

From the Pastor—July 28, 2019

CCD Coordinator Our CCD coordinator for St. Mary's and St. Joseph's has multi-faceted tasks throughout the school year.

>>>*Communicator.* The coordinator has been essential in communicating with teachers and families, especially via the Remind app on smart phones.

>>>*Materials Administrating.* This includes placing the order for new books and making photocopies.

>>>*Promoter of teachers and pastor.* The gifts most needed is cheerfulness and promptness.

>>>*Ministry of Presence.* Someone being present at all CCD sessions on Wednesday evenings is needed who is "on call", helping students and serving as a welcoming face (the face of Christ, truly) to students and to families.

>>>*Record Keeping.* The Diocese needs our information reported to the Office of Religious Education. Our St. Mary's and St. Joseph's parishes need to be accurate in keeping current on our database with students as they approach the Sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

>>>*A Paid Position?* It could be that our parishes want to consider making the CCD Coordinator into a paid position. This would require careful discernment with the Parish and Finance Councils of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, and the Parish Trustees. We have about 100 students (around 93 from St. Mary's and 7 from St. Joseph's), making us have one of the larger CCD enrollments in the entire Diocese of Lincoln. Many larger parishes than ours (think of York, Seward, McCook, Hastings, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Wahoo, David City) have Catholic schools which make their CCD programs smaller than ours. Having come from Plattsmouth in 2017, our K-8 enrollment was around 150, while our CCD enrollment for K-8 was around 30. Parishes in the towns listed above make significant sacrifices to financially support their Catholic schools, primarily through teacher salaries. If our parishes of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's were to make the necessary sacrifices to pay a CCD coordinator, we would be continuing our long-held dedication toward handing on the faith to our youth, especially in light of our robust enrollment in CCD.

Godteens godparents Our freshman class, the Class of 2023 from St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Parishes are seeking godparent sponsors. Some Q & A follows:

>>> *Does our home have to be immaculately clean and well-furnished?* No.

>>> *Do we need to send our own children to a sitter for the evenings when we host Godteens?* No. Great interactions happen between the high schoolers and your young children.

>>> *Do we have to be perfect parents of our young children?* **No.** The high schoolers will learn that perfect parents don't exist, and they may feel greater gratitude for their own parents' parenting of them.

>>> *Do we need to find high school youth enjoyable?* Yes, that would be quite helpful 😊.

>>> *What if the Godteens ask us questions that we don't know how to answer?* It is important to be vulnerable, such that the high schoolers could learn even from your uncertainty. You can always promise them an answer at the next meeting.

>>>*So, are godparents of Godteens expected to have young children under their roof?* No. I believe that families whose own children are grown have a lot to offer by hosting the high schoolers of Godteens.

>>> *What would we teach as curriculum...how do we know what lessons to prepare each week?* The Diocese has a set curriculum for each year of high school. Our parishes of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's have been doing Godteens long enough that we have a curriculum that is handed down from year to year.

>>> *What if, in a particular week, our family has extenuating circumstances (e.g. a funeral to attend, jury duty, the high point of planting or harvest seasons, etc.), and we can't meet that Wednesday?* This can be accommodated. I could have the students join me in the hall to ease that week of stressors in your life.

Treasures of the Church Our parish bulletin carried an announcement for a tour of relics which made a stop at St. Joseph Church in Geneva on July 20. I missed the talk from Father Carlos Martins, but I did make it to view and reverence the relics. It was an austere and devout group of people I encountered as we walked from table to table to see these relics of saints. Many of the saints' relics present impressed me for various reasons and prayer intentions. I found myself saying, "Oh...St. Therese...St. Faustina...St. JP II, hello!" and then praying. My sister went to the tour's stop at St. John's in Lincoln (76th and Vine Streets). She said it was a packed crowd. Spirit Catholic Radio has sponsored this tour of relics. I won't be surprised if 5,000 or more people are totaled as having seen the relics on tour, which has spanned the State from Alliance to Omaha. How great is our Church to give us these saints!

P.S. from Totus Tuus One attention-getter of Totus Tuus could be titled, "Bananas, Unite!" Ask your children; they will sing it word-for-word for you. One "verse" to the Bananas, Unite! that caught my attention this year was to do it the St. Joseph way. Think for a second: how many words do the Gospels record St. Joseph as having spoken? He speaks not one sentence, nor even one word. So, it was hilariously amusing to see our St. Mary's and St. Joseph's students do Bananas, Unite! totally in silence!

P.S. to NFP Week July 21-27 was designated by our U.S. bishops as National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week. Please see the insert in this week's bulletin. NFP grows married love and pushes back against the sin of selfishness. Ask me about it some time.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Our Msgr. Hubert Campo Council 8010 members who are 4th degree members of the Msgr. Mandeville Assembly are invited to the next meeting. It will be Sunday, July 28, at the Hughes Brothers Cabin, 3148 Bluff Road, Seward, NE. Social time begins at 4:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 5:00, and then the dinner of grilled steaks at 5:30. Contact Ken Meyer for more information at 402-641-6715.

Judge Brian Buescher The U.S. Senate voted 51-40 this week to approve Brian Buescher to a judgeship on the federal court level. I know Brian personally; his parents were parishioners when I served Our Lady of Assumption, Deweese. Congratulations, Judge Buescher!

Adoration Come and adore Him, on Wednesday, July 31, at St. Mary's, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM!

God Bless You!

Father Grell