

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Welcome Back Polar Bears!

Today we here at Our Lady of Lourdes are happy to welcome back the Ohio Northern students as they begin their new school year this week! Today after the 11:00 Mass, we are hosting a welcome-back reception for our ONU students. Please plan to attend to show our students how much we support them in their faith during their college years.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been getting acquainted with all that goes on with the spiritual life of our students on the ONU campus. I've met with Rev. David MacDonald, the general university chaplain, as well as Ms. Gretchen Horning who is the President of the Catholic "Newman Club" this year, and I am impressed with all that is available to our young Catholic students here on campus. Right from the get-go, the Newman students will be involved with the "Welcome Fest" on campus later today, as well as "Spirit Space" on Tuesday evening, where the student body can come and learn more about the Catholic faith and the Newman Club. Rev. MacDonald has also asked me to come to one of the campus' general Thursday prayer services later in September to give a brief presentation about what the Catholic Church is all about. And it sounds like the Newman Club will be continuing its regular gatherings of Catholic students that I've heard is dubbed "PB&J": "Polar Bears and Jesus".

I was very excited at the opportunity to serve as Newman Club chaplain when the Diocese asked me earlier this summer to fill the pastorate of Our Lady of Lourdes. Having lived on a regular campus during my college years long before I later went into seminary, I know first-hand some of the challenges that come at the souls of our young adult Catholics during a very vulnerable time of life. College can be (and was for me, too) a very positive time full of good opportunities. But college can also be one of the most challenging times of life. Often away from home for the first time in life, college students can find themselves subject to a host of struggles: figuring out their self-identity; worrying about future life plans; deeper questions about God and faith; having their Catholic faith challenged out-right by anti-Catholicism; peer pressure into unholy activities; deeper questions and temptations regarding relationships, purity, and the positive meaning of sexuality; and the prevalence of relativism and atheism in many current academic circles....just to name a few. With such a confusing and challenging phase of life, it is critical that we help our students find solid answers, guidance, and truth in the source of all love and truth: Jesus Christ, through the Church that He founded. We are the faith that believes in a healthy compatibility between faith and reason, since all truth is rooted in God. And we are also the faith that believes that all human persons are called to holiness, and that real holiness is indeed possible and leads to our true happiness: both in this world, and, more importantly, in the eternal life to come – the life that our students are called to prepare for as well.

With all these important issues affecting the souls of our Polar Bears, it is gratifying to see such an active Newman Club on campus, as well as the strong support of our parishioners. Please pray intensely for the faith of our students – new and returning – as we begin a new school year!

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

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! You know, kids, to be honest, I am not feeling so well. You know why? Well, last Sunday I went to the big parish festival in Kenton. And, I think I over-did it. I was so excited about being there at the festival and having fun that I ate not just one chicken dinner, but four (we cats really love to eat birds). And, I drank not just one dish of milk, but six. And then I jumped around the bouncy house for two hours, and I ran around in the hot sun all afternoon. To finish it all off, I ate 3 cones of catnip-flavored cotton candy, and 2 cones of tuna-flavored ice cream. I thought it was great at the time, but since then, I have not felt so well. I've told Fr. Ferguson not to give me tummy rubs all week. Kids, I think I learned a lesson: it's great to have a good time and to have fun, but we have to be careful not to over-do it. Maybe as I get ready for the parish picnic at the church in Ada next week, I will resolve to eat only one tuna-burger, and not five. That way I can enjoy the good times that God wants me to have, and still be healthy and happy! Have a "purr"-fect week!

The Great Adventure continues! *The Bible Timeline* is a Catholic Bible study that can help anyone to make sense of the Bible and experience the life-changing power of God's Word. The study takes you on a journey through the entire Bible and brings you deep into each period of salvation history, so that you can discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. The study includes a series of twenty-four videos presented by Jeff Cavins and a lively group discussion. The group completed the first eight sessions early last year, the schedule for the next 16 sessions is as follows:

The Bible Timeline - Session 9-16 - 6:30 pm in the parish hall

<u>Date - 2018</u>	<u>Session Topic</u>
9/19	Conquest and Judges: Part 1 - Joshua
9/26	Conquest and Judges: Part 2 - Judges & Ruth
10/3	Royal Kingdom: Part 1 - 1 Samuel
10/10	Royal Kingdom: Part 2 - 2 Samuel & 1 Kings
10/17	Divided Kingdom: Part 1 - 1 Kings & 2 Kings
10/24	Divided Kingdom: Part 2 - 1 Kings & 2 Kings
10/31	Exile - 2 Kings
11/7	Return - Ezra & Nehemiah



<u>Date - 2019</u>	<u>Session Topic</u>
1/16	Maccabean Revolt - 1 Maccabees
1/30	Messianic Fulfillment: Part 2 - Luke
2/13	The Church: Part 1 - Acts
2/27	The Church: Part 3 - Acts & Conclusion
1/23	Messianic Fulfillment: Part 1 - Luke
2/6	Messianic Fulfillment: Part 3 - Luke
2/20	The Church: Part 2 - Acts

In addition to the 24 session *The Bible Timeline* Study Kit/Textbook, participants receive a color-coded *Bible Timeline* Chart for a one-time fee of \$35 (due at the first session or before). To Register as a returning or as a new participant, please sign up by September 2 on one of the Adult Faith Formation Registration Sheets in the vestibule or email the office (oll@wcoil.com) or AFF Coordinator Desiree Tosatto (desireet2@gmail.com) **New Participants please sign up early so we can get your supplies in time!**



Come and See!

Do you have a non Catholic family member or friend who might like to know more about the Catholic faith or know of someone who was baptized Catholic but has been away from the Church? Perhaps you know someone who has been coming to Mass for a while, but is not Catholic. **Invite them** to look deeper into the richness of Catholicism! Come with them to meet with other faithful Catholics who are serving as catechists in the RCIA program. **RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**, is a restoration of the ancient practice, which began around 350, as a way for the Church to welcome adults into the Community of Believers. It enables people to either embrace the Faith for the first time or helps those baptized as Catholics to complete their faith formation. It is a process of discerning the stages of conversion leading to sacramental initiation. It is a time of inquiry, learning, prayer, and discovery of community. Those participating have the opportunity to ask questions about the Church and to hear about the message of Jesus Christ and how it is lived out in the Catholic Church. **An RCIA Introductory Session is on September 23 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.** For more info and to register for this year's RCIA, email our RCIA Director Desiree Tosatto at desireet2@gmail.com or through the office at oll@wcoil.com. You are also welcome to contact Father Ferguson at hamilton.college@outlook.com for more information about the RCIA process.