



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Fr. Godfrey Mullen Reflects on His Vocation and Service to God and Church

### *Answering Christ's Call to Great Joy and Fulfillment*



**W**e all know Fr. Godfrey as our loving Cathedral Rector who leads us with joy and passion. But do we know his story? What brought him to the priesthood? What gives him that joy and passion? Who is Fr. Godfrey beyond the collar?

We sat down with him to find out!

“I am the fourth of five children,” Fr. Godfrey says. “To some extent, my upbringing did impact my thoughts on becoming a priest.”

Fr. Godfrey and his siblings were raised with close connections to their parish. His mom was the school and

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# Fr. Godfrey Mullen Reflects on His Vocation and Service to God and Church

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parish secretary for many years and his dad was an active leader in the parish. And that, he says, planted a seed of sorts, helping him to see the role of the Church as central in his life.

“My family was regularly at church, not just for Sunday Mass, but for all types of things,” Fr. Godfrey says. “That experience definitely opened for me a different vision of a parish.”

Fr. Godfrey got involved in parish life from a very young age. After first grade, he began serving as an altar server. Then, he became a lector during grade school and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion in high school. Additionally, in high school, Fr. Godfrey was active in his parish’s Catholic Youth Organization. So, indeed, the Church was a big part of Fr. Godfrey’s life growing up. The call to the priesthood had not crossed his mind.



*“Get to know your priests and religious.*

*The more I get to know a variety of priests and monks, the easier it becomes to consider this life without fear.”*

*— Fr. Godfrey*

“When I was 11, a Felician sister asked if I ever thought about being a priest,” Fr. Godfrey says. “I said no, but soon thereafter, it seemed like a reasonable idea. The idea stayed with me, and nothing else seemed like a better one.”

When it’s God’s plan for your life, there is never a better one! And on June 5, 1994, when Fr. Godfrey was ordained a priest of the Archabbey of St. Meinrad by Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, he found that out firsthand!

“There is a great joy in serving the Church in any vocation,” Fr. Godfrey says. “But the gift of self in religious life and/or ministry is, at its best, a pouring out of ourselves for the glory of God and the growth of the Church. It is rewarding to give in ways that make a positive difference.”

And when asked what his favorite part of the priesthood is, Fr. Godfrey admits it’s hard to pick just one!

“It’s hard to narrow down my response to one favorite,” he says. “Celebrating the Mass, preaching, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation rank pretty high! I love weddings and funerals and school Masses.”

Listening to Fr. Godfrey reflect upon the many joys of priestly life, we wondered, are there any negatives?

“I’d prefer if things started later in the morning,” Fr. Godfrey says, with a chuckle.

In all seriousness, though, the life of a priestly or religious vocation is not particularly easy, but the joy and fulfillment that come from following Christ’s call overshadow any hardships. Fr. Godfrey encourages all young men and women who have not yet found their vocation to consider whether God is calling them to a religious vocation.

“Trust in the Lord, He knows our hearts,” Fr. Godfrey says. “As we read in Jeremiah 29:11, ‘For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, to give you a future of hope.’ Get to know your priests and religious. The more I get to know a variety of priests and monks, the easier it becomes to consider this life without fear.”

God calls each of us to a vocation of service to the Church, and when we find the vocation to which He has called us, we find joy, peace, and fulfillment that knows no bounds! Where is God calling you? Could it be to priestly or religious life?



*A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector*

# Celebrating Our Fathers as Role Models in the Faith this Month

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach Father's Day, let's reflect on the significance of this day for our Catholic community. Father's Day is not just a secular holiday for us; it holds deep spiritual and moral importance, reminding us of the crucial role that fathers play in our families and in our faith.

In the Catholic tradition, we are called to honor our fathers and mothers as one of the Ten Commandments teaches us. It is a commandment that carries profound spiritual implications. Honoring our fathers is a reflection of our respect and love for the authority and guidance they provide within our families. It is a way of showing gratitude for their sacrifices, their love, and their unwavering support throughout our lives.

Fathers set a powerful example in the Catholic faith for their children. Just as God the Father is a model of perfect love and guidance for us, earthly fathers are called to reflect this divine love in their families. By nurturing and guiding their children with love, faith, and moral values, fathers become living witnesses to the teachings of Christ. They play a pivotal role in shaping the spiritual journey of their children, instilling in them the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Our faith reminds us that fathers are called to be the spiritual leaders of their families, creating a foundation of love and faith upon which their children can build their own relationships with God. They are entrusted with the responsibility of passing on the traditions and values of our Catholic faith, ensuring that the flame of faith continues to burn brightly in the hearts of the next generation.

