

From the Pastor—May 6, 2018

Grell On Gospel Our Lord speaks to us this week about remaining in his love, so that our joy may be complete. I have heard a speaker on Catholic radio recently speaking about choosing to be joyful. It is something I have pondered much. When I am joy-filled, being joyful is easy. Often I must admit that I find myself in the doldrums, and then the appearance of joy finds no place in me. But if we remain in the love of Jesus and his Father, we can CHOOSE joy—let's all try together!

Knights of Columbus in Kearney I was blessed to travel on Friday to Kearney for the 113th State Convention of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus. I had been to the convention one time before, a few years ago. I ran into many friends from Lawrence, Plattsmouth, and around the state. State Chaplain, Father Ken Borowiak, called together all chaplains of local councils. About 25 of us brother priests attended this meeting, representing all three Nebraska dioceses. Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt of the Grand Island Diocese moderated our meeting. Priests attended from such places as: Atkinson, Mullen, Indianola, North Platte, McCook, Hebron, Cambridge, Valley, Jackson, Kearney, Grand Island, Omaha, and Lincoln. The priests from our three dioceses don't have many opportunities, at all, to gather all together, so this was a truly blessed event. The banquet with all of the Knights and their wives was really cool, as I sat at table with one of our parishioners, Aaron Anderson, and his wife Melissa. The Knights of Columbus provide an amazing amount of statewide charity and fraternity to our parishes. I call upon all men in St. Mary's and St. Joseph's to become a Knight, or, if a Knight already, to grow in your knighthood.

Rosary for Peace I was blessed to attend the Rosary which encircled the city campus of UN-L last Sunday. As I drove to Lincoln around 7:00 p.m., I had to detour south of I-80, which was closed due to the awful brown-out of dust and the terrible multi-vehicle pile-up. I am sad and prayerful for the man from Colorado who was killed, and for the grave trauma experienced by the drivers and responders involved. Given the conditions, therefore, I knew I was especially blessed to make it to Lincoln, wedging my car through the driving wind, making it on time to pray the Rosary. Please see our diocesan web site for some great pictures of the Rosary. Also, KLKN-TV (the ABC affiliate in Lincoln) featured the Rosary as their lead story on Sunday night's 10:00 p.m. newscast. According to the Register, "*Organizers estimate that 4,000 people participated in what was officially billed as the 'HuskerCatholic Candle-lit Rosary'. This event was part of the ongoing diocesan Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade, launched at the request of Bishop James Conley and led by Father James Kelleher, S.O.L.T. After opening prayers by Bishop Conley outside the Newman Center, balloons were released as participants circled the 2.5-mile perimeter of the campus, praying along to a pre-recorded rosary by Bishop Conley aired on Spirit Catholic Radio.*"

Charity and Stewardship Appeal I was pleased to see the numbers of people who took advantage of the opportunity to support this appeal last weekend. In general, to update you on our progress, we sent in from St. Mary's around \$6,800 in pledges and paid gifts. From St.

Joseph's, almost every parishioner who was at Mass last weekend filled out their pledge cards. I am printing my homily from last week on the reverse of this page. Please know of my thanks in advance for your generosity toward our Bishop's appeal and toward our parishes! If you are wondering, the beautiful church on this year's CSA poster is St. Joseph Church located near Paul, Nebraska. Paul is one of those Nebraska towns which isn't the town it once was. It is located about nine miles southwest of Nebraska City. *** If you are interested in donating on-line to the Charity and Stewardship Appeal, it is easily done on our diocesan web site at: lincolndiocese.org/diocesan/charity-and-stewardship-appeal. *** [*the following is re-printed from last week*]: Our goal for the whole Diocese is \$2.1 million for this year's Charity and Stewardship Appeal. Ministries approved by Bishop Conley are the recipients of our contributions. We can support the categories of "Proclaiming God's Word," which includes ministries such as the Family Life Office and Youth Ministry; "Works of Mercy" such as the diocese's ministry to prisons, hospitals and nursing homes; and "Diocesan Ministries" such as the diocesan tribunal and religious sisters' retirement. Our parish goals are:

\$1,550.00 – St. Joseph

\$8,360.00 – St. Mary

I am pleased to have serving as committee chairs for this year's appeal in St. Mary's Parish, Mr. Dan Meier and Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Alison Morrow; and in St. Joseph's Parish, Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Cindy Consbruck.

Statue Touch-Up? The statue of the resurrected Jesus at St. Mary's could use some touch-up of paint. This takes a special skill; do you or someone you know have this skill? Please contact the office.

Greatfull! This is kind of geeky, but I have misspelled the word "grateful" in this sub-heading. The reason why is that if you take out the middle letters, it spells "Grell"! So, it gives me a greater awareness of things I am "greatfull" for, which includes ALL of you in your goodness to me since I arrived last June 19. As I prepare for my 22nd anniversary of ordination on May 25, I will keep all of you in close prayer and pray for our continued going forth in faith in these parish families of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's.

Tree Branches If you ever see a street-side pile of tree branches by the rectory garage, and if you have a burn pile at home and a pick-up or trailer, please feel free to take them. Please, and thank you!

Wonky Weather! What a night it was on May 1st! I hope all of you and your families and properties and livestock were safe. I drove to Geneva that evening for Confirmation dinner with Bishop Conley, Father Courtney, and brother priests from the area. I drove away from Aurora just as all of the weird and wonky weather was moving in. At one point, four tornado warnings were in effect at the same time in our area. Goodness gracious!

My Next Appearance, Spirit Radio I will be giving Morning Prayer meditations this week on Spirit Catholic Radio. Tune in each weekday at 7:10, 8:10, or 10:15. You may also go to spiritcatholicradio.com or download their free app and listen to the meditations.

God Bless You!

Father Grell