

From the Pastor—July 12, 2020

Spiritually Starving—No. 4 Paragraph 1329 of the Catechism teaches regarding the Eucharist that it is called *“the Lord's Supper, because of its connection with the supper which the Lord took with his disciples on the eve of his Passion and because it anticipates the wedding feast of the Lamb in the heavenly Jerusalem. It is called the Breaking of Bread, because Jesus used this rite, part of a Jewish meal, when as master of the table he blessed and distributed the bread, above all at the Last Supper. It is by this action that his disciples will recognize him after his Resurrection, and it is this expression that the first Christians will use to designate their Eucharistic assemblies; by doing so they signified that all who eat the one broken bread, Christ, enter into communion with him and form but one body in him. It is called the Eucharistic assembly (synaxis), because the Eucharist is celebrated amid the assembly of the faithful, the visible expression of the Church.”*

If your own sense of prudence for your health has kept you away from the Eucharist—and the dispensation from Archbishop Lucas for attending Sunday Mass continues to be granted—you probably have felt a hole in your heart for missing the Mass. Call it a sixth sense, but we as Catholics know that we can't not live our Christian lives without the Body and Blood of the Lord. Even to see the Mass on TV is helpful because it connects us into the readings and prayers which the universal Church is offering for that particular day.

We have strong evidence that, from the time of Pentecost onward, the Christian faithful have celebrated the Breaking of the Bread at Mass. The exact organizing words and gestures have become systematized through the centuries. But if you had been alive in 50 A.D., the Mass would “feel” then as it does now in 2020 A.D. This is pretty cool, I think.

Meditate this week on your love for the Eucharist. Stop by church, St. Mary's or St. Joseph's, and thank Jesus for being Eucharistically truly present in the tabernacle.

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.

New Units at St. Joseph You may have noticed that the air conditioning was not working at Sunday Mass on July 5. This dysfunction has been happening for several years now. The repair company has said that the units' age makes it very difficult to find the parts needed. Indeed, such a string of repairs seems to me to “throwing good money into bad.” So, as of this week, we have entered into an agreement with Jerry's Sheet Metal of Grand Island to purchase new heating and cooling units (the heat has also needed repair a number of times). The new units won't be installed until the week of August 10th. A parishioner gave a gift which was designated for capital expenses for St. Joseph's; I am using this money because it fits with the intention of the donor. It seems clear to me

to utilize this gift in this way. Ordinarily, I might come to the parish from the pulpit and ask for donations; your donations over and above your regular contributions might be needed in the future. I don't have any such necessary projects to roll out at this time, but please know that your generosity may be needed in the future. And, if you want, you could make a donation now to replenish the fund from which the new HVAC will be paid from. Hope this makes sense...I can explain it to you in person or over the phone if you have questions.

Father Don Remember, the funeral Mass for Father Don Larmore will be Tuesday, July 28, at Blessed Sacrament in Grand Island. The burial will be in Giltner. Keep your eyes posted on the Grand Island Diocese's Facebook page for more details to be released.

Me on Spirit Catholic Radio I will be interviewed on Spirit Catholic Radio, live, on Monday, July 13, for the Good Book Club. This interview will begin around 8:15 a.m. and go until about 8:30. Also, I will be on the Morning Prayer segments which I pre-record every third week. Here is a sampling, with my meditation for Thursday, July 16:

“A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah:

I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; For he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

My name is Father Loras Grell, and I serve as pastor of St. Mary's in Aurora and St. Joseph's in Giltner. It's great to be with you over the network this morning

Today is Thursday, and we celebrate Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

I think that if we all lived a little more like Carmelites, the world would be a much better place. The Carmelites originated from Mount Carmel of Old Testament times, where we know that the prophet Elijah, according to the Liturgy of the Hours, “defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God.”

In the 1100's, hermits came to that mountain of Carmel to devote themselves to contemplative life and life in community, under the patronage of Our Lady.

For my two-cents' worth, it seems that Carmelites are very earthy among all of the differing religious congregations in the world today. They are as earthy as the original Mount Carmel to which they trace their beginnings.

We, like them, ought to live a Carmelite lifestyle of earthiness, of being thankful for the material possessions we have. But even more so, to use the life which the Creator of all things has breathed into us so to do more and more good each day.

I invite you to consider, today or later, visiting the Carmelite monastery of nuns between Valparaiso and Lincoln, at the Agnew turn-off from Nebraska Highway 79.

You will be joyful there, and your bucket will be filled at this holy Carmelite place.”

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell