

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: January 30, 2024



Men's Cornerstone: Disciples on Mission!

"Much can happen when you allow the Holy Spirit to take center stage." Fr. Paddy

This past weekend, the Men's Cornerstone XXIV Team welcomed 28 candidates to this year's retreat, **"Do You Want to Be Healed?"**



As Fr. Paddy mentioned at the closing Mass (5 pm Vigil), the candidates represented 19 different parishes, pointing to the strong culture of invitation and outreach beyond the walls of our parish.

Also at Mass, two of the now "Cornerstone Brothers" shared about their experience:



Other candidates offered the following comments:

"This retreat was truly extraordinary, one of the most fulfilling events ever, and it greatly exceeded my expectations."

"There is nothing more powerful than hearing the personal witness of fellow men on the journey."





"Being moved by such genuine Catholic men, who encouraged me to share and participate, has been transformative and extremely impactful."

"This was an experience that refreshed my faith and introduced me to a community of men who will support me going forward!"



"I am leaving refreshed, rejuvenated, and re-committed to my faith. We are all broken, we all struggle, but we are loved and forgiven by a merciful God."

"The retreat is life-changing."

Whether welcomed from a place distant from faith or the Church, seeking to grow, or well into a faith journey, we pray the Holy Spirit will move their hearts further on their discipleship journey as they draw closer to Christ and His Church.

Special thanks to the wonderful Men's Cornerstone XXIV team of missionary disciples and their leaders, Phil Lamoureux and Allwyn Colaco.



Brothers helping Brothers! Thanks as well to the **Knights of Columbus** brothers, who got up early Saturday morning to prepare breakfast for all participants. They thoroughly enjoyed the service and camaraderie.



A "Special" Ministry Experience

By Erica Jackson, Special Needs Catechist

I didn't know what a ministry serving children with Special Needs would look like, but I knew immediately that I wanted to be part of it. By degree, I am an Occupational Therapist. I began my career working at a school for kids with special needs and then transitioned to the public school system. I loved working in pediatrics! At my former parish in Ohio, we had started a ministry for individuals with special needs, teaching acceptance and inclusion; when we moved, I knew I wanted to continue to work in that capacity. It was absolutely perfect in my heart, where I could blend my



degree and faith to help children know the Lord.

I began working with the Special Needs Faith formation here at Notre Dame this past summer. We have six children in our program, and we meet monthly. We sing songs, learn about God's love, and do some community service. One of our students, Maison, recently received a special blessing for his First Reconciliation; it was an absolutely beautiful and moving service! While the blessing of Reconciliation was for Maison, we were all so blessed by watching him peacefully receive this sacrament.



I am so inspired by the children and their parents. This ministry is a great blessing to my family; my daughters often want to come and help! I truly believe that when Jesus said, "Let the children come to me," he meant all children! I am so happy with what the ministry has accomplished thus far and excited to see where it will be led in the future here at Notre Dame!



Maison's Mom shares:

"This was a fantastic experience and a remarkable event that Maison could share with us and our family in attendance. The ceremony even brought tears to my Father-in-Law's eyes. We sincerely Thank Erica, the Special Needs Ministry teacher, for coordinating our celebration. We also would like to thank Father Paddy for the special blessing. Father Paddy quickly adapted to Maison's cues, allowing him to be as comfortable throughout the ceremony as possible. We cannot Thank the Parish enough for allowing Maison to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in such a special way. It means so much to us and our family."



*"The Special Needs Ministry has brought hope and joy to our family. We were worried about Maison missing the opportunity to learn about our faith. This program has undoubtedly helped meet Maison's needs and has lifted us spiritually. Since joining the Special Needs Ministry, we have noticed a common theme: **"There is room for everyone at Christ's Table,"** and it certainly feels this way." Sheryll*

Daughters of Grace: An Experience of Leadership, Prayer, and Community

By Susan Haemmerle, Daughters of Grace Core Planning Team

It has been such an honor and pleasure to be part of the Daughters of Grace planning process. What a blessing to be surrounded by such amazing women! I love that we are coming together with different experiences and ideas with the common desire to grow together in Jesus' love.

*I recently led one of the **Spa for the Soul** sessions on the Fourth Beatitude, **"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."***



To prepare for the session, I began by praying – asking the Lord to lead me to the resources that would make an impact on the women attending the session. I am a teacher, so organizing material to share is something I do on a daily basis, but this was different. With each article I read and each sermon I heard on YouTube, my understanding of the Beatitude grew. One day, on a walk, the perfect song just started playing in my head – I knew I had to share it! It was so moving to hear so many women singing the lyrics on the evening of the meditation. I knew then that the Lord had led me exactly where I was supposed to go.



