

## From the Pastor—May 27, 2018

**Corpus Christi Procession** As a child, I grew up in the '70's and '80's. I do not remember our St. Joseph Parish in Beatrice ever having a Corpus Christi procession. Those of my generation probably share the same gap in experience. Those of you who are probably 10 or more years older than me may have seen Corpus Christi processions or have a vague knowledge of what they are. Beginning about the year 2000, Corpus Christi processions have grown in popular devotion. In Omaha, the 13<sup>th</sup> annual 1.5-mile procession from St. Bernadette's to St. Peter's (on Leavenworth) will take place this year. On our Newman Center campus at Lincoln, for over five years a Eucharistic procession all around campus has been held in the fall semester. I feel called to hold a Corpus Christi procession here at St. Mary's after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. \*\*\* Explanation and catechesis is necessary. First of all, "Corpus Christi" is not only a wonderful city in Texas, but is Latin for "The Body of Christ." The Church document, "Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass," published by the Vatican in 1974, says the following about processions of the Eucharist: "When the Eucharist is carried through the streets in a solemn procession with singing, the Christian people give public witness of faith and devotion toward the sacrament. The annual procession on the feast of Corpus Christi, or on an appropriate day near this feast, has a special importance and meaning for the pastoral life of the parish or city." In the Roman Missal, published in 2011, it states that at the end of Mass on Corpus Christi, "it is desirable that a procession take place after the Mass in which the Host to be carried in the procession is consecrated." The 1974 document goes on to say that "in the course of the procession there may be stations where the Eucharistic blessing (i.e. Benediction) is given." \*\*\* In my I-wish-I-planned-ahead-better sort of way, I am asking St. Mary's to help do what the Church desires on Corpus Christi, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, by having a Eucharistic procession. It is customary—and for the following I need your help—for the procession to include: the parish's acolytes, the parish's altar servers, four men as canopy bearers, three outdoor altars (each including cloth, corporal, candles, fresh-cut flowers, and kneeler), the parish's First Holy Communicants dressed in proper attire to spread rose petals, the parish's singers, and many people. \*\*\* The Sacred Host and Precious Blood consecrated upon the altar is Jesus. After the consecration, no bread remains; no wine remains. Our Catholic faith takes Jesus at his word in the Last Supper when he said, "This is my Body, this is my Blood." \*\*\* The procession will take about 30-45 minutes added to the end of Mass on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are a Saturday night Mass goer, please come back after the Sunday morning Mass and join us. If you are from St. Joseph in Giltner and want to help me plan to have a similar procession in Giltner, please come. I think you will be amazed at the beauty of this procession and how your heart will grow in greater faith in our dear Jesus, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**The Grell Family Memorial Day** What does your family do on Memorial Day? I encourage you to observe the day as more than a three-day weekend and the unofficial beginning of summer, even though these

genuine leisure times are important. For our family, we walked the cemeteries as my parents told the stories of our deceased loved ones. We learned where great-Grandpa Grell was born in Germany. We learned more about the Hood-Murray-Madden Irish side of the family. We saw the Hajek graves in Odell and saw my great-Uncles Chick and John proudly participate in the military ceremony at the cemetery. We sometimes visited the cemetery west of Milligan in which resides the restored first church built of Fillmore County, and learned about our Rut-Vitak-Laun relatives. Most importantly, we prayed at and decorated these graves. I encourage those of you with young children to take them to your family cemeteries. It was really cool to hear the stories my parents told me about beloved loved ones, and to pray at family graves, and it could be for your family too. \*\*\* Pray for your beloved deceased by attending Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. at the Aurora Cemetery (Catholic section) on Memorial Day. St. Joseph parishioners are invited too, and I will plan to have the Memorial Day Mass next year at our parish cemetery.

**My Ordination** May 25<sup>th</sup> marked 22 years of precious priesthood as conferred upon me by Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. I was ordained with Fathers Tom Brouillette, John Birkel, and Doug Dietrich. The day was rainy to begin with. We had been on retreat, sort of cloistered away from the world, to prepare prayerfully for what is analogous to a priest's wedding day; the Church becomes his spouse. I had arranged for a good friend to give my mother a corsage and my dad a boutonniere (sp?). My parents were so delighted that day...and ever since then, my dad reminds me often, "Loras, be a good priest." I had three separate receptions after the ordination Mass, and didn't get to sleep until 3:00 a.m. that night! The next day, Sunday, was my first Mass at St. Joseph in Beatrice. It was another day of great joy and celebration! \*\*\* You need to know that my parents, my sister, my brother are **ordinary** folks, proud to have been Gage County farm folk living the Good Life in rural Nebraska. In our parishes on most Sundays this school year, I have inserted prayers for seminarians from Lincoln, or David City, or Heartwell, or Nebraska City, or Falls City, or Hastings, or York, or McCook, or Bee. When will we next pray for a seminarian from...Aurora, or Giltner, or Phillips, or Hampton, or Marquette? Some or another young man and family reading this, you and your family could be the family of a priest! Let's pray always for vocations to the priesthood and sisterhood (religious life), and be honored (and hopeful) to have the Lord choose someone from one or more of our families of St. Mary's or St. Joseph's parishes.

**Hornet 4-peat (H4P)!** I was a four-year letter winner in track at Wymore Southern High School. I know the stamina and athleticism needed to win a track and field event, and to be successful as a team. While I don't know well the Lady Hornets from Giltner who have won State Track four years running (pardon the pun), I saw a couple of your basketball games. If any of you young people see this note, please know of my admiration and congratulations. I love your enthusiasm and humility! To the men Hornets, great job on being runners-up at State!

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**