

**Melissa Fasano**

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**From:** mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church  
<mail@flocknote.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 9:01 AM  
**To:** Melissa Fasano  
**Subject:** Parish Update: May 23, 2023





Our very own parishioner and World War II hero Chet Kochan will serve as the Hanover Township Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall this Monday, May 29th! If you are unfamiliar with Chet's heroic story: *"As a D-Day participant, Mr. Kochan landed on Omaha Beach with the United States Army 83rd Infantry Division and began fighting in what is known as Hedgerow country. He was 18 years old when he was shot through the neck and wounded by shrapnel after he was shot. He was captured by the Germans in Saint-Malo, France, and eventually exchanged for a German prisoner. Awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, two campaign stars for Normandy and Northern France, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct, WWII Victory medal, Morris County Distinguished Service medal, and the Legion of Honor, bestowed by the French Government."* [Official Website of Morris County](#)

## March with us at the Parade!



Join us in honoring those who have served our country while sharing a joyful presence and witness of our faith before our local community! Click [HERE](#) for details!



# A Journey to the Permanent Diaconate

By Eric Kispert

Eight years ago, I started having thoughts of becoming a deacon, and three years later, I began formation. And now, in just a few weeks, Bishop Kevin will ordain nine other men and me as Permanent Deacons in the Paterson Diocese. While this was a decision made by God, with the support of my wife, Debby, I have willingly and lovingly submitted my will to his invitation into diaconal ministry.



On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Kevin met with our cohort to share his joy and excitement about our upcoming graduation and ordination. Bishop Kevin took us on a journey through his calling to the priesthood, his ordination, and what it was like when he was asked to be the Shepard of the Paterson Diocese. Throughout our time, his passion for the Bible, his love for the priesthood, and his profound commitment to our Lord were nothing less than infectious. In addition, our group used this opportunity to present the Bishop with a portrait of Mary and Jesus as an expression of our gratitude.



On that morning, as I stood at the altar in the chapel of St. Paul Inside the Walls, I also signed my Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith. These documents attest to my commitment to the teachings of the Church and my obedience to the Bishop. While still only a precursor to ordination, for me, the presence of the Holy Spirit was tremendous. Perhaps most importantly, at that moment, I knew in my heart and soul that it was God's will for me to be a deacon!



During these years of preparation, I have been drawn more deeply to service, liturgy, and the Word. My desire to evangelize and help those in need is greater than ever. And my marriage has developed a more significant spiritual intimacy than during any of the 32 years we have been married.



*"As Eric's spouse, I have watched my husband transform in front of my eyes. His countless hours of studying, endless edits of sermons and papers, and continued willingness to keep moving forward were all foundational to his beautiful change. I have witnessed his faith deepen and his contributions within our parish (and beyond) increase. As a couple, we continue to walk together in*





*His yoke and experience the handiwork of the Holy Spirit. Eric's formation has also inspired me as I have recently started a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling.*

*While the two of us eagerly look forward to supporting marriages, fostering evangelization, and deepening our commitment to the needy, our exact path after ordination is unclear. What we do know is that with the continued support of the parish and our commitment to faith, ALL things are possible with God's love! "*  
*Debby Kispert*

**DIACONATE ORDINATION**

*Please join us as we celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate of parishioner and disciple of Christ,*



*Eric Kispert*  
**Mass of Ordination**  
Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10:30 AM  
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist  
Paterson, NJ

**Mass of Thanksgiving**  
Sunday, June 11, 2023, 11:30 AM  
Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church  
Cedar Knolls, NJ

Our faith community joins you, Eric & Debby, especially in prayer and spirit, in your continued journey! We look forward to celebrating Eric's Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on Saturday, June 10th, at the Cathedral, and his Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 11th, at our 11:30 am Mass.

## **Discipleship Quads Update!**

**By Dan Balogh**

***"Missionary disciples accompany missionary disciples." Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium***



Back in October of 2021, I launched the first Discipleship Quad at Notre Dame. Three other parishioners and I met for at least 90 minutes every week for an entire year, discussing Scripture and Tradition and growing closer to Christ and to each other. We journeyed through all four seasons, finishing in October of 2022. As we reported in a series of four witness videos at that time, it was an incredibly rewarding experience for all four of us. What's happened since then, you may be wondering.



