

The Torch



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

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

July 2024

From Fr. Jim

How Effective Priests Handle Controversy and Clergy Abuse

Thirty-six effective and respected priests across the U.S. were asked how they deal with the institutional controversies in the Church. What came out of these discussions was neither a disdain for, nor a deference to, the institutional dimensions of the Church, but rather, a healthy distance. A priest from the Midwest summed it up, "I think you have to come to grips with where you stand with the Church as an institution. For me it's a healthy distance and acceptance of the humanity of it all!" These men love the Church. But they are critical lovers because they want the Church to be all that it can be. And they are loving critics of the Church. But for them, the Church means more than an institution. "I love the Church," said one pastor. "It's not perfect and once I realized that I was comfortable. I experience Church primarily at the local level, in my parish." A Southern priest put it this way, "Yes, there are issues that are going to be discussed, the issue of women's ordination, celibacy, selection of bishops, clergy abuse, etc. But the issues of priesthood for me are the issues of the people of God right here along with us in the parish!"

In confronting the bishop, the approach of these priests was this: It depends on whether he is convinced that it is a worthwhile issue to confront. It is something like the serenity prayer, knowing what you can change, and what you can't. But you still have the obligation to speak up and speak truth to power. But you have to realize that you can't control the bishop's response to your confrontation. While they don't always agree with some of the Church laws and teachings, they realize they have no authority to resolve it. "I can't say I'm really comfortable with everything we do in the Church or teach, but I don't want to leave. There is tension. There is conflict. But there is vitality and joy!" said a West Coast priest.

Clergy Abuse Crisis

The reaction of effective priests to this issue is mixed. On the one hand, they see it having a devastating impact on the Church and the image of priesthood. Some of the priests felt a stigma and a suspicion when they represented "priesthood" to people who did not know them but felt no problem around the people who knew them. A priest from the Midwest said, "Sometimes out in the city with a collar on, I feel people projecting all kinds of stuff on me. But in the parish, I feel very little of it. It doesn't get in my way, and it doesn't limit my ministry. I have earned their trust!"

On the other hand, these priests saw the publicity of these scandals as a "graced moment," because they called forth an honesty and an end of denial from Church leaders and has brought forth a deep compassion for the victims. A Southern priest said, "Maybe this is good because it may be the beginning of the death knell of clericalism." An Eastern priest said, "I think the blessing of all this has been, ironically, that we've finally been responding to the victims in a sensitive way, which was a terrible blind spot for the institution."

A Midwest priest said, "The scandals hurt. But somehow, I can handle that. And I know, that as an individual, I can make a statement about what it means to be a healthy and effective priest in the larger society." What seems clear is that these priests hoped to be perceived and judged as individuals rather than as a group. There seems to be a shift here. Thirty years ago, "the reputation of the priesthood" was able to "carry" or give credibility to individual priests. Today, because of the scandals and the damage to the reputation of the priesthood, individual priests, by their faithful ministry, are "carrying" and giving credibility to "the priesthood"! These effective priests do not shy away from controversy, whether it involves scandals or institutional confrontations. They feel capable of handling controversy when they turn to their most effective resources, the life-giving power of the Gospel, the people they know and serve, their own sense of mission, and their trust that somehow God's grace is in all this!

Fr. Jim

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.

John Mattei, Jr., father of Thomas (Joan) Mattei, David (Peggy) Mattei, Barbara (Joseph) Mattei-Smith, Stephen Mattei, John (Eva) Mattei, and James (Andrea) Mattei.

Marjorie Winkelman, wife of Fred W. Winkelman and mother of Karen (Tom) Plogsted, Bruce (Rebecca) Winkelman, Gail (Tom) Farwick, Linda (Bob) Niehaus, Connie (Larry) Johnson and Shelley (Keith) Romard.

Joseph Kern, husband of Pamela Kern (nee Maltry) and father of Sadie and Joseph Kern III.

Aimee Imhoff, daughter of Thomas and Jeannine (nee Melia) Imhoff and sister of Christine (David) Kiefer, Kathy (Justin) Witt and Jennifer Imhoff.

Thomas Gahan, father of Connie (Rob) Wagner, Tom (Karen) Gahan and Jeff (Theresa) Gahan.



St. Dominic Parish Picnic at Stricker's Grove

All parishioners are invited on Friday, July 26 to our parish picnic at Stricker's Grove from 5:00-10:00 p.m. Admission is free, and rides are open from 6:00-10:00 p.m.

(Including the roller coaster). Bring your own picnic dinner or purchase your food at Stricker's Grove (Hot dogs, Brats, Metts and Burgers). You can bring your own beverages, but alcoholic drinks cannot be brought into the park. Soft drinks and beer can be purchased at the park. Visit Stricker's Grove website at <http://www.strickersgrove.com/> for directions and information about the park.



St. Dominic School

My Dear Friends,

Founded in September 1934, St. Dominic School will celebrate its 90th birthday this year. It is a tremendous credit to the generations of families at St. Dominic that an outstanding education has been provided for so many generations of children. It is no easy task to begin and then sustain a Catholic school. It takes vision, commitment, determination, sheer willpower, and hard work, not to mention the time, treasure, and talent poured in by so many faithful Catholics for generations. This was the commitment shown by your great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents. Today's St. Dominic families exhibit the same desire to maintain our Catholic school and we are committed to this dream. The first ninety years is only the beginning, the next ninety will be just as glorious.

As the summer goes on, you will hear more about how we plan to celebrate our 90th year, but we thought you would like an update on what has been happening around the school as far as renewal of the campus is concerned. Last summer, we asked a group of parishioners to walk through the school building with Jenny O'Brien, our principal, and Charlie DeZarn, our business manager. We asked this group to look at the school building and report on what they thought would help make the school an even better environment for our families. They were to pay attention to these areas: what needs to be done immediately, what can be done over the next year, and what would some long-range projects involve. Last summer, the group came back with an excellent outline of projects that they thought would enhance our school building and so the lives of our students. We have been working through this list of projects in the last year and will continue to do so this summer. Here are some of the projects that have already taken place in 2023-2024: Painting of all school corridors; Repainting of the Statue of St. Dominic and refurbishing of old closet to a niche inside front entrance; Repainting of school cafeteria; Seventy-five new security cameras throughout school, church, and exterior of buildings; Increased security lighting around exterior of school building; New exit door in gym; New signage on exterior of gym; Exterior of gym painted; New carpet in school reception area; New drainage and drains on the Pedretti side of the school building; Introduction of the Theology of the Body Curriculum; Installation of new phone, PA, and security alert system; and Replacing of tiles to the library entrance.

New School Projects – Summer 2024 and beyond:

Canopies for playground on Pedretti side of school (in progress); Canopies for school front entrance; Creating a new dining area for preschool (in progress); Painting of ceilings in school corridors (in progress); Architect drawings for development of new STEAM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) in old convent section; Development of teachers' lounge on first floor (in progress); Development of drawings for entrance area to school, reception and administrative offices; Look into soundproofing of the cafeteria; Possible replacement of interior classroom doors and exterior doors to new security doors; Rubberized mulch in playground area to replace regular mulch; Redevelopment of gym entrance area; Refurbishing of toilets in cafeteria area; Possible new ramp to Kindergarten/preschool entrance; and Development of Student Remote Learning Room (in progress).

Some of these projects have been funded by State grants, parish/school structural funds, as well as gifts and bequests from parishioners. It is our intention to continue to redevelop St. Dominic school infrastructure and campus and also to build an outstanding Catholic education program for our children today and tomorrow. Thank you for making that happen and for all your support of St. Dominic School and Parish. With God all things are possible and through you He makes great things happen.

Fr. Ben, Fr. Jim, Fr. Chris, Jenny O'Brien

St. Dominic Third Trimester Award and Recognition Assembly

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Students in grades 4-8 are eligible for this award. These students demonstrate the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in school, on the playground and the parish. These students show thoughtfulness to others, respect the differences in others, demonstrate the ability to make good choices in difficult situations, respect property and authority figures, show forgiveness toward others and participate appropriately in Mass.

Congratulations to:

4th grade: 4A Maddox Thomas and Conner Rafferty; 4B Cora Remmel and Hudson Szary
 5th grade: 5A Karalina Wilson and Jalynn Borros; 5B Lucas Sand and Betelihim Ghirmatsion
 6th grade: 6A Brayden McCloud and Camila Cruz Garcia; 6B Aubrey Moore and Tyler Pennekamp
 7th grade: 7A Layla Heltman and Leamon Wells; 7B Jackson Mayer and Grace Schotte

THE KIND FRIEND AWARD

Students in Kindergarten through third grade are eligible for this award. These students regularly go out of their way to be nice to others, do nice things, listen attentively to their friends, are aware of others' feelings and show loyalty to their friends.

Congratulations to:

Kindergarten: KA Rose Kelly and Kerrigan Barrett; KB Baylee Busch and Aiden Myers
 1st grade: 1A Kaylie Valladares and Chloe Criswell; 1B Colton Perkins and Elois Clarke
 2nd grade: 2A Ella Remmel and Jackson Osterhage; 2B Mia Lopez Velazquez and Zayden Downing
 3rd grade: 3A Journey Moser and Melody McCorkle; 3B Alexandra Fiorante and Moira Singleton

POLITE AND CARING AWARD

Students in Kindergarten through third grade are eligible for this award. These students are always polite, act in ways they know are right and safe.

