

From the Pastor—March 31, 2019

Father Kilcawley Let me be real with you. Your children, our children, and children in your life; they have most likely been exposed to pornography. I am not talking about other people's families and other people's children; I am talking about your children, our children. The average age of children being exposed to pornography is 8. Your child(ren) may not know what the word "pornography" means. Or, they might be so embarrassed and ashamed of what they've seen that they won't tell you about it. They may lie to you about it. I really, really want our parishes to walk with you in this struggle for all things good, pure, and godly. *** An insidious peer pressure of our modern age is that it is assumed that children need smart phones, or smart devices/gaming systems. Many children have unmonitored access to internet. *** What do we do with this aberration of porn exposure and our children? Our speaker this week, Father Sean Kilcawley, can help immensely. Quite unexpectedly, Father Kilcawley has matured into being one of the foremost speakers in the United States on the dangers of childhood and family exposure to pornography. The way he will help us boils down to a correct understanding of the beauty of the Most Holy Trinity. *** I cannot do justice to trying to describe here how much hope Father Kilcawley will give you. Bishop Conley has so approved of Father Kilcawley's ministry in this specific area that his Excellency has given him a lot of leeway to schedule talks to priests, sisters, and lay people all over the United States. *** Please don't say or think, "Not my kid(s). They know better." I am optimistic by nature, but I also know that it is common and natural to think that our families don't have the problems of other families. Now is the time for you as the adults in the lives of your child(ren) to learn how to help them. *** If you are a parent of children living in your home, please come to Father's talk. If you are a grandparent of children living in your children's homes, please come to Father's talk. If you are an administrator, teacher, coach, or teacher's aide of children in one of our local schools, please come to Father's talk. *** As I write this, I envision that if the Holy Spirit so stirs your souls, we will have wall-to-wall people show up for this Wednesday's talk. We will figure out how to accommodate such a crowd, so please come. *** On April 3rd, the idea is that children for K-8th grade CCD will be dropped off and go to class. Then, at 6:30p.m., parents will come to the hall (or the church if we need more room), and Father will present his talk. As CCD ends at 7:45, we may need a few moments of "holding time" of children in classrooms as Father's talk ends with Q&A. Parents and their children will leave at 8:00. *** So, I cannot overstate how important I see this as an opportunity for you. The Evil One, the Tempter, the Great Deceiver; the one to whom Our Lord refers to as the father of lies; the one for whom we pray St. Michael's intercession against, i.e. the Devil; this fallen angel will not want you to attend. Every possible thing may go wrong that makes you think you cannot possibly attend. Attend anyway. *** Come and hear Father Kilcawley on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. I must ask that every parent, mom **and** dad, who has children in the First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes, to be present for this talk.

#NebraskaStrong From blizzards to flooding to everything in between, we who have lived in Nebraska for a little or long while know the gamut of our weather. The storms of March 14-16 have left even the most experienced of Nebraskans shocked and amazed. I saw a video on facebook of a cattle producer lifting an adult heifer cow out of

mud with the front-end loader and "claw" on his tractor. The poor girl could not get out of the mud on her own; she was "high-centered"; she would have died. Several human persons lost their lives. My former parish at Plattsmouth almost had the Missouri River flowing down its beautifully-restored downtown. Many of you have supported good causes to raise funds for Nebraskans and lowans in need. This weekend, please place the envelope which was stapled to our March 24th bulletin into the collection. You may return it next week, too. We will forward your donations to Father Kubat at Catholic Social Services. One of our 4-H clubs will be fundraising this weekend and next. Their hearts go out to ag producers in Nance County with whom they are personally reaching out to with donations received. They will be receive your funds this weekend for fencing materials for livestock; they will be selling doughnuts next week on Sunday, April 7. Please be generous, and please pray for all affected in Nebraska and Iowa.

Spirit Supporter I was on Spirit Catholic Radio this past week on Monday and Thursday, from 10:00 till 2:00 p.m. each day. Bishop Conley was in studio with me, along with Father Coulter. Co-host Jess Morehead and I also spoke to priests in the Omaha studio from our studio in Lincoln. This radio network is worthy of consideration as you consider your charitable giving. It is not too late to give; call 1-402-571-0200 or go to spiritcatholicradio.com.

A Spontaneous Trip Home For the first time in a long time, I saw my parents last week! It was so good to make a quick trip to our family farm. They are doing well; please keep them in your prayers.

It's a great day to be a Catholic! I could say a whole lot about my great experience at the Aurora High School production of Footloose: The Musical. Suffice to say that it was quite moving to me. I thought to myself many that night and since the phrase from Scripture: By His wounds you have been healed. The plot really revolved around this Biblical principle. Footloose for me was a great day to be a Catholic. Thank you, one and all, for a fabulous theater experience.

Theology on Tap I participated in the Diocese of Grand Island's "Theology on Tap" last week. Bishop Emeritus William Dendinger, Father Don Buhrman, and I fielded questions from young people at the Chicken Coop in Grand Island. Find the video on facebook.

April 19th Silence Plan now to live Good Friday, April 19, as silently as possible. Be prayerful at home and at church. Celebrate at church the celebration of the Lord's Passion. Forsake your iTunes, iHeart, Spotify, Pandora, radio, and Netflix; instead, watch TV station EWTN to see Good Friday programming. Be very quiet and prayerful that day...all for Jesus.

What should we do for Lent? Read the daily Mass readings as listed on the front of our bulletin, even if you cannot attend Mass. The Gospel passages turn this week exclusively to Our Lord's final attempts for the Jews, and us, to hear His message of love and repentance.

God Bless You!

Father Grell