

PARISH UPDATE

JUNE 28, 2022



Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel

CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ
www.ndcarmel.com

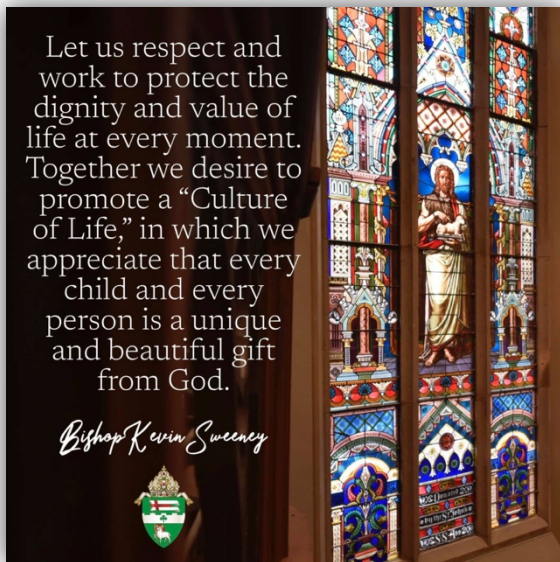
NEW HERE?

Welcome!

We'd love to personally welcome you!

Please fill out a Connection Card available in our Gathering Space or on our website at www.ndcarmel.com (click on the "New Here" button).

We look forward to connecting with you!



"Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name" (Isaiah 49:1)

***"Pray for all who are at the heart and the struggle of life, in particular the mother and the child. We are all children of God and our destiny is the Lord, and He is our pathway."
Fr. Paddy***

Parish Renewal: Beyond Notre Dame

Last Wednesday, we had the opportunity to host four wonderful priests for the day; Fathers Raphael De Bouille, Arthur Wallaert, Luc-Emmanuel Dupont, and Lukasz Skawinski came from France to learn how Church renewal and transformation are being



experienced in various parishes in the United States. We felt privileged to have been included as one of the parishes they sought to visit during their journey! We welcomed them, celebrated Mass, spent time in fellowship, and conversed about our parish's history and how we have experienced mission and renewal in recent years.



In the afternoon, the priests were part of three sessions where Dan Balogh, Cherylan Davis, and teens Elizabeth Gillen and Anna Grace (who joined the session via Zoom) shared how they have been personally impacted and transformed by the renewal.



"The meeting with your parish is a great blessing for us. We are immensely grateful for your hospitality. We have experienced the love of the people we met. And your generosity, especially from Fr. Paddy and Cristina, was touching for us. Thank you for this! It is the true charism of your community!"

We are very grateful for your testimony of love for the Church and your concern for the young generation. Your parish is going through a beautiful period of pastoral conversion and we were touched by your concern for young people. Thank you for Q Furnal's testimony, passion, commitment, and relationship with young people.

We were also very touched by the harmony that prevails in your parish and the relationships you have with each other, a true community of Christ's disciples who live for the mission.

We think it is important for your community to share experience, inspiration, and support for the mission. And it would be great if you could meet the Epiphanie parish from NY.

*Be blessed and blessed again!"
Fr. Luc-Emmanuel*

Their visit was a wonderful reminder of the shared love and strong sense of community in the Universal Church! They have blessed us with their presence and their joyful and hope-filled spirits. Let us pray for their safe return home and abundant fruitfulness from their journey!



Come aboard our Disciple-ship!

by Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

This past Sunday, our Elementary Family Faith program kicked off our newest catechetical series, with Family Faith Director Laura Balogh introducing the theme and explaining the definition of a disciple. We learned that a disciple is a student or follower of Jesus and that we are all disciples.

More to come! Each subsequent Sunday, our ship will sail to a different port, and a family or individual will present a great disciple of Jesus from that area! Throughout our voyage, we will learn how to show others we are disciples of Jesus and that being a disciple is not always easy, and even great disciples struggle!



