

The Torch



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

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

October 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Jim,

COLLECTING VOTES AT VATICAN II

(A number of parishioners have encouraged me to retell this story)

The highlight of my first three months in Rome was the day I collected votes at the Second Vatican Council and talked to Jim Hilvert from a phone in the center aisle of St. Peter's Basilica while the Council Fathers were deliberating! Jim Hilvert is a friend from St. William and Elder. We were both sent to Rome for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to study theology. This is how it happened!

On November 11, Jim Hilvert, Scott Copeland, Manny Costa, Loyd Dagget, John Joyce and I got tickets for the Mass from Bill Brown, a priest from Covington that we knew, who was studying at the Casa, the house in Rome for priests from the U.S. who were getting graduate degrees. To begin each session of the Council, there was a Mass and visitors could attend with a ticket. At the end of the Mass, the Vatican security guards made sure all the visitors left. The only persons authorized to be present for the session were the bishops, their "periti" (theologians, Scripture scholars, etc.), the press, official observers, and the priests from the Casa who helped collect any votes that were taken at the session. The seven of us were determined to see if we could scheme our way into staying for the whole council session. We had heard from the older seminarians about various unsuccessful attempts to be present for the actual Council session, i.e., going to the restroom just as Mass is ending and staying there for at least thirty minutes until the security people have made their sweep of the place.

We split up, and I wound up with Scott Copeland, a classmate from Youngstown. We started out in a tribune (a balcony with seats above the bleacher-like structure where the bishops sit). This was where the periti and official observers sat. Sure enough, when Mass was over, a Vatican security guard came up and evicted all of us who did not have a pass to be there. However, instead of going out the rear doors, Scott and I went over to the right side and up into another tribune. Again, we were evicted, and this time, the security guard was walking us toward the door when we saw Bill Brown, who was there to collect votes. In broken Italian, we tried to tell the guard that we were recruited that day to help collect votes. We motioned for Bill Brown to come over and verify our story. Somehow, he convinced this guy that we were needed to collect votes.

After the security guard left us, Bill quickly instructed us that when someone handed us a box, to line up and follow the guy ahead of us. Bill then left us to do a task in another area. Sure enough, they passed out containers that were in the shape of elongated shoe boxes. I took one and got behind two guys, with Scott right behind me. We started to move in double file under some dark bleachers and suddenly, out into the bright lights and the center aisle of St. Peter, two thousand bishops were looking at us. My heart was in my mouth. I thought all two thousand knew which two in the line didn't belong! We marched toward the front. The two in front of me stopped in front of a section, so I stopped in front of the third section from the front, all while facing forward. I noticed to my left an open pew on ground level, and then about twenty rows of bishops extending upward in the bleachers. Each row had a narrow table-like surface on which the bishops could write.

On that surface in the empty row to my left was a telephone. I noticed a telephone for each of the sections in front of me. I relaxed a little, as I realized I was in the place I should have been. I took my cue from the two guys ahead of me, who were simply standing there, facing forward, holding their boxes.

I know I jumped when my world was interrupted by the sound of the telephone to my left ringing. What should I do? Am I supposed to answer it? Fortunately, the bishop just behind the phone reached down and answered it. Relief! Thank God! He picked it up! I'm safe! They still have no idea that I don't belong out here!

The next thing I know, the bishop who answered the phone is trying to get my attention! "Psssst!" I look over at him. "It's for you!" He says as he extends the phone toward me! I could not believe it. I took the phone and said "Hello?" This is what I heard! "Is this Joe Walsh's boy from 901 Rosemont in Cincinnati, Ohio?" It was Jim Hilvert! I said, "Where are you?" He said, "Look up to your right to the little booth." I looked up and saw a little booth that had been constructed for the council. From that booth, one could observe the whole floor of the council. There in the window of that booth was Hilv, waving at me. We carried on a short conversation there in the middle of St. Peter. He had wandered into an area that was off limits to visitors. He ran into the guy who controlled all the microphones for the council and told him he was lost. The guy invited him into the booth and was showing him what his job was. Hilv recognized me in the center aisle. When he saw me, he said, "Hey, that's my friend down there." The guy said, "Would you like to talk to him?" He then dialed the number of the phone next to me. What a remarkable experience. Of the seven of us who went to St. Peter that day, only Scott, Hilv, and I made it past the Mass.

There actually was a vote taken that day. The bishops passed their votes to the end of the row and then down to the bishop who had handed me the phone. I put the votes in the box and then walked back to the tunnel and under the bleachers to the place where it all started. While in the tunnel, I was alone with the box of votes. I remember thinking that this was probably as close to actually touching the Holy Spirit that I would ever get. I had a profound sense of being close to the Mystery of God.

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.

Dolores Foote, mother of Pamela Foote, Greg and Cindy Foote and Tom and Lori Foote.

Janet Carrigan, mother of Shelly and Jim Hetzer, Joe Husman, Paul Husman and Missy and Mike Rosiello.

Patrick Porta, husband of Sandra Porta and father of Adam and Allison Porta and Amber and Bobby Seitz.

