

From the Pastor—November 10, 2019

Adoration Adore Our Lord, on Wednesday, November 13, at St. Mary's, from 8:00 - 9:00 PM!

More Confirmation Thoughts Several thoughts have come to me after the note I wrote in last week's bulletin about Confirmation of our students. *** You know of our parish custom of reciting the St. Michael Prayer prior to the announcement of the closing hymn, and of praying the "O Sacrament Most Holy Prayer" at the end of the closing hymn. The night of the Confirmation Mass, I totally forgot about both prayers. The custom when assisting at a Mass with the Bishop is that afterward, the cross bearer (the crucifer) stands at attention with the lector, acolytes, and altar servers, as the Bishop leads the priests in a short prayer said in Latin. So, we did this, and then I started chatting with the Bishop. It was only then that I noticed all of you congregants in the pews, kneeling quietly, and waiting to pray the St. Michael prayer and O Sacrament prayer. I hastily cut short my conversation with the Bishop; he said something to ease my feeling of kerfuffle, like "they are obedient sheep, waiting for their pastor". *** I enjoy extra opportunities to extol the new parish hall which you all at the time planned and built and finished in 2014. After the Confirmation Mass, two families used rooms for light receptions to honor their confirmand. And I noticed informal, small gatherings of families with their confirmand standing throughout the social hall. From what I've been told (and what I remember in a couple of visits to St. Mary's in 1994 and 2005), our hall prior to 2014 would not have had the luxury of these formal or informal receptions because of lack of room. *** You may know this, but a reminder seems appropriate, that when a baptismal or confirmation sponsor cannot attend the ceremony, another person can stand "proxy" in their place. The proxy does not replace the chosen sponsor, but they are necessary as a witness to the giving of the sacrament. My own grandpa stood proxy for my baptism; I was in need of a surgery at age two weeks, and my uncle who lived in Denver couldn't make it to Beatrice on short notice for my hastily-arranged baptism. I noticed at least two proxies at our Confirmation Mass; maybe there were more. *** With all of the preparations leading up to Confirmation, I wish to state that I did not fulfill my goal of visiting families of the students nor viewing with them a movie from our Formed.org subscription. My health was a factor, and I sort of lost my initiative for what I was hoping would be fruitful for the families and for me. *** I realized the night of Confirmation that a number of the sponsors were parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. In general, I like to communicate with baptismal and confirmation sponsors, to lay out for them what the Church prescribes as their duties in this important office. Hopefully, I will have time in the future to speak with sponsors, to visit with families, and in doing so, to put a sort of bow upon the gift which Confirmation was for the life and history of our parishes.

George On October 30th, a dear family friend and neighbor to our family farm passed away at age 90. His name was George E. Pinkerton. The first thing you must know is that including the middle initial is essential. George E's dad was George; one of his sons is George; and that George named his son George. This final, and fourth, George was in the seminary for our diocese for a few years, so the name may not be all together unfamiliar to you. Also, the Pinkerton family was/is large, and it wouldn't surprise me if some of you readers of this article would have run across one Pinkerton or another in your life. *** George, the recently deceased, had nine children with his wife, Gari (pronounced

with a soft "g" as rhyming with "Mary"). One of their children, Mike, died in a traffic accident in 2005. He was on the job at the time, as a driver for UPS. Mike, and his siblings Rob, Kathy, and Beth, were charged by their parents to help my parents take my sister and me to St. Joseph School in Beatrice for grades 1-6. So, the Pinkerton family was invaluable to us Grell kids receiving a Catholic school education. Their youngest, Dave, took our youngest, Mark, to St. Joe's as well. *** The Pinkertons lived a mile south of us. Their land was in the Wymore Southern district, like ours, but they had transferred their land to the Beatrice school district. This explains why their children were on the road to Beatrice in the morning; St. Joseph's did not provide busing. Thankfully, the Beatrice Public School did provide busing which we utilized later on, but only for after-school trips "home", and then only to a mile from our road, which was as far as their bus route had school kids to deliver home. *** The Pinkertons in the country were matched in size by the "town" Pinkertons. Kenneth and Ardie had eight children, if memory serves me. Ken was a dentist, and his youngest son, Bill, is now a dentist in Beatrice. All of these Pinkerton kids, some 17 first cousins, were quite the well-bonded group of kids. They loved life, they loved our St. Joseph Parish, they loved each other. *** To this day, and for about 20 years or so, Rob Pinkerton has farmed our home ground, about 200 acres. George would help him at harvest time, fetching a truck or siding up beside the combine with a grain cart. I remember a few years ago, when I was home, I stopped in the field and George offered me a beer while Rob was harvesting. Nothing like a good mix of barley and hops to wash down the joy of a good harvest! *** I was extremely blessed to attend and concelebrate George's funeral Mass on Tuesday. Many dear Beatrice parishioners have died over the years, and I can't make it to most of their funerals, but I felt I needed to be present for this one. In your kindness, please pray for George, his wife, and their voluminous and beautiful family.

Young men, larger vestments (repeated note)

Initiating with this year's current freshmen class, I decided to extend the scheduling of altar servers into high school years, through to graduation. With this policy, which seemed to be common among parishes in our Diocese, and which seemed well-received in speaking to parish leaders, new cassocks and surplices of larger size were needed. The occasion of Confirmation gave me the impetus needed to order these black robes with white tops. I reviewed the sizes that we currently had in our possession at St. Mary's. I found the brand that we needed so that we could match the current robes. And then I phone-called the order in to Cosgrave's church supply store in Omaha, who drop-shipped the cassocks and surplices to my rectory door step a few days prior to Confirmation. Please be supportive of our young men, with freshmen now on the normal cycle of scheduling, and let them know that you appreciate their willingness to help us all to pray better at Holy Mass.

God Bless You!

Father Grell