

From the Pastor—July 29, 2018

Columbia Magazine Giveaway The July issue of the Knights of Columbus magazine, called Columbia, is an excellent edition. It is devoted to the 50th anniversary of Humanae vitae. Brother Knights have received this in the mail, and I wanted to make it available to as many people as I could. I called the national headquarters of the KC's, and they were good enough to send me some copies to give away to you all. Look for me or my helpers passing out the free copies after Mass this weekend. I highly urge you to read through these articles. Humanae vitae represents the Church's teaching as a "yes" to how God gave us sex to make married life faithful, loving, fruitful, and a self-gift of spouse to spouse. Some of the articles include:

Our Cross and Our Blessings—Suffering from infertility expanded our understanding of fruitfulness in marriage.

A Husband and a Healer—An OB-GYN Knight seeks ethical fertility treatments for his wife and patients.

The 'Yes' of Chastity—A young, single Knight shares how virtue and sexual integrity can help build a culture of life and love.

From Brokenness to Bliss—Sterile and seeking divorce, my wife and I thought our days of faithful, fruitful marriage were over.

#MeToo and Humanae Vitae—Revelations of sexual assault invite our culture to take a second look at how we got here, and how the Catholic Church can show us the way out.

St. John Paul II: Missionary of Love and Life—John Paul II's revolutionary vision of marriage family, which reinforced the teaching of Humanae Vitae, grew out of his pastoral work.

Dangers of Hormonal Birth Control

Natural Family Planning vs. Contraception: What's the Difference?

The Prophetic Vision of Blessed Paul VI—Fifty years ago, the Catholic Church anticipated the consequences of the sexual revolution.

A Quick Trip Home On Wednesday, my monthly priest fraternity group met in Lincoln. We had lunch and then our time of fellowship afterward. Since we dispersed around midafternoon, I decided to drive down Highway 77 to Gage County and our rural Blue Springs farm to visit Mom and Dad. I surprised them, only calling ahead upon reaching Beatrice! They were glad to see me. We got caught up on a lot of things, just visiting, which is so fun to do with them. I gave them my anniversary card. I looked at our younger kitty-cats out in the former chicken house. My mom took a picture of me standing in our soybeans on the field that we refer to as "the Eighty". The beans and our corn look good. I don't think I mentioned in previous bulletins, but the little creek that runs through our land overflowed its banks a few weeks ago. My parents think we received over five inches of rain! They were going to go drive past our soybean field when they saw that the road was covered over with water from Bills Creek. That little tributary, which empties into the Big Blue at Blue Springs, very rarely gets that high. I can think of only a handful of times in my life when it has overflowed. This

past week, I could see the aftereffects of the flooding, i.e. the bromegrass in the ditches battered down, brush caught along the banks of the creek. *** I was very glad to see my parents, and they are glad that I am so well taken care of by you all in these parishes.

Bishop Lane Tribute I shot a live facebook video last Sunday, giving tribute to my namesake, Bishop Loras Lane. It was basically a repeat of what I printed in last week's bulletin. I also contacted Bishop Lane's niece by e-mail. Her parents (the bishop's brother and his wife) have both died (they were in their 90's), and so the niece said she would let me know if she comes across any old pictures or clippings of Bishop Lane that I would be interested in seeing.

Steve Ray's Talk at St. Leo's I was able to attend Steve Ray's talk in Grand Island on July 21. I met him, and he signed a couple of his books for me! Several of our parishioners were there, as well as a nice crowd from other Grand Island area parishes. I liked his talk about the saints of the Old Testament, such as Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and David. Steve pointed out that even though King David sinned grievously, he later wrote Psalm 51 which beautifully witnesses to his repentance. He talked about our pathway to holiness as being growth in these three steps: seeking forgiveness, doing penance, and interior change. Steve said that in the Evangelical community he grew up in, doing penance and interior change are not emphasized. To this point, he said, "I *hate* confession...but I *love* confession!" Perhaps lifelong Catholics can relate? Steve was impressed with our 15-station network of Spirit Catholic Radio, calling it one that other Catholic radio stations across the country look to for inspiration. I took this as high praise of Spirit Radio.

My Recommended Books I recently read Jennifer Fulwiler's book, *One Beautiful Dream...* an excellent read. I was crying and laughing! She incorporates her imperfect life so vividly into the text. Does anyone have her *Something Other Than God* which I could borrow? You can borrow the above from me, if you wish. I also recently read Joe Sikorra's book *Defying Gravity*. He shares the testimony of the juvenile Batten's Disease diagnosis of his two sons, and how he and his wife journeyed through the highs and lows of raising their beautiful children.

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 (they are pre-recorded). The times, Monday through Friday, are around 7:10 a.m., 8:10 a.m., and 10:15 a.m. I also think I will be on, live, on Thursday at 8:40 a.m.

My Time Away I am going on pilgrimage, leaving here on July 31st and arriving back on August 6th. Father Chris Kubat of Catholic Social Services will be coming to cover my weekend Mass duties, but we will not have daily Mass during the days I am away. In the event of an urgent need for a priest, please call Msgr. James Reinert at St. Joseph in York at 402-362-4595. *** Please pray for the pilgrims and our prayerful time together, and know that I will pray for you all. I will try to post pictures and progress of our pilgrimage on facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

God Bless You!

Father Grell