

The Torch



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

St. Dominic
Parish

Delhi Township,
OH

June 2024

Best Essay Ever!

Every year, the eighth graders submit short essays on Mary, that they compose with no outside "artificial intelligence" help. Fr. Chris, Deacon Mark, and I read them and pick the best three or four. The one who submits the best essay has the privilege of crowning the Blessed Mother at the School Mass. We all agreed that this year's winner, Kraig Ray, submitted the best essay we have seen in twenty years!

Fr. Jim

Below is the prompt used for the May Crowning essay. It was assigned to students during Religion class, and they had twenty minutes to write a spontaneous response. To ensure authentic work, students were not permitted to edit their work and did not have access to any online samples of similar essays. They did not know ahead of time when they would be writing the essay. Teacher Denise Luebbe

Prompt: Our Blessed Mother Mary is a beautiful example of courage, self-sacrifice, faith, and undying love for her Son, Jesus and for each of us. Write about how Mary inspires you in your life. Feel free to include a personal connection to Mary or an instance when you felt very close to her or were helped by her in some way. You may also include any special devotions you have dedicated to her and how you plan to keep her close to you as you move through your life.

The Essay Submitted by Kraig Ray

The Blessed Mary, the mother of our church, the mother to us. Mary, the holy figure who gave her life to God so his son could be born, the same son who gave his own life so that we may live with him in Heaven for eternity. Mother Mary, the woman who had to suffer the death of her child in front of her, the same woman who held his lifeless body against hers, even when he was still covered in the atrocities of the people who sent him to death. Mary our Mother, the Mother who was taken full body and soul to Heaven when it came her time, the same Mother who gave her body and soul to God. Our Mother Mary, the Mother that gave up everything she had to follow her son through his journey, even when she knew how it would end. Our Blessed Mary, the Mother that comforts us when others cannot, the same Mother who is there with us for every step of our lives. Our Mother, the same Mother known as Mary that is now everlasting in our faith, in our homes, and in our hearts. The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Motherly symbol of our faith that chose us and her son over everything else that she could've had, the same Mary that is treated like a queen of the people but is named and idolized as the Mother of the people. Mary, I thank you from the bottom of my heart and from every inch of my soul, from the start of my life and to its end, I thank you for what you are to us and to me. My Mother Mary, I love you.

From Fr. Jim

What gives life to effective priests?

Thirty-six effective and respected priests, ordained over ten years, from four regions of the United States, met in Washington, D.C., Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Oakland, California, to talk about where they find life in the priesthood, what gives meaning to their lives, and what sustains them. In the three hour and thirty minutes of discussion in each of the four sessions, these patterns emerged.

It was very apparent that these priests were in touch with the activity and movement of God in their ministry and pastoral encounters. They all talked about their experience of God calling them to the priesthood and the Mystery in all that! They all recognized that their various assignments were really God's way of loving them, and in some cases, God's way of challenging them! There was a conviction that being a priest was a significant way to spend one's life, and that the call to that life was a mystery and a gift from God. One priest said: "I can't imagine a life in which my gifts could be used more!" Another said: "I deeply feel that a tremendous amount of what Jesus teaches is what the world needs. And it certainly is life-giving to me to know that I can help people be aware of that good news!"

Connected to the mystery of God's activity in their vocation and their assignments was their personal relationship with God, as beloved sons, and followers and friends of Jesus. They all had a deep sense of being loved by God! They talked about their spiritual lives as a "real energizing relationship with the Lord!" One priest put it this way: "I think that there is a spirit of gratitude among many of us, a sense of having been blessed and graced, and therefore, wanting to share that with other people." Another priest said: "Each day I realize more and more that God has loved me first, and what I am doing all through my life is responding to that love!"

Yes, the priests in our focus groups had strong spiritual lives that centered them and energized their ministry. Prayer, Scripture, and the Liturgy nourished and supported them. It was interesting that many of them mentioned that their prayer was very much connected with their ministry! Their dialogue with God was usually about their pastoral encounters! One priest, ordained thirty years, said: "My daily prayer energizes me! I say, 'Father, lead me to a deeper, closer relationship with the Lord Jesus, personally, and in the community!'" Another said: "I just can't imagine the past 25 years of my life without the nourishment of Scripture. It sustains me and keeps me alive! To have to deal with the Word of God every day and for a large community on Sundays draws the very best out of you!" Not surprising, presiding at Eucharist and preaching is at the heart of their lives as priests. "The Eucharist has given my life a certain focus and definition and summation that I need!"

All of these men are energized by the ministry itself. One described the ministry as "an adrenaline rush!" The variety of experiences, the surprises, the unplanned interruptions, being the spiritual leader of a parish and bringing to life the gifts of the community, being involved in the key moments and events of people's lives... all of these are life-giving! One priest talked about his ministry this way: "In my ministry, something is present beyond me. When I'm loving somebody, it's not just me. It's a bigger somebody!"

Being good stewards of their time is important to these men. They love their work, but they also treasure their time off. They realize that they can't meet all the demands of their time. One priest referred to his time for ministry as "intentional availability!"

These men spend quality time with family and close friends. To the priests in this study, celibacy does not preclude warm, close friendships. It is not surprising that the friendship and support of other priests is part of their lives. For these men, celibacy does not mean a life of loneliness. They have multiple close relationships with other priests, religious sisters, laymen, laywomen, and married couples. These relationships are life-giving!

These effective and respected priests seemed to share an underlying assumption that priesthood is not something for the priest. Priesthood is for the Church, the People of God! They all shared the understanding that all Christians are called to ministry by Baptism, and that the priest's real service to a congregation is to help the people realize that! To that end, the priest is really serving the movement of God in these parishioners. Being in on that movement and serving that movement energizes these men. Leadership for these men involves listening, animating, bringing to life the gifts of the baptized, and helping people realize their power. They are effective priests because they lead by serving. And that style of leadership enjoys the very power and energy of God!

Next month: How do these priests handle the controversies and scandals in the Church?

Summer Hours

The Parish Office hours are reduced for the summer. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-noon.

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.

Douglas Dwyer, husband of Teresa (Luken) and father of Heidi (Rob) Taylor, Candice Short, Krista (Nick) McGuire, Brianna Dwyer, Aimee Rouse, and James (Bethani) Rouse.

Patricia Entwhistle, mother of Melissa Ann and Katie Marie (Entwhistle) Edwards.

Thomas Austing, husband of Cathy Austing, father of Dan (Jill) Austing, Tim (Michelle) Austing, Tricia Austing and the late Brad (Kelly-living) Austing and Lori Austing.

Michael Spohr, husband of Julie Spohr (nee Murray), and father of Cathy (Rob) DeZarn, Paul (Angie) Spohr and the late Janice Wetterich, father-in-law of Scott Wetterich.

Mavourneen Kiely, mother of Douglas (Annie) Kiely, Andrew (Claire) Kiely and Patrick (Sara) Kiely.

Donna Bender, wife of Tom Bender and sister of Debby (George) Prichard, Richard J. (Maureen) Frank III, Duane (Beverly) Frank and the late Dirck Frank and David John Frank.

The Year of the Eucharistic Renewal

These words came to one of our parishioners while in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration.

Jesus our Lord:

"If you could see Me there, would you take your eyes off of Me?

I am there in that white Host, unseen but very real.

Be attentive to My Presence.

When you look at the Host you are looking at Love, for it is out of love that I am there, just for you My child, just for each one of My children.

Adore Me, just by looking at Me.

I am there looking at you, loving you and waiting for your love for Me."

Thank you, Lord Jesus!

- Fernanda Moreira



2024 Wedding Anniversaries

Married couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, or 75 years) in 2024 are invited to request a congratulatory certificate signed by Archbishop Schnurr. Individual couples may request a certificate online at <https://bit.ly/3lgyXfv>. If you have any questions, please contact cne@catholicaoc.org.

Requests must be made by June 15. The certificates will be sent to the St. Dominic Parish Office and held until our Anniversary Mass celebration in October.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MASS - In addition to receiving a certificate from Archbishop Schnurr, married couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2024 are invited to attend one of the following Golden Anniversary Masses: Saturday, September 7 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Tipp City; or Sunday, September 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, Cincinnati. Registration is required to attend one of the Golden Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Masses and can be done when requesting a certificate.

