

Subject: Parish Update: August 16, 2022

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 3:22:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

To: Cristina Folan



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

Helping One Another Get Into Heaven

By Father Alex





That is one of the fundamental reasons for the sacrament of marriage, but it is also about encouraging each other through a faith journey. Working with Nneka and Kwame Sarpong over the past year has been a great pleasure. I have known Nneka since she was about ten years old and was an altar server at St. Rose of Lima, as was the rest of her siblings. When she met Kwame and they became formally engaged, I received a phone call from her asking if I would perform their marriage, and I was thrilled to help them. I warned them, though; if you want someone who will care about your wedding, go somewhere else, but if you want someone who will do everything for the success of your marriage, let's begin. They followed our amazing faith journey of *Witness to Love* along with mentor couples Carolyn and Anthony Tortorello, and it all culminated in a beautiful liturgy on Sunday, August 7th. Yet the journey has truly only just begun.



"We were thrilled when Nneka and Kwame chose us as their mentors. We first met for breakfast and realized from then we would be sharing a beautiful journey. Over the months leading up to the wedding, we witnessed their love for God and each other grow. When we were invited to their ceremony, we were thrilled and excited to witness their Marriage Ceremony. Plans are made for us to see each other when they return from their honeymoon and continue this faith-filled journey together." Carolyn & Anthony Tortorello

We look forward to continuing to support them with our prayers and love as they begin this extraordinary path to heaven together. May God bless Nneka and Kwame's union and grant them happiness and fruitfulness.



Click above to find out more!



Congratulations to
Cathy Ferramosca
Our 2022 Recipient of the
***Vivere Christus Est* Award!**



Our parish has chosen **Cathy Ferramosca** as the recipient of the 2022 Vivere Christus award. There are many ways that Cathy has given her time, care, and talent to numerous parish ministries within the faith community of Notre Dame and beyond our walls.

Since joining the parish in 1993, Cathy has served in several ministries, including Pre-Cana and Baptism Preparation, Decorating, Hospitality, Religious Education, and as a leader of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for six years.

However, Cathy's missionary spirit is most firmly rooted in faith formation for those with special needs, where under her leadership, the ministry was transformed over the past 19 years.

Traditionally, the Special Needs faith journey ended with Baptism. Cathy and her team expanded the journey to offer students with special needs an opportunity to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation,

enabling them to share more fully in the blessings of our faith. Most lovingly, Cathy created a Special Needs Youth Group for teens and young adults to further their faith journey and foster fellowship.



Cathy's vocation is living testimony to the belief that all of God's children deserve the opportunity for faith formation. By leading our parish family in answering the call to provide individuals with special needs an opportunity to learn and practice their faith in a caring environment, Cathy has created a legacy of love for the most deserving among us.

Please join us in congratulating Cathy and thanking her for her commitment to the mission of the Church and the gifts she continues to share with our parish family and the local community!

The *Vivere Christus Est* Award will be presented at a special service on Sunday, October 16th at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. All are welcome to attend!

Family Mass Summer Travels

Disciple-Ship Seventh Stop: The Holy Land!

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

This past Sunday, our disciple-ship went to the Holy Land to pick up St. Peter with the help of Eric Kispert, our Deacon in Formation. St. Peter was an uneducated fisherman who became best friends with Jesus. He had flaws and sometimes did not act like a good friend to Jesus. Peter fell asleep when Jesus was praying in the garden and denied



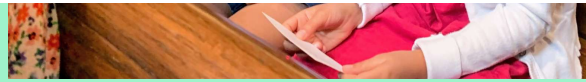
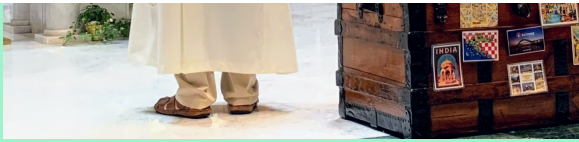
that he knew Jesus three times before Jesus died. Even though Peter was not always a good friend, after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved him, and each time, Peter said yes. Jesus made Peter the first Pope, and for 30 years, Peter traveled to spread the Good News about Jesus.



