

A Note from the Pastor



A Grateful Reflection on the 40 Days of Service In Recognition of the 40th Anniversary of my Priestly Ordination

With profound humility and heartfelt gratitude, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all who participated in the 40 Days of Service in honor of my 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. The response from our parish communities was overwhelming—a radiant testament to the generosity, compassion, and deep faith that dwell within our hearts. Above all, I am most grateful for the daily prayers, the spiritual gifts of Masses, and the many good works offered throughout this sacred time. These acts of devotion reflect the

spiritual vitality of our parishioners and their unwavering commitment to living the Gospel.

Throughout the 40 days, countless personal acts of kindness were carried out—daily prayers/rosaries/novenas, neighbors helping neighbors, families supporting one another, numerous acts of kindness serving our sisters and brothers in Christ. Also, daily inspirational notes. These quiet gestures of mercy and love are the true heartbeat of our faith.

- In addition, your material generosity and service to the community reached far and wide, including:
- Donations to St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Holy Family Food Pantry, Weinberg Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and Fork Over Love provided nourishment to those in need, especially the “working poor,” as did a donation to the Food Pantry at St. Francis Center, St. Helena Island, SC.
 - Collections of school supplies, backpacks, and books along with monetary and book donations to the Hoyt Library supported students and lifelong learners.
 - Contributions to the Butcher Scholarship Fund and sponsorships for our Religious Education students ensured that the light of faith continues to shine in the next generation.
 - Blood donations at Holy Redeemer High School serve our entire community; a presentation on Safety within our parishes and surroundings will be held on Sunday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m.
 - Veterans at St. Hedwig’s Village received personal care items from individuals with the heartfelt reminders of our gratitude for their service, and I extend particular gratitude to the Kingston Fire Department’s collection of personal items for the Veterans at St. Hedwig’s Village, which exemplified community partnership and care.
 - An original art piece, shared with the homebound and nursing home residents, along with numerous cards from individuals brought comfort and joy to those who may feel forgotten. Also, 40 letters of encouragement were sent as deemed appropriate.
 - Our CCD students wrote a number of kindness cards for the home bound & nursing home residents.
 - Our societies were particularly generous: the Holy Name Society and Mary’s Ministry generously funded upgrades to our Marian Grotto, creating a sacred space for quiet reflection and devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Holy Family Altar and Rosary donated to the Food Pantry. The Holy Name did a fall cleanup around the rectory and donated to St. Joseph Center/Holy Family Food Pantry.
 - An evening of Adoration and a rosary recitation at SIL church as well as a rosary recitation at the Grotto in Wilkes-Barre offered a prayerful gift, as did Mary’s Ministry rosary recitation prior to 10:30 AM Mass on each Sunday in October.
 - Donations and household items helped establish a welcoming and comfortable living space at Holy Family Rectory.
 - Children and young people benefitted from donation to the Meals for Kids program, and a full-page ad in the Holy Redeemer High School Football Program promoting the 40 Days of Service Campaign helped to support school sports.
 - *Also, many individuals provided generous monetary donations and gift cards, which have provided vital assistance to those in greatest need—individuals who turn to our parishes for help with essential expenses not met by any other source, and whose dignity is upheld through your compassion.*

These are some of the many acts of service and kindness offered during this time. Each one—whether seen or unseen—has helped ensure that the Gospel message of Jesus Christ remains alive and active in our parishes.

The response to the 40 Days of Service in recognition of my 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination was both humbling and deeply inspiring. Your prayers, acts of kindness, and generous offerings of time, talent, and treasure reflect the living faith of our parishes. I offer my sincere gratitude for the many creative ways you honored this milestone. Though this summary cannot capture every gesture, it stands as a testament to the goodness among us and the enduring presence of Christ in our midst. Thank you for all you continue to do in service to the Gospel. With prayerful appreciation I am most grateful! With sincere gratitude to all who participated and for the dedication of the committee, I am

Gratefully yours, *Monsignor Tressler*