

From the Pastor—May 26, 2019

Home (There's No Place Like) I left from St. Joseph's last Sunday and drove home to see Mom and Dad. It was a good trip. I enjoyed the drive, meandering along gravel roads for the first 16 miles before arriving in Harvard and then proceeding down Highway 14 to Clay Center. I went through Clay Center and then east to Geneva. From Geneva, I went south on 81 to Bruning, and then east on Highway 4 to the Brick Church near Beatrice. I then took a short-cut known since childhood, going south to Ellis and over on Highway 136 to 77, which placed me three miles of pavement and one mile of gravel from home! (When I visit my priest-friend in Virginia, East Coast folks speak of "Route" rather than "Highway", pronouncing "Route" as rhyming with "flute". This is different from our Nebraska Nice linguistics☺). *** I caught Mom and Dad up with the news of Aurora and Giltner, and I had good prayer time walking around our farmyard praying my Breviary. Our corn on our bottom land was fully sprouted and well up on its way. As of this writing, well over half of our ground remains unplanted. I am not involved in the day-to-day decisions, but I imagine we will have to go to a shorter season corn and maybe shorter season beans, too.

State Track I mentioned from the pulpit last Sunday at St. Joseph's how I am rightfully proud of the Giltner Hornets' fifth consecutive state championship in Track. I probably don't comment on all things extra-curricular of our local schools—it would be nearly impossible for me to do so—but Track occupies a place in my heart because I competed in hurdles, the 110's and 300's, while in high school at (Wymore) Southern. I lettered all four years of high school, for which I am proud. *** Go Giltner girls! And keep up the excellent tradition!

Father Sid's Talk Father Sid Bruggeman came to St. Mary's this past week with about 50 people in attendance. He spoke about how the Eucharist had led him in converting to the Catholic Church and becoming a priest. His wife, Carol, came to Aurora, too. He spoke about praying for family members who have left the Church, and never to discount the power of prayer; bombarding people with Bible verses and other arguments for the faith is not a winsome way to win people back to the Catholic faith. One of the main protagonists for his family to become Catholic was the secretary at the local Catholic school where he and Carol had enrolled their three sons. Never underestimate the good that you can do in interacting kindly and lovingly with people. I was so glad for Father Sid and Carol's visit.

Wednesday Holy Hour Please join us for a time of Adoration after our Ascension Holy Day Mass on Wednesday. The Holy Hour is an option for us to unite in prayer before the Lord. We might say a Rosary together. You can attend the Mass, but not stay for the Holy Hour. Conversely, if your Holy Day Mass is going to be the next day, come and join in Adoration from about 8:00-9:00 PM.

What's the Deal with Ascension Thursday? The Ascension of the Lord is this Thursday, May 30th. It is a Holy Day in Nebraska, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, but is NOT a Holy Day in the other 44 States of the Union. This is an oddity. The other 44 States celebrate the Ascension on Sunday, June 2.

St. Joseph Capital Expense Fund [re-printed from *last week*] A member of St. Joseph's came to me last week with a donation to begin a fund for future capital expenses. The donation was in the amount of \$50,000. I am so appreciative and thankful. For now, I have placed this money

in a savings account with our Diocese of Lincoln "bank", which we refer to as the "Diocesan Savings and Loan (DIAL)". The money is ours; I or any of my successors as parish priest can retrieve the money when we need it. It receives a better interest income in the DIAL than it would in our checking account or in most commercial banks. *** I have a need to gather our St. Joseph's Parish Council and Trustees, to gain their advice and consultation for projects and plans. Please know that I intend to meet with you, St. Joseph Council, and that I appreciate the intermittent, one-on-one times I have consulted you in various matters.

St. Joseph Re-plated Chalice [re-printed from *last week*] St. Joseph has what I refer to as a "parish chalice". I distinguish it in this way from my own personal chalice. My chalice was gifted to me by my parents when I was ordained on May 25, 1996. My chalice comes with me from parish-to-parish; I will use it till I die. But most parishes have what I would call a parish chalice. In my opinion, it looked like the St. Joseph's chalice had not been re-plated for a long time. It had lost its luster. The family of Clyde and Rita Obermeier donated the cost of re-plating the chalice and the communion paten which holds the large host during Mass. I want to thank them for this memorial gift. With their approval, the chalice was engraved with the following dedication: "*Re-plating of Chalice and Paten completed in the Year of Our Lord, 2019, in loving memory of John Kline, who served as master carpenter of the first St. Joseph, Giltner, Church in 1902. By Clyde and Rita (Kline) Obermeier*".

IRA Earnings to St. Mary's [re-printed from *last week*] Parish members of St. Mary's recently named St. Mary's as the beneficiary of their IRA earnings. They designated their gifts to go toward Debt Reduction for our parish hall expansion. I am grateful for this gift, which totaled nearly \$7,000.

What to Wear? [re-printed from *last week*] I was prayerfully thinking about writing something about proper attire (clothing) for attending Holy Mass. As if to confirm my prayer, this very question was asked and answered in the May 17th edition of the Southern Nebraska Register. See this article on-line or in your print copy. *** Sometimes priests find themselves angered by what people wear to Mass. Sometimes people find themselves angered by how priests direct what clothing they ought to wear to Mass. I don't want anger on either side, yours or mine. Several times in my priesthood, I have had youth come to Mass in uniforms from playing a sport. I get that; when coming from or going to a competition, it might be the best/only option. Or, I remember someone telling me that they discovered their cows were out as they drove to Mass. I understood that their "Sunday best" clothing may have gotten soiled; I get that. I think my main message to you would be to be aware of what you wear. Remember for Whom you are attending Mass...for Jesus.

Year #3! [re-printed from *last week*] Careful readers of the Southern Nebraska Register and/or the Lincoln Diocese web site will note that my name was not listed this past week in the clergy assignments. So, it looks like Bishop Conley needs me here at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's as I begin my year #3 with you all. To which I say, YAY!!! ☺

Cast Your Net We are in the fourth week of our 2019 Charity and Stewardship Appeal in St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. Thank you for supporting our diocesan family!

God Bless You!

Father Grell