From the Pastor—October 25, 2020

Parish Debt Paid Off With our Covid times, it is difficult to capture well the joy and the pride that St. Mary's ought to have in having this month paid off our entire debt to the Diocese. While we as a parish need to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment in a proper way, I at least want this bulletin note to suffice for getting the word out there. One detail I can share is that the loan for our 2014 remodel of the church and hall was scheduled to last for 10 years, until 2025. Paying it off a full five years early, amidst Covid, is truly a feat that we all ought to be most proud of. Call it a miracle of grace! A miracle at 9th and P Streets, Aurora! Please know of my thanksgiving and esteem. Congratulations!!!

Spiritually Starving—No. 17 Here is paragraph 1351 from the Catechism:

"*From the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. This custom of the collection, ever appropriate, is inspired by the example of Christ who became poor to make us rich. Those who are well off, and who are also willing, give as each chooses. What is gathered is given to him who presides to assist orphans and widows, those whom illness or any other cause has deprived of resources, prisoners, immigrants and, in a word, all who are in need*."

The concept of a collection at Holy Mass is familiar to all of us. This familiarity could make us become unaware of the precious nature of giving to the Lord. For we give because it's good for us to give. We also give because we want to support the upkeep of our parish church. We give because we want to support the larger church and needs of the diocese.

I hope to continue these Catechism paragraphs and commentary into the future. My commentary is in regular print, while the precise text of the Catechism is italicized.

Covid Please know of my encouragement, and understanding, in the way each of our parish families is living out our Covid response. For some, there is a terrible hardship, either personally or within our circle of family and friends. Whatever your approach and attitude, it is important to realize that Jesus is in charge. His divine providence has allowed this to happen in our times; what can we do but pick up our crosses and follow after him? I especially encourage you to care for your mental health by phoning a good counselor or by including break times which "fill your bucket" so that you have goodness to give away to others after the break times. I am praying for you!

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Stay well, stay strong, in Christ!

Election Election Day is almost upon us! Included with this bulletin are inserts for how to engage in the election in a prayerful, Catholic way.

By voting in a Catholic way, we show that we are faithful citizens of our great nation.

Voting in a Catholic way means to uphold the Declaration of Independence by standing up for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Voting in a Catholic way means that our consciences are formed in such a way that we ask, "What does God want me to think about this or that issue?"

Voting in a Catholic way means that we are "one nation, under God" as the Pledge of Allegiance says.

Voting in a Catholic way means that "in God we trust", as the fourth verse of the Star-Spangled Banner says (see below).

Voting in a Catholic way means that, no matter the outcomes of the election, our focus is upon Jesus living in our hearts, our homes, our families, and in all our actions.

If we take good care of our souls through prayer and the sacraments, our Catholic voting will allow us to be always upright, lifting our minds and hearts with the dignity of a child of God to live as an American with pride and joy.

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country, should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Holy Hour for Election I will lead a holy hour for our country on Sunday, November 1st, at St. Mary's. We will pray for the elections and for our nation to keep its focus upon Jesus Christ and all things godly. We will seek Mother Mary's intercession through a recited Rosary. Please join us, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's families, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Spending the Lord's Day With You Could I visit with St. Mary's or St. Joseph's parishioners for a one-hour visit? This could be at your home or in our parish hall. Please call, text, or e-mail me for the Sunday that works for you. Here are the dates/times to choose from:

October 25 5:00 p.m.

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell