjoyed my five years of seminary formation and was ordained in 2002. I was very grateful that my first assignment was as associate pastor at Guardian Angels with Fr. Tom King as pastor. Then, in 2005, I became a pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and in 2016, also pastor of St. Andrew. This was a wonderful time for me and a great challenge in many ways. Feeling called to move on, I moved to Springfield in 2020, but when St. John and St. Saviour parishes needed a pastor, I applied and was appointed pastor of these two parishes in 2021. Now with all the changes with *Beacons of Light*, the Archbishop has appointed me to the family of parishes in Delhi. I will take up residence at the rectory at St. Simon. I look forward to getting to know all of you and working with Fr. Ben and Fr. Chris. Finally, please know that since I have been ordained, I have asked to be addressed as Fr. Cordier; I hope you understand. I love to serve God and my neighbor, for it is in giving that we receive. Please pray for me and I will pray for you.

Fr. James Walsh

Fr. Jim Walsh is a St. William and Elder grad, 1959. Ordained in Rome in 1968, he taught high school at Fenwick and McNicholas, before joining the Religious Education Office, in charge of adult education and ministry to the divorced and separated. He brought *Christ Renews His Parish* to the Archdiocese and started 55 parishes in the process. He was the Director of the Department of Pastoral Services under Archbishop Bernardin and then President of the Athenaeum and Rector of the seminary for seven years. He worked three years in New Jersey for the International Office of Renew. From 1993 until 2000, he was Director of the Seminary Department of the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington D.C., serving the rectors and deans of the U.S. seminaries. In October of 2000, he became Pastor of St. Dominic. He served as Dean for eight years.

Fr. Donald Rettig

Fr. Rettig was ordained in 1971, one of 14 men ordained that year, just to show how things have changed. He has always been involved in every aspect of parish life. He has served in seven different parishes, most of them on the west side of Cincinnati. Fr. Rettig taught German at Elder High School for 43 years and is still active with the Elder Alumni Association. He also helped out in German parishes while he was in Germany for study or vacation. Though retired, Fr. Rettig is ready to help with the new parish structure that is beginning in July.



St. Dominic Parish School of Religion (PSR) Registration for 2022/2023

The mission of the St. Dominic Parish Community is the same as the mission of the greater Church – to bring about a connection with and response to God’s love in our world – and truly live out the Reign of God. We do this through the Sacraments, Scripture, Prayer and our interconnections with others – the family, the Parish community of Faith and the larger community and world. We welcome all registered parish families whose children attend public schools to attend our Parish School of Religion (PSR). The PSR staff and teachers are here to assist parents in their task of raising their children in the Faith. Instruction in PSR is offered during the school year (September-May) for children in grades 1-8. There is special emphasis on the sacramental years, usually 2nd, 7th and 8th grades, with added activities for parents and candidates. Registration for the 2022/2023 school year is online. All registrations must be submitted by August 31. Access the online registration form via the Parish Website at www.stdominicdelhi.org. Click on the PSR Registration button on the left side. ***There will be no fee for PSR for the 2022/2023 school year. The first day of class for all grades (1-8) is Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m.*** PSR calendars for grades 1-8 will be available online in August. If you have any questions about PSR, you can contact Megan Mattei, PSR Coordinator at mmattei@stdominicdelhi.org or 865-607-2070.

St. Dominic School Starts Soon! Are You Ready?



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS: The school office will reopen on August 8, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon daily.

SPIRITWEAR will be sold via an online order link. Once the link is live, it will be forwarded out to families.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAM: Please contact Kathy Smith at 513-518-9128 or email ksmith@stdominicdelhi.org with questions regarding the afterschool program.

MEET THE TEACHER AND FAMILY FUN NIGHT: New Family Orientation and Meet the Teacher Night are taking on a new look this year. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for the PTO Family Fun Night and Meet the Teacher event in the school parking lot. This is a free, family event, where parents and students can walk through the building, drop off school supplies, meet the teachers, play games, enjoy snacks, and meet new families. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring the event and obstacle course and to the Athletic Association for providing the snacks. There will also be tables set up where parents can learn about various volunteer opportunities and organizations in both the school and parish. We ask that at least one parent be present for the classroom presentations, which are built into the evening. More specific information will be sent out the week prior to the event. This event is for all families and students in grades Preschool through Eighth.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Wednesday, August 24. This is a whole day of school with dismissal at 3:00 p.m. Uniforms required. Students should pack a lunch. Students are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles which can be refilled throughout the day using the refrigerated, bottle filling stations in the building. Masks are optional at this moment in time.