The thematic series our Family Faith Formation program periodically presents within the context of the Family Mass are excellent opportunities:

- to affirm our young families' participation in the liturgy and their learning experience as a family;
- to better equip parents (and grandparents!) to share faith and have opportunities for conversation and activities at home;
- to engage children in our faith through creative and exciting ways!



Please note...

This document is a snapshot of our Weekly Parish Update which is delivered electronically to our faith community. The digital version includes links and video which is easily accessible online and offer a more dynamic experience of parish life here at Notre Dame. If you would like to receive these updates electronically, please send an email to commsupport@ndcarmel.com.

SS LifeTeen Shipped Off to Arizona

Two weeks ago, Father Alex and core team members Margie Sullivan, Ann McLoughlin, and Anthony Tortorello attended the annual Catholic Youth Ministry Convention (CYMC) in Arizona. (Unfortunately, it wasn't feasible for Q to participate due to a previous commitment to lead worship at Catholic Heart Workcamp in TN.) Below, Fr. Alex shares some thoughts about their experience.



"Unless you are new to the parish, you know we are all about becoming missionary disciples. That belief encourages us to equip ministers with the tools to be leaders, and that is what CYMC does. This was the first time for our core members; they attended a beginners track, where they could review the basics of how we host Life Nights, the term used for youth meetings on Sundays following our 6 pm Mass. While they came prepared from their one-year experience here at the parish, they learned many new skills to reach out to the teens..."



"We had wonderful presentations from psychologists and counselors to better understand the effects of social media and the pandemic on teenagers... We were blessed to have the presence of some wonderful priests who shared the witness and struggle of some challenging teens and challenging moments in their ministry. I was particularly impacted by the story of Fr. Louis Merosne from Haiti, who took a parish no one wanted and transformed it into a thriving community by always placing his trust in Jesus and never being afraid to go out and share the faith in the community. He is a true example of living Pope Francis' call to be a 'field hospital' Church."

"Whether it was the daily Mass or powerful moments of Adoration, Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist was truly present to us all. But there were some amazing moments of praise and worship as well, led by the amazing worship leader Sarah Kroger."

"Yet the most important part of any CYMC is not just living the event and returning to the same old as before. Every authentic encounter with Christ calls us to change and move forward. Myself and the rest of the team at CYMC are encouraged to go out and find the teens where they are. It will not always be easy, and it can be tempting to turn back and give up when the rain might fall on our journey, but we have committed ourselves to Christ. Here at Notre Dame, our youth ministry is ready to face the challenges and share a love that is without equal, the love of Jesus Christ." Fr. Alex

A Special Invitation from Music Director, Jim Keefe:

Have you ever considered singing with our music ministry?

If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you in July! Our Summer Choir Program is coming back! *All ages are invited to meet here on Saturdays in July at 4 pm, beginning this Saturday, July 2.* Participants will rehearse for an hour, then stay and sing for 5 pm Mass.



Summer Choir is on a "drop-in" basis: You can come for one Saturday or every Saturday.

No audition, registration, or commitment is required; just a willingness to "give it a try" and see if you like it!

Fr. Alex invites all to join us for our Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Feast Day Celebration!

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we celebrated our patroness as a community. We had just gotten out of COVID, and I had finally gotten to see many of your faces for the first time without a mask.

We will again celebrate our Blessed Mother on Saturday, July 16, at the 5 pm Vigil Mass. Weather permitting, we will start our celebration outdoors in the side parking lot, processing in with our Blessed Mother. After the Mass, the coordinating team, Agnes Loughlin, Yvonne Orchison-Yip, Jerry Wolfe, and Vinnie Wolfe, invite you to remain in the gathering space for a light reception. There, we can share stories about the blessings we have received as missionary disciples of our beautiful parish of Notre Dame of Mt Carmel!



To find out about our upcoming events, please visit our website at www.ndcarmel.com or pick up copies of the event flyers available in the literature racks in our Gathering Space.
