

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: The Bishop's Annual Appeal!

“God Makes Every Grace Abundant” is the theme for the **2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA)**.

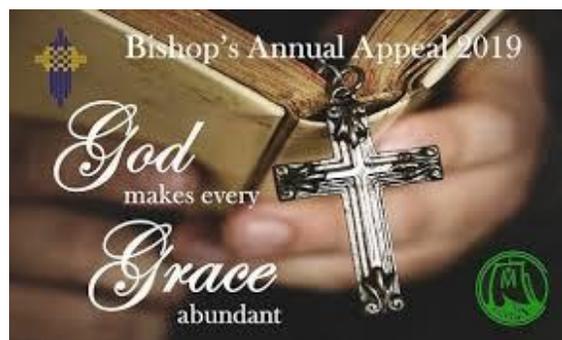
The BAA raises essential funds for a host of services, ministries, and needs throughout our local diocese. It helps us to form bonds with our fellow Catholics in Central Ohio. It is very different from the weekly offertory. The weekly offertory “pays the bills” of our parish family here at Our Lady of Lourdes. The BAA, on the other hand, assists with the programs and offices led by the Bishop which benefit all parishes and Catholics in our 23-county Diocese, including Hardin County. It is a wonderful way to join in solidarity with the rest of the Catholic community of Central Ohio in proclaiming the Gospel.

The BAA helps us here in Hardin County. My staff and I frequently rely upon many of our diocesan offices and programs, including the Chancery, Finance Office, Self-Insurance Office, diocesan legal staff, Buildings Superintendent Office, Missions Office, Office of Religious Education, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Office of the Diaconate, and more. Many of these services (which are provided to us usually for free) would cost us a great deal if we had to “outsource” them. The BAA also supports outreach to the poor and seniors, and training for priests, deacons, and seminarians. Our diocese now has the largest number of seminarians in decades, and the tuition for their years of study for the priesthood is funded from the monies raised by the BAA. **I would not be a priest today without the tuition aid of the BAA.**

The 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal begins at Our Lady of Lourdes next week. Our parish has been asked to contribute a total of **\$18,632**. Based on your past generous participation, I am confident we can attain this goal. I ask each family to participate through a gift of at least \$400. This is about a dollar a day. I know that some cannot contribute that much, while others could contribute much more. I hope you will consider a gift in proportion to your means and abilities, as I pledge to make my own personal gift in excess of that amount.

One important reminder about the BAA: Any funds we raise above the goal of \$18,632 are returned to our parish 100%, free from any diocesan “tax” (most parish fund drives are “taxed” 6% by the diocese). **I would like to continue saving and using this “overage” from the BAA for the purposes of capital maintenance repair and improvement.** We have had several recent maintenance projects that cannot be funded fully by the weekly offertory, and we do not want to keep drawing down our long-term parish savings to cover those expenses. So, using the BAA “overage” is a wise way to fund major maintenance and other capital needs. The Finance Council has also been compiling a long-term facility improvement plan to keep us on track with eventual repairs that we know we will have to deal with in the future. Some examples include our aging roof on the main church and our aging HVAC systems. Addressing these and future maintenance needs will help ensure that our parish will continue to be able to serve Hardin County for many years to come. Please be generous in supporting these capital needs of our parish, which will be a valuable investment in the future life of our parish and its facilities.

Next Sunday, we will offer you the opportunity to make your BAA pledge after the homily at Mass. As I make my own pledge, I ask you to please respond generously as well. Remember, all contributions are tax-deductible, and can, if you wish, be paid in monthly installments for the coming year. **I thank you for your consideration, and I also thank our dedicated BAA team volunteers for their time and effort!**



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. Today is a special day. That’s right! It’s “**Vocations Awareness Day!**” A “vocation” is some special way God wants you to serve Him in this world: either as a mom or dad someday (today’s Mother’s Day, too!), or as a priest (like Fr. Ferguson or Fr. Jeffrey), or as a deacon (like Dcn. Mike) or as a religious monk or nun (like so many who serve in schools, hospitals, or in foreign countries!) What do you think Jesus wants you to do as a “vocation” when you grow up? Why not pray to Jesus today and ask Him? Have a “purr”-fect week!



Vacation Bible School 2019

S’more Stories with Jesus!

VBS will be held Monday, July 29 to Thursday, August 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

We have filled our leadership spots and now need to fill in with helpers!

Adults and young people Grade 5 who would like to volunteer to help with VBS are invited to fill out and turn in a VBS registration form ASAP so we can have one more meeting with the full VBS staff.

We accept children ages 4 years to 4th Grade as regular participants; older children can participate AND help! Children younger than four may attend but only as long as a parent or guardian can stay with them the entire time. *Many of our helpers are also parents of younger children!*

We will be handing out VBS Registration Forms in the PSR classes; extra forms will be left on the table in the vestibule. Return forms via the collection, by mail to the office, or in the basket labeled “VBS” in the vestibule.

COOKBOOKS are available for purchase (\$7 each) – call or email the office (634-2626 or oll@wcoil.com) to place your order!

We Pray for Mothers

Loving God, we ask your blessings on all mothers.
May they be inspired with your mercy, wisdom,
strength and selfless love.

For new mothers with new responsibilities; For expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
For those who are tired, stressed or depressed; For those who balance the tasks of work and family;
For those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities; For those who raise children on their own;
For those who struggle to feed their children due to poverty; For those who selflessly place their child for adoption;
For those who adopt a child into their family; For those who have lost a child;
For those who care for the children of others; For those whose children have left home;
For those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good.