



CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY at the
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

St. Thomas More Oratory

45 Lovett Ave. Newark, DE 19711

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Administrative Assistant

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Daily Mass: 12:30PM
Blue Hen Student Mass will resume in the fall

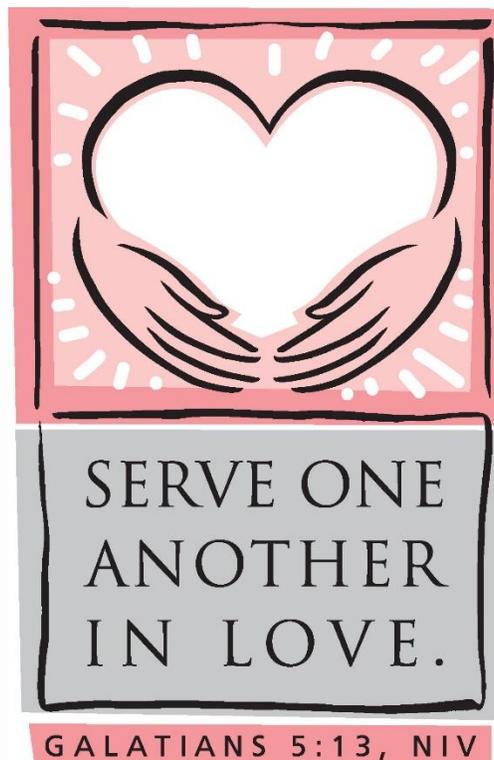
Confession

Tuesday: 5:30 – 6:30 PM
or by appointment

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 10 AM – 2 PM
or by appointment

JUNE 30, 2019
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Friendships begun in this world will be taken up again, never to be broken off.”

~ St. Francis de Sales

A FAREWELL LETTER

My Oblate life began with my reception into the *novitiate* (a period of training for one year prior to taking vows in order to discern whether a person is called to vowed religious life) on August 9, 1979. One year later I took my first vows as an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. Forty years ago I began my journey as a religious, which introduced me to my career in theology when I graduated from Allentown College (now DeSales University) in 1982.



I was fortunate to teach in high schools in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Delaware. During my early years of discernment as an Oblate, I chose to become an *Oblate brother* in 1986. In addition to diverse teaching experiences I was afforded the opportunity to earn two Master of Arts degrees from DeSales School of Theology in Washington, DC (1990) and LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA (1993). During my twenty-six years as an Oblate brother I had some extraordinary and life changing experiences: I made my perpetual profession on November 12, 1988; I experienced deep and long lasting grief at the death of my nephew Patrick in 1995, my parents in 1997 and 2000, my best friends Fr. Rick in 2007, Fr. Angelo in 2008, and Dr. Bea Hernandez in 2010; I was privileged to be the founding Principal of Nativity Prep from 2003 to 2008; and I was the Director of the Formation program for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales from 2008 to 2015 during which time I was also the chaplain for Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, DC.



I honestly believe that all of these experiences were God's way of preparing me for *ordination* to the priesthood, which took place on June 27, 2013 (at the age of 54) at St. Thomas More Church in Allentown, PA. It was the most sacred experience of my life to date. I had no idea how this new ministry would be such a transformative life experience: the joy of baptizing a child; the intimacy of preparing couples for marriage and witnessing their sacramental commitment; the tenderness of anointing the sick and praying with a person as he or she prepared for death; the ability to be a source of comfort to a family as they buried a loved one; to vocalize for a person who is genuinely sorry for his or her sins the words of absolution that God forgives them unconditionally; the challenge to pray and allow the Spirit to inspire me to preach the Word of God in such a way that it touches people's hearts and inspires them to be better Christians; and most importantly, to lead the community

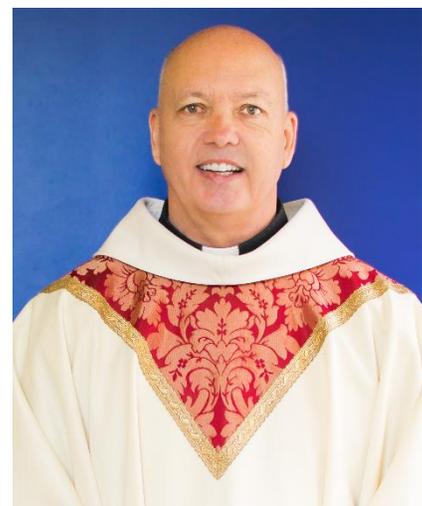
in Sunday worship and humbly stand at the altar calling down the Holy Spirit to transform ordinary bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. These moments of grace have deepened my faith and continue to challenge me to open my eyes to see the many unexpected ways God's presence is manifested in our conflicted world.