ST. DOMINIC ANNIVERSARY MASS - Here at St. Dominic we will also celebrate our Anniversary Couples. This will take place on October 20 at 9:30 a.m. Mass. If you will be celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th, 70th or 75th Wedding Anniversary in 2024, please contact the Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 0, no later than June 6.

St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Sunday

Do you have items cluttering up your home that you know would be of use to someone else? You're in luck! St. Vincent de Paul will have a truck in the parking lot after all the Masses on June 8 and 9 to accept your tax-deductible donations of gently-used clothing and household items. Receipts for tax purposes will be provided. NO refrigerators, TVs, microwaves, couches, recliners, beds, or mattresses. Thank you.

2024 Guide Book and Directory

In the Fall of 2024, St. Dominic Parish will publish a new Guide Book and Directory that will contain important information about the Parish. Included in the book will be a listing of all the households that are registered in the Parish and all the Ministries that are available for you to join so that you may share your gifts with your parish family. Each household will receive a free copy.

Our Guide Book and Directory will include the contact information that was collected last month with the Parish Census. We realize that some parishioners might not want to have their name, address and phone number included in this Directory. ***If you do not return this form, we will publish the information that we did last year. If your cell phone number is listed as the primary phone number, that is the number we will list in the Guide Book.***

Please check the number (1-4) below that corresponds to your wishes.

- ____ 1) Please include my name, address and home/cell number.
 ____ 2) Please include my name and address, but not my home/cell number.
 ____ 3) Please include my name but not my address or home/cell number.
 ____ 4) Please do not include my name, address, or home/cell number in the directory.

 Name

 Street Address

 City

 State

 Zip

 Home/Cell Phone Number

High School Graduates

Every summer, we publish the accomplishments of our high school seniors in *The Torch*. We would like to recognize **ALL** St. Dominic parishioners who are graduating from high school. If you are going to college or enlisting in the military, we would like to include that as well as any scholarships and special awards received. To keep up this tradition, we need your help. We need the graduate, parents, or grandparents to send us the following information:

- Student name
- High School attended
- College attending in the fall or branch of the Military
- Any awards received and **Scholarships accepted.**

You may email the information to mariam@stdominicdelhi.org or call the Parish Office at 513-471-7741, ext. 410. The deadline is July 5.

St. Dominic Goldenaires

REMINDER - The Goldenaires BB Riverboats Captain's Lunch is on Wednesday, June 12, for all those who made reservations. Board at 11:00 a.m. 101 Riverboat Row, Newport, KY 41071. If you have any questions, call Janice at 513-503-6754.

SAVE THE DATE - July 22, 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory. Karen Austin from Home Instead will discuss resources for the complex processes needed to set up Aging in Place. Reservations are required and limited to enable discussion. A light lunch will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE - August 5, 7:00 p.m. St. Simon will host a speaker from the Verdin Bell company. Reservations are required for setup of Plagge Hall.

See future bulletins for more information on upcoming events.

ST. DOMINIC
PARISH
FESTIVAL

MUSIC ~ GAMES ~ FOOD ~ RIDES

JULY 19, 20 & 21

THE MENUS | EXCALIBUR | VINYL COUNTDOWN

St. Dominic Parish Festival

Baskets & More

We are already hard at work preparing for the Baskets & More booth and we need your help to make this a BIG success. All the baskets and items will be under a tent outside on the grounds. Festival patrons will have the chance to win unique baskets of varying value! The baskets and other items will be raffled off on Sunday night. We will also have a Silent Auction all weekend long with closing bids on Sunday night.

To make Baskets & More a success, we need donations. Any donation would be greatly appreciated! Here are some possible donation 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; Do you own a business? Consider donating a gift certificate; 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; and – **CASH** is always welcome and will be used to create gift baskets, purchase items for the live auction, defray expenses, etc.

We will be happy to arrange to pick up your items or you can drop them off at the Parish Office. Please mark them for “Baskets & More,” include your name, if you want your name acknowledged, and approximate value. If you have any questions, email baskets4stdfest@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

ST. DOMINIC CHURCH
4551 DELHI PIKE
CINCINNATI, OH 45238
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 6356



We will not have any
Community Dinners during
the summer.

Our next Community Dinner will
be Wednesday, September 18

Mark your calendars.
We hope to see you there.

