

**Subject:** Parish Update: May 3, 2022

**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 8:37:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

**To:** Cristina Folan



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

***Jesus will carry our burdens!***  
**Net Ministries Hosts our Confirmation Retreat**  
by Laura Balogh, Family Faith Director



This past Wednesday evening our 67 Confirmation candidates participated in their retreat before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat was run by 10 young adult facilitators from NET Ministries, which is based in Minnesota.



**About NET Ministries:** NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries was founded in 1981 by Mark Berchem for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The name was inspired by the scripture passages “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mark 1:17) and “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch” (Luke 5:4). One of their primary responsibilities is to travel from place to place to conduct high school retreats. The hope is to challenge young Catholics to seek a relationship with Christ and become missionary disciples.



The Confirmation candidates experienced an engaging program, including an opening activity, witness speakers, skits, and small group discussion. The retreat concluded in the church with Fr. Paddy and Fr. Alex leading a period of Eucharistic Adoration that included live music. Fr. Paddy encouraged the teens to open their minds and hearts to the wonderful opportunity of being present with our Lord.



*"I have to tell you I'm speechless. It is not often that your 13-year-old comes home from church and says "That was amazing." Last night after the retreat, Maya got into the car and said the entire night was amazing, touching, and beautiful. She said she felt like Jesus was talking to her. Whatever happened at this retreat was clearly incredible and reached the youth (and that is not an easy thing to do:)." Lauren Zeris*

Special thanks to NET Ministries for the wonderful work and for bringing their ministry to our teens. Thanks as well to the kind and generous families who opened their homes to NET ministries team members overnight following the retreat!

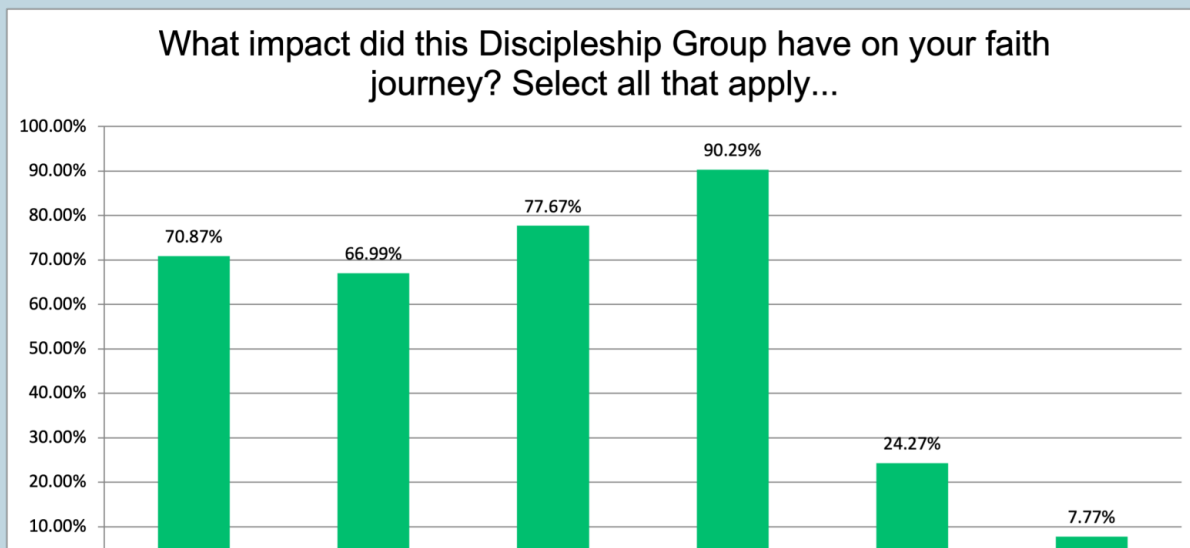
Click [HERE](#) to view more pictures from the Confirmation retreat.

Let us all pray for our Confirmation candidates for the next several weeks before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Kevin Sweeney on May 24.

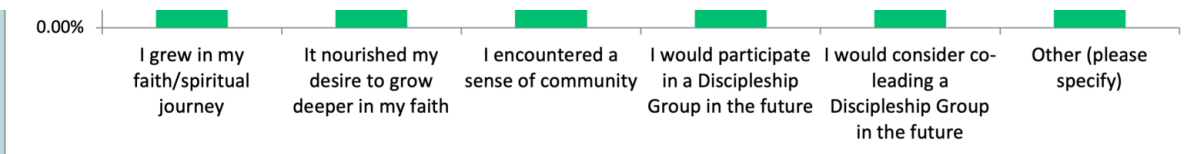
## Lenten Discipleship Groups: Survey says...

In the past few weeks, we shared testimonials from the 21 leaders of the 17 Discipleship Groups offered this past Lent. Today we share key insights gathered via a quick and anonymous survey administered to all participants.

- Of the 148 participants, 105 responded to the survey yielding a **71% Response rate**.
- **Of those who responded, 30% were first-time participants** in a Discipleship Group here at ND.