I formed my second quad in December of 2022, breaking the unisex rule by inviting the three amazing women from my fall Alpha @ Home team. Today we're halfway through!





**Diana Thomas** says that *“being a part of my quad has brought me a deep sense of belonging. It’s a beautiful and unique opportunity to listen to how different our thoughts and feelings are about our faith, yet we are all on this journey.”* **Helen Krisiewicz** concurs and adds: *“Being in this Discipleship Quad has inspired me to be more committed to my time of worship and the Sacraments. Meeting in a group each week with three others committed to learning about and discussing their faith has been a blessing.”* **Maureen Crystal**, who works full time, had to carefully consider joining the quad: *“I decided that I needed to prioritize my time and life and decided to join the quad. It is a gift to be able to share thoughts and ask questions of people; I do feel like I am becoming a better person and Catholic due to the quad.”*

In February of this year, original quad member **Pat Madden** formed another quad, which is now over a quarter of the way in.



As Pat mentions, *"I was looking to lead others to the spiritually expanding program I had just experienced. The beauty of having four men participating in these events is that each of us brings his life experience and philosophy to the program."* **Joe Orrecchio** says, *"The quad has certainly led to a deepening of my faith. I am more consistently filtering my thoughts, decisions, and actions through a faith-based lens. I leave with a renewed sense of commitment to my faith and ready to take action."* **Dan Bozza** shared, *"I felt the Holy Spirit had been nudging me for some time now to become more active in my faith. The Quad experience has helped me focus more on God in my daily life."*

Original quad member **Matt Cooney** didn't have the time to start his own quad, but his story is perhaps the most inspiring. During that first men's quad, Matt decided to pursue a theology degree from Franciscan University, the university which supplied the material we use for the quad. *"After 25 years in business, I felt the call to give back and plant seeds. The quad inspired me to get my Master's degree and pursue a career teaching High School Theology."* Congratulations, Matt!

Finally, in April of this year, the first women's quad finished its journey. Although it was not feasible for one of their members to complete the series, the experience bore much fruit in the lives of this quad's participants.





**Patty Migliore-Torres** says, *"I loved it! It's like having my own personal community to grow in and share my faith."* And **Kathy Bogwald** told me, *"The journey has made a huge difference in my life. God is my center; everything else in life revolves around that wonderfully fulfilling relationship. I am no longer intimidated by reading the Bible; it is now my life journey guidebook, providing all that is needed to have a life of faith, love, mercy, hope, and peace."*



Are you intrigued? Want to learn more? For more information on starting your own quad and to see our witness videos, head over to [ndcarmel.com/quads...](http://ndcarmel.com/quads...) or email me at [dabalogh@optonline.net](mailto:dabalogh@optonline.net)

## Diving Deeper Into God's Word... Together

By Tanya D'Souza

During Lent, we began a beautiful deep dive into James, the book of Wisdom in The New Testament.

James has only five chapters, but it is full of beautiful “pearls of wisdom” for tough times and in relationships. He addresses the disconnect between faith and action, reminding us to be doers of the Word, not just hearers -- our faith should lead us to love and to good works. Wisdom is known through speech, so it is important to be patient in suffering, to control the tongue, to refrain from judging, etc. James’s words reminded us to live according to the principles of the Kingdom of God within an often-hostile culture. We learned about the importance of godly wisdom, humility, patience, and fortitude (gifts of the Holy Spirit), the beauty of works, and the wisdom of Confession and prayer.

During our 11-week Bible study journey, we read Scripture faithfully week after week and gained beautiful insights. The discussion questions called for deep introspection; we did our homework and looked forward to the group sharing!



It has been a joy leading this Bible study Discipleship Group, bringing people together to learn the Word of God and to belong, connect, inspire, and encourage



one another. Special thanks to Cristina for suggesting James; we were amazed and marveled at the depth of the beauty and wisdom of this letter.

We feel truly blessed to learn Scripture and grow in our faith and our love for the Lord. God willing, we hope to strengthen our faith journey by participating in many more Bible studies together.