On this Father's Day, let us remember to pray for all fathers, both living and deceased, within our parish community and beyond. Let us express our gratitude for their love, their sacrifices, and their unwavering dedication to their families. Let us also pray for those who may have struggled in their role as fathers, that they may find the strength and guidance to become the fathers that God intended them to be.

It is a day for us to offer our love and appreciation to



our earthly fathers while also recognizing the great example set by our Heavenly Father. As we honor our fathers, we honor God's plan for the family and the vital role fathers play in nurturing faith, love, and moral values within our homes.

I encourage all of you to spend this Father's Day reflecting on the importance of fathers in our lives and in our faith. Let us celebrate their love, cherish their guidance, and pray for their well-being. May God bless all fathers with the strength and wisdom to continue being the spiritual leaders and loving role models our families need.

Peace,

*Fr Godfrey OSB*

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB  
Cathedral Rector





# Community Witnesses End of an Era as *Students, Families, and Staff Bid*

As the 2023-24 school year drew to a close, we marked the end of an era. For 177 years, the grade school here has been a big part of our lives. And as we bid farewell to not only the school year but also to the institution of Notre Dame itself, we do so with sad yet grateful hearts.

“I am sad to see the school close,” says Linda Hobbs, who served as Notre Dame’s principal for the last 12 years. “The school has been a big part of my life. I went to grade school there, my children went to school there, and I taught there. I am thankful to be a part of such a great school and parish community. We are blessed with so many wonderful students and families.”

Sandra McNease, who served as secretary at Notre Dame Academy since 2015, echoes these sentiments. She says that getting to know the families and watching the students grow into young adults has been her favorite part of working there.

“Notre Dame was a true melting pot,” Mrs. McNease says. “It very much had a family feel.”

And as Mrs. McNease looks back on her years at Notre Dame, she says many memories stand out.

“Being able to take advantage of being downtown was a blessing,” she says. “Walking to the YMCA for swimming, walking to various businesses for field trips, and participating in events at the courthouse was wonderful. I have so many wonderful memories. One in particular that stands out was when the entire school walked to the Lincoln in December to see a movie. On their return, I would blast holiday music in the parking lot and everyone would smile and dance. It made me happy.”

Notre Dame was a special place, and as we marked the end of this era, we did so making even more memories together.

In April, we held the last Dinner Auction, with many alumni returning to celebrate. Then, on May 10, we had our field day as well as an end-of-the-year celebration for our parent group, PANDA. And while we will hold on to the memories we’ve made at Notre Dame for a lifetime, both

Mrs. Hobbs and Mrs. McNease encourage us to move forward in gratitude for the past and with great hope for the future.

“A building doesn’t make a school great — the people do!” Mrs. Hobbs says. “We are all sad that we have to move on, but other schools will soon learn how wonderful we are. You will become part of their family too.”

Mrs. McNease offers our students, faculty, and staff words of encouragement as well.





# Notre Dame Academy Closes Its Doors A Farewell to Beloved Institution

“We gave it our best,” she says. “It is hard to accept things we cannot change. Good luck at your new schools. Bloom where you are planted.”

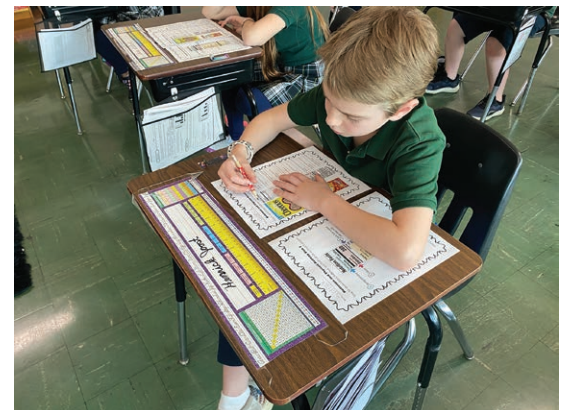
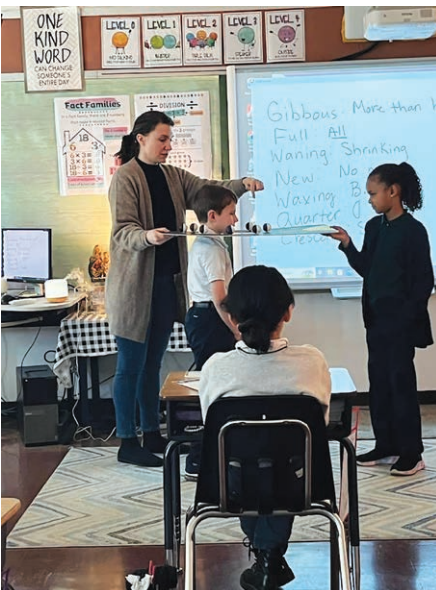
What’s more, Mrs. Hobbs says she wants to offer her sincere gratitude to the entire Notre Dame community.

