

From the Pastor—July 1, 2018

Mom and Dad My parents are beautifully growing old together. Dad is docile, as he relies upon Mom after he fractured his hip last November and a gall bladder removal in 2011. Mother is patient with Dad and has kept a good head for the numbers and deadlines associated with running a farm. I have to attribute their loving successful marriage *now* to a *lifetime* of virtue lived well. It is almost as if their “I do’s” from their wedding day in 1965 are “kicking in” now when they need God’s grace the most. They have prayed together almost every day for 53 years. They have gone to Holy Mass almost every Sunday (except in illness or blizzards [and went to Sunday evening Mass in Lincoln one time when the cows were out on a Sunday morning]) for 53 years. They have kept a Wednesday Holy Hour at church every week since about 1988. They have prayed the Rosary almost daily over the past decade and many times prayed the Rosary with us kids as a family when we were growing up. They have kept Lent fasting and prayer. They have been generous with financial giving to the Church. All the virtue that they have lived is giving them the strength to endure now, in their bodies and minds, the circumstances which make them somewhat tired at ages 90 and 82. I am really so proud of them. And I put forth to all younger married couples to grow in virtue now, together, while you are young. And to all married couples of my parents’ age (or not far from it) to call upon the grace of Holy Matrimony to sustain you in difficulties. God is so good and attends to our needs. *** When Dad was 82 years old, he sold off our cattle herd. We had had white-faced Herefords, a small herd at 40-50 head, for decades, with calving and weaning and feeding and vet emergencies, etc. But Dad knew his limit, physically, and was willing to let go of his “girls”, as he called them, when the time came. Mom, too, has had to let go of things over these past years. *** My parents are not saints, nor are they extraordinarily higher on the ladder for having a priest-son...that is not my point. But they have worked hard, at faith and family and farming, and it seems that I notice the fruits of their labor in a unique way. I decided to share it with you here...thanks for reading!

Family Milestone Dates I have a memory for dates of anniversaries and birthdays. I used to memorize phone numbers, too, but the “smart” phone has made me feel rather un-smart in that regard. This past week saw June 24 as being the 35th anniversary of the death of my Grandpa Hajek. He was 86 years old. He had been failing for several months; I don’t remember exactly his cause of death. I was just completing 8th grade that summer, and was taking driver’s ed and tractor-safety courses at the Extension Office in Beatrice and getting ready to go on the detasseling crew. To see my family come together and pray for my grandpa was quite the experience. My mother was a pillar of faith, as was my grandma. *** June 26, 1909, was the date of the aforementioned grandma’s birth. Grandma Emilie lived to be 97; she would have turned 109 this year! She would always pray “travel prayers” when I stopped by her house and was driving back to my parish. When I was a kid, she whispered prayers after Holy Communion not recorded on any piece of paper or the missalette. She was a rather feisty lady, with a heart of

gold. Her older brother, Frantisek, had died as an infant. She had to be headstrong, as she became the oldest of four little sisters and three little brothers. She worked hard on the family farm a few miles east and one mile north of Tobias (that farm is still in the family). I would see Grandma Emilie flare up in anger, but just as quickly dissolve into a light giggle☺. Two of her sisters lived to be 99, and their dad, my great-grandpa, was 95 when he died.

Mass on the 4th Please consider coming to Holy Mass on July 4th. It is a great day when people are a bit freer from responsibilities. We can pray for our nation on her birthday; we can pray to our nation’s Guardian Angel (yes, common piety in the Church tells us each nation has one) to guard and protect us. And each reception of Holy Communion further joins the Body and Blood, human Soul and divine Nature of Jesus Christ to your body and blood. Each Holy Communion is an opportunity to talk to Jesus intimately and share with Him your deepest prayers. Many of us under the virtue of patriotism wish better times and peace upon our nation; attending Holy Mass is a great way to pray together patriotically. Please come to Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s for both parishes.

Spirit Catholic Radio Mornings Please consider nourishing yourselves with the truth and beauty of Spirit Catholic Radio; I will be giving Morning Prayer meditations this week. The times, Monday through Friday, are around 7:10 a.m., 8:10 a.m., and 10:15 a.m. *** Here is a small sample of nourishment from Spirit Radio. I heard Dr. David Anders in his 1:00-2:00 p.m. program take a call from someone who had a complaint against a priest. The priest had outwardly told a parishioner that he (the priest) did not like him (the parishioner). When the parishioner’s young son died in Europe, due to being attacked in cold blood, the caller told Dr. Anders that the priest never reached out, never offered condolences. The man said that his remaining three children do not attend the Catholic Church to this day because of that priest’s behavior. Dr. Anders said that, according to the information provided by the caller, that this priest’s actions were objectively, gravely sinful. He said the priest should repent and that the Church expects priests to be men of virtue and holiness. Dr. Anders encouraged the man that his children should still go to Mass, because it is there that we adore God. The priest may be very sinful; but even sinful priests leading the Mass help us to adore God. This radio phone call and reply was powerful to me. You might find powerful programming for your soul, too.

Steve Ray at St. Leo’s Steve Ray is a regular Catholic speaker, author, tour guide, and evangelist. Plan now to see Steve Ray at St. Leo’s Church in Grand Island on Saturday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m. If that weekend’s activities take you to Lincoln or Omaha, he will also be appearing in these cities. Please consider seeing this gifted Catholic speaker.

Notetaker volunteer? [re-printed] Is there anyone in our parishes who could volunteer to take notes at meetings? We need to record accurately what is discussed at both St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s. It would be great to have one notetaker to cover both parishes.

God Bless You!

Father Grell