A view from the Altar: Eric Kispert, Deacon in Formation

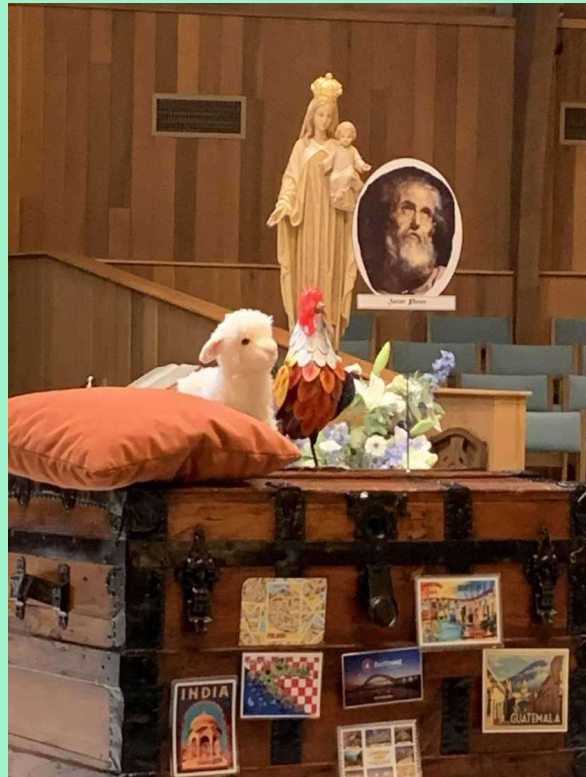
"As I quipped briefly near the end of my talk, St. Peter and I have at least one thing in common: we both misbehaved early in life! While preparing for the "Disciple-Ship" talk, I had an increased appreciation of God's grace and never-ending mercy for all of us. Nothing we can do will make God love us any less. No sin is too great for God's forgiveness. While this is not a free pass to act out, it is reassurance that His love for us is infinite!"





Over four years ago, when I began my journey toward becoming a deacon, I quickly learned that my call to ministry was not something I had earned. Rather, it was a gift bestowed upon me, independent of my behavior. I also recognized that God is using all the ingredients of my life for good, even the unsavory ones. My prayer is that, like Peter, we have the faith to allow God's plan for us to unfold before our eyes and have the willingness in our hearts to carry it out."

Eric Kispert



Special thanks to Jen Cohan for capturing these great memories!

2022 Divine Renovation Conference Takeaways: Cristina Folan

My first experience attending a Divine Renovation (DR) Conference was in the summer of 2018 in Halifax, Canada. Having attended the recent DR Conference in Texas, I'm able to appreciate the journey we at Notre Dame have traveled these past few years and how the Holy Spirit has been moving within the DR Ministry and other parishes in our Catholic Church.

Divine Renovation has become a global movement involving thousands of parishes that are supported through "hubs" in the UK, Australia, and, most recently, the US. Their leadership team is so impressive: inspiring, hard-working, committed, equipped, humble, and most important, heavily reliant on the power of the Holy

Spirit. No longer featuring a single “model” parish (St. Benedict's in Halifax), we were able to hear from “the trenches,” that is, from several parish representatives, individuals, and families who witnessed how their “yes” has allowed for the Holy Spirit to lead in the transformation of hearts and of a culture that focuses on bringing others into relationship with Christ. We were also blessed and humbled to have been asked to share how the Holy Spirit has brought fruitfulness in our efforts.



While there are many takeaways from this most recent 2022 Conference, three rise to the top for me:

Come, Holy Spirit! The content and resources shared through the keynote speakers and those leading breakout sessions were very inspiring. They will help inform in various ways how we continue to move forward in our renewal. Yet, the most powerful experience for me was that of communal prayer: 600 souls celebrating Holy Mass, praising and worshiping Jesus, and opening our hearts to the power of prayer and the movement of the Holy Spirit. It reminded me that such communal expression of faith and reliance on the Holy Spirit demands utmost priority.

