

From the Pastor—November 17, 2019

Adoration Adore Our Lord, on Wednesday, November 20, at St. Mary's, from 8:00 - 9:00 PM!

Adoration Adore Our Lord, on Thursday, November 21, at St. Joseph's, from 4:00 - 5:00 PM!

And More Confirmation Thoughts My mind continues to re-think the great event for our St. Mary's and St. Joseph's confirmands, their families, and our entire parish community. *** Those of you in attendance at Confirmation may have noticed that there was a small votive candle, red in color, which burned upon the altar during the Mass. This candle symbolizes that the Bishop is the celebrant of the Mass. I am not sure of exactly why such a candle is lit; the exact historical origin of such a custom is not known to me. In recent years, when a Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln, the altar there has its usual six candles lit and then a seventh one for when the Bishop celebrates the Mass. I think the seventh candle, from what I remember, symbolizes that the Bishop is the giver of all seven sacraments. A priest generally can only give five of the seven sacraments; he cannot ordain someone and only in certain circumstances can he confer Confirmation. So, the seventh candle at our Cathedral of the Risen Christ is significant for the reasons I have stated here. Just thought you might like to know this. *** The night of Confirmation was smooth in one sense, but a blur in another sense. In the midst of it all, I tried to calm myself and enjoy the moments of prayer and joy. In these moments, and even at times such as Christmas and Easter, I find it difficult to truly listen with wide-open ears to the music. This applies to me no matter what my current parish assignment is. So, I appreciated the music we had for Confirmation and the variety of singers and musicians, even though I might not be able to pinpoint exactly what parts I particularly enjoyed. Our musicians can tell you, that we sang neither the Kyrie in Greek nor the Our Father in Latin. Which is ok. I was expecting the Bishop to lead us in these parts of Mass, as this is the order of music which I had planned with His Excellency's collaborators prior to his visit. Please know that I thank you all for your arduous working over the words and musical notes of Greek and Latin in the weeks preceding Confirmation. I don't intend, on a permanent scale to change our music to these ancient parts of Mass. But I would like to state that it would be good for our St. Mary's and St. Joseph's music ministry over time to know what the Church asks of us through the retention of our ancient heritage of Mass parts in Latin and Greek.

Discover the Truth About Life The event to show the movie "Unplanned" at the Aurora Middle School Commons and Theater was a success! One always hopes to fill such an event to standing room only status. While we did not attain that—one estimate was that 65 people attended—the people who came left with a greater awareness of the truth about life. I want to thank parishioners who helped supply chili and serve it. I appreciate you! The speakers were wonderful in their approaches from differing angles to speak about the beauty of human life. Of the people in attendance, a vast majority raised their hand when asked if this was the first time they had viewed the Unplanned movie. This was encouraging in that more people seeing this movie will motivate more people to stand for the defenseless pre-born child, and to stand beside the mothers and fathers of these babies. The Loving Life Coalition, of which I serve as a spiritual moderator, will soon meet to de-brief on how the event went, what were our strengths in planning it, and how we could improve. I can link up any of you who wish to be a

part of this Coalition in an active way. It might be something that you feel strongly called (as I do) to step forward in faith and be vocal and active as a pro-lifer.

Committal A former Giltner-ite and St. Joseph's parishioner died last week in Broken Bow. His name is Pete Murphy. He was born in 1933 in Geneva, according to his obituary, and he spent his growing up years in Giltner, graduating from our Giltner High School. Pete's burial plot is at our St. Joseph's Calvary Cemetery. As often happens, the priest in Broken Bow who celebrated Pete's funeral Mass of Christian Burial asked me, as the local priest, to perform the burial rites; traveling from Broken Bow to here and back was something I was happy to relieve this priest of. We had Pete's burial on the cold Tuesday last week, with the wind whipping the tenting of the burial canopy. I felt like my mouth was frozen as I pronounced the prayers (not literally, but this gives an image of how it felt to all of us there). I spoke to Pete's wife briefly; she seemed to be holding up well. Pete had served our country in the armed forces, the U.S. Navy, and so we had the military honors along with the Church's committal service. Please keep Pete Murphy's soul and his family in your kind prayers.

My Dad's Birthday My dad turned 92 on Wednesday! He is doing well; although he continually asks me for prayers so that he would feel better. It is hard for him as a hard-working farmer to come to grips that at age 92, not everything in the human body works as well as it once did. Please pray for my father. Wednesday, November 13th, was also the birthday of my dad's father. He, Frank Grell, was born in 1895 and died in 1990, at age 95 and four days.

Our Legion of Mary I will be sharing more with you about our fledgling Legion of Mary. Our diocesan officers of the Legion attended our meeting on November 7th, and they officially "christened" it as our Meeting #1. For now, we are going to join the parishes of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's into one praesidium (the given name of the Legion parish group). However, I want to assign apostolic works to St. Joseph's members which will be distinct from St. Mary's members. This will give the autonomy and differing outreaches that each parish most needs, according to my pastoral judgment and the strengths of our members.

Weddings of Friends As a priest, I prepare couples for their wedding day. I also get invited to a fair number of weddings of relatives and friends. I am not able to accept the invitation to attend many of these, because of their common Saturday scheduling and my Saturday evening Mass duties. On November 9th, I was invited to two weddings. Perhaps you have faced similar dilemmas; which one do you attend? My resolution was probably something only a priest could attempt. I went to the rehearsal dinner of one wedding on Friday night, in Omaha at Jerico's Restaurant on West Dodge. On Saturday, I attended and concelebrated the second wedding at the Lincoln Newman Center. So, I was able to share the joy of each of these weddings, for which I am grateful.

God Bless You!

Father Grell