

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: A Special Visitor!also: New Priests!

Every year, the Diocese of Columbus asks each parish to host and take up a collection for a representative from a missionary program. There are many religious orders and overseas dioceses who are on the “front lines” of engaging in missionary work to non-Christians, or who deal with the challenges of building a Catholic community and presence in a largely non-Christian setting. In a spirit of solidarity, we have the opportunity each year to listen to and to offer support for such a group. This summer, our Hardin County parishes will be visited by a representative of the missionary Diocese of Sindhurg, India. We were initially going to have the Archbishop of this diocese come to the United States to speak to our parishes and several others in central Ohio, but he has just been taken ill, and another representative will be here to take his place. One can only imagine the challenges of building a Catholic community in a country like India with all its challenges of poverty and also in the context of the prevailing non-Christian culture. Our visitor from the Diocese of Sindhurg will be here in our parish of Our Lady of Lourdes later this month, June 22/23, to share more about those challenges and their need for our help and support. Please be generous in your welcome and support of our special visitor from India!

Closer to home, in our own efforts to spread the Gospel here in Central Ohio, we are blessed this weekend to celebrate the ordination of 4 men to the priesthood of our Diocese of Columbus! The ordinations took place yesterday (Saturday). They will be a great blessing to our entire local Catholic community, as they bring the Holy Eucharist at Mass to so many who desire to encounter the Lord Jesus in our Catholic faith. Please pray for their spiritual protection and continue to pray for and encourage the young men of our parish to be open to the call of the Lord for them to give their lives for Jesus as a priest! (And also, as a reminder, please continue to support the BAA, since the BAA covers the tuition expenses of training seminarians in the many years it takes to become a priest, and many seminarians would never be able to afford the cost without the help of the BAA!)

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.

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. We thank those who have already been giving sacrificially. But if you have not been giving as much as you could to share in supporting our parish family, 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. Did you know that tomorrow is “Memorial Day”? That’s right! It’s a special holiday that our nation observes every year at the end of May. It gives us a chance to remember and to thank God for all the brave men and women who died in order to defend our great nation! There’s a lot of “bad guys” out there around the world who try to harm our country. So, we need brave folks to defend us, like soldiers, sailors, and marines! Ever since the United States was born during the American Revolution, lots of brave folks have given their lives to protect us! And that’s fortunate, because we would not want some foreign dictator to overtake the United States and boss us around and take away our freedoms and take away our tuna! So, this Memorial Day weekend, why not take a few moments and pray to God and thank Him for protecting our great Republic and giving us the ability to worship and prepare for Heaven in freedom and peace! Have a “purr”-fect week!



More Volunteer News and Opportunities!

We don't have a lot of pictures of volunteers behind the scenes but THANK YOU! to all who make time to help out around our parish home! Jillian and Cash Hazelton, along with "Nana" Lisa Ferguson got the hedges trimmed in time for First Communion!



At the end of the Bazaar and as a special service last fall, the Tobe children – Jenna, Blake, Faith, and Ian – all came in to scrub the hall floors using steam mop, regular mop, dust mop, broom, and vacuum!



Phi Mu Delta men are annual service visitors – shown clearing the gutters and roof of the garage in 2016. They have also painted classrooms and washed walls!

Our own Newman Club cleans pews every year and we welcome the annual ONU A.C.E. Day and L.O.V.E. days when we get 6-12 ONU students to give us a couple hours of their time for parish projects.

A few of our parishioners regularly stop by to spray or pull weeds. Jim Schieltz and John Lomax are working on getting our lawns back after all the drainage work we had done last year.

We do need help with the upkeep of the grounds and gardens! We have one person who mows the main areas of the lawn – the weeding, trimming, hedge trimming, weed wacking, stick-picking-up, and all the rest is up to the church secretary (☺) and volunteers!

If you would be willing to “take charge” of an area of the parish grounds, please sign up on the ‘map’ of the grounds that is on the counter in the kitchen in the parish hall.

If you (a family project?) would like to paint the little shed out back, please let deb know. We need it painted white so that it can be redecorated by the VBS participants at the end of July. *If you would like to volunteer as a helper for VBS – Vacation Bible School – please fill out and turn in a registration form! Forms are on the table in the vestibule.*

And once again: **Thank you to all who are already volunteering some of their time and energy and talent for our parish.** It truly takes an army of volunteers to keep us going!

Volunteers aren't paid,
not because they are worthless
but because
they are PRICELESS!

