

From the Pastor—February 3, 2019

Walk for Life—Nebraska The Nebraska Walk for Life was a beautiful, joyful showing of love for life. I was blessed to attend. Pro-life politicians who support passage of legislation to protect innocent human life spoke from the north steps of our State Capitol. We then walked to the UN-L Student Union, where the keynote speaker was Catherine Adair. She is probably around my age. She had had an abortion as a teen. Her family's faith life was nominal; her mother started a local chapter of NOW (National Organization of Women), a group which is notorious for supporting abortion as a *woman's way of being a greater contributor to society*. The italics and underlining are my emphasis, to point out that abortion NEVER helps a woman. Abortion obviously does not help the child; this awful procedure stops the child's tiny little heart from beating and ends his or her precious little life. After her teenage abortion, Catherine worked at Planned Parenthood in Massachusetts. She assisted thousands of women in having abortions. What initiated her change of heart about abortion was a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine from the Knights of Columbus and seeing the little child about to be aborted. *** The Q & A after Catherine's talk was good. One man grieved lost fatherhood due to abortion. Another asked how men could better stand up for the unborn. A woman asked Catherine if her mom had come around to being pro-life. Catherine said "no" and asked our prayers; but she did say that just a couple of years ago, her mother asked, "That abortion really hurt you, didn't it?" Her own mother, who had wanted and helped her get the abortion, at least realizes now that the impact upon her daughter's life is significant and permanent. *** If you or someone you care about has experienced an abortion, go to: www.hopeafterabortion.org. God forgives and God heals.

Formed.org Our parishes continue to carry a subscription to Formed.org for your benefit. Where before we presented a code to access the content, and this remains an option, I have an easier way to access the site. The Formed web site is now built into our parishes' web site as a URL address. Type into your browser this address: stmarysaurora.formed.org. Then, you will be prompted to enter your e-mail address and choose a password. From there, your Formed content should be accessible from wherever you have internet access. I encourage you to nourish yourself with prayerful, Catholic content throughout your day. Do your soul a favor—it will make for a happier you!

Punch List Please know that I am wanting to move in the same direction as all of you when it comes to a "punch list". I feel that my having been a pastor in other places gives me an eye for noticing things to be done. Coming here new gives me "fresh eyes", so to speak. By listing some of the things I notice, it is not intended to make anyone feel degraded for not having certain things completed. Life happens, your families need you. And so, when the hall and classrooms and kitchen were completed and dedicated in 2014, I imagine there was a collective sigh of relief among all of you and a rightful sense of celebrating the overall accomplishment. At the same time, my decision to move the offices from the rectory to the hall has added unforeseen items to the "punch list". Do you understand my angle on this? By writing about projects like these, I intend it to keep us all striving toward the best St. Mary's possible and to enlist people who want and are able to help. I would rather have willing volunteers than portraying to a smaller group who do everything already that they are being called forth again. A

great Scripture passage to describe this is, "God loves a cheerful giver." So, here is the punch list for cheerful givers to step forward and express interest in helping:

1. Affix the shelving in the back sacristy closet.
2. Find and re-install hand railing to the rectory basement (it is hard to navigate these stairs without a railing to grab onto).
3. Consider an appropriate way to decorate the back wall of the sanctuary, such as with decorative, interior designs, statues, or angels.
4. Consider adding holy artwork to the classrooms and the walls of the hall.
5. Consider assembling a historic display like an archives to showcase the ones who have handed this parish down to us in our time.
6. In the kitchen, to hang the pictures which are framed and sitting in place.
7. In the kitchen, to find a way to store the large, hook-ended "wands" with which the serving line covering is opened and closed instead of loose-leaning against the serving line counter.

Linens Cleaner I want to describe better the note which asks for a volunteer to clean the linens. I have seen this as a paid position in parishes. But I prefer it to be done by a volunteer, and here's why. Working with the altar linens is a labor of love. When caring for the holy purificators and corporals which directly touch the Holy Sacrament and therefore quite likely have remnants (and therefore the Actual Presence) of the Lord's Body and Blood, I want it to be someone who prayerfully knows of the reward in Heaven for such work of their hands. The distinction I am trying to make can maybe best be said this way: cleaning a floor removes dirt, sand, grit and these particles are disposed of through the water drain (if small enough) or with the garbage pick-up; cleaning an altar cloth or linen requires the utmost care such that the Lord's Body and Blood are correctly disposed of, not through a kitchen sink or sewer line but directly into the earth. The Church gives guidelines for the correct cleaning of altar linens, which I am looking forward to sharing with our new volunteer, whoever it may be. Some of you may have seen sacristies in churches where there is a "holy sink", more properly called a sacrarium. This sink has piping which goes directly into the ground below the building's foundation, rather than into the sewer line. We don't seem to have such a sink here at St. Mary's; perhaps it was not possible to build into the original structure in 1972? *** Please call me with any questions you have about this volunteer position.

The Shroud of Turin I am pleased to announce that Jim Bertrand will speak to our parishes about the Holy Shroud of Turin. Mr. Bertrand will speak at St. Mary's after Coffee and Rolls on March 10. He will speak at St. Joseph's after Stations of the Cross on March 19 (our patronal feast day). Plan now to make time for learning about the Holy Shroud. To learn more, go to www.shroudofturin.com.

God Bless You!

Father Grell