Congratulations to:

Kindergarten: KA Xyla Davis and Noah Perkins; KB Janelly Cruz Garcia and Chase Vestring
 1st grade: 1A Rozlin Giles and Royal Madaris; 1B Khaleesi Fultz and Jax Francisco
 2nd grade: 2A Molly Starkey and Mauricio Hernandez Velazquez; 2B Karol Lerdo and Evelyn Enlund
 3rd grade: 3A Ami Sene and Harley Roth; 3B DJ Evans and Isabella Zerilla

HONOR ROLL

Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to earn first and second honors each trimester of the school year. Students earning first honors have received all As in their academic subjects, and no 1s in behavior. Students earning second honors have all As and/or Bs in their academic subjects and no 1s in personal behavior. Here are the students who earned honors this trimester.

Congratulations to:

4th grade:

FIRST HONORS: Campbell Chouteau, Oliver Durban, Mary Goins, Mikalya Kimball, Addison Miller, Jayden Prost, Lillian Rich, Jeremiah Valladares, Quinn Nauman, Lily Osterhage, Cora Remmel, Kellan Sorrell, Evelyn Stahlheber
SECOND HONORS: Lexi Bass, Maci Bollin, Clyde Gober, Gibson Stenger, Maddox Thomas, Caroline Wellbrock, Bryce Williams, Scarlet Brower, Joshua Coleman, Lucy Hignite, Nova Mabjish, JJ Nester, Christopher Nixon, Emilia Schotte, Sophia Thomas, Ace Wiehe, Isabelle Williams

5th grade:

FIRST HONORS: Millie Fahrian, Hayley Flaspohler, Elena Lerdo, Mera Lothes, Parker Mayer, Matthew Schlanser, Jalynn Borros, Courtney Landers, Hannah Lynn, Karalina Wilson
SECOND HONORS: Marken Aklilu, Kenny Blackmore, Paige Criswell, Belelihim Ghirmatsion, Lucas Sand, Kylie Whittle, Mika Aklilu, Brandon Anderson, Aaron Ayalew, Avery Branam, Reagan Holthause, Alex Lahni, Isla Matibiri, Cruz Strayhorn

6th grade:

FIRST HONORS: George Goins, Reece Montgomery, Aubrey Moore, AJ Nauman, Tyler Pennekamp, Morgan Remmel
SECOND HONORS: Rylie Chouteau, Avery Grosjean, Michael Harris, Sean Homan, Aliyah Mabjish, Averi Mullins, Rebecca Niermann, Gerson Salvador-Nolasco, Brynn Raley, Andrew Starkey, Andrew Tuemler, Hannah Walter, Abigail Williams, Audrey Wilson.

7th grade:

FIRST HONORS: Owen Gentile, Lunden Strayhorn, Ultan Delaney, Kent Sokolis, George Pepples
SECOND HONORS: Noah Bardono, Brysen Bishop, Luke Bizailon, Chase Dreiling, Sophia Lynn, Caleb McKeon, Grace Schotte, Olivia Tolliver, Valerie Hernandez Velazquez, Josie Hollander, Clara Honnert, Zach Railey, Conner Watson, Lauren Childs, Ella Kruessel, Charlie Gibbs, Trey Hyland, Raegan Lahni

ESAP AWARDS:

The Butch and Karen Hubert Scholarship recognizes one girl and one boy in 7th grade at participating schools for giving of their time and talent to help others. The following students were awarded the ESAP Butch and Karen Hubert Scholarship:

Owen Gentile and Ella Kruessel

STUDENT COUNCIL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The students selected for this award demonstrate a positive attitude, good effort, are cooperative, and demonstrate Christian values.

Congratulations to:

Kindergarten: Owen Koch
 1st grade: Ivy Thomas
 2nd grade: Kenzie Rafferty
 3rd grade: Cecilia Schroeder
 4th grade: Emilia Schotte
 5th grade: Mera Lothes
 6th grade: Morgan Rimmel
 7th grade: Raquel Duffy

JAKE & SYDNEY WITTICH SCHOLARSHIPS

These two scholarships were established in memory of Jake and Sydney (former students of St. Dominic School) so their spirit will continue to live and so that other children will have the same educational opportunities. The students selected for this award show respect for others and their families are willing to make sacrifices for their Catholic education.

Congratulations to:

Jake Wittich Scholarship: George Goins and Andrew Tuemler
 Sydney Wittich Scholarship: Mary Goins and Clara Honnert

PATRICK J. COTTINGHAM II SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Cottingham was a Science teacher at St. Dominic from 1974-2004. That's 30 years! Mrs. Cottingham wants to help students continue their love of science. This scholarship goes to one boy and one girl currently enrolled in the 7th grade each having a love of science, good Christian character, and grades commensurate with their academic ability.

