

## **From the Pastor—October 7, 2018**

**An Overnight in Gage County** I was so happy to spend time with Mom and Dad last week. On Sunday, I rested after Masses a little before heading east and south to Beatrice. Mom prepared supper for me and we visited. The next day, I got caught up a little on sleep. Mom prepared a couple of meals for me, and I reciprocated by changing a couple of light bulbs and arranging the Dish TV repairman to come for a service call. Things like the Dish platform of service are so connected to internet and e-mail, of which my parents have neither. I used my internet on my phone to “chat” by text with a Dish representative and set up a service call. I also contacted an electrician because one of the light fixtures in our home needs a repair. The electrician’s business is listed in the St. Joseph, Beatrice, church bulletin...when I called him, I told him that advertising works! \*\*\* It was cloudy and cool while I was home. There was no harvesting going on around our area. Our land has beans and corn still standing. With the forecast as I publish this column looking so rainy, most places are going to be delayed in getting back into the field. \*\*\* My Mom and Dad are doing well, all things considered. They are happy together. Dad has trouble with remembering things, and Mother gently reminds him. They are able to go to Sunday Mass and shop for groceries and supplies. The local auto mechanic shop that we have gone to since I was a kid recently came and picked up their car when it needed repairs. For our farm being about seven miles from their shop, that is a nice service that this business provides for faithful customers like my parents. It’s part of the Good Life which is Nebraska!

**Bob** The one-year anniversary of my brother-in-law’s fatal stroke and brain injury is coming up. Bob suffered the beginning of the stroke on October 13, passed into eternal life on October 18, and his funeral services were held October 22-23. With these dates and the memories associated with them, please keep my sister, her son, and our whole family in your prayers during these days. Bob’s birthday was September 29 (he would be 53), so my sister and one of Bob’s sisters decorated his grave with birthday balloons. It is surreal that he is gone; I can’t imagine my little nephew’s handling of all of this in his teenager heart and mind. Thank you for your kindness during these re-living of painful days in our family.

**On the Air at Spirit Radio** It was a joy to be on the air with the Spirit Catholic Radio fundraiser “Care-A-Thon” last week. I drove into Lincoln on Thursday and Friday to help request spiritual and material support from listeners. It gave me a chance, on the air, to mention favorite programs of mine, to share what I have learned about my faith, and to encourage others to let this radio apostolate be a transformative tool in their spiritual growth. At one point, my co-host, John Soukup, remarked to me “preach it!”, so I must have been going into homily mode which would be recognizable to you all! The four-hour stretch of air time really went by very quickly. We had specific times to aim for when the Omaha studio would take over the control board and play messages from underwriters (businesses that support Spirit) or play praise and worship songs. We had to be ready to jump back onto the microphones when the breaks were over. One time,

John had to summon me from the reception area of the Lincoln Spirit Radio office, as I was visiting with someone. Live radio does not permit delay! When you are in Lincoln, Omaha, or Grand Island, I invite you to visit the Spirit Radio studios. Their contact information is on their web site. The GI studio is in the strip mall behind the Sonic on Hwy 281. Lincoln’s studio is nearby the west entrance to the Gateway Mall. And Omaha, the “mother-ship” of the network, has its studio located in the Millard area.

**Iconic Scene From Giltner** I was able to take in a Giltner School volleyball game and football game last week. The volleyball game matched the Hornets with the Blue Hill Bobcats. A total of five former parishioners of mine from Lawrence were on the Blue Hill roster. I was able to talk to family of the players; it was fun to see them for the first time in over five years. At the football game, I was struck with the beauty of rural Nebraska. It was iconic, in my opinion, to be watching eight-man football with the towering of the grain elevator in the background. Meanwhile, the sun was setting and grain trucks were hauling grain as the game was unfolding. The Friday night lights of Nebraska are truly beautiful, in the coming together of sports and the harvest.

**Catechist Blessing** It was a joy to impart a blessing upon all catechists in our parishes last weekend. In August, I gave a book as a gift to all of the CCD teachers and Godteens’ sponsors. With the blessing, I presented a signed certificate to them all, which utilized the beautiful script calligraphy of our bookkeeper/secretary, Diane. Please keep our catechists in your prayers this school year.

**RCIA (Catholic Instruction Class)** I am appealing for volunteer assistance in leading our RCIA class for Catholic instructions in the faith. Please know that your help would be greatly appreciated.

**Upcoming at Mass**  
**October 6-7** – The Bishop’s Appeal for Vocations will be promoted, and you can make your pledge.

**October 13-14** – Adoration Sunday. You will be given the opportunity to commit to the spiritual blessings of spending time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Bishop’s Appeal for Vocations** The brochure of seminarians is always anticipated greatly by many in our diocese. I used to assist Msgr. Kalin in formatting the brochure, so it resonates personally with me. Careful observers may note some men pictured last year have discerned away from seminary life. Note the two pairs of brothers (the Winter’s and the Wahlmeier’s), of which Winter’s older brother, Father Evan, is already a priest. Peter Foley’s dad is Lt. Gov. Mike Foley and his mother, Susan, is a sister to Fathers Mark, Dan, and Leo Seiker. York native Tony Bedient is now a deacon. He and his wife, Jessica, were newlyweds when they were hit by a drunk driver in an accident in west Omaha. Jessica died from her injuries. Tony recovered, and has now received both the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders. Dale Alder’s aunt and uncle are St. Mary’s parishioners. I am sure others of you have personal connections to these 42 men. Please pray for them and put the brochure on your refrigerator door to facilitate your remembering to pray.

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**