

From the Pastor—July 14, 2019

St. Mary Parish Council Election From nominations of the congregation at Masses in May, I am happy to present two candidates for the open spot on the St. Mary's Parish Council. They are: Andrew Ostdiek and Jason Schneider. Next weekend, July 20-21, we will vote at Mass on a ballot with these candidates listed. The winning candidate will begin his tenure on our Parish Council with the August meeting. I want to thank Andrew and Jason for their willingness to be placed upon the ballot. I also want to thank outgoing Parish Council member, Larry Ramaekers, whose term ended as of June 30th.

My Fourth I drove home to spend time with my Mom and Dad on the Fourth of July. I was glad to hear of some of you who made a great weekend of Independence Day, as your jobs allowed. *** One thing that I was glad to be home for was to take my parents to a Wake/Visitation of a long-time neighbor, Mrs. Alma Spier, who died last week. The Spier family had lived until a few years ago on Section 35 adjacent to our Section 34. One extremely interesting factoid is that Wayne and my dad were born in the same month and year—November, 1927. And, Mom and Alma were also born in the same month and year—January, 1936. Wayne (2018) and Alma have both passed away now. Wayne and Alma had three daughters. They were married about a decade before my parents. Their youngest daughter was a senior at Wymore when I was a 7th grader. It was good to see these daughters of our old neighbors. They live in Hallam and Lincoln now, so our paths might not cross much in the future. We saw several other old neighbors and friends at the Visitation (I use “old” not in a denigrating way, but to signify they are friends from my childhood and my parents’ early married lives). *** My Dad’s corn and beans are doing well. I posted a picture on Facebook of me with the corn in the background; we surpassed easily the old saying “knee-high by the Fourth of July!” *** I also discovered two baby kittens in the back of my Dad’s old ’49 Chevy pick-up. Mom had heard them mewing and seen the mama cat go into the out-building (a lean-to built by my grandpa), but hadn’t actually found them yet. They still had their eyes sealed shut, so they were only days old. *** It was good to be home, even to hear the certain way that the birds chirp around our farmstead; I am grateful.

19 The license for the recent wedding here at St. Mary’s in June was filed in Hamilton County. If I understand what the license showed, it was the 19th wedding in Hamilton County this calendar year. Does that seem the average one would expect? My thinking is that a county of our size might expect a few more weddings. This number of 19 would include any marriages performed by a judge, in addition to church weddings throughout the county. I just throw this thought out there for you to ponder.

Totus Tuus Bio’s and Summary

Scotty Sullivan Scotty is from St. Teresa’s in Lincoln and has completed College 2 at St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Scotty graduated from Pius X, and then attended UN-L for two years.

Steven Mau Steve grew up in Omaha and graduated from Creighton Prep. He graduated from UN-L

a year ago with an advertising/marketing degree. Totus Tuus came along as a great summer job while he transitions to a different position in his career.

Katie Aschoff Katie started her schooling in North Platte, but her family moved in fourth grade to David City. She graduated from Aquinas Catholic Schools, where I taught for six years. She attends Wayne State now, majoring in music education.

Elizabeth Clark Liz is a graduate of St. Cecilia’s in Hastings, and is the 4th of 11 kids in her family. I know her dad, Rich Clark, from my Agronomy studies at UN-L. I also know her mother, Melissa, whose brother is Father Jon Haschke of our Diocese. It was cool to get to know Elizabeth since I feel I know her parents very well. Liz has one year of college remaining as she seeks a nursing degree at UNMC’s Lincoln campus.

My Thoughts on the Week These Totus Tuus team members really went all out to serve our students. Around 42 students attended in the K-8th grades and about 10 students on the high school evenings. Something almost magical happens when the Totus Tuus team interacts with our youth. I am so happy to have welcomed the team this year, and I look forward already to their visit in 2020. Special thanks go out to host families, Derek and Jamie Dibbern and Kurt and Paula Johnson. Also, many of you welcomed us into your homes for supper, and many of you provided snacks and lunch, and were around during the daytime hours and adored Our Lord in the evening to make everything so successful. Thank you!

St. Mary’s Rooftop Units Saturday night Masses on June 29th and July 6th were warm inside of church. Our air conditioners on our roof needed some repair. They are partially repaired, and a part is on order (a compressor) to complete the repair. Thank you for your donations which make such a repair possible. I became heat struck during two daily Masses this past week, and the aforementioned Saturdays were very hard on me as well.

Precious Blood The Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood is a devotion we might consider in this month dedicated to Christ’s Blood. The chaplet recalls how Jesus shed his Blood seven times in the Gospels: the Blood of the Circumcision, the Blood of the Garden of Gethsemane, the Blood of the Flagellation, the Blood of the Crowning of Thorns, the Blood of the Ascent to Calvary, the Blood flowing from Christ’s side pierced by the lance.

Parish Boundaries In 1962, Bishop James Casey established boundaries for each parish in the Diocese of Lincoln. Those boundaries remain unchanged to this day. The reverse side of this sheet shows our St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s boundaries (sorry, the document is over 50 years old is not easy to read). It should be noted, with *great* tenderness, that we as pastors are very willing to work with people whose desire is to belong to a parish other than their geographic one. As pastor, I am spiritually responsible for all people living in these boundaries, no matter their faith background or church membership.

Youth Unite! Our final gathering, for youth aged 14-22, will be July 17. See you at Youth Unite! on July 17, from 8:00-10:00 PM!

God Bless You!

Father Grell