

## **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Opportunities for Prayer and Healing**

It has been a very difficult past seven months for all of us, given the revelations made regarding the inexcusable actions by some of our bishops and other clergy, but also the sensational desire of some of our government agencies and media outlets to open up decades-old wounds which in many instances had already been reported and acknowledged and begun to heal. Even after a sweeping effort in 2002 to institute child-protection measures in the Church – which formed a model for other organizations to use – still many questions remain about our U.S. bishops' leadership. And much healing is needed for all of us who already struggle to live our Catholic faith in the face of a hostile secular culture. As a simple local priest who has committed myself to the mission of bringing souls to Christ through the New Evangelization, I often find myself frustrated and wondering “What is going on?!” and admitting to my own need for healing as I, too, suffer from the larger reality of a spiritual battle in progress.

As you may know, Pope Francis has called together an international gathering of the heads of the Episcopal Conferences (basically, bishops from each nation) to be held at the Vatican later this month (Feb 21-24), in order to get a handle on the various aspects of the latest wave of this crisis. The gathering has much potential for action and healing within the Church. I thought that given the importance of this upcoming summit, and the wounds we have all experienced from the scandal, that it might be a good opportunity for our local Hardin County parishes to do some things in relation to the summit: to pray for the success of the summit, and also to reflect on our own questions, experiences, and needs. As a body of disciples, we all need healing and encouragement.

Accordingly, I've been working with our staff to provide some opportunities for such prayer and healing for each of our Hardin County parishes. More information will be forthcoming, but these opportunities will likely involve a Novena that families can pray in the nine days leading up to the start of the Summit; some periods of Exposition to pray for the summit and the healing of the Church in the presence of Jesus; and some way for parishioners to share their questions, experiences, and needs. All these will be for the purposes of healing and fraternal support, in a safe and supportive environment. So, please keep your eyes and ears alert in the next couple of weeks for more information!

Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at [hamilton.college@outlook.com](mailto:hamilton.college@outlook.com) or at 419-634-2626.

### **DID YOU KNOW? A Note From Your Parish Finance Council**

[As indicated earlier, we will periodically be placing “blurbs” in the bulletin to make everyone aware of our practical, parish stewardship needs:]

The last fiscal year at Our Lady of Lourdes, we spent \$9,488 on utilities, which includes electric, gas, water, trash, internet, etc. We try to keep these costs down by wise management of our usage of utilities and also by taking advantage of Diocesan Central Purchasing bulk contract opportunities when they offer better deals. However, we are still running short in covering our parish expenses. Please consider an increase in your Weekly Offertory, which provides the vast majority of our needed parish income. Thanks for your generosity and support of our parish family!



### **THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by “Jackie”, the Pastor’s Cat**

Hi boys and girls! My name is “Jackie”, and as you know, I am Father Ferguson’s cat. Kids, it’s been cold outside!!! Instead of saying “purrrrrr”, lately, I’ve been saying “brrrrrrr”! I haven’t gone outside too much the past few days, because it can be unsafe to be in such cold temperatures for too long! But we cats have it lucky...we always have a fur coat on, and when it gets *really* cold, we cats just grow more fur! (which is always fun to shed in the spring, though Father never seems happy about that....) But you humans have it tougher...you always have to remember to put on your extra layers, your coats, hats, mittens, boots, scarves....sounds like a lot of work! But since you can’t grow fur like us cats, please make sure you dress warmly when you go outside! Jesus wants you to stay safe! Have a “purr”-fect (or “brrr”-fect) week!

## Pope Francis appoints Robert J Brennan 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Columbus

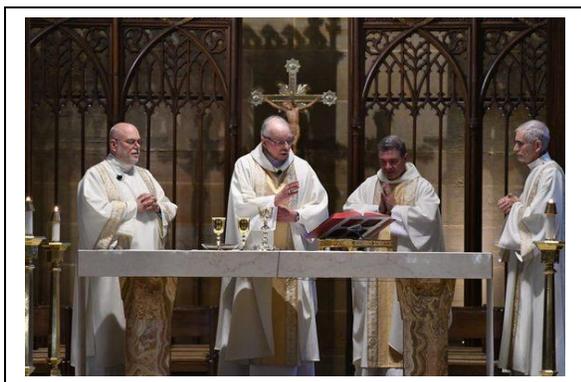
The Vatican announced today that Pope Francis has appointed the Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, as the 12th Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus and has accepted the resignation of the Most. Rev. Frederick F. Campbell.

As required by the Church's Code of Canon Law, bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope on reaching the age of 75. As such, Bishop Campbell submitted his letter of resignation to Pope Francis last year. "I thank all the clergy and faithful that I have had the pleasure to lead during my tenure here in Columbus," Bishop Campbell said. "I am sure the people of our Diocese will welcome Bishop Brennan to Central Ohio and extend to him all of the courtesies and prayerful support I have enjoyed. Each bishop brings his own specific talents and gifts to their ministry, and I have every confidence that Bishop Brennan will use his special gifts to serve as a good and faithful shepherd. I ask all to pray for Bishop Brennan as he begins this new journey."

"It makes me incredibly happy to walk this journey with you, to lead the Church of Columbus, to serve as your Pastor," Bishop Brennan said. "I look forward to walking the journey with you as your pastor, sharing the 'Joy of the Gospel' and the 'Splendor of Truth.' I am already praying fervently for the Church of Columbus every day. May I humbly ask your prayers for me."

The Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan was born June 7, 1962, in the Bronx, New York. The oldest of five children, Bishop Brennan has two brothers, two sisters, and 14 nieces and nephews. He was raised in Lindenhurst, New York, where his parents still reside. He attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School and Saint John the Baptist Diocesan High School, West Islip, New York, and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from Saint John's University, Queens, New York. He studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, New York, and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre by the Most Rev. John R. McGann on May 27, 1989. He was first assigned to the Church of Saint Patrick in Smithtown, New York, and was later appointed Secretary to the Bishop. He was named Prelate of Honor to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, with the title of monsignor, in 1996. In 2002, he was named vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and in 2010 he was named pastor of the Church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Long Beach, New York, a post he held until his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop in 2012. He served on the board of directors for Catholic Health Services of Long Island, the Bishop's Advisory Committee for Catholic Education, as well as several other diocesan boards. He also served as chaplain for the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Nassau County and says Mass regularly for the Dominican Sisters of Amityville. Bishop Brennan speaks Spanish and works closely with the Latino community. He often celebrates Mass in Spanish, including Mass in the Nassau County Correctional Facility.

The Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D., is a native of Elmira, New York. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and foreign language from Saint Lawrence University, Canton, New York, and obtained his master's degree and doctorate in history from The Ohio State University. Prior to entering the seminary in 1976, he served as a history professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum and as an assistant professor of history at California State College in San Bernardino. After studying at the Saint Paul Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota, he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis by the Most Rev. John R. Roach on May 31, 1980. Campbell served as an associate pastor and pastor in the Archdiocese until Pope John Paul II named him Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in 1999. He was appointed the 11th Bishop of Columbus October 14, 2004, by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He was installed at Columbus' St. Joseph Cathedral on January 13, 2005. In July 2002, Bishop Campbell became rector and vice president of the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. He also served as chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate from 2004 to 2006. Among his many community involvements, Bishop Campbell sits on the boards of Ohio Dominican University, Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, the Catholic Foundation, the Kinder Women's Care Center, and the Pontifical College Josephinum, where he is the Vice Chancellor.



The formal installation of Bishop Brennan as Bishop of Columbus has been scheduled for Friday, March 29, at St. Joseph Cathedral. In the interim, Bishop Campbell will serve as apostolic administrator of the Diocese until the official transfer of authority to Bishop Brennan.