There is so much beauty in a room full of faith-filled women sharing their hearts with others. I feel so incredibly blessed to be a part of this amazing community!

Roses for Life Thanks!



***The Elizabeth Ann Seton Council # 6904 Knights of Columbus** would like to thank you for your very, very generous support of our Roses for Life Drive this January 20th & 21st at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church and January 27th and 28th at Our Lady of Mercy Church. **We raised \$3,200;** of that total, \$1,600 will go to **Several Sources Shelters of Ramsey** and \$1,600 to **Birth Haven of Newton** so they may continue with their good work of saving young mothers and their babies.*

May God Bless you all for all your prayers and donations, which will go a long way to ensuring that a young mother and her baby will have a chance at a better life. Thank you again, and God Bless.

Elizabeth Ann Seton Council, Knights of Columbus #6904

Pre & Post:

Supporting our Sacramental Journeys

Parishioners Jim & Gina Walljasper joined our faith community back in 2002! They have been actively engaged through the years in several ministries, including our Marriage Ministry. They often participate in Marriage Ministry-hosted events and are facilitators of the annual Oneness Series.



Two years ago, they joined the ***Witness to Love*** ministry, serving as mentors and helping guide engaged couples through their preparation for the sacrament of matrimony. For mentoring couples, this ministry goes beyond the months of preparation for the wedding ceremony. They often develop a mutual friendship, and there is a sense of continuing guidance and support for the engaged/married couple moving forward.

More recently, Jim & Gina invited their ***Witness to Love*** couple, **Katherine and Dan**, to join them for the most recent ***Evening of Marriage Enrichment*** event hosted by the Marriage Ministry.



*"We view the **Witness to Love** program as a blessed opportunity to give back to our parish. Over the years, ND has provided us with a spiritual sanctuary when times are tough and a place to celebrate the blessings the Lord bestowed upon us. As we accompany these couples, we recall our married life, especially in our early years, and how we had to navigate it the best we could. In participating in the WTL program, we can reminisce with our couples about our life experiences and how God was ever present and carried us through.*

In the course of the six weeks of mentoring our couples, we've watched them grow closer as a couple through open, meaningful, and heartfelt discussions. We enjoy being a part of our couples' journey. We help get them started toward marriage "Oneness"!

Jim & Gina Walljasper



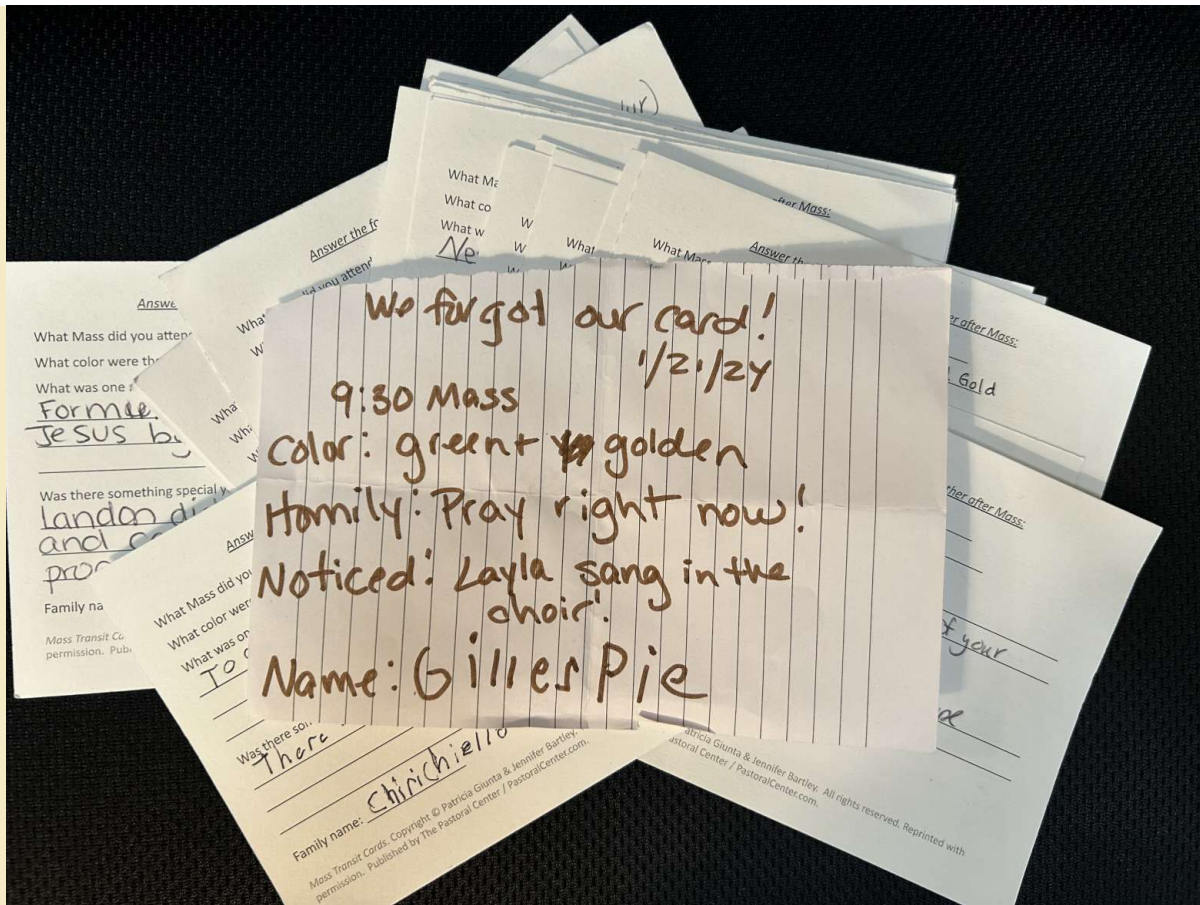
Congratulations, Chris & Pat Giro!

