

# The Torch



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

St. Dominic  
Parish

Delhi Township,  
OH

August 2024

## From Fr. Jim

### National Study of Effective Priests, *continued from July's Torch*

The thirty effective and respected priests are definitely aware of what it is that gives them life. Here is a summary of the many hours of discussion on that topic in the four regions of the United States.

**1. Risk-taking and Change.** These men take risks and look at life with enthusiasm. The images of jumping off cliffs, of living on the razor's edge, and of expanding the horizon reflect this very basic aspect of their personalities. Above all, they manage change well and even thrive on it.

**2. Balance, Perspective, and Time.** Not everyone who takes risks or thrives on change has a sense of balance. The combination of risk-taking and balance may be the most unusual aspect of these priests' make-up. They know what they can change and what they can't. They see their efforts as part of a larger scheme. They are intentional about their use of time, and they make sure they get time to themselves. They don't take things too personally and they are able to laugh at themselves.

**3. Authenticity.** Effective priests place a premium on being authentic, on being honest, on not going through the motions. They want to tell it straight to their people, to themselves, and even to their superiors. Being authentic also means being accountable.

**4. Multiple Intimacies.** The priests in this study are not isolated and lonely men. Dr. John Mayer's earlier research, clinical interviews with more than one hundred priests, found that the only happy priests were those who had developed intimate relationships, and that clearly is the case with these priests. They form close relationships within their families and build a strong supporting network of all kinds of friends - men, women, priests, ex-priests, religious sisters, lay people, Catholics, and non-Catholics. Some find support groups helpful. Some have formed special relationships with women.

**5. The Significance of the Priesthood and the Mystery of the Call.** The priests in this study are convinced that being a priest is a significant way to spend one's life. They are convinced that what they do is important to the Church and to society.

They are convinced of the power and importance of the Gospel for the world. They realize that their call to this mission is from God and is a mystery. They are still in awe of that and happy to be about God's agenda in the world.

**6. God's Love.** These men are sustained by the conviction that God is always with them and loves them and will take care of them. Underlying all the activities and pressures of their ministries, the controversies in the wider Church, the changes and difficulties in their personal lives, there is a God loving them. They depend on that relationship. They know they are "graced."

**7. Relationship with Jesus and the Paschal Mystery.** These priests are clear that their role model and mentor is Jesus Christ. "What would Jesus do?" is the question they ask themselves. Jesus' death and Resurrection gives meaning and significance to the dying and rising that they experience in their own lives and the lives of the people. In the Paschal Mystery they move through death to life.

**8. The Spiritual Life.** These respected priests respond to God's love and Jesus Christ's challenges with their lives of ministry. But they also respond with an active spiritual life involving prayer and Scripture and liturgy. It all seems to flow together with these men. God loves them and challenges them. Aware of that, they respond in worship and prayer and ministry. God inspires, supports, and challenges them anew through worship and prayer and ministry.

**9. Mystery of God's Activity in Life and Ministry.** The belief that "there is something else going here besides me" is at the heart of priesthood for these men. That something else is the activity and movement of God. These men see more than what meets the eye. They are in touch with the deeper reality of what God seems to be doing in the events and activities of daily life.

**10. Drawing Life from the People.** Effective priests draw life from the people they serve, and that in turn inspires them to serve those people better. It is a synergistic relationship. They draw inspiration from the example that lay people set in their own lives and they are awed by their role in people's lives at the key moments of birth, marriage, death, sickness, and suffering.

**11. Listening.** "Listen First" is the motto of these respected priests. It helps them serve. It helps them preach. In an analysis of recent surveys of a representative sampling of priests, Andrew Greeley remarked that there doesn't seem to be much listening going on in the Church. If that is so, these priests are an exception.

**12. Service, Compassion, and Empowerment.** Because they draw life from the people and because they have learned to listen to them, these priests are particularly sensitive to people's needs. Priesthood and their personal talents are not for them but for others. Priesthood for them is about serving, not being served. It is also about leading. They see themselves as servant leaders, i.e., serving the people by calling and empowering them to serve others.