TEACHER SUBSTITUTES: Parishioners who have a bachelor's degree and are interested in substitute teaching are asked to call Stephanie Sitzler at 513-251-1276, ext. 422.

PTO UNIFORM EXCHANGE: Tuesday, August 16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the PTO Uniform Closet, located off the school library. Bring any used uniforms or spirit wear to donate and/or pick up some items that your son(s) and/or daughter(s) may need this year! If you have any questions or would like to access the uniform closet prior to August 16, contact Michelle Korb at 513-544-9310 or korb3@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

2022 St. Dominic School Scholarships

The following students were awarded the *Michael J. Pohlkamp Memorial Scholarship* for exceptional effort in academics and athletics based on recommendations from coaches and teachers. These scholarships are sponsored by the St. Dominic Athletic Association.

The recipients are **Caitlin Childs, Mary Gibbs, Lucas Schroer and Jackson Bogner.**

From Fr. Jim

Here are my hopes and dreams for the Family of Parishes. My prayer is that our Family of Parishes be a true Christian community in which...

- Parishioners understand that the heart of our Family is our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and our commitment to be involved in His mission.
- Parishioners have the opportunity of a retreat experience, *Christ Renews His Parish*, to experience the Good News that Jesus proclaimed and lived!
- Parishioners understand that the fundamental sacrament of ministry is Baptism, and that more and more parishioners are taking responsibility for the ministries of the Family of Parishes.
- Groups are meeting for faith sharing, prayer, grief support, Scripture reflection and study.
- Our parishioners are a recognized welcoming presence in our churches and our neighborhoods.
- We are worshiping well in all our churches, i.e. good homilies, prayerful atmosphere and leadership, and good music.
- Parishioners who are homebound, in hospitals, or rest homes, are ministered to in an organized and effective manner.
- Our two schools are operating efficiently and effectively, and in a manner that gives witness to the teachings and values of Jesus Christ.
- Our parishes and schools are safe environments.
- The staff is finding life and joy in working together and making decisions together.
- There are combined programs for couples preparing for marriage and for couples preparing to have their first child baptized.
- There is one program of catechetical instruction for children not enrolled in our schools (PSR).
- Our junior high and high school students are engaged in a dynamic youth ministry program involving all five parishes.
- Our Goldenaires group becomes an organization including seniors from all five parishes.
- Our outreach to the poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Society becomes a Family affair.
- All financial assets and operations are openly communicated to all parishioners.
- A Family Finance Council with representation from all five parishes is involved in all major financial decisions.

May They Rest in The Peace of the Lord

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following parishioners, as they have entered eternal life.

Noemi Lubbers, mother of Annette and Cecil Fielders, Michelle and Darius Phillips, Yvonne Kailholz and Denise and Brian Sebastian.

Robert Hetzer, husband of Joyce Hetzer and father of Robert and Lisa Hetzer, David Hetzer, Todd Hetzer, James and Michelle Hetzer, Thomas Hetzer and Ronald and Laura Hetzer.

Joan Moorman, mother of Michael and Ellen Moorman, Kathy and Dan Huebner, Brian and Sharon Moorman, Tracy Owens and Josie and Doug Schwartz.

SafeParish

With Summer activities in full swing, we would like to remind all parish/school employees and volunteers that they are required to stay current in completing SafeParish quarterly bulletins. There are numerous St. Dominic user accounts that are pending due to lack of compliance in completing the quarterly bulletins. With the school year beginning soon, please make sure to complete the quarterly bulletins or you will not be able to work/volunteer with youth until your SafeParish account is approved. Please direct questions regarding bulletin completion to Deacon Mark Bardonaro at 513-471-7741, ext. 415.

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**THE AUGUST
COMMUNITY DINNER
HAS BEEN CANCELED.**
See you in September!

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