Alvina Blackerby, mother of Deborah Black and Gary Blackerby.

Marie Laiveling Siefert, mother of Frank and Diane Laiveling, Lisa and John Konerman, Lori and Doug Oehler, Timothy Laiveling and Patricia and Mark Hoar.

Charlotte Ahr, mother of Nancy Ahr and Michael and Nancy Ahr.

Grief Support Program

Fr. Chris will hold a Grief Support program to help anyone who has lost a loved one in death. It runs for four weeks, with each session containing an educational/formational component, as well as time for participants to share and listen. Each subsequent session will build on the previous one, so plan on being there for all sessions, please. No new participants will be accepted after the initial session. The program begins on Monday, November 21 and is scheduled for consecutive Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. All sessions will be at Our Lady of Victory. The session on November 21 will be in the school cafeteria. The other three sessions will be in the Convocation Center. If you have any questions or would like to register, call the St. Dominic Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0.

Words of Remembrance

BY JULIE BITTNER

We are gathered here today to celebrate the life of my mother, Ruth Ann Bittner. I am Julie, the youngest of my mom's four children. Thank you all for coming. It is an honor to share with her family and closest friends some stories of my mom, the life she lived, and lessons she shared with me that I will never forget. This was difficult to write as it is hard to put into words what an amazing person my mom was and the impact she had on my and so many others' lives.

When reflecting on my mom's life and trying to come up with the words to describe her, many of her characteristics come to mind – most notably, the words that kept running through my mind were: supportive, encouraging, thoughtful, compassionate, kind, loyal, faithful, patient, and quiet strength. These characteristics were present in all the ways my mom lived her life, especially in the way she guided and supported us and in all her relationships.

Thinking back on how my mom provided guidance and support to myself and my siblings growing up, I can't help but think of not only the emotional and spiritual support, but also the literal guidance she provided. She was our GPS before GPS existed. I remember when I first started driving and would get lost; I could be anywhere in the city, and when I called her, not only would she tell me exactly what streets to turn on, but she would tell me exactly what landmarks I'd be passing along the way as she patiently stayed on the phone with me until I safely found my way home.

In addition to the geographical guidance, she helped me find my way in life by being a supportive listener, loving unconditionally, and always offering encouragement. My mom wasn't the type to give a lot of advice or simply provide the answers; rather, she would patiently listen, support and love as I found my way. Looking back, I realize this was because she felt very strongly that we needed to find our own way to gain independence. As hard as it must have been for her to stand by and watch me make mistakes, she was always right there with unconditional love and support, leading by example with her silent strength. Another word that comes to mind when reflecting on my mom's life is "rooted." She had strong roots on the west side and was extremely loyal in all her relationships. I remember a few times my dad would mention moving to a retirement community in Florida and my mom's response was always: "Well, that's awfully far from St. Dominic." At the time, I thought that was ridiculous, because surely there are churches in Florida. But looking back, I realize she wasn't speaking of the building, but about the community and relationships that represented to her.

As I sat with my mom in her final weeks in hospice as her friends came to visit, I picked up on a common theme. They would all say something along the lines of, "We've been friends for 40-plus years." Friendships like that are rare, but they weren't for my mom, and I believe that is because of the way she lived her life, the kindness she showed, and just being a genuinely good person. People were drawn to her and felt the love she had for them.

I can't talk about my mom's life without mentioning her faith, as that was a central theme and showed through in all aspects of her life. As a mother, she ensured all of us had the opportunity for a faith-based education at a Catholic school, even if that meant picking up extra shifts or making other sacrifices. As a nurse, she worked at Mother Margaret Hall, a nursing home for the Sisters of Charity, and I remember many nights she'd come home several hours late from work, and would say she stayed late to say the Rosary with and hold the hands of the sisters as they passed away. As a wife, she was able to celebrate 50 years of marriage, and her last words to my dad were, "It's okay, go get Heaven ready for me, honey."

While I have no doubt my dad had Heaven ready for her immediately, I find it very fitting given her devotion to Mary that she was called to Heaven on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. And so, I'll close by thanking my mom: Thank you for being a great role model. Your memory and legacy will live on in our family, your friends, and everyone you helped and supported throughout your life. We will always remember you and love you always. Thank you.

Goldenaires Annual Dinner

The Goldenaires Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 12, at 5:30 p.m. in O'Connor Hall. Come for hors d'oeuvres, wine, soft drinks, coffee, hot tea, dessert, as well as dinner to be catered by Humbert's. Our entertainment will be the Delta Kings Barbershop Quartet. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Please send your check made payable to *St. Dominic Goldenaires*, with the names of those attending and your phone number to Judy Tensing, 625 Covedale Avenue, #2, Cincinnati, OH 45238. There is limited space, so get your reservations in early, but they must be received no later than Friday, November 4.



Wedding Anniversary Mass

Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th Wedding Anniversary in 2022 will be honored at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 23. Invitations to the Anniversary Mass have been mailed to parishioners celebrating those anniversaries. If you did not receive an invitation but would like to attend the Anniversary Mass, please call the Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0 by Monday, October 10.