*"Looking to deepen my spiritual journey, I registered for the Lenten Disciple Group, the study of the book of James. Through the videos and personal sharing (my favorite part), I have been given a new direction in my spirituality. 'Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger' have been transforming to me. Being taught to take a pause (make space for Grace) has made all the difference. The personal sharings have made me realize we all carry our own crosses. It was so healing to share mine in a safe, small group setting." Patty Muha*

*"The James, Pearls for Wise Living is a great bible study. It has really touched me to be able to deepen my relationship with God through this group. It speaks to each of us to give us the wisdom to handle everyday life. I would recommend this group to everyone. Nancy Mulligan*

*"Learning about the Book of James was an enlightening and great experience. A large part of it was experiencing it with the group. I am thankful for their openness and support, and a special thanks to Tanya for her inspiration and guidance every week." Vincent Kellet*

*Studying the book of James has given me the blessed opportunity of getting to know some of our parish members on a more personal and intimate level. The book of James is only five chapters, yet it provides powerful insights into the wisdom of God and how to live a life of devotion for Him rather than a life devoted to the world. This study impacted me the most with regard to the fact that I can always do more. Do more self-reflecting, do more charity, spread the Good News more, etc., etc. Jesus outstretched his arms for us on the cross; we can imitate the love of Christ stretched out on the cross and stretch ourselves more for Him. Pam O'Connor*

*"This group has really helped me unpack the messages in the book of James and shown me interesting interpretations of what others think. Since the book has so few chapters, we have the ability to really take our time, read and meditate on the passages, and allow the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom from this holy book. I would recommend this to everyone. As our fearless leader Tanya likes to say, no bible, no breakfast; no bible, no bed." Mike Mulligan*

## **Family Faith: Pathways Pilot Update**

**By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation**



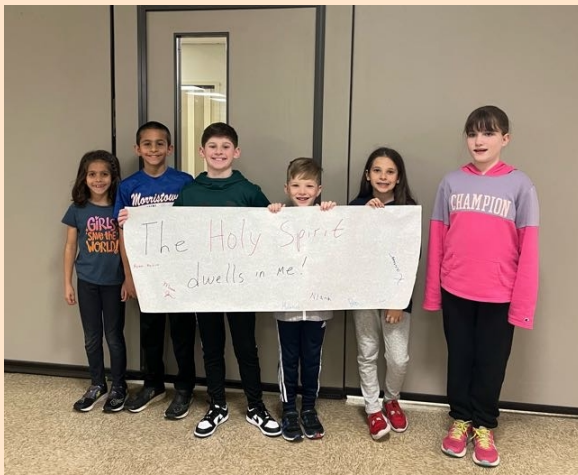
We in the Family Faith Formation Team wanted to provide an update about our exciting ***Pathways*** pilot, an initiative intended to build up and strengthen the Domestic Church. This pilot has been underway during this Formation year with thirteen dedicated families with children of varying ages and sacramental paths.

*Pathways*, produced by a Catholic priest and his team at Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries, is a suite of home-based materials in an appealing box format, providing everything a family needs to have faith-based engaging discussions at home, in the form of "scripted" family meetings. Each family meeting contains a theme, prayer, a fun activity, and a catechetical teaching around our faith.



Throughout this formation year, the pilot families experienced family meetings at home and also gathered here at the church for monthly check-ins with our leaders. The main goal of our pilot was to guide and accompany these families through the formation year to determine if the *Pathways* approach is the right fit for our parish culture in a broader sense.





The overall feedback from the families participating in the pilot has been positive. Parents appreciated the freedom to choose their own convenient times, and the children enjoyed the novelty of opening the box each time to discover new activities and props. One participant said the resources do a good job of scripting out the material to follow and are ideal for people's busy schedules (has found a "sweet spot" of meeting people where they are). They also reported an appreciation for simply spending time together as a family. Some parents perceived the parent formation materials as too lengthy and too catechetical. All feedback received is being carefully assessed for future adjustments that will make the program more manageable and fruitful in the lives of our families.





As a result of this feedback, we have decided to utilize *Pathways* for certain segments of our Family Faith Formation program this coming Fall. We will announce dates over the summer to share about these upcoming changes and provide all the families with further details. Stay tuned!

