

From the Pastor

My Pilgrimage I am away this weekend, on pilgrimage with my sister to attend the Beatification of Father Stanley Rother in Oklahoma City. You may have seen or heard of this priest, who was martyred by anti-Catholic forces in a civil war in Guatemala in 1981. I have known of Father Rother for years and years, as he attended the same seminary as me, Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland. I am grateful for our missionary priest here in my place this weekend, offering the weekend Masses.

Mission COOP Thank you for the generous hospitality and support given Father Suman George from the Diocese of Satna in India, who is sharing with us the needs of the missions. Please remember him and his diocese in your prayers. It is a very noble desire to give ongoing support to a missionary; however, each missionary that comes to our parish needs your help. Therefore, please help support the larger missionary needs of the universal Catholic Church by supporting the different missionary dioceses who give appeals in our parish each year and by supporting all the dioceses and parishes who cannot even afford to send a missionary to this country by supporting the World Mission Sunday collection next month. I have since childhood always been amazed to think of the Catholic faith in other parts of the world; our family routinely prayed for missionaries. Father Suman George is from the Diocese of Satna in the State of Madhya Pradesh in the Northern part of India. I looked up this area of India, and it looks to be in the center of mainland India. Our own Father Marneni is a good deal south of this area, but by Indian standards, not terribly far away. The information I received from Father Suman George states: *"Even though the population of Satna is over ten million, only 3,000 belong to the Catholic faith. The majority of the population belongs to the Hindu religion. We extend our support to everyone irrespective of their religious beliefs. Health Care Centers such as hospitals and dispensaries run by the Diocese help the poor people in the remote areas. Infant mortality and malnutrition are very high in this State of Madhya Pradesh due to lack of medical care. The diocese is initiating programs to address these issues. Being a mission Diocese, we are in great need of financial support to do our further missionary activities and humanitarian support for the poor and the needy."* *** I am very appreciative of the missionary work St. Mary's and St. Joseph's have supported, directly, to Father Marneni in the past three years. At the same time, we need to continue to support in some way any and all missionary activity, especially as directed by our Diocese of Lincoln through this Mission Coop Program. Remember as well that we need to take care of our own evangelization and missionary efforts locally, both at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. We also need to support our Bishop and our Diocese of Lincoln, as you will see in reading on...

Bishop's Appeal for Vocations We have 39 seminarians studying for our Diocese of Lincoln. Being blessed with this outstanding number of men studying to become priests brings with it, this year, an estimated cost of \$1.3 million.

It costs \$500,000 per year to train one Navy SEAL. The average cost for one year of medical school per student is

\$70,000. The average for law school is \$46,000. If this investment is made in order to protect our nation, our health, and our laws, what would you give to protect the spiritual welfare of your soul?

The men who study at St. Gregory the Great in Seward, in what we call "college seminary", are asked to pay \$5,000 toward their first year of study. Of the seminaries we use, St. Gregory's has the lowest tuition, room, and board, at \$20,000. The theology seminaries in Philadelphia, Maryland, and Rome, range from \$30,000-\$37,000 cost of education for one year. Did you know that when a man is ordained for the Diocese of Lincoln, he is debt-free from his seminary studies? This is a great blessing. YOU, the people of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, back in the years 1991-1996, gave donations to help educate ME to become a priest. And I am ever so grateful!!! *** Because the cost of educating the seminarians is \$1.3 million, Bishop Conley is asking the 135 parishes in the Diocese to donate \$800,000 of that cost. Our parishes have been given an assessment from the Diocese that we will owe toward the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations. Individual parish goals were determined pro-rata based on total assessable income. Assessable income is total combined parish income, excluding capital campaign income and Joy of the Gospel rebates. I am not sure what our goal was last year, but parish assessment goals were capped at a 25% increase or decrease for this year. If we do not raise the full amount of our goal, the remainder will be payable to the Diocese by January 15, 2018. The goal for St. Mary's is **\$4,410**, while St. Joseph's goal is **\$900**. I would suggest that each one reading this consider a gift of \$50-\$100 toward the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations, which will be taken up the weekend of September 30-October 1.

As seen on the reverse side of this sheet, the parish envelopes for the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations should not be used. Rather, we wish to make a direct "ask" in person for your intended gift. For anyone who is accustomed in the past to helping our parishes with the Charity and Stewardship Appeal, I would appreciate you contacting me and helping set up tables with the pledge cards for the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations, and helping to man the tables for several weekends.

Spirit Catholic Radio I will be on the radio this week for Morning Prayer segments! I think they will air in the first part of the 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. hours, Monday through Friday. Also, I will appear live on the radio on Thursday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m. Please listen in, as it is Care-A-Thon Week, which is always a lot of fun. The radio dial can be set for 91.5 FM or 102.7 FM, or by downloading the Spirit Catholic Radio app, or by going to the web at www.spiritcatholicradio.com.

Jesus in Adoration Even on days where daily Mass is not offered, or your schedule doesn't allow to attend, you can stop by church and spend time with Jesus. Or, you can send your guardian angel to church and make a visit to Jesus for you!

God Bless You!,
Father Grell