

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Did You Know? (Corrected version)



Monsignor Chris Vasko Empowers his Flock

Just like the Historic Church of Saint Patrick is not a traditional neighborhood parish, Monsignor Chris Vasko is not a traditional parish priest. His day begins early, first with morning prayer and care of Sparkles, the rectory pet, followed by presiding at the 6:45 a.m. morning Mass for the Sisters of Notre Dame in Whitehouse. On every day except Tuesday, Msgr. Chris goes to work leading the Tribunal for the Diocese of Toledo, reviewing requests for marriage annulments.

He may get called out during the day to make a hospital visit, for HSP, Immaculate Conception, or as a fill-in for the diocese. "I'm the guy who's in the office most of the time," says Msgr. Chris.

Every Tuesday he enjoys time with the students of Queen of the Apostles School as he presides over Mass for them. There are also days where Msgr. Chris travels to the Cathedral to say Mass for the students when Msgr. William Kubacki, Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia is not available.

Evenings during the week are often taken up with meetings and hospital visits, as well as Wednesday evening Mass every week and Pints with the Pastor on the first Wednesday of the month. Several Sundays each month, Msgr. Chris travels north to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Temperance to say the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Beyond saying Mass and bringing the Sacraments to those in need, Msgr. Chris also serves the diocese in other ways. He brings his expertise to the College of Consultors. Bishop Daniel Thomas must get input or approval from this team on financial matters for the diocese.

The Diocesan Review Board reviews the allegations of priestly abuse within our diocese, and Msgr. Chris has served on the board since its inception in 2001. He works alongside a civil judge, a lawyer, a victim of prior abuse, two psychologists, a pediatrician, and a lay person. The board recommends to the bishop a course of action in each reported case of abuse.

More often than not, abuse cases have passed the civil statute of limitations. Although there may be no civil recourse for a victim, there is no statute of limitations in the Catholic Church and the Diocesan Review Board can provide justice.

Growing up in Swanton, Msgr. Chris remembers having a conversation with Jesus at age five or six, but his marriage to the Church came after he experienced life in the secular world. He was very familiar with the lives of priests thanks to his parents' and grandparents' close

relationship with the clergy of the parish. The priests were an extension of family. Often, if the priests weren't at his home, Msgr. Chris remembers his family being at the rectory.

He was always an active member of his parish, wherever he was. As a student at a private Catholic college in Houston, Tex., he earned a bachelor's degree in history followed by a master's degree. It was not necessarily Msgr. Chris's plan to get a master's degree, but because he was the top student in history, the master's degree was a free reward. All he had to do was pick a college in Texas where he wanted to study.

After college Msgr. Chris was an active lay person at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Swanton. He believes his work as a lay person in the Catholic Church helped him to become a better priest and taught him how to create what he needed for a successful ministry, whether it was in religious education or leading the children's choir.

"You have a much better sense of collaboration and cooperation with people," Msgr. Chris says. "Everything we did was self-generated."

At age 29, Msgr. Chris entered the seminary, older than many of his fellow seminarians who entered right out of high school or college, but with many beneficial life experiences. "It was a long road, but a very good one," says Msgr. Chris.

After spending time as an ordained priest in the Lima Deanery, Msgr. Chris was surprised to be encouraged by Bishop Hoffman to get a doctoral degree that led him to his work with the Tribunal. "Who would have ever thought I could lead the Tribunal?" Msgr. Chris says. "It's like I always say, if you follow the will of your bishop, you will always be happy."

Working with HSP and IC, Msgr. Chris believes in being a hands-off supporter of the lay ministry in the parish. Empowering people to explore the Catholic faith and create parish programs to help parishioners grow in grace, is his goal. That empowerment, which he experienced as a lay person, connects people more directly with their Catholic faith practice.

His life as a priest has been a blessed one for Msgr. Chris, and he wishes his joy would also be realized in young men today. Many of them, he believes, are afraid of the calling primarily because of the issue of celibacy. His wish is for young men to let go of their fear and consider a marriage to the Church.

"It is the happiest choice you can ever make," says Msgr. Chris. "The bond is between the priest and God. My prayer for any parish community is for young men to give it a try."

How To Pray the Rosary

Praying the Rosary

1. While holding the crucifix, make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. On the first bead and all the single beads, say an Our Father.
3. Pray one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads for an increase in faith, hope, and charity.
4. On the next single bead, pray the Glory Be.
5. Before praying the next set of ten beads (called a decade), first meditate on the first mystery. Announce the mystery, imagine the event, and begin to meditate on it by itself or in association with whatever matter the mystery brings to your heart.
6. Pray an Our Father.
7. Pray a Hail Mary on the first bead of the decade, and on each following bead.
8. After praying the decade, pray the Glory Be. You may also want to add the Fatima invocation.
9. Reflect on the second mystery, then pray an Our Father on the next single bead.
10. Pray the Hail Mary on the next ten beads. Repeat the sequence around the rosary.
11. At the end of the last decade, pray the Hail Holy Queen.

