

From the Pastor—January 20, 2019

My Day Off When I sit down to write this weekly column, it is easy to start off with going home to see my parents. That is what I did for my day off last Monday. Now, to take you back to last weekend, you know that eastern parts of the State received snow but that here in Hamilton County we really did not. I sure found out that this was true! I needed to go to Lincoln first, so I drove on Highway 34 all the way through York and Seward. I forget exactly where it was, but it was obvious where the “snow line” was as I drove. In Lincoln itself, most major streets were clear, but I saw people walking cautiously slow on icy parking lots. Side streets were icy/slushy. As I drove toward home, it was more of the same. A couple of demolition projects are going on in Beatrice, and the piles of rubble had snow sitting upon them. *** As a side note, one of the demolition projects is of the former Masonic Temple. Interestingly, this building from 1908 has stood at the corner of the St. Joseph’s School and Church property all of my life. We had to fetch kickball soccer balls from the Masonic property when I was a kid. I didn’t find out till I was in seminary and now as a priest how our Catholic faith and Freemasonry are antithetical to each other. The basic teaching is that you cannot be a practicing Catholic and a practicing Mason at the same time. Good web sites, like ewtn.com and catholic.com, can tell you more about teachings of freemasonry. *** When I arrived home to our family farm, it was beautiful to see our tall evergreen trees with the snow sitting upon the branches. I took a selfie of me and the trees; you could check on my social media as I hope to post this. Mom and Dad were doing fine and were glad to see me. I spoke to them about my experience back east in Indianapolis for the SEEK conference. They caught me up on farm bookwork and other news of things around home. *** As I drove back to Aurora, I encountered fog for most of the way. It was not zero visibility, but it was not much better than zero. I went through DeWitt, Wilber, Crete, Milford, and Seward, then west on Highway 34 to Aurora. I kind of like going that way, as they are roads that are two-lane and roads that I have traveled since childhood. *** That is the story of my day off. The End!

Rudy the Dog If you are a dog-person, prepare to be sad. My sister had to euthanize (put down) her beagle, Rudy, last Sunday. Rudy was 14 years old, maybe almost 15. Mary and Bob had gotten him before they adopted Will as a newborn. When Rudy joined the family, he came from a fellow Catholic parishioner in St. Teresa’s. Mary and Bob had a kitty named Scruffy at the time. Scruff died one calendar day difference from Rudy, back on January 12, 2009. I mentioned in this column that Mary and Will adopted a kitten named Faye recently. Faye now has the Huggenberger home all to herself. Rudy had been given a few more months of life last Fall with some type of special medication. But he was in pain and just not moving, so Mary made the hard decision to put him down. It is new for our family as farm kids, because we did not usually euthanize pets. They died of old age, or once in a while on our full-service farm, they got too close to vehicles and machinery. I felt sad for Mary. William took it in stride, or maybe it’s just his teenage outward appearance of non-emotion. I sent my sister a video by Father Mike Schmitz where he talks on Ascension Press on the topic “Will My Pets Be In Heaven?” It is an interesting topic that those of you who face this question and wonder about might do well to research the Catholic point of view. Please pray for my sister and Will, as losing Rudy truly is a loss.

CCD/Godparents’ Dinner A yearly event that I am very glad to see passed on is to have the CCD teachers of grades K-8 and sponsoring parents of the Godteens get together for a meal. We met last Sunday at a local restaurant. It was a wonderful evening, for teachers and their spouses to get together socially. I commended the spouses who were present, as they many times have to keep the home running smoothly while their husband/wife teaches our youth. Please pray for all those who teach, and please pray for God to continue to always call good catechists who love Jesus and want to share that love by teaching in the setting of CCD and Godteens.

House Blessings I went to a parishioner’s home last week and blessed their house, and them. It was wonderful! I need to do more of these kind of home visits. It is a wonderful way to place God at the center of your family’s life. It shows especially young children that their parents are serious in their relationship with Jesus and their home is dedicated to all things which bring friendship with God. Please call me and invite me over some time!

Spirit Radio Appearance I was on the Spirit Catholic Radio network last week. Please find the on-line link to listen to it at: <https://spiritcatholicradio.com/program/spirit-mornings/>. You can search for it also on Sound Cloud, if you have that app.

Christian Unity We are in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This annual observance is held January 18-25 each year. The theme chosen for 2019 is “Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20). Throughout 2019, join Christians everywhere in praying “that they may all be one”, joining our prayer with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information go to: www.geii.org

Day of Prayer and Fasting The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is what we use to celebrate Holy Mass. It has the rubrics the priest follows, and shows the order of worship. If you are interested in learning more, the entire General Instruction is easily found on the internet. In the General Instruction, paragraph 373, it states that January 22 is a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”. It further describes this day as follows: “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.” The reason for this day to be set aside is because January 22, 1973, is the date that the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions that abortion was a legal right in all nine months of pregnancy. Please pray and fast this Tuesday so that every precious unborn child can be kept safe in the place which ought to be safest place of all, in his or her mother’s womb.

SEEK More to share with you about SEEK later!

God Bless You!

Father Grell