

## **From the Pastor—October 21, 2018**

**New Secretary** [re-published from last week] St. Mary's and St. Joseph's welcome our new secretary, Lori Humphrey. Lori and her husband live on a farm near Giltner. She grew up in Iowa (Council Bluffs). Diane Schleichardt will continue to lead the way on all things financial, and her office space will be moved to Classroom A. Lori will oversee all non-financial matters. Lori will work out of Classroom D. Welcome, Lori!

**My Time Away** I am going to be away from the parish this coming week, October 22-28. If you need a priest in this time, please call Msgr. Reinert or Father Morris in York at 402-362-4595. If you need to have someone visit anyone in the Grand Island hospital, a priest from one of the four GI parishes is always "on-call" if you call them and tell them your need. \*\*\* This is part of my vacation for the calendar year 2018. The pilgrimage I took in early August was part vacation, part pastoral duty. We priests are allowed up to three weeks off during the year. \*\*\* I don't have huge plans, mainly to drive east and visit some places that are of interest to me. I will probably end up after my eastern swing at my parents' for the last couple of days.

**York Deanery CCW** The York Deanery Council of Catholic Women had a subdued attendance because of the weather last Sunday. The spiritual moderator, Father Divis, called me and asked me if I could handle the spiritual parts of Adoration and addressing the meeting's attendees, which I was happy to do. I was proud of our ladies from St. Mary's and St. Joseph's for their welcome they provided and their input during the meeting.

**Jason Evert Talk** On Monday, I journeyed into Lincoln to see Jason Evert speak at St. Peter's. Before heading to the talk, I was able to see my sister and Will for a few minutes. I also enjoyed a stop at the Pink Sisters' Adoration chapel. \*\*\* Jason's talk was quite good. I have it posted on my facebook page. As a long-time friend of mine said afterward, he "had never seen anyone talk for an hour and a half without taking a breath." Jason is a highly-motivated motivational speaker. For so many of you parents, I wish and hope in the future to provide you with more resources from Jason and his Chastity Project. Our young people are swimming in a malaise of cultural attack of impurity, which demands a spiritual defense in reaction. Go to chastity.com to learn more about the outreach of Jason Evert and the Chastity Project. \*\*\* I saw many friends at the talk, especially "kids" who were university students when I was the assistant priest at the Newman Center, 1996-1998. Seeing these young people grow up and mature in their marriages and families is quite rewarding to me. \*\*\* I also had a complete shock in seeing at the Jason Evert talk a priest friend of mine from the Peoria Diocese. Father Tom Gibson was a deacon at the Mount when I was in First Theology. He has been a priest for 25 years. He just happened to be in Lincoln, visiting a friend who was formerly a seminarian for our diocese. It was quite a shock and a good surprise to see this friend from long ago!

**I Saw the Gosnell Movie** I saw the movie about the abortionist, Kermit Gosnell, on Tuesday. The actor who played Gosnell was creepy, but was a good actor in getting across the true-life personality of the real person.

Part of the movie came across to me as Gosnell having been a player in the #MeToo movement, as the power differential which existed in his abortion clinic led many of the employees there to continue their gruesome, miserable jobs. The movie itself purports to be mostly factual, based upon court records from Gosnell's trial. One thing I noticed as dates of happenings flashed onto the screen was that the final verdict for Gosnell was pronounced by the jury on May 13, 2013. May 13 is the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. What a sign this is, I feel, that Mother Mary knows and loves each innocent child and mother physically (and emotionally) injured in Gosnell's clinic. The lost fatherhood and grandparent-hood, too, which evaporated because of Gosnell horrific slaughter of innocents is watched over by Our Lady too. \*\*\* I think there is a book written from the makers of the movie; I haven't checked that out yet. I imagine the movie will some day soon be out on DVD; we ought to have a movie night with it here at the parish. \*\*\* Eerily, too, the movie reminded me in an analogous way of the clergy sex abuse scandal. Nobody said anything about Gosnell's work, even though many knew of his ways. Similarly, some priests and bishops and hierarchy of the Church have looked the other way from abuse they know to be happening. Please, if anyone ever sees or knows a priest or bishop or clergy hierarchy member acting in a way that should be reported, please, please, bravely report it.

**RCIA (Catholic Instruction Class)** I am appealing for volunteer assistance in leading our RCIA class for Catholic instructions in the faith. I do have someone who is willing to teach when I cannot be there. But in addition to that person, the "job" description for the volunteer I am looking for includes attending the classes, looking ahead at the material before the classes, and being willing to engage with me and the class from a lay person's point of view. This interaction is valuable to me. It would require your time of looking at the power point presentation before the class and attending the class. This person would help organize who in the class needs what sacraments and when all of the sacraments will be given. Could anyone volunteer for this great help to me, and for the opportunity to sort of "audit" the class for yourself and learn more about our beautiful Catholic faith? Please know that your help would be greatly appreciated.

**Too Small A Gap** For several Sundays, a couple especially in recent weeks, I have arrived at St. Joseph's in Giltner literally out of breath. Part of that has to do with not being in the best of shape. Part of it has to do with weather moving in on Sunday mornings, like last Sunday. But most of it has to do with not having time to recharge myself between the two Sunday morning Masses. I have mentioned my concern with the current Mass times before, and I have received some good feedback. But the thought that came to me on Sunday was that I need to have some problem-solvers from both parishes gather together and help me come up with a solution. I need to hear from the people of both parishes. Perhaps my predecessors felt the schedule was fine. I can't answer for sure for them. For me, my Masses are times for me to sing with you, to pray with you, to preach and reflect with you, to greet you. This takes time, but it is my way and the current schedule does not allow for it. I don't have a time frame to set up a

meeting or to make a decision. I just ask your prayers.

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**