When priests in this study must confront serious issues – the controversies facing the Catholic Church in the United States, their own role as men in American society, and the state of the next generation of priests – they draw on those things that give them life. This produces a consistent approach to all challenges.

They seem to be able to keep the Church in perspective. They see the Church not as an end in itself. The Church is the people of God on mission. The institutional aspects, the structures, and the laws are to serve the mission. Institutional issues that have little to do with the Gospel or the parish do not engage them. They acknowledge the imperfections and sinfulness in the Church. That is the reality. That is the Church they love and continue to challenge to be better.

In the controversies and scandals, they look for the grace. "Where are we going to find the grace in this?" They find God's grace for them personally in the challenge to speak the truth as they see it to bishops and the wider Church. They also find in the current situation God's invitation to make a positive personal statement by their actions of what it means to be a good priest in today's world.

They also recognize God's grace for the Church in the controversies and scandals. They see it as a call for the Church to repent. They believe that repentance will make the Church more responsive to victims, more honest, and less clerical.

These respected priests believe that their role as men in American society is to be countercultural. In a society that glorifies violence, competition, and materialism they see their role as offering an alternative way to be a man. They offer a lifestyle that is reflective, compassionate, caring, and alert to the dangers of consumerism and materialism. They take delight in their competency without feeling the need to compete with others or prove themselves.

The passion with which these men voice their criticisms of today's seminarians and newly ordained priests reflects the passion with which they view their priesthood and their desire to pass on to the next generation what they know and how they perceive things. They have experienced what gives life to them in the priesthood and they want to pass on that life.

Even though these thirty priests were selected because of their effectiveness, it is likely that most priests who are happy in their priesthood draw life in the same way as our sample. We suspect too that other priests, at least in their reflective moments, recognize the ultimate source of that life – that underlying their lives as priests is the Mystery of God present and active. That is gift. That is grace.

In *The Diary of a Country Priest*, the dying priest whispers his last words in the ear of his friend. "Grace is everywhere...!" The priests in this study witness to that same Mystery.

## 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.

**Carol Keiser**, wife of John Keiser, loving mother of Jeff (Tracy) Keiser, Susie (John) Wills and Jim (Sarah) Keiser.

**Bill Nolan**, father of Beth Nolan, Susan (Joe) Crace, Annie (Adarsh) Srivastava and Patrick (Katie) Nolan.

**Irene Wubbolding**, mother of Jane (Richard) Carris, Edward Wubbolding and Paul (Nancy) Wubbolding

**Paul Schnieders**, brother of Cletus (Rose) Schnieders, Jr., John (Johnnae) Schnieders, Gayle (Shannon) Vaughn, Sharon (Ed) Rue, George (Sherry) Schnieders, Mary (Frank) Adams and the late Thomas (Debbie - living) Schnieders.



## Parish School of Religion (PSR)

### Registration 2024/2025

Mary, Queen of All Saints welcomes students in grades 1-8 to join our Parish School of Religion program. If you attend a public school or are homeschooled, you are invited to join our PSR classes which will be held alternating Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:45 a.m. at St. Simon Plagge Hall. Classes will begin on September 15 and run through May. During sacramental years (2nd and 8th grades), there will be additional activities for parents and candidates to prepare for this special time. If you are interested in

registering for this program, please go to [stsimonparish.org](http://stsimonparish.org) and click on the Religious Education tab to fill out the online forms. If you have any questions about PSR, contact [religiously@mqas.org](mailto:religiously@mqas.org) or call 513-347-8825.