## Participant ratings of key aspects of their Discipleship Group Journey:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING	TOTAL
▼ The Overall Experience	77.67% 80	21.36% 22	0.00% 0	0.97% 1	103
▼ The content (video, book, presentation, handouts, etc.)	74.04% 77	21.15% 22	2.88% 3	1.92% 2	104
▼ Contributions of the leader(s)	80.77% 84	19.23% 20	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	104

Participants were also offered the opportunity to share comments about their experience; 69 of the 105 respondents (66%) shared their thoughts, reflecting consistency with the above assessments (i.e., overwhelmingly positive and affirming). Below are just a few:

*"It made me examine other parts of my spiritual journey. I came away from a group with a deepened commitment to live a Christ-focused life. So grateful for our parish that offers such wonderful opportunities. Grateful for the leader who so generously provided a steady patient leadership role."*

*"There is a lot of unseen work and leadership experience that goes into corralling a group of a dozen or so people with a dozen experiences and opinions on a Zoom meeting. The leader did an excellent job of keeping us moving forward in a positive way, within the guard rails. Something I couldn't do. I looked forward to each meeting, and am sorry it had to end."*

*"I had such an amazing experience! This was my first discipleship group, and I*

*"It was such a beautiful and awesome experience for my journey and life. Our leader was wonderful and so helpful. Great listener, have so many insights to share with us. So much empathy and kindness! This experience was exactly what I needed. I'm so grateful to be part of the ND community. "*

*"I think maybe in person would have allowed for more discussion."*

*"I enjoyed listening to other people's experiences on how they encounter God and bring God into the workplace. Our leaders were absolutely lovely and kind and nourishing. I hope they find their way to leading another group."*

*"What I found in this program was that I was given different perspectives on how to*



*couldn't have asked for a better one! The leader and participants offered a safe space to express my feelings and grow in my faith. I look forward to participating in other groups in the future!"*

*engage people in their faith in very meaningful everyday ways."*

It is a great blessing when the faith investments of our extraordinary leaders and the open hearts of our faith community bear visible fruit! We would be remiss not to mention that our Lenten DG journeys were fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit and sustained by the prayers of our leaders and our daily Rosary warriors to whom we entrusted this journey as part of their prayer intentions.

## **Marriage Ministry hosts Couples Hike**

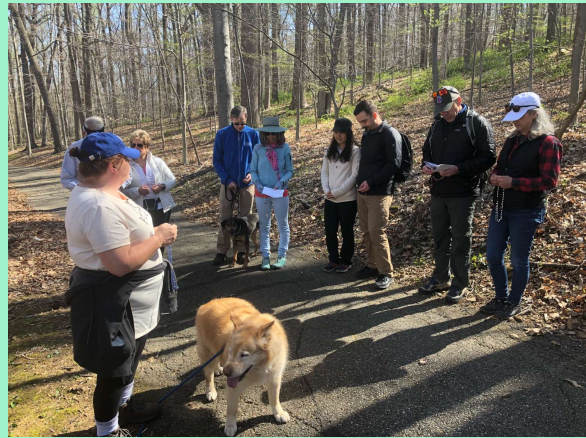
By Joe Bono

This past beautiful Saturday morning, seven couples (and two pups!) took a few hours out of their day to enjoy the beauty of God's creation along a 4-5 mile hike on parts of Patriots Path.





Along the way, the group stopped occasionally to say a decade of the Rosary on the side of the trail, openly expressing our faith in public. We reflected on the Joyful Mysteries and how they can apply to our marriages.



Once done hiking, we retreated nearby to enjoy some food and drinks and share fellowship at the home of Peg & Chris Buck.

This Couples Hike was a wonderful outing, one of the many opportunities the Marriage Ministry offers to welcome couples, offer a sense of community, and strengthen our marriages. **Be sure not to miss the next event, the Year-End Dinner on Friday, May 20th.** Click [HERE](#) for details and to register!

## Reporting from our Facebook Corner

by Melissa Fasano

*A bustle of activity at Notre Dame on this past beautiful Saturday morning: Clothing Drive, Quilters, Discipleship Groups, Leo getting ready for Q, a visiting Deacon preparing to baptize his great-grandson (Deacon Arthur and proud grandpa pictured), and of course, our Marc Luciani overseeing everything. Thank you to all of our ministries, volunteers, and staff for your hard work. And thank YOU for Investing in Our Faith, Investing in Our Future!*





To connect to more ND happenings and special content throughout the week, follow and interact with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@ndcedarknolls)!



## *A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Parish Family Members!*

*Mario, Christina, Gianluca, Juliana, &  
Alessia Biancamano, Cedar Knolls  
Glenn Bulfair, Dover  
Bill, Susan, Kiera, & Greta Haemmerle,  
Florham Park  
Tom & Barbara Cunningham/Jacobs,  
Morristown  
John, Sandi, Nash, & Zoey Lathrop,  
Whippany  
Suzanne Levesque, Dover  
Greg, Nora, Miles, Cornelia, and Crosby  
Morgan, Cedar Knolls  
Michael and Jessica (Letizia) Nemeth,  
Parsippany  
Sergio Pablo, Morris Plains  
Leo & Sophie Sicat, Morris Plains*



### **HAPPENING...**

**This week's Mass  
& Memorial Lamp  
Intentions**

**Parishioner  
Announcements**

*Year End Dinner*  
*Committed...*  
**BUT NOT PERFECT**

Friday, May 20, 2022  
6:30 – 9:00 pm - Parish Hall

Buffet Dinner catered by  
Sergio's of Denville

Witness Talk by  
Joe & Monica Orecchio

\$40 per couple – BYOB  
(payable at event)  
Registration is required



**Registration is open for this year's Vacation Bible School!**  
Click below to find out more.







## JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Special Memories That Tell Our Story***

*"Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this day be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. Thank you for their innocence and goodness. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred Sacrament. Amen."*

*(Source: Father Neil Herlihy)*







*Thanks to Chris Zeris and Jen Cohen for capturing these beautiful memories! Click [HERE](#) to view more!*



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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