

From the Pastor—October 4, 2020

Looking to the Church Our world, our society, our families...we are all facing unparalleled challenges and struggles. It is good to state this, to admit it up front. I believe that more and more people are looking at us as practicing Christians to see how we respond to these challenges. People who know you know that you are a Catholic. Do they see a difference in how you live your life? People rightly look to the Church as a safe haven, a place where they know God is in control. We must live each day knowing that people are watching for our witness. I know that people look personally to me, the pastor, as a witness to how I deal with increasingly crazy times. I look to you, my spiritual family, and to my brother priests and bishop. And we all look to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for his guidance as the Vicar of Christ on earth. Dive more deeply into prayer; press in, push forward, into this amazing truth of the Gospel: that Jesus Christ is Lord and he loves you! That the Father loved the world so much that he sent his only Son so that all who believe in him might not perish but might have eternal life. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Stay well, stay strong, in Christ!

Spiritually Starving—No. 15 Here is paragraph 1348 from the Catechism:

“All gather together. Christians come together in one place for the Eucharistic assembly. At its head is Christ himself, the principal agent of the Eucharist. He is high priest of the New Covenant; it is he himself who presides invisibly over every Eucharistic celebration. It is in representing him that the bishop or priest acting in the person of Christ the head (in persona Christi capitis) presides over the assembly, speaks after the readings, receives the offerings, and says the Eucharistic Prayer. All have their own active parts to play in the celebration, each in his own way: readers, those who bring up the offerings, those who give communion, and the whole people whose ‘Amen’ manifests their participation.”

My main takeaway from this paragraph is how powerful our simple statement is of “Amen.” When you say Amen at Mass, let it be from your heart, said with great sincerity and devotion. People in persecuted areas of the world, who can’t go to Mass or who celebrate Mass in secret, probably cherish their Amen more than we do in unpersecuted places. Reflect upon this.

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.

Pro-Life For 33 years, pro-life Christians across the United States and Canada have publicly, prayerfully, and peacefully stood each Fall in prayer and repentance on behalf of legalized abortion. These Life Chains have spread to more than 2,000 cities all over North America. See LifeChain.org. The first Sunday of October is National Life Chain Sunday. Our Hamilton County Life Chain will gather today, October 4th, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., at 13th and Q Streets in Aurora. Public parking is available between the swimming pool and tennis courts. Please stand with us for one hour.

The Rosary A little scrap of paper in my dresser would look like throwaway material to you. But to me, it charts my odyssey with praying the Rosary every day. 1989 was my sophomore year at UN-L. This was before seminary was on the near horizon. I heard a homily at the Newman Center about praying the Rosary every day, and I decided to try it. I had plenty to pray for: my roommate on East Campus was good, but not a friend; classes were good—I enjoyed them—but my studies seemed not to have a future as my

“forever fit”. The Rosary changed it all. I would miss a day, and then would pray two Rosaries the next day. Sometimes, discouragingly, I missed day after day after day; then I would pray four Rosaries to make it up! Eventually I amassed something like being 43 Rosaries behind! But I caught up, some time in Ordinary Time that summer. And except for a handful of days, since 1989, I have kept the Rosary close to myself since then, every single day. Our Lady has helped me in more ways than I can enumerate! Consoling me in hard times; keeping my car on the road in blizzards; living with me and showing me Jesus...may she do this and more for you. PRAY THE ROSARY!!!

Saint Faustina On May 18, 2020, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Faustina is now to be celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on October 5. The proper liturgical texts were released by the Holy See in Latin. English and Spanish translations must be approved by the USCCB and confirmed by the Holy See before they can be implemented in the United States. This feast is so newly-added that it doesn’t show in our church calendars nor in popular Mass aids, like Magnificat.

5 Million Rosaries “God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.” **Our Lady of Fatima, July 13th, 1917.** The World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, in union with its international member nations, welcomes you to Our Lady of Fatima’s spiritual bouquet – World Rosary 2020. This spiritual bouquet of prayers and sacrifices is being offered for families, for life, for the Church and for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart. It is easy to join in. Just go to <https://www.bluearmy.com/worldrosary2020/> and fill out the form to enter your prayers and penances. Father Carlos Cabecinaas, rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, offered our first spiritual bouquet to Our Lady in the Chapel of Apparitions on May 13. The second spiritual bouquet will be offered October 13 in a solemn and beautiful ceremony. These will be offered at our Oct. 13 Mary-thon of Prayer from the National Blue Army Shrine during the Mass, and also at the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, together with the offerings from all of our member nations and other organizations throughout the world. Please continue to log your offerings through October 13, 2020. *Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!*

Spending the Lord’s Day With You It would be cool if I could visit with St. Mary’s or St. Joseph’s parishioners on Sundays. I am intending about a one-hour visit, either 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 11	5:00 p.m.
October 18	5:00 p.m.
October 25	5:00 p.m.

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell