

From the Pastor—March 25, 2018

My Family I continue to appreciate your care and concern for my family. My sister is healing, slowly, as I believe William is too. Mary noted to me that last Sunday was the fifth anniversary of Bob's death; such anniversaries are hard but bring healing if one is open to the gentle Hand of the Lord. *** As for my dad, he continues to walk well in weaning himself off of the walker and using a cane. We as a family are assessing what is the next best action for Dad and Mom. Some of you have experienced these life situations. And my parents read each bulletin of mine, so they know that I know that this situation is something we are struggling with to find the best solution. But, the best thing is that for now, we are safe and healthy as a family, and we are grateful for this.

My Rosary Homily Last weekend, I was very excited to preach to you about the Most Holy Rosary of Mother Mary. I want to re-present some of my major points so that you may mull over in your mind how you and your family could be more devoted to the Rosary.

- My own devotion to the Rosary was emblazoned upon my heart when I at age 5 saw my dad lead the Rosary at his mother's (my grandmother's) casket at the Wake the day before her funeral Mass.
- Bishop Conley has asked our Diocese to build our devotion to the Rosary in preparation for the Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade.
- Today's (March 18th) Gospel shows some Greeks saying, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." When we pray the Rosary, we are saying the same thing.
- The Rosary as a way of counting prayers goes back to the earliest days of Christianity when small pebbles were used to count the number of penitential prayers a person said. As this method of using pebbles became too heavy, they were replaced by beads strung on a cord.
- St. Dominic was the major catalyst to promote devotion to the Rosary. His mother, Juana De Aza, had a dream during her pregnancy of little Dominic leaping from her womb in the form of a dog with a flaming torch in its mouth. This dream signified how St. Dominic would set the world on fire for Christ through preaching a love of praying the Rosary.
- The author of "Champions of the Rosary", Father Donald Calloway, gives four reasons why we should pray the Rosary:
 - The Rosary conquers the Evil One.
 - The Rosary preaches Jesus Christ and brings peace.
 - The Rosary teaches virtue.
 - The Rosary is an expression of our love for Jesus and Mary. According to Archbishop Fulton Sheen, each Hail Mary is like saying "I love you" to the Blessed Trinity and Blessed Virgin Mary.

- I have been promoting the Legion of Mary, which I want to begin in these parishes even though I don't see myself as a trailblazing type of priest. The Legion must have interest from you if we are to pray the Rosary together in the Legion format and style toward growing our own holiness.
- Miraculous Medals are available for you to take after Mass, as well as brochures about the Diocesan Rosary Crusade.
- Later, you will be given an opportunity to commit to how you and your family want to increase devotion to the Rosary. Also, we will be forming small groups for you to join to learn more about the Rosary.

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" Movie This movie is the real deal. It opened on March 23; I found show times in Lincoln and Omaha, with more local showings waiting for the coming weeks. The tag line for the movie is this: "Their faith challenged an empire. Their words changed the world." James Faulkner stars as St. Paul while Jim Caviezel from the Passion of the Christ portrays St. Luke. Go to paulmovie.com for more information.

Planned Parenthood Abortion Tuesday Many of us may not have time on our hands to protest the abortion of our littlest, most vulnerable persons, i.e. babies in the womb. If you or someone you know has been hurt by abortion in the past, please go to your confessor this Holy Week and seek mercy. Also, consider calling a help-line at 888-456-HOPE (4673) or clicking on www.hopeafterabortion.com. If you are free on Tuesday this week, a great Holy Week prayer time would be to stand in witness to life and in Adoration of Jesus at the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Lincoln. Located near 48th and Old Cheney, an abortionist attends the facility every Tuesday to perform abortions. Our diocesan pro-life community wants to pray this facility out of existence and change hearts and minds of people to know there is no such thing as an unwanted baby. I may attend this event, because I think it will be a beautiful time of witness and prayer. Here are the details: Tuesday, March 27, 1:00pm – 2:00pm. Meet at the Pro-Life Center at 5632 South 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68516, (directly across from Planned Parenthood) for a Pro-Life Eucharistic Procession. Parking is graciously provided by our friends at Cornerstone Christian Church, 4849 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln. You can park in the church lot and then cross Old Cheney via the traffic crosswalk.

First Confessions Our First Holy Communion class experienced God's mercy in Confession this past week. Without intending it, the day of First Confessions fell on St. Patrick's Day. The students were happy with God's forgiveness shining in them, and some of them also enjoyed adorning themselves afterwards in green hats and such in honor of dear St. Patrick. It was a fun, and merciful, memory for them!

Legion of Mary Are you interested in the Legion? I hope to make a more formal invitation of an informational meeting for anyone who is interested.

Formed.org Our parish code is V7W3TZ.

God Bless You!

Father Grell