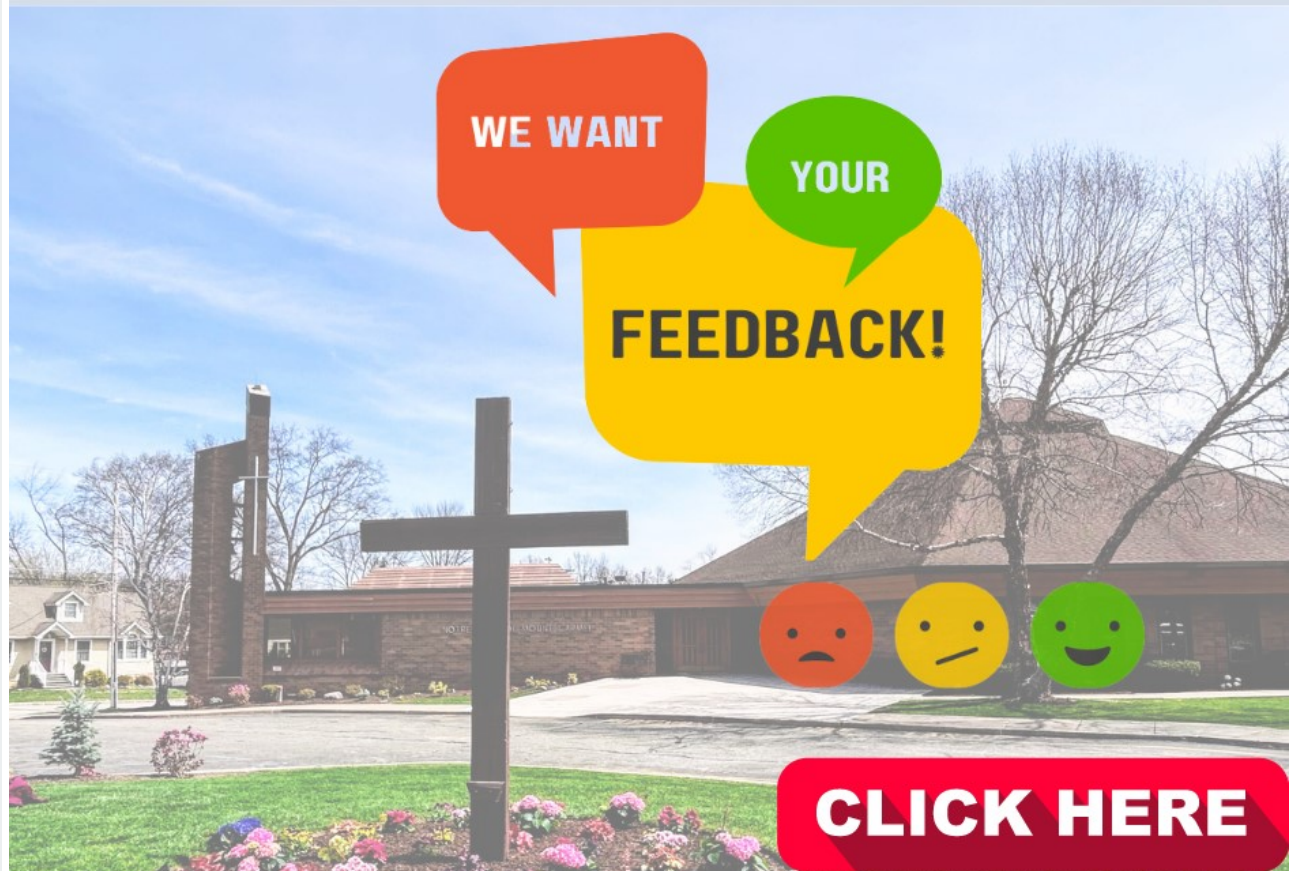
We are deeply grateful for those families who have generously dedicated their time to be part of this valuable initiative!! We ask that you keep all these families in your prayers as they continue their spiritual journeys.

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

**Parishioner  
Announcements**

*Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church*

## PARISH ENGAGEMENT & SATISFACTION SURVEY



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications



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