

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 5:18 PM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: September 26, 2023



Beautiful Eucharist

"Perhaps the most painful sentiment is that cry of the heart, "God, where were you?" This is not an inconsequential question. The problem of evil is real, and many of us carry wounds of neglect, abandonment, abuse, rejection, and pain... on this earth, we're all walking wounded. Back to the first question: why would God hide from us?"



"Our God is not one to reveal Himself in a bombastic, Hollywood-type manner. He speaks in the quiet, in the still small voice, and in unassuming bread... How beautiful is it, then, that God gives us the Eucharist? It is His eternal invitation to come and find Him, the only one who can truly fulfill the deepest desires of our hearts. And so, whenever we yearn for meaning, feel tired and overwhelmed, become uncertain about the direction of our lives, or simply need to feel loved... we know just where to turn. God awaits us in the Eucharist. As long as we never tire of seeking Him there, we will find exactly what our souls need."

Bobby Angel, in Matthew Kelly's Beautiful Eucharist

Dear Parents of Children with Special Needs

By Mary Malone

As a catechist in our Special Needs ministry at Notre Dame of Mount Carmel, I would like to share information about our program and why I encourage families with special needs children to participate.



Our Special Needs Faith Formation program fosters a sense of belonging that is essential for all children, regardless of their abilities. We understand that families with special needs children often face unique challenges, and we provide a welcoming environment where you and your child feel accepted and valued. Our hope is that you and your child will form friendships and strengthen spiritually. We try to adapt the Faith Formation lessons to suit the unique learning needs of each child and make the materials engaging and fun!



"We are blessed that our family can participate in the Special Needs Faith Formation. We were concerned that our son would not be able to receive the sacraments because we could not find any local parishes that had a special needs program. With God's blessings and guidance, we found

Notre Dame of Mount Carmel. We are grateful to the church community and overwhelmed with joy that our son can participate in our faith.” Kim Rodwell



Witnessing the children’s progress, whether a smile or a simple prayer, is a cause for celebration! It is so important to us that our special needs children become more involved in our church activities because they are an essential part of our congregation.

In closing, I want to emphasize that being a catechist for our Special Needs ministry has been an incredibly rewarding journey for me, and I believe it can be equally enriching for your family. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our catechism family, where together, we can explore the beauty of our Catholic faith.

*Blessings,
Mary Malone, Special Needs Faith Formation Catechist*

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

By Fr. Alex

Our Liturgy is a fantastic moment of encounter. We encounter Christ in each other as a community gathered in His name. We encounter Christ in the priest who makes our Lord present to us in persona Christi. We encounter Christ in the Word we hear, especially in the Gospel. And, of course, we encounter Christ in the Eucharist, our Church's greatest gift. But imagine if our Eucharistic feast could not reach all those who are able; how sad it would be.



In 1965, Pope Saint Paul VI instituted Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) to assist the priests in distributing Holy Communion to the faithful. So often, we take for granted that we can come to Mass and not wait 20-30 minutes for the distribution of Holy Communion, but without this unsung hero, that wouldn't be the case. And critically, to those of our homebound who would otherwise be excluded from the Eucharistic feast, made present to our community by the faithful presence of EMHCs at their home.



In this time of Eucharistic Revival, our EMHCs are receiving new and recurring training to ensure they are prepared for this mission. The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our faith, so it requires the utmost care and reverence. This duty is upon all the faithful in how we approach the Lord at Mass and in His home, the Church, but especially for our EMHCs who handle the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus. This is why every three years, at a minimum, EMHCs need to have training and be re-commissioned to serve in our specific community. It is also an opportunity for lay faithful to discern if God has called them to assist in new ways in our Church. Many are called to non-liturgical ministries, but some have felt a calling to serve the Lord as an EMHC and will be trained for the first time.

