

## **From the Pastor—March 1, 2020**

**Adoration Schedule** Adoration this week in St. Mary's on Wednesday, March 4, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Adoration in St. Joseph's on Thursday, March 5, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Are You Pro-Life, except for...?** The Loving Life Coalition of Hamilton County is excited to bring pro-life speaker Rebecca Kiessling to the Christian Resource Center, east of Giltner. The date is Saturday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. Rebecca has a fascinating story. She was conceived through an unspeakable assault upon her mother. Rebecca's mom, in discovering she was pregnant, sought an abortion. At the time, 1969, abortions were illegal in most of the United States. Her mom tried at least two places to abort Rebecca, but circumstances (i.e. God's Providence) did not allow it. These 50+ years later, Rebecca's mother is so glad to have her beautiful daughter in her life! I spoke to Rebecca by phone to affirm some of the details of her talk on March 14<sup>th</sup>. She told me that, despite the circumstances of her conception, the talk will not make parents feel uncomfortable in bringing your children. Rebecca will not make men uncomfortable, as if every man has done evil as her biological father did to her mother. The phrase "I am pro-life, except in cases of rape" is one that is heard a lot. Rebecca has devoted her life to debunking this mindset. All it takes is to look at her life, which you can do—in person—to see that pregnancies occurring by rape should not be terminated through a procured abortion. As discomfoting as this approach might settle in your heart and mind, I hope you see the truth of what I am getting at. A person's a person, no matter how small...and no matter how they were conceived.

**Quick Trip Home** I made a sort of spontaneous decision last Sunday: I drove home to see my parents. I did not alert them of my impending visit until I reached the city limits of Beatrice. They were glad to see me, even though unexpected...I guess parents are just made that way! I brought them Holy Communion, as they hadn't been feeling well enough to attend Holy Mass. I also brought them the bulletin from St. Joe's, Beatrice, as well as giving them our parish bulletin. I had a fun time visiting with them, getting caught up on things. We had supper, and then I headed back home (Aurora/Giltner) from home-home (Blue Springs/Beatrice).

**I Know Him!** I have been able to catch a few basketball games recently, cheering on Hawks, Huskies, and Hornets. At the sub-district game at Aurora, I stared and stared at one of the officials (referees). I became more and more certain as the game wore on, seeing his way of calling the game, his gait, his demeanor, his appearance, that it was a Southern High grad (which is my high school). I knew that he has reffed games for years, but I haven't seen him in a while. After the Huskies won, I approached Mr. Thiele and he escorted me to the official, whose name is Greg Hardin. It was great to get caught up with Greg; he graduated in the Class of 1981. This class was rather historic at Wymore Southern as having posted one of the only winning seasons in the history of our boys' basketball, program, a situation which often (unfortunately) extends into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To give comparison, my three years on varsity at Wymore, our records were: 1-16, 7-16, 7-14. In contrast, Greg Hardin and teammates finished something like 18-3. But, they were beat in districts and didn't make State. My brother's team came along in 1993, and they played 9 or 10 guys who were all very good ballplayers. They finished something like 16-8, but lost to archnemesis Tri-County in districts and did not make State. To my knowledge, the Southern boys' basketball team has

never qualified for the State basketball tournament. I am speaking of post-consolidation; the Wymore High School Zephyrs, or one of the absorbed schools of Blue Springs, Barneston, Holmesville, or Liberty may have qualified (before my time). If the Wymore boys ever (hopefully soon!) qualify for State, I would probably cancel all obligations so I could attend. It would be a Wymore (and southern Gage County) invasion of Lincoln for that ballgame(s)! \*\*\* Back to Greg Hardin for a second. His family home is 4 miles from my family home. His parents are still on the farm, as are mine. Hardin's owned pastureland adjacent to ours. I remember several times where their breeding bull and ours did not (ahem) exactly see eye-to-eye on their worldview (cattle producers and farm kids will know what I mean here☺). Anyway, thanks for reading this little trip down memory lane with me.

**Ash Wednesday Momentum** We had three Ash Wednesday Masses in our parishes, and I was so pleased with the prayerfulness and intentionality of all present. Something is so profound about receiving the ashes and fasting. Your entering into the mysteries with me makes it so fulfilling to be your shepherd. Anyone who was at the 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's knows that we had overflow congregants in the parish hall. We did not utilize the video feed on the projection screen, as I think most were able to see the altar through the double-doors, which remained opened. This Mass was especially powerful to hear the prayers of the children. I invoked the congregants at the Lord's Prayer to slow down our tempo and cadence for the younger students, and the children did not let me down with pronouncing with great love these words given us by the Savior, which we dare to say. Let's all do our very best to keep our Ash Wednesday momentum alive. It is the Resurrection of the Lord which we long for, and which we must prepare our hearts for by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Catholic Press Month** Thank you to those who used the envelope in your packets to help defray the cost for our 100% parish subscription to the Southern Nebraska Register. The cost is only \$15/year.

**Lenten Suggestions** Here is an abbreviated reprisal of what I suggested in last week's bulletin for your Lenten devotions: Attend Daily Mass; Receive Holy Communion often; Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation; Pray the Rosary; Pray, out loud, with your family; Spend more time praying than looking at a screen; Fast (give up) something good which you overemphasize over God; Fast from sinning; Be kind, kinder, kindest; Sunday Film Series from our parishes' Formed.org subscription; Stations of the Cross & Confessions; Weekly Holy Hour; Jesus: Way, Truth, and Life Study Groups on DVD; Join Legion of Mary, as an active or auxiliary member; Join Knights of Columbus; Be Active in Altar Society. And one new addition, which is close to the heart of Pope Francis, is quite simple: Read. The. Bible. If you do this, you will grow in love of God and neighbor.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**