Memorial Mass

On Wednesday evening, November 2 at 7:00 p.m., all members of our parish who have died this past year will be remembered in a special way at our Memorial Mass. We encourage all families, friends, and fellow parishioners to join us in song and prayer. If you will be attending the Mass to remember a loved one who was not from this parish, please call the Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0 by October 20 to have them included.



At St. Dominic, Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Wednesday starting after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until noon. Please come by for a visit with our Lord. Spend a few minutes, an hour, or whatever your schedule allows at the time. Additionally, the church is open after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday and after the 8:15 a.m. Mass until noon on Friday, so please come and Adore Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the tabernacle, any day you prefer. He is waiting for you!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children

St. Dominic's RCIA process continues year-round. Because of this, adults and children can begin at any time. Most who come to the Catholic Church as adults do so because God has called them through other people. If you know someone who may be interested in the Catholic Faith, ask him or her to call us, or ask if he or she would like for you to call and make the first "contact." While new Inquirers can join St. Dominic's RCIA process at any time, because of our lingering "school year mindset," many people begin to consider inquiring about the faith as the new school year begins. Now is a great time to reach out and mention becoming Catholic to someone you know who may be considering it! Contact Karen Brandstetter at 513-471-7741, ext. 481 or kbrandstetter@stdominicdelhi.org for more information about St. Dominic's RCIA.

Bible Study with Fr. Jim and Fr. Chris

Fr. Chris and Fr. Jim will begin their fall Bible Study on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. in O'Connor Hall. There will be seven sessions in which they will discuss Women in the New Testament. Bible Study runs until November 29 with no class on October 18 and November 1. Call 513-471-7741, ext. 0 to register by Monday, September 26. If you are unable to join us on Tuesday evenings, we will be recording the session each week. We will email the recording on Wednesday or Thursday to those on our Word on Fire email listing. If you are not signed up for the Word on Fire emails, you can sign up at www.stdominicparish2.flocknote.com.

St. Dominic Parish

FINANCIAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

	2021-2022 Actual	2021-2022 Budget	Variance	2022-2023 Budget
CHURCH REVENUES:				
Sundays & Holy Days Collections	1,018,017	1,000,000	18,017	1,050,000
1F1H1L Rebate	740	8,000	(7,260)	0
Votive Candles & Masses	19,217	17,000	2,217	18,600
Interest Earned	9,578	10,000	(422)	10,000
Raffles (No Festival, Moved to July)	58,830	75,000	(16,170)	115,000
PSR, Adult Ed., Youth, DRE, LPM	2,032	4,650	(2,618)	4,650
Donations	18,604	0	18,604	0
O'Connor Hall	2,250	6,000	(3,750)	6,000
TOTAL	1,129,268	1,120,650	8,618	1,204,250
CHURCH EXPENSES				
Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	468,046	497,995	29,949	503,700
Office Supplies, Insurance, Maintenance, Technology, Utilities & Janitorial	150,990	124,700	(26,290)	131,200
Assessment	108,297	100,000	(8,297)	100,000
Program Outreach	6,378	7,300	922	7,550
PSR, Adult Ed., Youth, DRE, LPM	10,098	13,308	3,210	13,258
TOTAL	743,809	743,303	(506)	755,708
SCHOOL REVENUES:				
Tuition Revenue	1,591,552	1,610,600	(19,048)	1,643,225
State Reimbursement	158,226	145,000	13,226	150,000
Before & After Care	72,667	75,000	(2,333)	73,000
Milk Program	3,850	3,300	550	4,300
Donations/Other	31,374	24,200	7,174	24,200
TOTAL	1,857,669	1,858,100	(431)	1,894,725
SCHOOL EXPENSES:				
Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	2,009,711	1,995,447	(14,264)	2,034,675
Office Supplies, Insurance, Maintenance, Technology, Utilities & Janitorial	249,496	231,690	(17,806)	232,290
Before & After Care Program	50,443	76,354	25,911	72,695
Milk Program	10,904	3,235	(7,669)	4,225
TOTAL	2,320,554	2,306,726	(13,828)	2,343,885
Operational Results Prior to Loan Forgiveness	(77,426)	(71,279)	(6,147)	(618)
PPP Loan Forgiveness	464,800	0	464,800	0
OPERATIONAL RESULTS:	387,374	(71,279)	458,653	(618)

CAPITAL ACTIVITY REVENUES:	
Fr. Grimmelsman	73,299
Capital Donations	12,591
School Capital Improvements	1,029
School Financial Asst./Ed. Fund	33,744
Adopt a Student	22,268

NOTES:

As part of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) during the height of the COVID pandemic, St. Dominic received a PPP loan for \$464,800.00 in May 2020. We applied for, and were granted loan forgiveness as we met a number of criteria for the forgiveness program.

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
4551 DELHI PIKE
CINCINNATI, OH 45238
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**The Community Dinner
is BACK!!!**
Join us
Wednesday, October 19
5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
We hope to see you there!!

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