

Baptism Congratulations! Welcome to a new little member of our parish, baby Alex Timothy Greenough son of Tanner & Rebecca Greenough of St. Mary's Parish.

From the Pastor—September 23, 2018

Holy Hour for Reparation I was blessed to attend the Holy Hour for Reparation, led by Bishop Conley on September 14 in Lincoln at our Cathedral of the Risen Christ. That day was the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, and the holy hour was for the intention of all victims of sexual abuse by priests. It was a somber, solemn, yet hopeful hour of prayer. Those who have been hurt and their hearts broken by this abuse...my heart goes out to them. We prayed for all victims, by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily from Bishop Conley, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Night Prayer, and Benediction. Please, keep in prayer all victims, and that they may more and more become survivors of the wrong which they never should have had to experience.

Pilgrimage Reunion Our pilgrimage group from the Shrines of the North tour on August 1-5 gathered for a reunion last Sunday. We met at Spirit Catholic Radio's Omaha studio. About half of the pilgrims attended, many for whom it was their first visit to the studio. My sister was with a friend of hers from Texas, who was visiting Lincoln, and so Mary could not go with me to the reunion.

Harvest is Here! It is that time of year when combines, grain carts, and big trucks are in the fields and on the gravel roads and highways. Please know of my prayers for you all. I frequently give a priestly blessing from my car as I travel and see farmers out in the field. Please, everyone who is on the highways, be very respectful and slow down when you are dealing with the extra harvest traffic. Just. Slow. Down. Nothing could be more important than you arriving safely to where you are going, even if you find yourself delayed by harvest traffic.

Aurora 4R Middle School Parishioner and Middle School Principal, Mr. Ken Thiele, called me recently to let me know that the parish of St. Mary's had agreed several years ago to be a "safe site" in the event that the middle school had to be evacuated. In the case of an evacuation being necessary, the students and staff would walk to our hall, which would then become a reunion site for parents/guardians to pick up their children. The middle schoolers and Mr. Thiele did an evacuation drill this past week, so you may have seen them walking through town and entering our St. Mary's Hall. I am happy we can provide such a service to our students in the District 4R middle school. The elementary and high school students have similar sites in town where they would go in an evacuation circumstance. Just like fire drills and tornado drills, we hope these types of drills for evacuation due to any cause never have to be enacted. But being prepared is a key way to love our students and promise their families to keep them safe during school hours.

Continuing Office Transfer, Hire The transfer of parish offices continued this past week, as the far northeast room in the parish hall received a computer. The layout and set-up of the room is taking shape, as we plan to "multi-purpose" the room as office space, CCD classroom, and a meeting room for Knights of Columbus and RCIA. We are interviewing candidates for the posted

parish secretary position and made good progress toward making a hire this week. I'll let you know when I know. Please pray for these intentions.

A Year Ago in OKC It was a year ago that my sister and I traveled to Oklahoma City for the Beatification Mass of Father Stanley Rother. Please pray to Blessed Stanley Rother and learn more about him.

A Change in KC Gathering The gathering of 4th Degree members of the Knights of Columbus that was scheduled for September 22nd at the 5:00 p.m. Mass with a meeting/meal to follow had to be changed to a different day and location. Hopefully, we will work out in the future for this unique opportunity to return to St. Mary's.

Bishop's Appeal for Vocations Just a note for those of you who are faithful in your envelope giving and noticed the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations (Seminarian Appeal) envelope: this appeal has been changed to the format of the Charity and Stewardship Appeal (DDP). In future years, we plan to remove the Appeal envelopes from our regular monthly mailed packets. Your donations will be arranged like the Charity and Stewardship Appeal, by finding your pledge card from our parish representatives after Masses on the weekend. I am sorry for the confusion, if there is any. The Seminarian Appeal/Bishop's Appeal for Vocations will happen on October 6-7. Thank you for supporting our future priests, as you once supported me back in my seminary days!

Care-A-Thon Please consider supporting Spirit Catholic Radio this week, as our annual Fall Care-A-Thon is conducted. From 6:30 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. each day, listeners will be asked to call or go to the web site and make a donation to the station of your prayers and financial gifts. The network asked me this year to be a host for the 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. time slot on Thursday and Friday. I will be with another co-host, and our privileged job will be to showcase the great outreach that Spirit Radio does to increase the encounter with Jesus that all of us desire to have. So, if you want to hear Yours Truly on the air, please tune in to 91.5 FM! Or, if you are toward Lincoln that day, 102.7 FM is the dial location. You can also listen via the internet at spiritcatholicradio.com.

Liturgical Outlook

Lord's Prayer Posture At the CCD Mass this past week, I asked the students and teachers to pray the Lord's Prayer with their hands folded. I acknowledged that some families hold hands during this prayer at Mass, and that I preferred this gesture to be reserved for Sundays within those families who choose it. The Church only prescribes for the people in the pew that they stand, with no other gestures specified. Within CCD classes, my thought is that it may be uncomfortable or awkward for the students to hold hands. Also, in the Safe Environment training and living out, it could be that a child holding hands with an adult who is not a parent could be experienced or remembered in a way that makes the child feel unsafe. As pastor, I am the chief liturgist of the parish, and so I wanted you to know by way of bulletin that this is how I perceive the best practice for our parishes.

Why I Sing At daily and Sunday Masses I have recently sung the entire Eucharistic Prayer. The reason is that sometimes, especially in the morning, my voice seems so low and gravelly. It is more comfortable for

me to sing, and I think it may be a more beautiful way for you to hear the sacred words of consecration.

God Bless You!

Father Grell