We all are responsible for sharing Christ with the world, but if we cannot be fed first, we won't have the strength to do it. We need the Eucharist, and until we have more priests and deacons, we will need our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to help serve us. So continue to pray for vocations to the ordained ministries and pray for the men and women who help to serve the Eucharistic feast to us. St. Tarcisius, Pray for us!

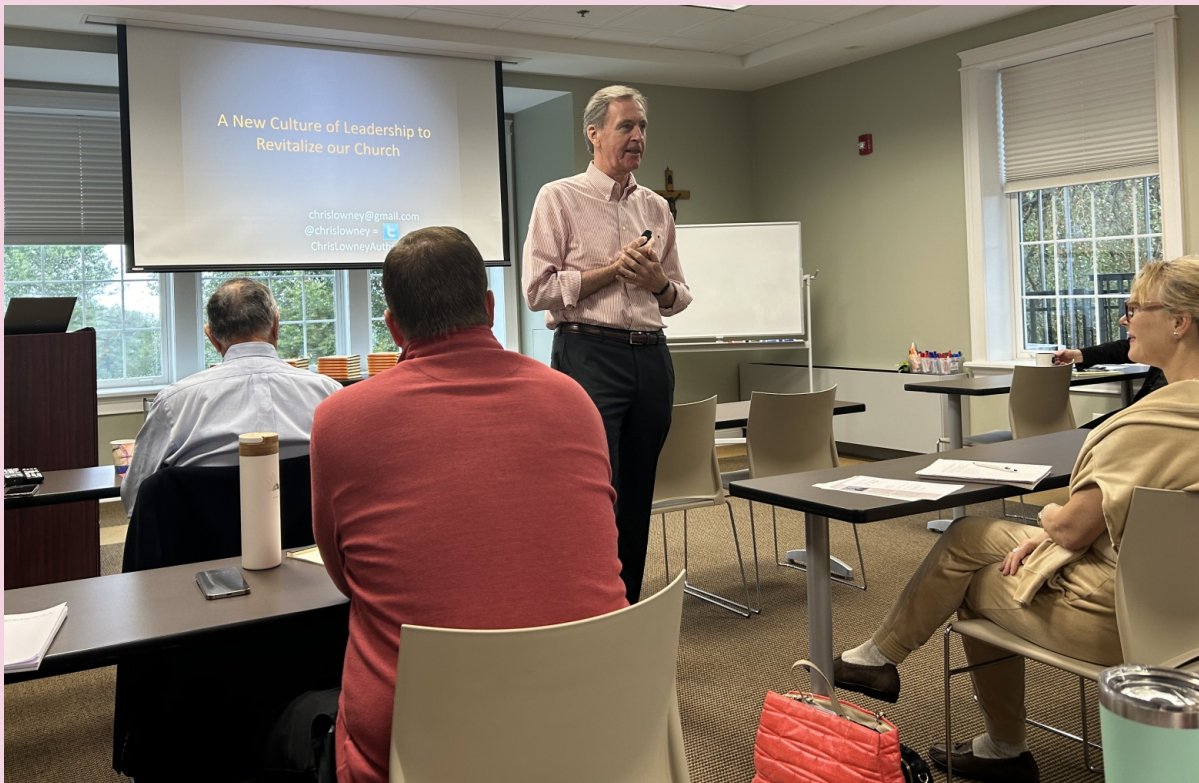


All Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist wishing to remain active in the ministry (including serving as subs only) and those wishing to be part of the ministry are asked to attend one of two gatherings:

- **This Wednesday, September 27, at 6:30 pm.**
- **Saturday, October 14, at 9:30 am.**

"Everyone Leads"

This past Saturday morning, **St. Paul Inside the Walls** hosted a special event, "**A New Culture of Leadership to Revitalize Our Church**," with keynote speaker and renowned author **Chris Lowney**. As the "Best Practices in Leadership" is one of the three fundamental values driving the renewal of our parish (*the other two being Evangelization and Reliance on the Holy Spirit*), a few from our parish headed to St. Paul's for this special opportunity to learn and be inspired and equipped as missionary disciples and leaders in our parish.

