

## **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Church Cell Phone Towers? Who knows!**

It has been suggested that Z-Mobile, a cell phone service provider, has recently purchased from the FCC a new bandwidth of frequencies for repurposing for use for cell phone calls. They say this will help meet increasing cell phone usage needs across the country. As part of this cell phone service expansion, Z-Mobile needs to erect at least 1000 new cell towers nationally. In order to be environmentally friendly, and in order to also “give back” to local communities and to support church congregations, Z-Mobile has inaugurated its “Church Steeple Cell Phone Tower Rental Program”. With this program, Z-Mobile will pay local churches a handsome monthly rent for the privilege of installing cell phone towers on church steeples.

The word on the street is that Mr. Bruce Smith, of the Diocese’s Buildings Office, said, “This is a great opportunity, since church steeples are typically the highest physical points in any area, and this program is a win-win: the cell phone company does not have to purchase new property for towers, and the local parish gets a good supplemental source of funding to help with local programs such as youth ministry, etc. In fact, just yesterday, our new Bishop, Bishop Bradley, wrote his first memo as Bishop on this subject, asking all parishes to consider this new program which I hear is being implemented across the nation.”

Indeed, here in Hardin County, the steeples of Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception churches are among the highest points in Ada and Kenton, respectively. The additional height needed to install the cell towers would not be considerable; just enough to get the receivers above the tree lines. In its “Church Steeple” program, Z-Mobile offers color options for the tower lattice-work, so that it can match either the white clapboard siding of Ada, or the red brickwork of Kenton, in order to better blend the tower into the church building.

They say installation is easy. For an additional bonus paid to the parish, Z-Mobile allows the local parishes to do the installation of the towers according to an easy-to-use installation kit that comes with a booklet with many pictures, parts labelled A-ZY, and written in 5 languages. The plan is to make use of our Ada and Kenton parish Youth Groups to do the installation. Teens love adventure, and who among them can’t resist the challenge to scale our steeples and wield dangerous tools around? And our parish teens, as their parents can testify, are known to be very good about always following written instructions accurately. In fact, to provide incentive to complete the installation quickly, we will have the Youth Groups compete against each other in a contest to see which ‘team’ (the Bulldogs or the Wildcats) can complete their church steeple cell tower first. Z-Mobile got wind of this contest and has agreed to sponsor, for free, the prize: each member of the winning team will each receive their own brand new “iPhone IQ”, which is just about to hit the market. This latest smartphone has a new feature which, by pointing the phone’s camera at the user’s eyes, can read his or her thoughts and transcribe them into text for later editing or messaging.

With the warming temps, Z-Mobile is anxious to begin installation. Therefore, the Youth Groups should gather at each parish after school, tomorrow (Monday).....April 1.

## **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 what? Tomorrow is April Fool’s Day! That’s right! It’s a chance to play a friendly trick on someone for good humor. Jesus wants us to have fun – he had lots of friends growing up in Nazareth, too – but we should be careful not to be mean with our humor. I learned this lesson the hard way. Today, to get ready for April Fool’s Day, I decided to put some of my cat food into Father Ferguson’s cereal box. But then, he just had a bowl, and he was not happy. That’s why I’m writing this column while grounded inside my cat carrier!

Oh well...I guess some people just don’t appreciate feline humor! Have (friendly) fun with your friends on April Fool’s Day! And have a “purr”-fect week!



Pick up and use your Rice Bowls to collect loose change and your sacrificial donations throughout Lent! Proceeds benefit Catholic Relief Services. There is also a Catholic Relief Services envelope included in your box of envelopes. *Holy Thursday Mass will include a time to bring up your Rice Bowl Offerings.*

## The Catholic Church responds to disasters!

**In the United States:** Catholic Charities USA responds to flooding in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri. The current round of flooding, triggered by a brutal “bomb cyclone” storm, is expected to persist across several states. Additionally, snowmelt and spring rains could create additional flooding in the weeks ahead.

AccuWeather Meteorologist Paul Pastelok said, "El Niño is likely to persist through the spring and not weaken like it usually does this time of the year." Translation: While the storms probably won't reach “bomb cyclone” intensity, there will remain the risk of strong storms into May.

Catholic Charities USA is the official domestic relief agency of the US Catholic Church. Their disaster response teams – along with the knowledge and expertise of our member agencies – mobilize quickly and effectively to aid those experiencing or recovering from disasters.

Go to <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org> to donate or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org). Checks also may be sent to the diocesan finance office with “Midwest flooding” in the memo line.

**Globally:** CRS responds to widespread destruction in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe from Tropical Cyclone Idai which has caused massive damage to infrastructure and killed upwards of 200 people, affecting 600,000 others.

### **Here's what we know so far (March 20):**

- Tropical Cyclone Idai initially hit moving to Zimbabwe and Malawi in Southern Africa. It has destroyed roads, bridges and crops, and thousands of people have lost their homes. The death toll could be higher than 1,000 people, according to media reports.
- CRS is working with local partners in all three countries to support 4,000 households with food, emergency shelter, water and living supplies for flood-affected families. CRS also will work with partners to rehabilitate shelters and sanitation facilities and provide access to agricultural supplies and grants for those in urban areas.

For more information go to: <https://www.crs.org/media-center/news-release/catholic-relief-services-crs-mounts-regional-response-devastating-cyclone> or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

# April ~ 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>4</b> No Mass 11:00 am Men's Group	<b>5</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b> followed immediately by <b>Exposition and Adoration</b> until Noon 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Soup Supper	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm Confessions 6:30 pm <b>Mass</b>
<b>7</b> 9:45 am PSR K-12 11:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>11</b> No Mass	<b>12</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b> 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Soup Supper	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Confessions 6:30 pm <b>Mass</b>
<b>14</b> 11:00 am <b>Mass</b> 1:00 pm RCIA Retreat  <i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</i>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b> 6:00 pm Chrism Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus	<b>17</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>18 Holy Thursday</b> 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	<b>19 Good Friday</b> 12:00 pm Mime Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy	<b>20 Holy Saturday</b> 7:30 pm Server Rehearsal 8:30 pm Easter Vigil Liturgy
<b>21</b> 11:00 am <b>Mass</b>  <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>25</b> No Mass	<b>26</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 pm Confessions 6:30 pm <b>Mass</b>
<b>28</b> 11:00 am <b>Mass</b> 12:00 pm Cookbook Sign & Sales  <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am <b>Mass</b>	<p>Our Lady of Lourdes Parish &amp; Newman Center</p> <p>Church: 300 East Highland Avenue, Ada ~ Office &amp; Mailing: 222 East Highland Avenue, Ada - 45810</p> <p>Phone: 419-634-2626 ~ email: <a href="mailto:oll_wcoil.com">oll_wcoil.com</a> ~ on the web: <a href="http://oll-ada.com">oll-ada.com</a></p>			