

## **From the Pastor**

**My Day Off** I drove into Lincoln last week to pick up some altar wine at the store there in the Piedmont Shoppes, Gloria Deo. I spent time at the Pink Sisters. After I arrived home, I was interviewed by a podcast (Go Forth With Heather and Becky) about my pilgrimage to see Father Stanley Rother beatified in Oklahoma City. I will let you know when this podcast is available for listening to and/or downloading. As I drove Interstate 80 on Monday, it was that very WINDY day. The sun shone briefly as I was at the Pinks' chapel, but then went behind a cloud again. It was an enjoyable day!

**Mass Times** I imagine this topic has years of historical backdrop to it, and I have only been here four months, but I am compelled to pose what I have noticed about our current set-up of Sunday Masses at 8:30a.m. at St. Mary's and 10:30a.m. at St. Joseph's. I know that 8:30 is early for some people, especially with young children. I also know that being done with 8:30 Mass and trying to get to St. Joseph is a struggle for me. I have arrived as late as 10:25, which leaves no time for Confessions and prayerful preparation for Holy Mass. I probably average around 10:10 or 10:15 as arrival time. Ideally, I would be on hand at St. Joseph's by 9:45 to provide confessions until 10:15. On Sundays when St. Mary's has coffee and rolls, I cannot stay to enjoy the snacks and fellowship. Oftentimes as well, people have a need to talk to me after Mass. Even on a Sunday where St. Mary's does *not* have coffee and rolls, I have to hurriedly end conversations which may be of high pastoral significance. So, what do we do about all of this? I have thought to myself that 8:00 Mass at St. Mary's is one option. But that is even earlier for families with small children to arrive for. Or, the St. Joseph's Mass could be at 11:00. But then the Mass creeps over into dinner (lunch) time for people, and it would make St. Joseph's coffee and rolls and Altar Society meetings seem to be hurried when they ought not be rushed events. I have thought of adjusting 15 minutes from each current Mass time, making St. Mary's at 8:15a.m. and St. Joseph's at 10:45a.m. Please know that I am not at this time changing anything, but I am trying to gauge what would be best. An interesting sidebar to this topic is something from our Diocesan Synod legislation, which says in Article 9.2.2 "*Pastors who administer more than one parish may establish one consultative body for these parishes, or they may establish an individual consultative body for each parish.*" There are times when bringing together parish leaders from both St. Mary's and St. Joseph's for formal meetings would be a real help to me. It would help me to serve each community better, and unify the two communities.

**Safety Committee** Our last bulletin from Bishop Conley contained this note: "*Pastors and administrators of*

*diocesan parishes, schools, and institutions are reminded about the obligation both in civil law and diocesan law (Synod articles 8.9.1 through 8.9.9) to have an operating safety committee. The safety committee is to submit an annual safety inspection report to Catholic Mutual Group and to the Chancery and each institution should keep these reports on file. Pastors are now asked to show their annual Catholic Mutual safety inspection report to their Dean as part of the Dean's annual parish visitation.*" I will need assistance from volunteers in St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Parishes to help me fulfill this directive. More information is contained in our Diocesan Synodal Legislation, which I can share with you.

**World Mission Sunday** (*I am repeating this note from last week's "From the Pastor" column because of its importance.*)

World Mission Sunday is always observed on the next-to-last Sunday in October. It is observed in every Catholic parish in the world. For our preparation of this year's celebration, I want to share with you the following important information.

**Mission Coop** The Mission Coop preacher, who visited our parishes September 23-24, is a separate and distinct program from World Mission Sunday. The Mission Cooperative that our Diocese of Lincoln participates in is a very good way to support specific missionary dioceses and/or religious orders of priests and sisters who work in missionary lands.

**Canon Law** The Catholic Church is governed by a universal code of law, to which every baptized Catholic is bound to follow in a loving and generous way. You can do an internet search and find the entire body of canons. As with civil law, where we don't really know each and every law by which we are governed, so it is with the laws of the Catholic Church. I recently discovered that Canon 781 of Church law states: "*Since the whole Church is by its nature missionary and the work of evangelization must be held as a fundamental duty of the people of God, all the Christian faithful, conscious of their responsibility, are to assume their part in missionary work.*" In the same subsection of the law, we find Canon 791 and its accompanying components: "*To foster missionary cooperation in individual dioceses: 1) missionary vocations are to be promoted; 2) a priest is to be designated to promote effectively endeavors for the missions, especially the Pontifical Missionary Works; 3) an annual day for the missions is to be celebrated; 4) a suitable offering for the missions is to be contributed each year and sent to the Holy See.*"

**Missio.org** A new web site, which can be trusted, is found at [www.missio.org](http://www.missio.org). There is no "n" at the end of the word "mission" because "mission" in Latin is spelled

“missio”. The web site has amazing ways, and trustful, transparent means by which you can fulfill your Christian mandate to promote the mission work of the Church.