The work -- the journey -- is never complete. It is ongoing, and it is in many ways unique to each parish, honoring the unique giftedness and calling of its leaders and community. St. Benedict Parish continues its renewal journey. While Fr. James Mallon continues to serve on the board of DR, he has returned to “square one,” having been appointed pastor of our Lady of Guadalupe, a new parish bringing

together five different parish communities as one. The journey of renewal is not complete for us either. We can easily fall into skepticism or “let go” of that spirit and enthusiasm brought upon a new direction; we can easily fall into the status quo and miss the need for self-evaluation; of how effective or fruitful we are as disciples and leaders and as a community at large. So, we must continue to ask: How inward or outward-focused are we? Are we stepping out (physically and spiritually) to invite, create bridges of trust and curiosity, and proclaim with pride, passion, and conviction how Jesus works in our lives, families, and communities? And most important, how much priority and spiritual space are we offering the Holy Spirit -- our Counselor and Advocate? Without Him, nothing will be fruitful.

We are in good company! It can be enlightening and compelling to step out of our local perspective and into a broader reality of “us.” We can grow and learn from one another and be a source of love and support to one another. We feel stronger, more enthusiastic, and more hopeful! In that same spirit, I can’t imagine having had this experience on my own. Journeying alongside Fr. Alex, Laura and Maria was a great blessing! While we were each impacted by this experience in unique ways, I know we each bring back some aspect of God’s message to our parish, each of us with a strong desire to serve our leaders, parish community, and the Church in the best way possible. The journey truly makes us one! Come, Holy Spirit!

In the News: Synod on Synodality (New Jersey)

"We are getting our first glimpse at results of new statewide surveys taken by Catholics in New Jersey. It's all part of a larger effort by the Vatican."



HAPPENING...

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

**Parishioner
Announcements**

Diocesan Missionary Cooperation Plan

As part of the 2022 Diocesan Missionary Cooperation Plan, our parish will be supporting the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, a congregation with missions in countries such as Nigeria, Brazil, India, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Specifically, our support will help their Missionary Childhood Association, one of four mission Societies approved by the Holy Father to help children suffering in different ways worldwide.

Missionary Childhood Association



**MCA – Children Helping Children
in the Missions since 1843!**

This weekend August 20 & 21, there will be baskets in our Gathering Space. Your financial support for this particular mission will be a blessing!

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church

75 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ | www.ndcarmel.com

Monthly Food Collection

3rd weekend of each month in our Gathering Space



Food Collection

UPCOMING:

August 20 & 21, 2022

Note: Please bring your donations no later than **11:30 am, Sunday**.

This is a food collection ONLY, Please do not bring clothing bags into the building. We appreciate your cooperation!

Learn how to heal from the deep hurt of
divorce or separation and discover
hope for the future.

DIVORCE *Care*



Begins Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Find out more and register at
www.ndcarmel.com

FR. PADDY O'DONOVAN

50th Anniversary

OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION



Cocktail Reception

Thursday, September 15, 2022
6:00 - 9:00 PM

The Madison Hotel
One Convent Road, Morristown, NJ

Please click above or visit our website to RSVP!

Eucharistic Congress: You are invited!



Eucharistic Congress

The Eucharist: The Source and Summit of the New Evangelization

Friday, September 23rd
- Sunday, September 25th

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
381 Grand Street,
Paterson, New Jersey

MORE INFORMATION:
rcdop/year-of-the-eucharist

Archbishop RINO FISICHELLA
Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery
for Evangelization

For a full schedule of events and to register, click [HERE](#).

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Missionary Call from Jesus

Why Evangelize?

"We evangelize, first of all from a deep sense of gratitude to God, the Father 'who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing' (Eph 1:3)... Mission is, above all else, an overflow of this life from grateful hearts transformed by the grace of God. That is why it is so important for us Christians to have a deep faith-experience of the love of God



in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:39).... Without a personal experience of this love received as gift and mercy, no sense of mission can flourish.”

*Fr. James H. Kroeger, M.M
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.*



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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