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary

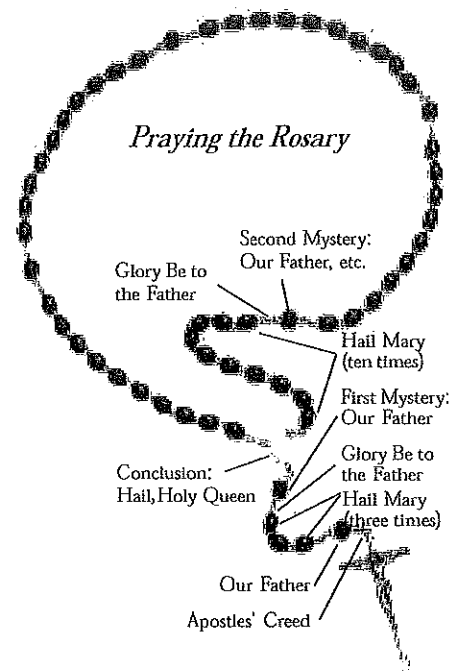
Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

The Glory Be (The Doxology)

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.



Fatima Invocation

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy.

Hail, Holy Queen (*Salve Regina*)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays and Saturdays)

1. The Annunciation of the birth of the Lord to Mary by the archangel Gabriel (Lk 1:26-38).
2. The Visitation of Our Lady with St. Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist (Lk 1:39-56).
3. The Nativity of Our Lord (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20).
4. The Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple (Lk 2:22-32).
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52).

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays and Fridays)

1. The Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mk 14:32-42).
2. The Scourging of Jesus (Jn 19:1).
3. The Crowning with Thorns (Mk 15:16-20).
4. The Carrying of the Cross (Jn 19:12-17).
5. The Crucifixion (Mt 27:33-56; Mk 15:22-41; Lk 23:26-49; Jn 19:16-30).

The Luminous Mysteries

(Thursdays)

1. The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan (Mt 3:13-16).
2. The Self-Manifestation of Our Lord at the Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11).
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Mk 1:14-15).
4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord (Mt 17:1-8; Lk 9:28-29).
5. The Last Supper, when the Eucharist was Instituted (Mt 26).

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesdays and Sundays)

1. The Resurrection (Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20).
2. The Ascension (Lk 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12).
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
4. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Song 2:8-14).
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Mother (Rev 12:1-4).

Diocese of Toledo
Perpetuate The Gift Appeal
Frequently Asked Questions
Commitment Weekend - October 13-14, 2018

What is “Perpetuate The Gift”?

Perpetuate The Gift is simply the annual appeal that supports our Diocesan Priests’ Retirement Fund. It signifies the beautifully unending and total commitment of our priests to our spiritual salvation, and our contribution to their retirement.

How many retired Priests do we currently have?

All diocesan priests who are eligible to receive retirement benefits in accordance with the Priest Retirement Plan. We currently have 89 retired priests and 87 active priests whose average age is 50 years old. There are many priests who are either retired or approaching retirement age than those who are in the first half of their careers.

Who oversees the Priests’ Retirement Fund?

The fund is overseen by the Priests’ Retirement Fund Board, which is a subcommittee of the Finance Council of the Diocese of Toledo. The Board is composed of priest representatives, both active and retired, professionals in the actuarial fields and plan administration. The plan administration and actuarial professionals are present at all board meetings.

How are the funds invested?

The funds are invested with professional fund managers in socially responsible investments, as defined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Oversight is provided by the custodian, Priests’ Retirement Board, Diocesan Investment Committee and Diocesan Finance Council.

Don’t we already support the retired priests through the *Collection for Retired Religious*?

No, the *Collection for Retired Religious* does not benefit our diocesan priests. The funds for the *Collection for Retired Religious* support priests, brothers and sisters of the various religious orders and communities throughout the United States.

Doesn’t the parish already make a contribution to the Priests’ Retirement Fund?

Yes, each parish has always provided support for the Priest Retirement Fund. But please remember; all contributions to the *Perpetuate the Gift* appeal between October 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 will reduce—dollar-for-dollar—the amount the parish needs to contribute to the fund via the annual Priest Retirement Assessment.

What are the typical living expenses for a retired priest?

When a priest retires, his living expenses actually increase. A retired priest is responsible for his personal expense such as food, clothing, car, housing and utility costs, and medical expenses. While a priest is active, his housing and food expenses are paid by the parish, school, or diocesan institution to which he is assigned. When he retires, he must provide for his own housing needs.

It is important to know that many of our priests designate the Priests' Retirement Fund as a beneficiary of their estate.

What is a typical retirement income for a retired priest?

The income for a retired priest is generally derived from three sources: Priests' Retirement Fund pension, Social Security payments, and personal savings. While most individuals split their FICA tax with their employer 50/50, diocesan priests are considered self-employed by the IRS, so each priest pays the entire 15.3% FICA tax out of his own salary.

How can I make a gift?

A gift of cash or check can be placed in your parish collection or sent to:

Perpetuate The Gift
PO Box 954
Toledo, OH 43697

Online gifts by credit card or direct debit can be made at www.toledodiocese.org. Click on Give!

To make a gift of stock, please contact the Catholic Foundation at 419.244.6711.

If you are interested in designating a bequest to the Perpetuate The Gift, please contact the Catholic Foundation at 419.244.6711.