

From the Pastor—June 9, 2019

My Retreat I was on retreat this past week, returning late in the day on Thursday. It was a beautiful time of prayer. Our retreat master was a priest named Father Thomas Petri. He is a Dominican priest. Dominicans follow the charism (the gifts) of their founder, St. Dominic. One of their main gifts is preaching. The abbreviation for their religious order is O.P., for “Order of Preachers.” Perhaps you have run across or been taught by Dominican priests or sisters. Father Petri’s talks were well-prepared and beautifully delivered for us priests. *** As you read this, and if your heart is struck by a desire that seems to say to you, “I would like to go on a retreat,” I have good news: you can do just that! The Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House near Waverly offers retreats about 2 or 3 weekends per month for you, dear reader, to go and be with the Lord and e taught by wise spiritual guides. Take advantage of this gift by looking at the web site: <https://www.goodcounselretreat.com/>. Father Coulter, who is in charge of the retreat house, is very savvy with technology and so he has made registering for retreats easy to do on-line. You can also call and register. The retreats are scheduled according to an academic calendar schedule; the 2019-2020 schedule is not yet posted but soon will be finalized. Your relationship with Christ will soar to places that you didn’t know it could go if you go on retreats on a regular basis, even yearly. Please consider it.

Youth Unite! While I was on retreat, I was enjoying the thought of planning out our Youth Unite! holy hours and Q&A teachings over the upcoming Wednesdays. I rolled out the idea to several families after Mass a few weeks ago, and I received positive feedback. The evenings will mimic what upper-grade Totus Tuus does in many ways. The youth who are rising into high school this fall, up through youth whose graduation is in the past several years are welcome. I really believe that friends of our young Catholic parishioners who are not Catholic themselves would also enjoy coming. It is the youth aged 14-22 demographic whom our parishes are hoping to serve. I need to have parental support, and for parents to know that they are welcome to participate by coming to pray or by making a few munchies for our time of teaching. Also, and obviously, I need for parents to know that their children/young adults are at church and not driving around Grand Island or the countryside after telling their parents they are coming to Youth Unite (☺). I need the honesty of the youth for this ministry to be effective...and I do trust you, the youth who are reading this and who will attend. *** The evenings will run 8:00-10:00 PM. I will need adults (parents or non-parents of current youth) to be present in church at prayer before the Blessed Sacrament the entirety of the two hours, in one-hour shifts. Adults or parents who wish to listen in to the topics at hand are welcome. I have a book on prayer upon which we will focus. It describes prayer according to the meditations of St. Francis de Sales. I will offer Confessions during the holy hour, after the catechesis and Q&A. Anyone who wishes to bring goodies for the youth, that would certainly be welcome! I am working to arrange some beautiful music during the holy hours, as I know our Mission Trip students from last summer really enjoyed praise and worship music in Denver as provided by Catholic Heart Work Camp. Please ask me if you have questions on Youth Unite!

Slowness on USPS Mail & E-mails Being timely in opening and responding to letters in the mail, or to opening and responding to electronic mail via computer, is not a strength of mine. So often, I seem to be dealing with the

situation at hand, in front of me at that moment, and other mail correspondences become sidelined. If it is your mail to which I am not responding, please know of my heart-speaking-to-heart regret at my untimeliness to you. Please know that I am grateful for your patience. Obviously, if you need me for something, now, your knock or doorbell ring at the rectory, your phone call or text message, or your person-to-person visit after a weekday or Sunday Mass are your surest ways to receive the answers or the help you need

Any Car Stereo Aficionados? My parents gifted me the wonderful car you may see me driving around Aurora or in my trips to Giltner. It is a 2016 Chrysler 200. I really love most everything about the car. Except that it does not have a CD player. I really, really would like to have that option, especially to listen to Lighthouse Catholic media CD’s. The car dealer I bought the car from ordered a small CD player which was supposed to hook into my sound system in the car. But I have found it to be ineffective. What is probably needed is for the entire current sound system to be replaced with one that has CD-playing as a standard feature. Would any of you, who like car stereo systems, be able to advise me toward someone locally who could help me have a good CD-player in my car? Please contact me.

Any Home Stereo Aficionados? While I am at it, I would enjoy a better home stereo system, which I would personally purchase as to not be a burden to the parishes’ expenditure for me. I have never had a good system in my rectories over these years; I would love to have good music, easily at hand throughout my house. Music can provide an entry point into the soul, and so such a system would be an invaluable resource to me. Are there any of you reading this who could point me to someone who could help me?

John DeBuhr in Beatrice [re-printed from last week] In my childhood, a Lutheran man from Filley named John DeBuhr came to Sunday Mass each week with his wife, Aileen. John never became a Catholic, but he fit in with us at St. Joe’s in Beatrice in a wonderful way. He loved us Grell kids, as did Aileen. They are both now deceased. *** John and Aileen, dear friends of the Grell family, give me an entry point to make a gentle invitation to anyone who might be considering becoming Catholic. Please know you are welcome to come to our next session of Catholic instruction classes this fall. Perhaps John DeBuhr of my childhood never had anyone ask him to take the Catholic instruction classes. But maybe his relationship with Jesus, especially in the Eucharist, would have really grown by officially entering the Catholic Church. **** Please, do consider my gentle invitation.

Totus Tuus Don’t forget, Totus Tuus is July 7-12th in our parishes of St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s! Youth with summer jobs, please ask your employer to let you finish your workday to make it to church by 8:00 PM. And I would include in this welcome our just-graduated 12th graders, especially for the time of Adoration.

Cast Your Net Thank you for your support of the 2019 Charity and Stewardship Appeal in St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s. We have done quite well, but are still accepting pledges. Contact me to make a donation. Or go on-line at lincolndiocese.org and search for “CSA—2019”. Thank you for supporting our diocesan family!

God Bless You!

Father Grell