“I am so thankful to have worked with such a wonderful staff throughout the years,” Mrs. Hobbs says. “I would like to thank my school families for their support and trust throughout these years. Lastly, I would like to thank the students — past and present— for the wonderful memories. I have loved my job, and it is because of all of you. I will always be grateful for you.”

The closing of this chapter is a sad one for all of us. May we look forward with hope for the future, confident in what God has in store for each one of us.

*“A building doesn’t make a school great — the people do! We are all sad that we have to move on, but other schools will soon learn how wonderful we are. You will become part of their family too.”*

— Linda Hobbs, Principal





# The Heart of Catholic

## STEWARDSHIP

*Sharing Time, Talent, and Treasure in Gratitude to God*

**S**tewardship is not just a concept; it's a way of life deeply rooted in the teachings of the Church and our faith. At its core, stewardship is about recognizing that everything we have — our time, talents, and treasure — are gifts from God. It's a response of gratitude and an active commitment to use these gifts for the service of God and the benefit of others.

### **Time: A Commitment to Prayer**

Our time is one of the most precious gifts God has given us. In the hustle and bustle of modern life, it's easy to overlook the value of time. Yet, as Catholics, we are called to use our time wisely and in gratitude. This means dedicating time for prayer, reflection, and worship. Time spent in prayer is a powerful way to connect with God. It's not just about asking for things, but also about being in God's presence, listening, and expressing our gratitude. Regular prayer, whether it's personal or communal, strengthens our relationship with God and deepens our faith. Attending Mass and receiving the sacraments is a significant use of our time. It is during these moments that we come together as a faith community to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Worshiping as a community is a vital aspect of our faith, and it reflects our gratitude for God's love.

### **Talent: Sharing Our Unique Gifts**

Each of us possesses unique talents and abilities. Stewardship calls us to recognize our talents as gifts from God and to use them for the greater good. Actively engaging in ministry and service within our parish community is a way to share our talents. Whether it's teaching, singing in the choir, participating in outreach programs, or any other form of service, our talents enrich our faith community. Sharing our knowledge and skills through education and

formation is a form of stewardship. Teaching religious education, leading Bible study groups, or mentoring others are ways we can help others grow in their faith. Offering emotional support, encouragement, and a listening ear are talents too. Our ability to be compassionate and understanding can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

### **Treasure: A Means to Serve**

Our financial resources, though often viewed as a personal possession, are also a gift from God. Stewardship encourages us to view our financial means to support the Church, charitable causes, and those in need. Tithing, the act of giving a portion of our income to the Church, is a tangible way to share our treasure. By doing so, we support the Church's mission and ministries, which include providing spiritual guidance, caring for the community, and spreading the Gospel. Apart from tithing, we are also called to give to charitable causes. Our financial contributions can support organizations that serve the less fortunate, work for social justice, and provide essential services to those in need. As an extension of financial stewardship, planned giving — such as leaving a bequest to the Church or charitable organizations in your will — ensures that your legacy continues to benefit the Church and society even after you've passed away.

In embracing stewardship, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God. By actively using our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude to God, we strengthen our faith, support our faith community, and serve others. This is not merely an obligation, but a joyful response to God's boundless love and generosity. Stewardship is a way of life that deepens our connection with God and empowers us to make a positive impact in the world.



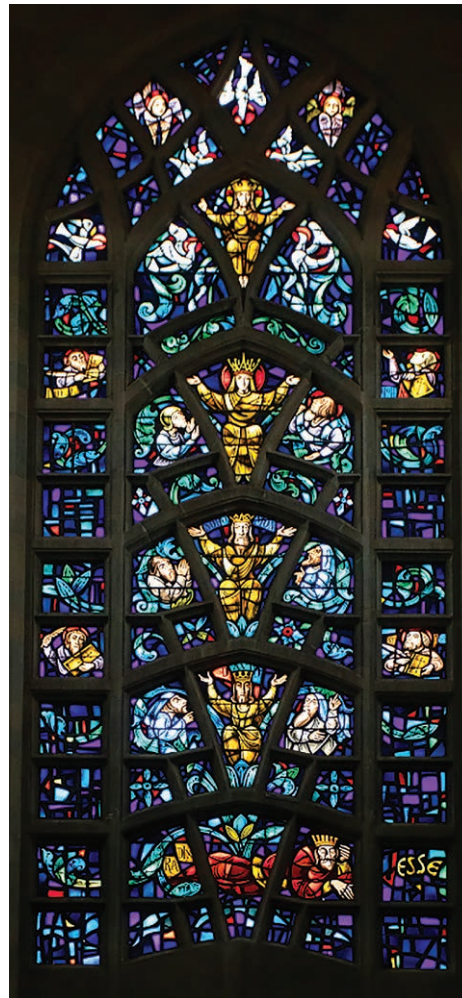
# FORMED: Bringing Valuable Catholic Content to Each and Every Parishioner

