

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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To: Melissa Fasano
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Not-So Newlywed Game



"Being part of the wonderful marriage ministry has not only helped us grow deeper in our faith but also allowed us to meet other couples. We always look forward to each event, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. When approached about being contestants, we hesitated but later agreed it would be a great experience. It ended up being more fun than we had anticipated! Even though we won the most points, we believe all the contestants won by participating! We would like to thank the Marriage Ministry chairs, Eric and Debby and Joe and Ann, for their dedication, time, and supportive guidance to all participating in this ministry."
John and Lori Monahan



"I heard the 'Not-So Newlywed Game' was full of fun, so I wanted to attend this year. Though single, I felt welcomed and included. It was also great to see other young adults in the audience. Each member of the participating couples inspired the audience by showing love for each other. I appreciated each person's honesty, vulnerability, and humor. The hosts kept the atmosphere light, and audience members shared big laughs. We need to be reminded of what strong relationships centered on our Lord look like. I hope to attend additional Marriage Ministry events that involve the whole church community." Christa Cottone



"Tom and I had a great time at the Not So Newlyweds Game last night... so fun to meet new friends and enjoy a night out. We were grateful to the many folks who came over and introduced themselves, as they knew we are new to the parish. Thank you!" Tom and Laurie Och



"Attending was a last-minute decision on our part, and it turned out to be a really good decision. We are not parishioners at Notre Dame, but we felt right at home the entire evening. The food was delicious. The Not So Newlywed Game was hysterical. Kudos to the participants for sharing..... it says so much about the closeness of your parish. The evening was well-organized and appeared to go off without a hitch. Thank you again for inviting us into your home away from home. We know it takes a lot to have an event like this, so congratulations and a job well done to the organizers." Jane & Mert Hodge (St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany)



The Marriage Ministry has embraced renewal and being on mission very inspiringly! They've managed to incorporate the spirit of three distinct "ministries" into one: **Marriage Ministry**, supporting and nourishing the sacramental faith journey of our engaged and married couples; **Social Events**, hosting fun gatherings, extending radical hospitality, and fostering fellowship and community for all (couples, singles, young adults, young parents, children); and **Welcoming**, personally inviting and welcoming new folks into the community, regardless of parish affiliation, or none. Furthermore, there is an intentional pursuit of raising new leaders. Special thanks to all involved in this wonderful missionary ministry!

ND's Culture of Welcome



Time and time again, new folks comment on the wonderful spirit of welcome and hospitality that is such an invaluable part of our culture here at Notre Dame.

Undoubtedly, how people are greeted, guided, and cared for can create a sacred space for the Holy Spirit to step in and fuel someone's spiritual journey.



That being said, we also know that with five weekend Masses and hundreds of people joining us each week, the weekend experience is a significant opportunity for us to positively impact our mission.

Sustaining and nurturing a culture of welcome requires many people! We are so grateful for those who have served and are currently serving in this ministry, but we need several more to be part of it: singles, couples, and families; no minimum age requirement!

Listen below and be inspired by three of the five witnesses who shared this past weekend about the call the Lord placed in their hearts to help welcome at ND. **Why do they serve? Why should you?**



Add your name (s) to this missionary group of servants! Contact **Debbie White** at Luvmorgan02@gmail.com or **Carolyn Tortorello** at ctort327@gmail.com.

Inspiring New Family Leaders Through Witness

For the past couple of years, our Elementary Faith Formation program has incorporated thematic series that offer catechesis to our children and young parents as part of the 9:30 am Family Mass. Following last year's Lenten series, an added focus was placed on parents (and their children) being the presenters of each session. Earlier this month, **Erica Jackson** and **Tim Cullen** witnessed about the "leap of faith" they took to be presenters with their respective families.



As a relatively new family to Notre Dame, Erica felt quite unsure about her family leading a presentation. However, her daughters were very excited and were "all in" about the experience. The gift of their daughters' excitement about faith was the encouragement Erica and Justin needed as parents to take that leap of faith and join in their daughters' "Yes!"



Tim was also very hesitant to have his family be presenters at a Family Mass. Yet, somehow, he felt called to just "step out of his comfort zone" and do it!

Good News: The families who have presented unanimously agree that the preparation journey brought them new knowledge of our faith and the opportunity to have fruitful conversations at home about faith.



Even Better News! The witness of these families and all who've presented have had an impact! **Five new families have answered the call to be presenters of future Family Mass catechetical series!**

"A Scout is reverent and has a duty to God."

Florence Chirichiello

The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week.



"A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent": *"Be reverent toward God. Be faithful in your religious duties. Respect the beliefs of others."* Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God." These values strengthen the youth's character in their family, community, and faith.



Special thanks to our Scouts and their leaders for their witness and contributions to our families, parish, and community!

This week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memories that share our story...

More from the Not-So Newlywed Game!





[Click here to view more!](#)

Family Mass - Scouts Sunday





[Click HERE for more memories!](#)



*Everyone was gripped with
great wonder and awe, and
they praised God,
exclaiming, "We have seen
amazing things today!"*

Luke 5:26



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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