

From the Pastor—July 22, 2018

My Sister's Visit! Mary, my sister, came to visit me last Sunday. It was fun to spend a good part of the day with her. She left Lincoln early in the morning to arrive in time to accompany me to St. Joseph's for the 10:30 Mass. I announced at the end of Mass that she was present, and I appreciate all of you who reached out to her and welcomed her. Mary and I went to noon-time dinner in Aurora. We drove around town a little, as Mary hadn't yet gotten the full tour. I found that there is a lot to see and that we didn't have near enough drive-time to see it all! We will have another opportunity, I am sure.

My Parents' Anniversary Mom and Dad will celebrate their wedding anniversary this week. They were married on July 24, 1965, at St. Mary's in Odell, NE. Dad has told me so many stories, and I have looked enough at the wedding album, that I feel as if I were present! Mom and Dad were the first couple to be married in the new St. Mary's Church. I believe my great-grandpa played a significant role in approaching the Bishop over 100 years ago to start up a parish in Odell. It is a special place from where many of my childhood memories are drawn. Please say a little prayer for my parents' anniversary. They continue to do well on the farm, while leaning on each (figuratively) for the support they need at ages 90 and 82.

Bishop Loras Lane My namesake died on July 22 (today), 1968. Bishop Lane was the bishop of the Rockford Diocese in Illinois. He was a Dubuque priest prior to being named a bishop. Bishop Loras was only 57 when he died of kidney failure. I suppose he would have lived longer, today, given the advancements in dialysis and other health care. I carry a holy card from his funeral in my Breviary. He had such a gentle face, which consoles me greatly when I gaze at his picture. I was very fortunate about ten years ago to meet Bishop Lane's last surviving sibling, John, who lived in Rockville, Maryland. John has since died, but his wife, Rosemary, is still alive and in her 90's. John really appreciated meeting me and receiving the news that I been named after his brother. My father had seen the name of Bishop Lane back in the 1950's when he worked a factory job in Rockford, IL, during the off-season from farm work. Dad saw that name, Loras, and wanted that to be the name of his firstborn son. *** My mother was about halfway through her pregnancy with me when Bishop Lane died. Mom and Dad had been planning to notify him upon my birth, but His Excellency's illness and departure from this life prohibited that from happening. But, technically, I was upon the earth (in utero) at the same time as the Most Reverend Bishop Loras of my namesake. *** I saw in the Grand Island paper recently that a woman named "Loris" died. As far as I can tell, the spelling of her name with an "i" is not a derivative of my spelling with an "a". I have seen the "Loris" version several times before. *** Please say a little pray for Bishop Lane; I have visited his grave in Rockford a couple of times and hope to make it there again someday.

50th Anniversaries Abound As the preceding message indicates, the man I was named after died 50 years ago. I was born 50 years ago, and so I have that milestone birthday coming up in November. Other 50-year anniversaries are very noticeable to me, a couple of them very sad: the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and

Bobby Kennedy. A happier anniversary is that my Kansas City Royals, while playing haplessly, are nevertheless competing in their 50th season; I was born at the end of 1968 and they started playing ball in that spring of 1969. I may be omitting other fabulous 50's commemorations coming up, but each of them is pretty cool to me.

My Time Away Many of you have seen advertised in the bulletin or on a parish bulletin board information that I am joining a pilgrimage to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, departing August 1st and arriving back home on August 5th. The beginning day is an early start from Omaha and the return date is a late arrival back in Omaha, so I will probably leave here on July 31st and arrive back on August 6th. The pilgrimage is sponsored by Spirit Catholic Radio as a prayerful pathway to kick off their 20th anniversary celebration. The KVSS signal out of Omaha originated in January, 1999. I have a priest coming to cover my weekend Mass duties, but we will not have daily Mass during the days I am away. I will place in next week's bulletin the contact information for neighboring priests who could be called in emergencies. *** I have not been away from the parishes for some time, except for my annual retreat, so this voyage by bus into the Northlands of the U.S. will provide some needed refreshment of mind and body. Please pray for the pilgrims and our prayerful time together, and know that I will pray for you all.

July 22-28, A Dedicated Week This week is given to us by the United States bishops as Natural Family Planning Awareness Week. The encyclical by Blessed Pope Paul VI, who is slated to be canonized a saint later this year, was issued on July 25, 1968. The name of this teaching of the Holy Father is titled in Latin, *Humanae vitae*. This teaching document re-emphasized the unchangeable natural law engraved upon our hearts that every marital act between husband and wife must be open to love and to life. Bishop Conley has asked us priests to preach about this teaching, either this weekend or next.

Humanae vitae This Latin title, rendered "On Human Life," is approaching its 50th anniversary of release. I am running notes from our U.S. Bishops which were published earlier this year. See the March meditation and prayer from *Humanae vitae* on the reverse side of this sheet.

The Act of Faith This prayer has been one of my favorites since the Year of Faith was celebrated several years ago. I memorized it at the time, and it has remained in my mind for me to retrieve and use it as needed.

O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.

God Bless You!

Father Grell