Faith formation is a lifelong journey. It doesn't stop when you graduate from Catholic school or a religious education program. Our faith calls us to always pursue a deeper relationship with Christ — and how can we do that without knowing as much as we can about Him? While in-depth Bible studies are a wonderful way to dive into the Word of God, we don't always have time for that commitment. For those of us who want to fit our faith formation into our daily lives, our parish offers a free subscription to FORMED.

FORMED is a streaming service filled with rich, Catholic content. Deacon Wayne Weiler is familiar with many of the programs offered on FORMED because the parish uses this great resource for RCIA, Baptism preparation, and studies throughout the year. During Advent, we offered a study on the Jesse Tree, a great connection to the beautiful stained-glass window in our church. But FORMED is a great option for individuals and families to use at home as well.

“FORMED gives everyone an opportunity to learn something,” Deacon Wayne says. “If there are just a few quiet moments in the day, it's an opportunity to learn a little something. You don't have to leave home or get the kids ready or find

a sitter. It's a way to help folks grow in their faith and come closer to Christ. It really is in line with where our Lord is with us — He meets us where we are and FORMED does that. It meets people where they are,



*Through FORMED, we offered a study on the Jesse Tree during the Advent Season, a great connection to the beautiful stained-glass window in our church.*

helping them to learn as much as they can or as little as they need.”

FORMED offers video content as well as audiobooks and e-books. From movies on the lives of the saints to children's shows, documentaries, and series on the sacraments and liturgical seasons, FORMED has a wide variety for enjoyment, education, and spiritual growth. Simple faith formation at your fingertips offers a range of benefits. As your personal faith grows, it builds up our faith community and the Church as a whole.

“Faith formation helps us to become better disciples,” Deacon Wayne says. “In our mission of discipleship to Christ, stewardship grows from discipleship. We should be seeking out every opportunity to learn as much as we can about our Lord.”

While faith formation can happen at home through the convenience of FORMED, it can also draw all of us deeper into the life of the parish and our communal formation.

“I think sometimes we think, ‘Where can I fit in here? What can I do within my church? Someone is already taking care of it,’” Deacon Wayne says. “I think formation can open our eyes, minds, and hearts to see that there might be something more for us to do. By opening our hearts to Christ, we open them to being more involved.”

*All parishioners are invited to register for free at [formed.org](https://formed.org) using our parish code, PGFP4Q.*



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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## St. Anthony of Padua: *A Beacon of Faith and Compassion*

On June 13, we celebrate the feast day of St. Anthony of Padua, a beloved and revered saint whose life and teachings continue to inspire and guide Catholics around the world.

St. Anthony of Padua's importance in the Catholic Church is multifaceted:

### PATRON SAINT OF LOST THINGS

St. Anthony is widely recognized as the patron saint of lost things. This devotion originates from a story of a lost book of Psalms that St. Anthony fervently prayed to recover. His prayer was answered, leading to his association with helping people find lost items. Catholics around the world turn to St. Anthony when seeking lost possessions and, more symbolically, when seeking spiritual direction and a sense of purpose.

### A MODEL OF COMPASSION

St. Anthony's life was characterized by an unwavering commitment to the poor and the marginalized. He was known for his compassion and his ability to meet the needs of

the needy. His example serves as a model of how Catholics can embody Christ's call to serve others.

### DEVOTION TO THE EUCHARIST

St. Anthony had a deep devotion to the Eucharist, recognizing it as the true presence of Christ. He often celebrated Mass and spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. His devotion to the Eucharist continues to inspire Catholics to deepen their understanding of this central sacrament of the Church.

### POWERFUL INTERCESSOR

St. Anthony is sought after by many for his intercessory prayers. Whether it's seeking guidance, healing, or spiritual assistance, Catholics turn to him with their petitions, believing in his ability to intercede on their behalf.



### MASS TIMES

*Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.*

*Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m.*

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

*Monday-Friday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. | Thursday: 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m.*