Congratulations to:

Josie Hollander and Brysen Bishop

St. Dominic Class of 2024

Braydon Bishop
 Meredith Breeden
 Brayden Broxterman
 Lilith Dailey
 Wesley Durban
 Nicholas Fettig
 Christopher Gatliff
 Reagan Helling
 Dalton Hiatt
 Landon Hogel
 Adin Hollingsworth

Riley Johnson
 Sean Jones
 Skylie Love
 Annabelle Luebbering
 Melina Mendez Kiefer
 Isabelle McDonald
 Noah Nauman
 Josie Newland
 Kraig Ray
 Malayah Sadler
 Leah Schwartz

Anna Shattuck
 Bailee Smith
 Colton Stryker
 Lillie Thai
 Carolina Tirado
 David Tirado
 Sebastian Valladares

Goldenaires

Aging in Place - Join us at Our Lady of Victory on July 22 at 11:00 a.m. when Karen Austin from Home Instead will discuss resources for the complex processes needed to set up Aging in Place. Reservations are limited to allow for discussion and required by Wednesday, July 17. Refreshments will be provided. Afterward, we will play cards if anyone is interested. See bulletins for further information. Please RSVP to Amy Finke. Call or text 513-407-1023 or email amyfinke3@gmail.com.

Planning Meeting - Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Faith Sharing Room (St. Dominic Parish Center). This is open to anyone who wants to be involved in planning for events. Please call or text Marie Salem at 513-910-3938 if you plan to come. Or to give us any suggestions for activities. This will be to plan fall activities for the Goldenaires in the family of parishes.

IT Verdin Bell Company - There will be a talk given by Erika Brenner of the IT Verdin Bell Company on August 5, 7:00 p.m. at St. Simon Plagge Hall. This Cincinnati company has been in business for 182 years, does business worldwide, and is operated by the sixth generation of its founders. Please RSVP to Connie Baker. Call 513-941-3920 or email tandcbaker@yahoo.com by August 1.

St. Dominic Parish Festival Baskets & More

Our Festival is just around the corner, and we need your help to make our Baskets & More booth a success. Any donation would be appreciated! Here are some ideas:

Theme Baskets; Trips (Do you own a time share or a vacation home you would be willing to donate?); **Electronics; Gift certificates to restaurants or stores; Tickets to sporting events** (Reds, Bengals, XU, UC, FC Cincinnati, etc.); **Tickets to the movies or Cincinnati attractions** (zoo, aquarium, museums, Kings Island); **Sports memorabilia; Salon packages; Hotel packages; Jewelry; a Talent or Service** - planting flowers, landscaping services, carpentry, plumbing, baking cakes, hosting a dinner, brunch or hors d'oeuvres party, grass cutting, babysitting, sewing, tutoring, a haircut or color, DJ a party, musician for a wedding or a band for a party; **Do you own a business?** Consider a gift certificate; and - **CASH** is always welcome and will be used to create gift baskets, purchase items for the live auction, defray expenses, etc. **If possible, we would like to have all donations by Wednesday, July 10.** Please mark them for "Baskets & More." Include your name, if you want to be acknowledged, and the approximate value. You can drop off your donation at the Parish Office or we will be happy to arrange to pick up your items. If you have any questions, or need pick-up, please email baskets4stdfest@gmail.com and we will get back to you. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR generosity and support of "Baskets & More" and the Festival!**

MAJOR AWARD

1st Prize: \$10,000.00

2nd Prize: \$1,000.00

3rd Prize: \$500.00

Tickets are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100.00

All parishioners should have received six tickets in the mail for the Major Award. Tickets can be placed in the envelope provided and mailed, returned to the Gathering Place after Mass, dropped in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office. Tickets can be purchased in the Gathering Place after weekend Masses, online by scanning the QR Code or visiting our website at www.stdominicdelhi.org, click on the green Online Giving button on the left side of the page, scroll down to Major Award Raffle Tickets.



BOOTH SPONSORS NEEDED!

Advertise your business at our Festival by becoming a Booth Sponsor for \$100.00. We will have professionally made signs with your name hung in the booth for the entire weekend. Mail or drop off your donation and the Festival Booth Sponsor slip to the Parish Office by July 8, 2024.

ST. DOMINIC PARISH FESTIVAL

MAJOR AWARD

1st Prize \$10,000 | 2nd Prize \$1,000 | 3rd Prize \$500

MUSIC ~ GAMES ~ FOOD ~ RIDES

JULY 19, 20 & 21

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TRESSLER COMET	EXCALIBUR	THORNS
THE MENUES		VINYL COUNTDOWN

Volunteers are needed for the festival. Call or email Rich Hafner at richardfhafner@yahoo.com/513-658-7370 to sign up.

FESTIVAL BOOTH SPONSOR

Name for the Banner _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Contact Name _____

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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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