

## **From the Pastor—February 10, 2019**

**My Parents** Mom and Dad have had a little bit of a rough go with the cold weather. We have two cars; a '94 Plymouth and an '02 Chrysler. Both of the cars have been on the blink. Dad has a '95 Dodge pick-up, too, but after his hip injury it has not been driven. Things have kind of slipped unnoticed past me and my siblings, and the Plymouth has had a flat tire for some time. A dear neighbor stopped by a couple weeks ago and pumped up the tire, allowing Mom and Dad to get to Beatrice for errands. But the tire is not permanently repaired at our local TO Haas store, and so the Plymouth's reliability is sketchy at the moment. Our farm (like most) has an air compressor—I remember when we got it as a kid—but it is stored about half a football field length from the Plymouth in our machine shed. (I am not trying to tell a sad story here, just want you to know that I know that some of you can relate to wishing for spring weather, and soon!) With the '02 Chrysler, its major fault is that the battery went dead. And apparently, with this model and make, it takes a lift at a repair shop to disassemble the paneling where the battery is at in order to swap in a new one. So, some other dear neighbors came and had to push the Chrysler out of our car garage in order to jump start it with cables. Turns out that when I was a kid, it would have been a good idea to pave the garage with concrete because these neighbors had to push the car up a small slope where the dirt has worn down after 40 years of the car going in and out! I have a happy ending, for both cars are now at the ready should my parents need them. They wish for spring!

**Little Me** Last weekend, I think at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, I had a thought pop into my head from out of nowhere. It was an image of me as a child getting ready for Sunday morning Mass at St. Joseph's in Beatrice. I pictured what my clothes were, what my glasses looked like then, and where I was at in my childhood home. Those of you at that Mass may have noticed a smile come onto my face. I don't claim this as a vision, nor a hallucination, as these are extremes that don't accurately portray what happened. I took it more as my Guardian Angel prompting me to pray for my parents (see above, with their car trouble) and that they were probably sad for not being able to get to Mass. Maybe this image, and my description of it here, will help you in some way to recall the days of growing up and being with family at Mass.

**Catholic Schools Week** Last week was Catholic Schools Week. I ran out of room in this space to be able to say as much as I wanted to say. Most noteworthy to mention is that I was slated to go to my home parish and Catholic school to participate in a vocations panel. I was looking forward to it, as there was also going to be a consecrated Sister who is native to our parish, as well as one of the seminarians from Seward. But as the temperature took a nosedive, and I wasn't feeling particularly well, I messaged the principal of St. Joseph's and cancelled my appearance. It was the right call, but I had been looking forward to it. \*\*\* Those of you who follow me on facebook may have noticed a re-posting of a picture showing me during Catholic Schools Week a few years ago. In the picture, I am shown receiving a serve (successfully!) during the Plattsmouth school's annual Faculty vs. 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball match. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders would lead the cheers during those matches, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under would cheer for the faculty or for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It was a lot of fun! When we had a couple of teachers retire during my time in Plattsmouth, I jokingly said I was interviewing teacher candidates based upon their volleyball skills! \*\*\* You may have noticed the February 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Southern

Nebraska Register, and the cover story of a new scholarship fund for our Catholic schools across the Diocese. The way I understand it, it is something similar to what the Archdiocese of Omaha established some years ago. Indeed, this fund is needed because many of our Catholic schools struggle to retain financial sustainability. Even though we don't have a Catholic school directly in our St. Mary's and St. Joseph's parish environs, I am sure that almost everyone reading this has a family member or friend who attends (currently or in the past) one of our diocesan (or Grand Island or Omaha dioceses) Catholic schools. Many of our priests attended Catholic schools. I feel so blessed with having had St. Joe's School in Beatrice through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and then a wonderful group of educators who guided me through grades 7-12 at Southern Public Schools (we are District #1, by the way...don't know how we scored that distinction) in Wymore and Blue Springs.

**Deanery Day** Our priests met for a deanery day of study and fellowship last Tuesday. We always meet at the St. Joe's Rectory in York. Our topic as given by the diocese was to learn more about Spirit Catholic Radio as it celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of broadcasting the Gospel over the airwaves. It was good to hear of the lives which have been touched by this radio apostolate. I think many of you know that Spirit Catholic Radio is not subsidized by any of the dioceses in its broadcast range; it is totally listener-supported. It is a good investment in your soul and in the spiritual well-being of your family to tune in to Spirit. Remember, they have a free app which you can download; this is how I listen to it, because the 91.5 FM signal out of Wood River is not strong enough for in-home reception in Aurora.

**The Shroud of Turin** Jim Bertrand will be here to speak to our parishes about the Holy Shroud of Turin next month. 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). His talk will be around 50 minutes, with 10 minutes allowed for Q & A. If any wish to stay afterward for further questions Jim will stay as long as needed. Mr. Bertrand serves on the Science Department faculty of Pius X High School in Lincoln. With his Shroud apostolate, he is the Director of Field Operations for The American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud (ACHS). Jim is the first certified Shroud Presenter for the ACHS, having been commissioned by Bishop Michael Sheridan of the Diocese of Colorado Springs. He received training directly from the world's foremost authority on the Shroud, Dr. John Jackson, in Colorado Springs. Mr. Bertrand has given this talk over 150 times in eight states and 13 dioceses. Bishop Conley has written several Letters of Good Standing for him. In fact, Bishop Conley even made a trip to observe one of his presentations and was the last one to leave that night out of 100 people! Plan now to make time for learning about the Holy Shroud. To learn more, go to [www.shroudofturin.com](http://www.shroudofturin.com).

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**