My mother taught me that we should “leave a place better than we found it.” It is my genuine hope that I was faithful to that wisdom during the past four years as your *pastor*. This has been the most privileged experience of my Oblate life. You have encouraged me to use my gifts and talents abundantly: I have loved preaching to you – my flock—and knowing that the many hours I have put into preparing for my homilies was beneficial and helpful to you; I have loved the opportunity to transform the facility into a beautiful place to worship, study, and socialize; I have loved the collaborative ministry and the engaging community we created together here at the Oratory; and I will always remember that extraordinary evening of February 4, 2018 when the Eagles won the Super Bowl and celebrating on Main Street Newark with my Eagles flag.



St. Francis de Sales wrote: *Those who go-stay, and those who stay-go*. De Sales believed that friends take a little of their friends left behind with them, and their friends leave a little of themselves with those left behind. A warming thought that can add brightness to any cloudy and sad farewell! The discernment and decision for me to leave St. Thomas More Oratory to become Dean of Students at DeSales University was indeed one of the hardest decisions of my life. I have grown so much during my four years here and I am most grateful to you for empowering me to “Be who I am and to be that well.” Please know that I will take some of my best memories of the Oratory with me wherever I go and I hope that what we have been able to create here at the Oratory will be fruitful for you for many years to come. I can say with certitude that I leave this community a better person than I was when I arrived four years ago, and for that I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for loving me as I am, empowering me to lead with passion, encouraging me to share my gifts and talents, for putting up with my humor and my obsessions with painting, and of course—the Eagles! Thank you for consistently being so generous in support of the mission of St. Thomas More Oratory—Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware. Your financial support of the Oratory has made it possible to provide quality programs for our students, for the parish, for the enhancement of the facility, for the care of the poor and vulnerable, and for our support of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, to which we are faithful members. Most importantly, in light of the modern situation of the Church with the clergy scandals, thank you for entrusting me with your children. I have worked diligently to provide them with a positive role model so that they will grow up with a positive image of priesthood.



I leave you with my favorite quote from St. Francis de Sales: “The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unflinching strength to bear it. So, be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.”

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ONGOING PROGRAMMING

ROSARY

MON 7:30 PM

Come join us to pray the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament

PRAYER & MEDITATION TUE 5:30 PM

Looking for some quiet prayer & meditation time during your busy day?

Stop by the O on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30

5:30 – 6:30 Exposition & Adoration
5:30 – 6:30 Sacrament of Reconciliation
Available
6:30 Benediction

BINGO OUTREACH TUE 6:30 PM

The Jeanne Jugan Home is a retirement home in Newark run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. We volunteer our time by spending an hour playing bingo and talking with the residents. We leave from the Oratory at 6:30 and are back by 8:15PM.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN THE FALL

Looking for a student Bible study? Join us as we look ahead to the Sunday scripture readings and discuss how they affect our lives. Stop by and share the challenges of living out the gospel on campus.

Student Leader: Jenn Wallach

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY IN FALL

Community Bible Study meets weekly to look ahead at the Sunday readings. Community Bible Study is welcome to all non-students. Call or email for more information: udcatholic@gmail.com

FAITH JOURNEY/ADULT CONFIRMATION

Need to receive the sacrament of Confirmation? Thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Sign-up online. Feel free to call or email with questions. Contact – udcatholic@gmail.com

FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

For the Sake of God's Children is the safe environment program of the Diocese of Wilmington, designed to keep young people participating in ministry around the diocese free from harm. Participants include the Bishop, all priests, deacons, seminarians, religious, all lay employees and volunteers. For more information visit www.cdow.org and click the FSGC logo.

OFFERTORY

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|--------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 June 2019 | \$6,599.00 | Year to Date | \$271,574.76 |
| 9 June 2019 | \$4,878.00 | Goal for Fiscal Year | \$270,000.00 |
| 16 June 2019 | \$4,454.18 | | (7/1/18 – 6/30/19) |
| 23 June 2019 | \$4,735.00 | | |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Daily Mass on
Thursday, July 4
will be held at
9:30 AM

June 29 & 30

Please join us downstairs after each Mass to thank Fr. Ed for sharing his gifts with the Oratory community as our pastor for the last four years and wish him well as he prepares to become the Dean of Students at De Sales University.



Light refreshments will be served.

2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal was conducted the weekend of April 6 & 7.

As always the Oratory community was extremely generous, and pledged gifts totaling \$60,325 exceeding our \$59,000 goal.

Thank you for your continued support!

TO GO BAGS NEEDED!

July is our month to help the Empowerment Center.

Each bag should include:

- a protein source (microwaveable pasta meal, single serving soup/stew, tuna lunch, pb & j etc.)
- a snack (granola bar/cracker sandwiches, etc.)
- an applesauce or individual fruit cup
- water or juice box
- spoon & napkin

Each lunch should be put together in a gallon sized Ziploc type bag & placed in the Social Hall. All expiration dates should be at least 3 months from date of purchase