## SafeParish

With summer activities in full swing, we would like to remind all parish/school employees and volunteers of the requirements of the Decree on Child Protection. All employees and volunteers are required to have completed *The Archdiocese of Cincinnati SafeParish: Protecting Children From Sexual Abuse – Archdiocese of Cincinnati Edition*. In addition, employees are required to complete an online background check, manual fingerprinting, and B4 form once prior to beginning employment. Ohio Department of Education licensees may have additional requirements, and school offices or athletic departments should be consulted if there are any questions. Volunteers are required to complete an online background check prior to volunteering with youth. Employees and volunteers are required to stay current in completing SafeParish quarterly bulletins.

With the school year beginning for most in August, please make sure you are up-to-date on completing 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, Safe Environment Coordinator at 513-471-7741, ext. 415 or [deaconmark@stdominicdelhi.org](mailto:deaconmark@stdominicdelhi.org).

Thank you for all you are doing and please stay safe and healthy!

## St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic Conference

**Did you know?** There are three patterns of poverty in the US:

- Situational poverty – due to temporary circumstances
- Generational poverty – spanning over two generations or more
- Chronic Poverty – due to long-term illness/injury or mental illness

Many of our neighbors from Delhi, Riverside and Sedamsville with whom we engage fall into a pattern of poverty. It's important to take a pause and realize poverty is not so black and white, not so right from wrong; it's helpful to educate ourselves and reflect on understanding poverty and the causes.

Most of our neighbors from whom we get calls don't have the resources – financial, skills, education, social connections, health and/or faith. Many don't have the time or energy for learning new skills; and eventually, long-term planning skills are affected. Also, children can experience poverty-induced trauma which affects their ability to problem solve.

Individuals who fall into the chronic poverty classification do not have the poverty mindset, their physical and/or mental limitations place them in chronic, unending situations of struggling; this could be because they can't perform the work they once could before their illness or injury.

### Experience drives belief and belief drives behavior

Many neighbors living in poverty believe their future will be pretty much like it is today; there is not much hope things will get better. Therefore, their decisions are based on immediate need; money is to be used, to be spent. These neighbors often have distrust in institutions, they don't know how to plan and peer pressure prevents them from breaking the cycle.

### So, what can we do?

Extend grace. Extend knowledge of available resources. Extend assistance.

*"Do a little something – invite the Holy Spirit in and see what one little thing God is calling us to do. Then look at what opens up around that one little thing. Look, pray, be open, then take that one little step."* – Sheila Gilbert, U.S. SVDP President 2011-2017

Thank you for taking that step, the step to support our St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic Conference and our neighbors. Pray so we will not judge, but discern what God is calling us to do to help our neighbors.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Dominic Conference, please reach out to one of the members listed below or call the Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 290. We are always looking for new members to join!

Tim Cunningham, Pat Dirr, Mike Fitzpatrick, Dottie Hampton, Barb & Joe Huber, Mary Kayse, Peggy & John Klopp, Mary Beth Maly, Christelle & Joe Middendorf, Bob Sanker and Debbie & Rick Wieland

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – RCIA

### Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children

Our 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 the RCIA process at any time, because of our lingering "school year mindset," many people begin to really 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 Deacon Mark Bardonaro at 513-471-7741, ext. 415 or [deaconmark@stdominicdelhi.org](mailto:deaconmark@stdominicdelhi.org) for more information about our Mary Queen of All Saints RCIA process.



## St. Dominic School is Celebrating 90 Years!

Come celebrate with us at Mass on September 8, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. A timeline of pictures will be on display in the Gathering Place along with light refreshments following Mass. Mark your calendars for the Alumni Open House on January 26, 2025. More information to follow.



## St. Dominic School

### St. Dominic School Starts Soon!

#### Are You Ready?

**SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:** The school office will reopen on August 14, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon daily.

**SPIRITWEAR** is available online at <https://kochsports.chipply.com/stdominic/store.aspx>.

**AFTER-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM:** Please contact Kathy Smith at 513-518-9128 or [ksmith@stdominicdelhi.org](mailto:ksmith@stdominicdelhi.org) with questions regarding the after-school program.

