

## **From the Pastor—October 27, 2019**

**Adoration** Come and adore Our Lord, on Wednesday, October 30, at St. Mary's, from 8:00 - 9:00 PM!

**Extra Confessions** For those attending Confirmation who want to be in a state of grace with all their sins cleansed, especially any mortal sins so that you can receive Holy Communion, I am offering extra Confession times on Sunday, today, October 27. The extra times are 12 noon till 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's and 7:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. Of course, anyone at all is welcome to these Confession times, too.

**Should you Attend Confirmation?** If you attend Confirmation, you will see/hear/meet/greet the Most Rev. James D. Conley, who has been appointed by God to be the pastor of our souls. It is a great honor to be with our Shepherd for Holy Mass. Another great reason to attend Confirmation Mass is that it prepares our children in grades 2, 3, and 4 to receive Confirmation in the 2022-2023 school year; bring them so they can see what it's like. Let's give a great welcome to Bishop James Conley! Please consider attending Confirmation Mass.

**Latin parts of Mass** The Bishop has indicated that, if parishes are able, the parts of Mass when His Excellency comes to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation are to be sung in Greek (the Kyrie "Lord Have Mercy") and in Latin (the Sanctus "Holy, Holy", the Agnus Dei "Lamb of God", and the Pater Noster "Our Father"). This list could include the Gloria, too. To help us prepare for this, I am going to have our Sunday Masses these next several weeks have these parts of Mass sung as indicated in these languages. \*\*\* By way of context, the first Mass, celebrated by Jesus, was probably in Our Lord's everyday language, Aramaic. Over time, Greek would have become a dominant language that the Mass was celebrated in. Latin later came onto the scene as the language for Mass. At the Council of Trent (1545-1563), it was mandated for the universal Church that all Masses would be prayed in Latin, a mandate that was held until 1969 (or thereabouts). For most of this Christian era, Mass in English has been the exception, not the norm. It's an interesting perspective, I hope you agree.

**Seven Sisters** Please find more information at: <https://sevensistersapostolate.org/home>.

**Holy Days** A brother priest of mine recently wrote a note in his bulletin that I agree with and mention here to encourage you. He remarked how in his 40+ years as a priest, he has seen a decline in attendance at Holy Day Masses of Obligation. And he has not just based this on his current assignment, for it is very possible that people go to other towns and parishes than they usually do for their Sunday Mass. In talking to other priests, they have noticed the same decline that he has. \*\*\* To be clear, the obligation to attend Mass on a Holy Day, such as this Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, is the same obligation as to attend on a Sunday. The obligatory nature is equal for Holy Days compared to Sundays. Granted, it is difficult to keep a Holy Day rest and time of leisure as we would on a Sunday because of our work schedule in the real world and responsibilities asked of us. But we can, in addition to our Mass attendance, make the day holy and profound by our extra acts of prayer, our extra silence and meditation on what Our Lord has worked in our lives and celebrate the gift of life, and the gift of Divine Life. In sum, it is important to "make" your Holy Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Loving Life** An evening to love life and be educated about how life is precious is coming up on November 9<sup>th</sup>. On that night, the Aurora School Commons and Theatre will be

the site of showing the Unplanned movie about Abby Johnson's breaking-away from the abortion industry. We will offer chili made by area churches, including St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Makers Bakery is providing cinnamon rolls. I've been told that it is rather unique to Nebraska that our hunger for chili and cinnamon rolls go together☺. Teresa Kenney will speak about the beauty of her work to help women and men have babies within a loving family. She works at the St. Pope Paul VI Institute in Omaha and has had great success in treating the causes of infertility rather than prescribing hormonal contraceptives. After the movie showing, Bob Sullivan from Hastings will give a history of how abortion came to be regarded as the law of the land in the 1973 Supreme Court rulings of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Another speaker is local doctor, Jeffrey Muilenberg, M.D. He has studied embryology extensively and will share his knowledge on this topic. A young woman named Emily Daniel will share how she entered into an abortion mill to talk a friend out of having an abortion. It is going to be quite the evening to celebrate life and to arm ourselves with great resources and encouragement from great speakers to be more convicted in our pro-life ministry.

**Mom and Dad** I was happy to drive home and visit Mom and Dad for a quick visit this past Monday. They are doing pretty well, growing old together!

**Where I Come From** It struck me as something I take for granted. But when I visited Mom and Dad on Monday, I stopped at one of the local grocery stores to pick up some items. Inside the store, I noticed a couple of shoppers who I would describe as special needs. You see, Beatrice is home to several group homes; in my childhood, we called the facility the "Martin Luther Home" and we would go Christmas caroling to the residents. The residents these days are in the group home arrangement, and when they go shopping with their caretakers, it is a good reminder to us who have been given so much. We need to take extra care with these beautiful people, maybe not be in such a rush. We also have in Beatrice what most locals refer to as "the State Home". Its authentic name is the Beatrice State Developmental Center. Again, some of the residents are seen in local stores and restaurants; they are beautiful people who God has created for his purposes, oftentimes the purpose being for us who are gifted in many ways to slow down and use our gifts on behalf of them.

**Fall Festival** It was a beautiful, but windy, day for our St. Mary's Fall Festival last Sunday. I have great appreciation for all of you who contributed in any way. It was so gratifying for me as pastor to greet people after 8:15 Mass and see families and friends joining over a wonderful meal. When I arrived back from 10:45 Mass at Giltner, I enjoyed seeing the winners (and sometimes reactions from non-winners☺) for the raffle drawings. Thank you to all who made this annual event for our parish, and our community, such a grand success.

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**