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# NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## *2010 Spring Edition of Our Parish Newsletter*

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### **From the Pastor, Fr. John Appiah**

The spirit of God compels us to be of one accord as we work towards the paschal mystery. The paschal mystery culminates at the Resurrection which is the hope, desire, and longing of all hearts. The Resurrection brings new perspective to mortal eyes as something new has come from death; now the *Way* is made straight, *Life* is created anew, and *Truth* permeates all creation.

Through this blessed perspective, I give thanks always because of your hard work from my staff, to teachers in our religious education, volunteers who work both inside and outside the church, along with all who participate in any and all of our ministries here at Notre Dame. The witness of your life to serve in freedom gives life to our parish. Also, your service offers the Church hope as you work without counting the cost.

This year, as in the past, the work outside needs the attention of able-bodied volunteers. We are going to rely on our volunteers to cut the grass. The church has added new equipment; and the work should be relatively fast. The requirement is that individuals sign up and be trained to use the new machine and maintain the old ones. I ask that you take a look and sign up and be present for the training. My hope is to have at least five groups. Each group will consist of at least five people who will volunteer to work on a five-week rotation. The work to be done is mostly mowing grass using riding and push mower and weed eater.

#### **DREAMING!!!!**

As most of us have noticed when traveling along construction sites, the work being done at Notre Dame - the new narthex and religious education classrooms for both the youth and adults - can be described as "your money at work." I pray that you take the opportunity to share in the goodness with curious onlookers and/or with people genuinely interested in the story of Notre Dame and how all things are possible when a people have a common vision.

The vision for all of us here at Notre Dame is to improve on all that exists, including building to sustain our growth, by sharing in the gospel of Jesus Christ we hope to foster unity among the Body of Christ, and to respond with equal sacrifice by what we do to sustain the parish.

With God ALL things are possible. Please continue on the path of sacrifice, love, unity, and support so that very soon we can burn the note on the five-hundred thousand dollars loan. In my heart of hearts, I believe Notre Dame can pay off the loan in just five years.

#### **Haiti**

I am certain that we all continue to monitor the events at Haiti. More than 200,000 Haitians died as a result of the earthquake in Port au Prince on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. According to ALL the news outlets and confirmed by the United Nations, about half of all the Haitians displaced as a result of the earthquake have not received even a plastic tent or a temporary shelter. As a result, I would like for us to remember that suffering is common; and, as the people begin to abandon the hopelessness of the city and head to the towns and villages, we should do everything possible to reach out to Immaculate Conception—our sister parish—de Roseaux. I am sure our generosity will be one of the blessings in the lives of our brothers and sisters who live so close yet so far away and apart from all of us.

Lastly, I hope for us to remember the fact that the U.S. Navy, the Marine expedition team, truly gave us a confident boast by their phone call to confirm our effort at de Roseaux. If for no other reason, but that the effort by the people of Notre Dame Catholic Church in Greeneville, for the past 25 years, has been recognized. Please let us be on our way as in day light so that we will not stumble because we know that God expects us to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

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### **BISHOP'S SPECIAL SEMINARIAN APPEAL ON EASTER SUNDAY**

Our Bishop Richard Stika, Bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville, has asked that each parish take up a second collection on EASTER SUNDAY to benefit the Seminarian Education Fund. Currently the Diocese of Knoxville has ten seminarians. One of them is Dustin Collins who is from Notre Dame Catholic Church; he is our seminarian. It cost \$45,000.00 to educate each seminarian. The blessing is that we have ten seminarians, and the number is supposed to grow for the academic year 2010-2011. Please pray and consider being generous.

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