

From the Pastor—October 6, 2019

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

A Thank You and a Request For over a year, seven women volunteered out of love for the priesthood to pray for me each day, either in front of the tabernacle or in their homes. I thank them. *** These women were my Seven Sisters, my prayer warriors who held the armor of prayer over me and placed me in the mantle of Mother Mary. Now, I humbly ask for the profound commitment of a new crew of Seven Sisters. Priests engage in spiritual warfare with every Mass we say, every Confession we hear, every blessing we give, and every witness we make. Every public appearance in the community is a witness to Jesus; we are never not priests. Therefore, the enemy wages battle upon us by virtue of our office of the priesthood. If your priests do not serve in all the ways that you would wish and desire, it could be that he succumbs in small or large ways to the temptations set before him on a regular basis; temptations not to pray, temptations not to address administrative duties, temptations not to be welcoming and cheerful to all of the lay faithful. *** I feel it is imminently necessary that I receive coverage in prayer from a new group of Seven Sisters, as soon as possible. I am like a warrior without armor, susceptible to attack. Indeed, I have noticed recently the loss of prayer to cover over me and it has shown in ways that you may not (or may) have noticed. Please find more information at: <https://sevensistersapostolate.org/home>.

My Time in Gage County Kenneth and Dorothy Grell send their greetings! They wish, more than you know, that they could come and see/meet you good people of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. But their age is diminishing their chances to do this. They have visited, till now, every parish where I have served as pastor or parochial vicar. *** It was great to see Mom and Dad this past week. I hadn't been home since the Fourth of July long weekend. We caught up on things going on in our lives. I took Mom and Dad on a drive to see our farmland over near Ellis. We went through Wymore, which is not on the way, because we wanted to see a new business which has opened on the curve where Highway 77 connects Blue Springs to Wymore. Someone, some time ago, used to refer to these towns as "Bluemore". It's probably a name that would not satisfy the respective residents of Blue Springs and Wymore, as it has never seemed to catch on. Dad was pleased with his crops and wished that we had brought some tree snips (loppers) to take down a few volunteer trees in our ditch/roadside. We took this tour on Monday, which was fortunate, because the next two days saw much rain move into the area. *** I celebrated Mass each day, twice in the living room of my childhood home. This is such a blessing for me. I also gave our home a blessing to ask God to watch over my parents. I anointed Mom and Dad, too, for strength to handle their elder needs. *** It is so joyful to be home, to see things happening which I may not be aware of, yet which interest me. I saw a business that had closed in recent months and texted my best friend from high school about it; I am sure I glanced at other business newly-opened. Beatrice has always (since my childhood) maintained a population of between 12,000 and 13,000. *** One item of great

noteworthiness is that an oak tree on our farmyard was recently struck by lightning. Mother was in the kitchen when it happened; I think Dad had gone to bed for the night. It startled Mom greatly, and she wondered where it had struck. The next day, she noticed a venerable old oak tree, with its trunk's bark laid down on the ground on its northwest and southeast sides. I looked at the tree and marveled at the power of that lightning strike; you could see the path where the electrical voltage had moved from top to bottom. I guesstimate the tree at about 50 yards from our home; it was even closer to my grandparents' (now empty) home. We could have had a major fire, or worse, if the oak tree had not taken the strike. I suggested to Mom and Dad that we probably ought to call our local tree company to cut down the oak.

Bishop's Appeal for Vocations Mike and Linda McQuiston in St. Mary's and Ron and Cindy Consbruck in St. Joseph's are leading our appeal to support seminarians in our Diocese. Please make your pledge in the next week or two. Early returns at the diocesan level show a giving rate higher than last year. Thank you for your generosity!

CCD Mass Our eighth-grade class was super-excited to lead our CCD Mass a couple of Wednesdays ago. This group really enjoys each other's company, and they enjoy living their Catholic faith out loud. They are a sign of hope in the Church!

Lego Church and Priest I found several Lego fans when I arrived back on Wednesday and went to CCD. I brought my Lego set which features ways to build from the blocks an altar, a tabernacle, an ambo (pulpit), candles, Missal and Lectionary, and even hosts! It also features a Lego priest, with the corresponding colors of vestments usually worn. The youth enjoyed seeing Lego's purposed in this way.

RCIA—Catholic Instruction Class I asked that a request be sent out asking if anyone from St. Mary's Altar Society's Circles or St. Joseph's Altar Society could receive guidance from me in creating for our parishes a google.docs document. I intend to use it for RCIA: to show the schedule of classes, to show the days I will teach, to show the days I will need others to teach, and to show the days for class members to volunteer to bring snacks. Can anyone, men or women, assist me with this?

Living Liturgically The great memorial-in-rank feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is on October 7. Do try to recite the Rosary on this day. Love Jesus, love Mary!

Census at Mass The first two weekends of October are designated for counting the number of people at weekend Masses.

Chuck's 2.0 The anticipation for the grand re-opening of Chuck's has been palpable! It seems that with every contractor that people have seen in the parking lot these past couple of months, a greater hope has arisen to see the hard work result in the re-opening. The curtain was pulled this week on the new Chuck's 2.0! For those of you who have lived here a while, I am sure that this is a welcome gesture from the new owners. I have seen a steady stream of people coming to enjoy food and fellowship, and the drive-thru full to 9th Street at times! Congratulations, Chuck's 2.0!!!

God Bless You!

Father Grell