

## **From the Pastor—August 18, 2019**

**Adoration** Come and adore Our Lord, on Tuesday, August 20, at St. Mary's, from 7:30 - 8:30 PM!

**CCD and Godteens** Since I spoke from the pulpit on August 10-11, we have had a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher volunteer, as well as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher (for after Confirmation). We have Adoration returning this week (see above) after a one-week absence, so that we can pray very directly to Jesus for His guidance for our youth. Our current Godteens' sponsors will soon gather and look to the Blessed Mother to lead us to the right people for our freshman class. May I suggest and ask that each family reading this to choose to say the "Angel of God" prayer along with your Prayer Before Meals when you eat as a family? Our angels can and will help us to build generous spirits for 2019-2020 Godteens sponsors.

**Abby Johnson Talk** Abby Johnson will be speaking at the La Vista Embassy Suites conference center on August 27. Abby is the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who left PP after having a major conversion. The movie "Unplanned" is based upon her story. Abby Johnson's talk is being sponsored by the Nebraska Family Alliance. To find out more about Nebraska Family Alliance, and to consider attending the Abby Johnson talk, go to <https://nebraskafamilyalliance.org/> or call 888-777-5188.

**Unplanned Movie in Aurora** As I speak or write about abortion, I try to be mindful that: 1) children are hearing or reading my words; 2) some who hear or read my words have been directly impacted by abortion; 3) some who hear or read my words may have a position which has been enshrined which states "I am personally opposed to abortion, but it's not my business for what others choose." 4) some may not see the connection that easy access to artificial contraception has led to an acceptance of having an abortion if the contraceptive doesn't work, i.e. prevent a pregnancy from occurring and maturing.

To address point 1), I would ask parents to consider prayerfully when is the best time to explain abortion and its ramifications. You know your child(ren) best. They love you and trust you. With what the culture around us offers to your precious ones, I would encourage you as parents to have the courage to give your child(ren) what YOU want them to know rather than what the CULTURE and SOCIETY wants them to know.

For point 2), I want you to know that the Catholic Church leads the way in providing healing after abortion. First and foremost, going to Confession is an encounter with Jesus in which those affected by abortion know His intimate mercy and tenderness. Pope Francis has made it easier for a priest to forgive the sin of abortion; ask your confessor and he will help you. Going to the web site <http://hopeafterabortion.com/> is a practical step to take to begin healing. Or, posting this web site on your preferred social media platform is a way to engage the culture and reach people who need help and healing.

Point 3) requires a little more nuance. But, I can't hesitate to call out abortion for what it is, i.e. the killing of an innocent human baby. If we are personally against such acts of killing, but opt to be indifferent when others choose abortion, we have to take a long look at our hearts in prayer. I am personally opposed to people crossing the center line while I am driving in the oncoming lane; I am so personally opposed to this that I would call law enforcement if I saw someone choosing to do this.

Several of my Facebook friends recently had a cordial disagreement about Natural Family Planning and

artificial contraception. The philosophy undergirding point 4) is that a child is not wanted and is excluded by attempting artificial contraception. But if the child is conceived anyway, are the mother and father of that child so set against having the child that they choose abortion? Many statistics would respond "yes." Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta told Americans in the early 1990's that she would take their babies rather than parents choosing to abort them. The Catholic Church and many pro-life pregnancy resource centers stand beside Mother Teresa, as do adoption agencies with lists of potential adoptive parents.

You might not really want to see the Unplanned movie. Indeed, it is not meant for everyone. But if you see validity in what I am writing here, your going to see Unplanned at our very own Aurora 12<sup>th</sup> Street Cinema takes on a magnitude not found by attending other movies. By attending Unplanned in Aurora, you see the true story of what happens in abortion facilities. By attending Unplanned in Aurora, you join with many like-minded people who are begging God (or, if unbelievers, begging our society's cultural and legal mores) to put a stop to abortion in our nation. By attending Unplanned in Aurora, you have the unique opportunity of inviting someone whose mind is not made up about the morality of abortion...and letting the movie do your talking. By attending Unplanned in Aurora, especially if you are person who lives parts of your life in the public eye, or are a role model of youth and others, your presence will belie your inward belief and help others to normalize in their minds and hearts that abortion is the putting to death of an innocent child.

I want to make clear that our State of Nebraska has three abortion facilities. One is in Lincoln, the Planned Parenthood affiliate in the strip mall at 48<sup>th</sup> and Old Cheney Roads. About 20 abortions are performed there every abortion Tuesday. The second facility is also run by PP; it is in the 90<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets area of Omaha. The local Catholic pastor in whose parish (St. James) this facility operates is Father Tom Weisbecker. He made clear this past spring on Spirit Catholic Radio his uncategorical opposition to this place and his determination to shut it down through prayer and advocacy. The third facility is in Bellevue, across the street from St. Mary's Catholic School. It is run by the notorious LeRoy Carhart. The cars that pull into the parking lots of these three establishments show not only license plates from Omaha or Bellevue or Lincoln (alphanumeric). They are from 3-county (my native Gage), 17-county (York), 46-county (Merrick), 8-county (Hall), and also 28-county (us). I am convinced that through prayer and advocacy, abortion will not only be made illegal, but it will be made unthinkable...pray God, soon!

The movie will be shown on Wednesday, August 21, at 7:00p.m. at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Cinema. Admission is free, due to the generosity of the sponsors. Please consider attending. Or, pray while others in our community are attending. I will be grasping my Rosary beads as I watch it, praying for many hearts to be converted.

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**