



By Father Loras Grell

- July 24, 1965—My mom and dad were married, at St. Mary’s Church in Odell. Theirs is the first wedding in the “new” St. Mary’s (which stands to this day). Mom and Dad showed me their wedding album so often over the years that to this day, I feel like I was there!
- August 17, 1966—My sister, Mary, was born at the Mennonite Hospital, Beatrice.
- November 18, 1968—I was born at the Mennonite Hospital, Beatrice! My dad and his dad were each born on November 13th, and I was supposed to be. Wouldn’t that have been something?
- December 1, 1968—I became a child of God through the waters of Baptism at St. Joseph Church, Beatrice. I am freed from original sin! I became “heaven-eligible”! What an outstanding day! My Uncle Stan was my godfather, but he couldn’t be there, so my Grandpa Grell stood proxy. My Aunt Loretta was my godmother. Stanley died in 1992; my Aunt Loretta is a widow and lives on her family farm near Hanover, KS.
- September 8, 1974—My brother Mark was born, on the Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary! He, too, was born at the Mennonite Hospital, which in the ensuing years would become Beatrice Community Hospital.
- February or March, 1977—I went to Holy Confession (Sacrament of Penance) for the first time at St. Mary Church, Wymore, to Father Peter Gadiant. I still remember that day with joy!
- March 20, 1977—I made my First Holy Communion at St. Joseph Church, Beatrice.
- November 8, 1979—I received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Church, Beatrice, as conferred upon me by Bishop Glennon P. Flavin. My confirmation name was St. John the Baptist. I remember instantly feeling different as I walked back to my pew. I felt changed, loved, inside my soul.
- May, 1981—I completed 6th grade at St. Joseph School, Beatrice, which is the highest grade it went to at the time (St. Joe’s had been a high school, but that closed in the 1960’s; in 2018, St. Joe’s goes up through 5th grade).
- May 17, 1987—I graduated from Southern High School in Wymore! Including the pre-consolidation days of Wymore High, we were the 100th graduating class.
- August, 1987—I entered the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I was not really sure what I wanted to do with my life. The seminary fleetingly crossed my mind, but I wasn’t ready for that thought. A year into my studies, I changed majors from Food Science and Technology to Agronomy.
- January, 1990—As a second semester junior, I consciously decided to become a very active member of my campus parish, the Newman Center at 16th and Q Streets, Lincoln.
- April 20, 1991—I started announcing to people that I was entering the seminary in the fall.
- May, 1991—I graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy.
- September 23, 1991—I began college seminary at St. Philip’s Seminary, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