**MEET THE TEACHER AND FAMILY FUN FAIR NIGHT:** Meet the Teacher Night will take place on August 12 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, Advanced Math, and Integrated Science. Meet the Teacher Night for grades 1-8 will take place on August 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Parents can check the Parent Press for additional information.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:** Wednesday, August 21. This is a whole day of school with dismissal at 2:50 p.m. Uniforms required. Students should pack 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.

**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 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the PTO Uniform Closet, located off of the school library. Bring any used uniforms or spiritwear to donate and/or pick up some items that your son(s) and/or daughter(s) may need this year!

## Back to School Prayer

*Father,*

*We thank You for the opportunity*

*to begin this new school year,*

*and we ask that You bless*

*the students, staff, and student families*

*who make our schools a great place.*

*We pray that You will guide us in Your ways,*

*and strengthen our school communities,*

*so that we will seek Your will*

*in everything that we do,*

*and love others as You love us.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



## 2024 High School Graduates

### Elder High School

Charlie Baker – Accepted into the Cincinnati Fire Cadet Program.

Brayden Bass – Mount St. Joseph University – Sibling Grant, Senior Visit Award, Mount St. Joseph Grant, Mount St. Joseph University Scholarship, A. Knowlton Memorial Scholarship, Renaissance Scholarship, Mission Ambassador Award and La Societa Fuscaldese Femminile Scholarship. Committed to the Men's Volleyball Program.

Thomas Hater – University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business – Cincinnati Century Scholarship

Ethan Lipps – University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business – Cincinnati Century Scholarship, STEM Scholarship and Andrew J. Bucher Excellence in Accounting Award.

Damon (DJ) Philpot – The Ohio State University

Carson Telger – Xavier University – Presidential Scholarship, Catholic High School Scholarship, Xavier Muskie Grant, Xavier Legacy Scholarship and Xavier Visit Grant.

Carter Sokolis – University of Cincinnati – Lindner Business Honors Scholarship, Cincinnati Century Scholarship and Ohio Governor's Merit Scholarship.

### Mercy McAuley High School

Hayley Cook – Franciscan University of Steubenville – Provost Scholarship, St. Michael's Scholarship and Franciscan University Grant. Signed with Franciscan to play softball.

### Oak Hills High School

Charles Adams – University of Cincinnati

### Seton High School

Kendylle Lively – Thomas More University – Bishop Foys Scholarship, Out-of-State Grant, Parochial Promise Award and Saints Award.

## 2024 St. Dominic Festival Booth Sponsors

We would like to thank the following merchants and individuals who sponsored booths at the Festival.

Altenau's Automotive Service, Inc.	Mary Queen of All Saints Goldenaires
Anderson Ferry Dental	Max Hofmeyer & Sons, Inc.
Bianco Custom Tailors	McCabe Do It Center
Blue Roo Car Wash	Melvin Family
Bob & Elaine Murphy	Mike & Roberta Davoran
Bonomini Electric Co. Inc.	One Collision
Boyles Roofing	Priority 1 Insulation
Brinker Animal Hospital	River Squares Dance Club
Brunner Chiropractic	Robben Florist & Garden Center
Charlie Lipps Auto Repair	Skyline Chili Delhi
Cincinnati Roofing	Sound-N-Secure Systems
Corcoran and Harnist Heating &	St. Dominic Athletic Association
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Delhi Pet Center	St. Dominic-Delhi Knights of Columbus
Frank & Linda Panzeca	The Gibbs Family
Garage Door Service	The Pediatric Dentist
Grove Transportation Services	Thomas J. Gilday, CPA, LLC.
Hoeting Realtors	Tom & Judi Becker Family
In Loving Memory of Joe & Helen Auer	Valvano Carpeting
James J. Luebbe Inc., CPA	Vitt, Stermer & Anderson
Kraft Electric	Ward's Party House

**Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Dominic Parish.**

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We will not have  
Community Dinners during  
the summer months.

**We hope to see everyone  
at our next Dinner on  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024.**

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