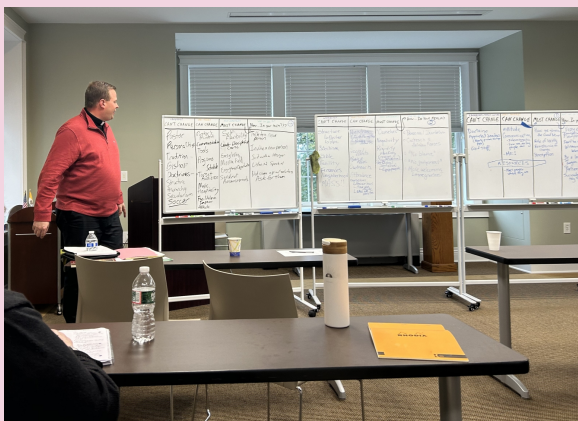


Much of Chris's sharing focused on aspects of our culture that could impact (positively or negatively) the fruitfulness of our mission of drawing people to Christ; one example he offered was breaking out of a culture of "blame" and instead focusing on actions to overcome setbacks, learn and move forward.

Time for a new culture of leadership:

- A culture where **everyone leads**, that is, where each person feels a leadership opportunity and responsibility. Living our baptismal promise!
- Improve our **leadership skills**: To overcome the "Moses problem"
- A "one team" **mindset**: interested in **generating solutions**, not in scapegoating other Catholics for our problems
- Highly **entrepreneurial**: willing to try new approaches
- Deeply **accountable** for the mission
- Motivated to **reach out**, not hunker down
- A daily habit of reflection: nourished by **prayer**
- **Courageous yet humble**: calling upon the Spirit's gifts

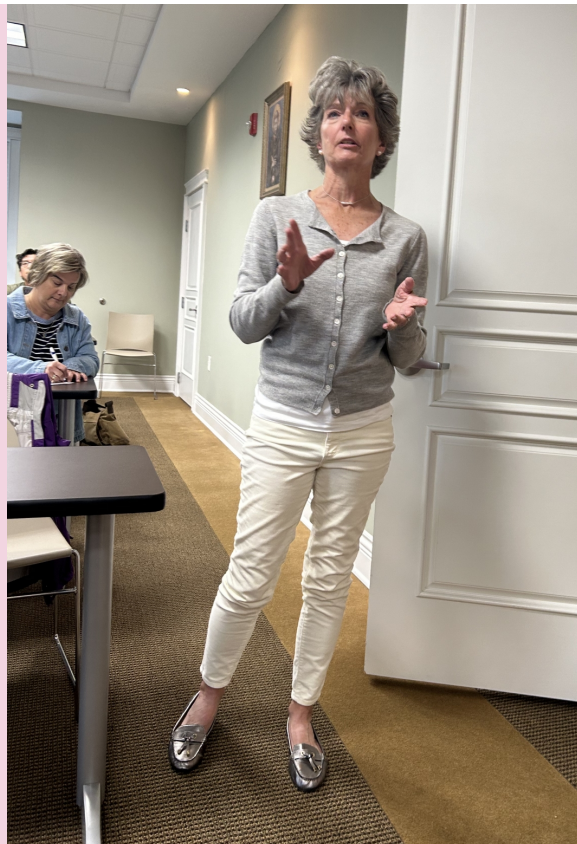
*"Chris Lowney reminded us that we are all leaders and need to think of ourselves as leaders. He also reminded us that we need to take risks; we shouldn't be deterred by thoughts of failure (not all things will work). After Chris spoke, we were split into teams to identify items we can't change, those we can change, and those that must change. The last category was those we can change in our realm. Three of the four groups identified **invite** as something we can all do. We are blessed at our parish to hear the message of welcoming and inviting as part of our mission. Hopefully, this message of welcoming and inviting will be brought back to other parishes in our diocese." Debbie White*



