

From the Pastor—August 4, 2019

CCD and Godteens Evening of Reflection It is good for me as pastor to meet with those who will be serving as catechists for the school year, before the school year begins. I would like to do this with all of you who volunteer your time to catechize our children, to encourage you and introduce to you our school year. Please join me in church at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, for a time of Adoration. Then, we will meet in the hall for a time of organizing and guidelines. Think of this as a teacher in-service that most every school has prior to the school year. If you haven't volunteered yet, but want to know more about volunteering as catechist, please come. The parishioners and I who have experience can answer your questions our CCD and Godteens programs. We promise not to be overbearing; we can't "make" you volunteer, after all. If you need questions answered before you volunteer, this is the spirit in which I invite you to attend.

Adoration Come and adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, on Wednesday, August 7, at St. Mary's, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM! Volunteers are especially needed to spend time with Jesus while I meet with the CCD staff and Godteens couples.

Abby Johnson Talk I was made aware last week of an appearance by Abby Johnson at the La Vista Embassy Suites conference center later this month. Abby is the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who left this abortion provider after having a major conversion of heart. The movie "Unplanned" is based upon her story. The talk featuring Abby is being sponsored by the Nebraska Family Alliance, within a banquet setting. Based out of Lincoln, the Nebraska Family Alliance is allied with national organizations Family Policy Alliance, Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, and (perhaps most well-known) Focus on the Family. 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.

Lincoln Family Fest This event is relatively new in our Diocese while not being officially a diocesan-sponsored event. I attended it a couple of years ago. It is a coming together, feel-good setting, to celebrate our Catholic faith. Everything is family friendly, including and especially having Holy Mass with Bishop Conley (which fulfills your Sunday obligation). The Family Fest will be held on an acreage east of Lincoln's intersections of 84th and Van Dorn Streets. Do consider attending! It will raise your heart and mind to the Lord; it will strengthen all who attend just by seeing and being with everyone else who attends. It is a Catholic family reunion!

Spirit Catholic Radio I am blessed to be on the Good Book Club this Tuesday, August 6, at 8:15am. I will be speaking by phone, live, with the on-air personalities in the Omaha studios. My assigned Scripture passage which I am preparing is Ruth 1:19 - 2:7. If you can't listen live, Spirit's soundcloud account will upload the recording later that day.

Death in Priest Family The dad of Father Joel Panzer died last week. The funeral services for Dr. James Panzer will be held at Father Joel's home parish of St. Leo in Gordon. Father Panzer has served as a military chaplain for the majority of his 25 years of priesthood. Because of his military service, he may not be as well known around the Diocese as other priests. Father Panzer served at the Newman Center in Lincoln, and at Wilber and Tobias. He made a lasting mark while serving as pastor of North American Martyrs in Lincoln, overseeing the construction of

that parish's first church in 2004. I met Dr. Panzer several times over the years. Please keep his soul in your prayers, as well as the Panzer family who mourn his loss.

Did You Ever Notice? People have spoken to me often about the stained glass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in St. Mary's. It is admired by so many of you, and it is given such a prominent place in our hearts after the 180-degree "flip" of our church during the 2014 renovation. One thing I have noticed is that the stained-glass windows to the sides of the sanctuary are different sizes of Our Lord. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is bigger than Our Lord as the Good Shepherd. It didn't strike me until a week or two ago that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a match to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The same backdrop is found in each image, of circular-formed trees. Also, the surface upon which Mary and Jesus are standing is the same in each image. So, the St. Mary's Church which preceded this one must have had these images near in proximity or perhaps facing each other as side windows. I could probably research this more at the Plainsman Museum or in our records and unofficial archives of materials. I thought this was interesting, as something I noticed, and wanted to see if you have noticed it.

Father Flashbacks During my pastorate of St. Wenceslaus, Bee, from 1999-2005, a significant event occurred. A bicyclist from a European country rode his bicycle from a city called "A". He was seeking a place with the name of "B" to end his journey. He chose Bee, Nebraska. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean on a ship, I think, and then rode the bicycle from the East Coast all the way to Nebraska. When he arrived in late August, our parish of St. Wenceslaus and the community of Bee welcomed him with great fanfare. It might be something you remember being reported upon in the news. The town of Bee is so-named because Seward County names their townships according to the letters of the alphabet. When the "B" precinct was given that name, the little village of Bee decided to take the name of this honey-making insect as its own. Bee has around 200 residents, and the only traffic marker, besides a couple of stop signs, is at the intersection of the Post Office, tavern, and the States Ballroom. A concrete-based pole has a cute image of a honeybee on top of it. *** I tried to find a web site for this bike ride odyssey, but I was unsuccessful. If any of you happen across it, please let me know. If I have an opportunity, I could reach out to former parishioners of mine at St. Wenceslaus for their memories.

Living Liturgically A writer on Catholic media revealed some interesting data. He found that August 4-16 are the longest continuous stretch of days (13) in any month where there is a feast day of a saint or feast of Our Lord. August 4th is the feast day of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of all priests. Highlighted within these days in the Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6th and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 15th. Enjoy these wonderful days of blessings!

God Bless You!

Father Grell