

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: The RCIA: Let's Invite Folks to Come!

In a few weeks, our Hardin County parishes will once again offer the "RCIA" program. "RCIA" stands for "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." It is a process for non-Catholics who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith to do so in a friendly, prayerful, environment. The "RCIA" seeks to invite inquirers into a deeper relationship with Jesus as disciples in the context of the community of believers that goes back to the Apostles, known as the Catholic Church. The RCIA incorporates several important elements of being disciples: coming to know Jesus more personally through prayer and the sacraments, learning more about His teachings on God and a life of virtue and holiness, and learning how to give worship to God in the Holy Mass. The RCIA strives to meet people "where they are", and we recognize that different inquirers come with different faith backgrounds and life experiences. Logistically, the RCIA will meet at each parish on Sunday evenings beginning in September, and will continue until Easter. Typically, at the Easter Vigil Mass, an inquirer then receives Baptism (if not already baptized in another Christian community), Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. But a longer process of discernment and preparation can be arranged if needed. Again, the RCIA strives to help people enter the flock of the Catholic Church in a way that best suits their needs, as they come closer to the Good Shepherd.

I am making our parish aware of the RCIA because we need your help with an important task: please encourage those you know who have expressed curiosity about the Catholic faith to take part in the RCIA. Let them know that it is a wonderful opportunity to come, to learn, to ask questions, to pray, and to meet others who are undergoing a similar journey of faith. If they wish to talk to me or to our parish RCIA directors privately ahead of time regarding any questions or concerns, they are welcome to do so. But as parishes called to evangelize and to spread the faith here in Hardin County, we are counting on all parishioners to encourage someone you know who is seeking a deeper faith experience with Jesus, to check out the RCIA. For more information or questions, any person is welcome to contact me or our RCIA directors (Desiree Tosatto at Ada, and Stacey Stacklin at Kenton) by calling the respective parish office. Thanks for your support of the New Evangelization!

Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at hamilton.college@outlook.com or at 419-634-2626.

WHERE WAS FR. FERGUSON? A Week on a 'Wilderness Outreach' Expedition in Wyoming

As you might have noticed, I was missing for two weekends from Hardin County recently. Every couple of years, I serve as chaplain for a Catholic men's ministry, based in our Diocese, known as 'Wilderness Outreach'. Its aim is to challenge and encourage Catholic men to go deeper in their commitment to the Lord in their particular vocations (fathers, husbands, seminarians, priests, etc) through the five means of prayer, fraternity, leadership, asceticism, and work. To enable this spiritual growth to occur, the expeditions seek to get away from the "noise" of the secular culture for a short time in order to refocus on the important attributes of masculine spirituality in Christ, in a setting which fosters those 5 means. The days consist of manual work doing trail maintenance (our group of 11 removed 244 fallen trees from the trail using crosscut saws), Mass and devotions (we constructed an outdoor rock altar from the rocks in the area), establishing a camp in which all pitch in to help with the duties (yes, men can actually cook!), and discussing spiritual and cultural topics and challenges around the evening campfire. Below are two photos of yours truly in action (setting wilderness fashion trends....). For more information on the program and upcoming expeditions, check out www.wildernessoutreach.net.



THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by "Jackie", the Pastor's Cat

Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie", and as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat. I'm sorry I haven't said much this summer....we cats get a little lazy and sleepy in the summer months. But I'm glad I woke up just in time for Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Our Lady of Lourdes church! It begins tomorrow! I hope all of you can come, including those of you from Immaculate Conception! I hear it's going to be a blast, learning more about Jesus and going deeper in friendship with Him and other kids! Tell your parents to sign you up! I hope I can go, too! I promise not to eat all the snacks! Have a "purr"-fect week!