"Chris Lowney was fantastic! His rich background in business, coupled with his love for the Church, makes him the ideal source for visionary teachings on Catholic leadership. While our parish can continue to benefit from an "everyone leads" mentality, we will be even better positioned for the future if we adopt more of an entrepreneurial spirit within our parish." Dcn. Eric Kispert

"We all are important to the continuity of our Catholic faith community - it starts with EACH one of us. Every member of our parish is capable and responsible for inviting people back to church or to church with a warm welcome and innovative ideas - thinking outside the box for 2023 youth, young adults, and adults." Teresa Schuele

"I enjoyed the warmth and welcoming nature of the guest speaker, Chris Lowney. He was an awesome example of a leader who inspires and encourages others. His leadership style, while not really the focus of his talk, was a model that is well worth emulating. I was pleased to know that much of what we do at Notre Dame aligns with his talk's focus. He encourages everyone to take ownership of being a leader, which Notre Dame promotes and fosters." Maria Cascio



"Many of the participants came in thinking there was little that could be changed in the Church's struggles with today's problems. Talking through the challenges, we realized that there is much more that can be done by not just clergy but laity as co-responsible in the Church's mission." Fr. Alex

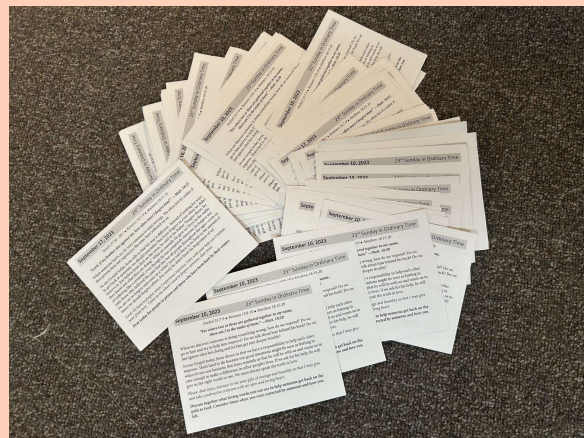
"In Transit" to Faith!

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

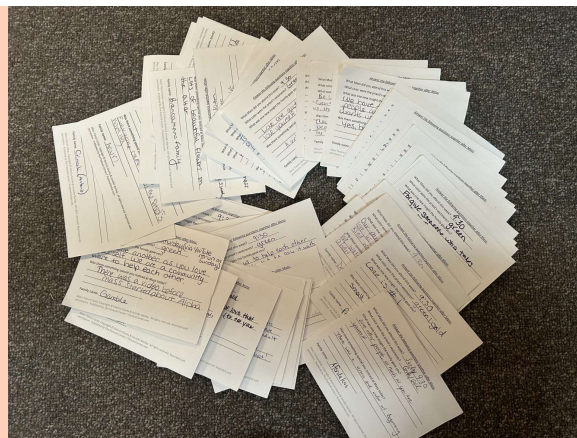
This month, our elementary families began using **Mass Transit Cards**, a weekly, lectionary-based faith conversation starter for parents and children.



One side of the card, which is read **before** attending Mass, has the readings for Sunday and a summary of how the readings relate to our lives, along with a discussion question.



The other side of the card has questions about that Sunday liturgy to be filled out after Mass. The completed cards are returned the following week and placed in the Mass Transit box.



What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"Love is #1"

"Mom and Dad don't let me do everything but love me a lot."

"Forgive someone who takes my toys."

"To love, not hate."

"I learned that if someone does not believe in God, you have to be God for them so they start to believe in God."

"If someone is mean, tell them in a nice way."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"No."

"The gold church" (Vince was very interested in where they keep the host!)

"It was our first time at 6 pm Mass, and we loved the instruments with the choir."

"Many friends at church."

"We learned about Alpha meetings."

"The children's choir was awesome!"

"Lots of beautiful flowers at the altar."