Congratulations to Chris & Pat Giro! Fr. Regis Wallace, OSB+, celebrated their sacramental ceremony right here at Notre Dame 35 years ago, and this past Sunday at the Family Mass, Fr. Alex offered a blessing in celebration of their special anniversary.



Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)



What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"When Jesus calls, listen and follow him. He will help you."

"Later means never."

"God is not just in church; God is in our friends but also in our enemies."

"Look for God in everyone, even your enemies."

"God is in all of us, and we should always see God in everyone around us no matter the situation, good or bad."

"Jesus is the foundation. The families are the bricks. The sacraments are the roof."

"The story of Jonah was fun. I liked that he went on a whale. We can't always say later to God."

"Pray right now!"

"Let God into the desert of your heart."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"There were a lot of kids."

"Father Alex was back."

"My two besties came to church with me."

"Mass was empty because of the snow, and Fr Paddy said Mass."

"Landon did his first reading, and Caroline handed out programs."

"It was the last Sunday to sign up for women's and men's cornerstone retreat."

"Reagan and I (Makenna) sang in Joyful Noise for the first time!"

"The priest is funny: he said that the Pope sent out a letter to all the priests saying that the homily can only be 8 minutes!"

"Today, I gave out the music programs."

"To get to know and love Jesus."

"Sometimes we forget about God, but he should always be remembered no matter where we are."

"The gospel had my name Andrew in it."

"Don't leave Mass early. Your card just might get picked."

"Children were coloring for people to smile."

"People from our town attending this church for the first time."

"There were adult altar servers."

"There was a different lady singing than at the 9:30 Sunday Mass."

"Fr. Paddy sang a special poem during his homily."

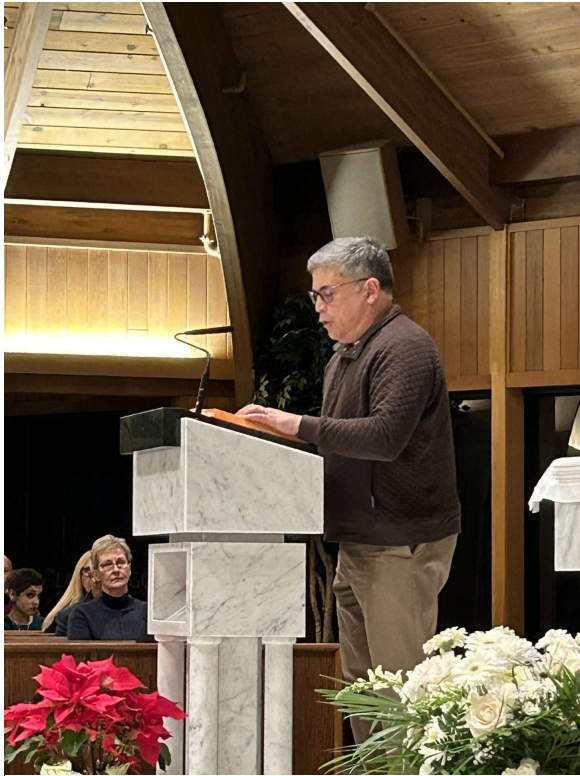
This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

Memories that share our story...

5 pm Mass:





Family Mass:





6 pm Mass



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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