**Parish Mass Census** Each year, the Diocese of Lincoln prepares a number of statistical and financial reports to send to the Holy Father in Rome. One of those reports provides the Pope with the number of people attending Holy Mass on the weekends. We counted last weekend, October 7-8, and we will do it again this weekend, October 14-15. So if you see people (like ushers or other volunteers) counting the attendance at the Masses here in St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, you will know what is going on.

**York Council of Catholic Women** I was blessed to attend last Sunday the meeting of the York Deanery of the Council of Catholic Women. It was held at St. Joseph Church in York. Msgr. James Reinert led the women gathered from about 10 parishes in Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, while the Dean, the Very Rev. James Divis, led us in reciting the Rosary. At the business meeting, I discovered that the Deanery meeting is held once per year and that it rotates on an alphabetical basis among parishes. So, after letter “Y” for York comes letter “A”, for Aurora! Next fall, St. Mary's in Aurora will host the meeting as well as provide officers at the deanery level. Karen Grossnicklaus of our parish has graciously volunteered to head the deanery council of women, as her term of St. Mary's Altar Society president is coming to an end in January. \*\*\* One item discussed at the meeting is how the last Sunday of October is to be celebrated as “LDCCW Sunday.” This Sunday is to be observed with special prayers and to encourage participation in ENDOW or study groups. If officers of our St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes have any ideas for the bulletin or at Mass as to how to celebrate the LDCCW Sunday this year, on October 29, please let me know.

**Against Human Trafficking** Another news item I learned at the York CCW meeting was that the parish in Geneva is sponsoring a talk this Wednesday, October 18. It will feature Sister Margaret Nacke from Concordia, KS, as she speaks about “United States Sisters Against Human Trafficking.” Pope Francis and many church leaders have been speaking out more and more about the scourge of this terrible sin. And know that this trafficking industry is not limited to big cities on the coasts; it happens here in central Nebraska more than you might realize. Please attend this talk if you wish to learn more about what you can do. It will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, Geneva.

**More on LDCCW** If you want to learn more about our women's group across the Diocese, go to their facebook page and like it. Also, the diocesan web page has a place for all things LDCCW. It is at:

**<http://www.lincolndiocese.org/lincoln-diocesan-council-of-catholic-women/about-the-ldccw>**. Finally, if you go to the web site, you can find “The Effect” which is the quarterly newsletter for the ladies. Also, the “News Notes” continue to be a great source of information and it is on-line as well. Lots and lots of women coming together in this diocesan-wide organization is a great help to our entire diocese!

**Royals** My team did not make the Major League Baseball playoffs, but there is always next year. I was glad to be able to catch part of the final game of the season two Sundays ago. I saw the four free agents (Cain, Escobar, Hosmer, and Moustakas) take their curtain call as they left the game at the same time. I had never seen such a sight, of players in a major league game being removed for purpose of giving them a special ovation. I was also glad to hear Denny Matthews sign off the season on the radio broadcast.

**Living Liturgically** This coming week has some great ways to live liturgically with the Church. October 16<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. She received visions and messages from Jesus in the 1600's, especially to promote love and adoration of his Most Sacred Heart. On this day, you could recite the Sacred Heart novena with your family...it is not as long as the Rosary to recite and it has beautiful wording to it. If you have an image, pray in front of it, or you could bring up an image of the Sacred Heart on your phone or device. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the feast of Saint Luke. You could on this day read some passages from his Gospel. Especially in this month of the Rosary, you could choose one of the early parts of his Gospel which outlines the Joyful Mysteries the best out of all four Gospels. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the eight North American Martyrs. These martyrs, six priests and two Jesuit lay brothers, were so zealous to bring the faith to the Native Americans of upstate New York and Canada. You could do a search on internet for the writings of these great saints, especially of St. Isaac Jogues or St. John de Brebeuf.

**Jesus in the Tabernacle** At CCD a couple weeks ago, a child asked me if I made the Sign of the Cross as I passed in front of the church doors as I was walking through the hall. I said, “Yes!” I try to acknowledge Jesus whenever I am in the hall, or I even try to poke my head into church for just a minute or a few seconds to say “Hello” to him. If you are walking in the hall for any reason, I invite you to sign yourself with the Cross or to bow into church toward the tabernacle. Jesus will be pleased, as you do this with faith, and you may be a positive witness to others.

**God Bless You!**  
**Father Grell**