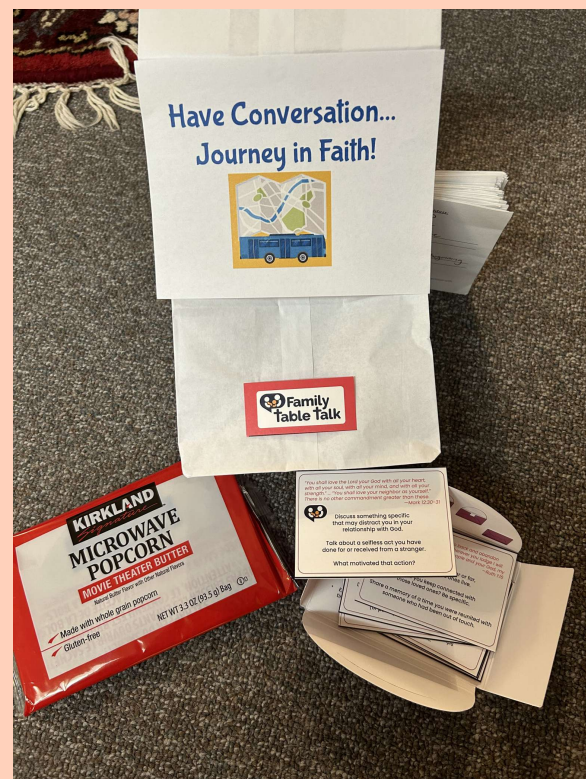
"I noticed a cute little baby."

"There was an Alpha video, and the lady was talking about how she feels."

"The kids who read, read really well."

"There were a lot of people at Mass."

Each week at the end of Mass, we acknowledge a family who completed a Mass Transit Card by pulling a card from a basket and presenting the family with a small token to help them foster conversation and continue their journey in faith.



Kick-Off to a New Year of Marriage Ministry!

Our Marriage Ministry hosted the Autumn Dinner Dance, the first of several events this coming year inviting couples to partake in opportunities that strengthen their relationship, faith journey as couples, and sense of belonging and community.

Despite the rainy weather, the Son shone inside our Parish Hall and in the hearts of all gathered!



"Attending the dinner dance was fun! A great way to spend time together, enriching your marriage with like-minded couples."
Alicia & Dan

"We had such a great time connecting with neighbors and fellow parishioners! We met new friends and enjoyed learning about the upcoming events at Notre Dame. The event was beautifully decorated, with great food, and the energetic music performed by the DJ was so entertaining and great to dance! We had so much fun and would definitely do it again and recommend it to other couples!"
Elaine & Vincent

"The dinner meant the world to us. Great food, great friends, and great time!! A big shout out to Joe and Ann Bono for their hard work and dedication to the program. Everyone can learn by their tireless example." Paul & Patty

"I just wanted to thank you very much for a great dinner dance and all the hard work that went into organizing it. Bob and I had such a nice time and look forward to all the great things the ministry has planned. God bless!"
Margie & Bob

Diocesan Ministries Appeal

The 2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal officially kicked off this past weekend. This year's theme, "I Have Called You By Name," highlights the importance and value of every person in our neighborhood, county, and Diocese. God calls each of us by name, and our faith assures us that we do not walk this path alone.

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Isaiah 43:1



**Diocesan Ministries
Appeal 2023**

Thank you to all who contributed to last year's Appeal, which serves those in need in Morris, Passaic, and Sussex County. Your gifts have a significant impact on so many lives. Each year, the Diocesan Ministries Appeal supports over 70 Catholic Charities programs, Catholic urban education, Nazareth Village and retired priests' needs, and seminarian formation. Please consider a donation to the 2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Visit our website to learn more, or go to www.2023appeal.org to make a gift today!

This week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

Memories that share our story...

Life Teen Youth Ministry: Teens supporting our leaders and leaders supporting our teens!



Family Mass





*Finance Ministry President Michael
Critchley meets with our staff!*



*Celebrating birthday month for a couple
of awesome hearts in the parish office!*



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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