

From the Pastor—August 16, 2020

Spiritually Starving—No. 9 Here are paragraphs 1337 and 1338 from the Catechism: *The Lord, having loved those who were his own, loved them to the end. Knowing that the hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father, in the course of a meal he washed their feet and gave them the commandment of love. In order to leave them a pledge of this love, in order never to depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover, he instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of his death and Resurrection, and commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return; "thereby he constituted them priests of the New Testament." The three synoptic Gospels and St. Paul have handed on to us the account of the institution of the Eucharist; St. John, for his part, reports the words of Jesus in the synagogue of Capernaum that prepare for the institution of the Eucharist: Christ calls himself the bread of life, come down from heaven.*

I love how Jesus loved until the end his apostles. Isn't this what each of us would want from those who love us, that they would love us to the end of our lives? The Eucharist teaches us this beautiful love, which is always based upon the love of Jesus, either explicitly or implicitly.

The Lord's commandment of love—love one another as I have loved you—is made present through the celebration of Mass. At Mass, we learn to love. Even in Covid times, with the Mass on TV or Facebook Live, I think we can enter into the sacred mysteries and learn to love one another. I have watched Masses from Rome with the Holy Father in which I am formed in love as much (or even more) than in Masses which I celebrate or con-celebrate.

Where do priests come from in the Bible? The Catechism teaches that Christ's command to "do this in memory of me" until he comes again shows that the first priests were the Twelve who were at the Last Supper. This means that Holy Thursday is effectively the anniversary date of each Catholic priest.

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.

Wedding in a non-Catholic church Under narrow circumstances, a Catholic may be married under the officiating of a non-Catholic minister in a non-Catholic church. This situation is rare; I experienced my first such marriage last week. An Aurora resident, Patricia Nuss, attended RCIA class last school year. She wanted to learn more about the Catholic faith in preparation for her marriage to a Catholic gentleman from York. His name is Gaylord Songster. I worked on marriage preparation with Pat and Gaylord. The proper dispensation for their marriage to be celebrated at Aurora United Methodist Church was secured from our diocesan chancery. Since I worked on Catholic marriage preparation with the couple, and received the dispensation, I recorded (as instructed) their marriage in our St. Mary's marriage book. I also attended the wedding and was graciously welcomed by Pastor Michelle Reed. I read a passage from Scripture. It was a joyful occasion! Both Pat and Gaylord experienced the death of their first spouse after long marriages and a

total of seven children from those marriages. I thank Father Christopher Barak for presiding in my place at the 5:00 Mass last Saturday.

First Holy Communion Our 2019-2020 2nd grade class, as new 3rd graders, *FINALLY* received their First Holy Communion last Sunday. It was celebrated in a special 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. It included students from St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. The children were so happy, and they smiled big smiles for many pictures taken by their families. I am very happy for these youth, and I thank Father Joe Bernardo for presiding at the 10:45 Mass last Sunday while I was tending to First Holy Communion.

The new Communicants are:

Ava Bullerman
Landrie Champion
Koooper Dinville
Jackson Hanna
Caleb Hoff
Scarlett Leininger
Cora McNeese
Josiah Peterson
Livie Schutt
Kelsey Socha

Congratulations, one and all! Special thanks to our catechists with these students, Mrs. Linda McQuiston and Mrs. Barb Bonifas

Father Doty's Endorsement St. Mary's and St. Joseph's pastor from 2001-2005 was Father Craig Doty. He highly recommends your consideration of the following opportunities for women and for men:

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE September 24-26 at St. Peter Church in Lincoln: *Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart*. Online participation option now available! Register online at www.jpilhealingcenter.org. Scholarships, student and missionary discounts are available - contact Annette Wemhoff at JPILRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com for more information. This event is sponsored by Spirit Catholic Radio 102.7 FM KVSS.

MEN'S CONFERENCE October 17 from 9 am – 3 pm at St. Peter Church in Lincoln. *Men on Fire: Take Back What Belongs To You*. Online participation option now available! Register online @ www.jpilhealingcenter.org Scholarships available - contact Annette Wemhoff at JPILRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com for more information. This event is sponsored by Spirit Catholic Radio 102.7 FM.

New Day Off Each priest receives a day off each week. This is because we work on the weekends (which we are blessed to do). Each priest is asked to choose a day, Monday through Friday, in which he occupies himself with something other than the prescribed responsibilities of his assignment. In my priesthood, I have taken Tuesdays as my day off for about the first 10 years. When I served at Lawrence, it became advantageous to take Monday as my day off. For a variety of reasons, I have decided as of August, 2020, to return to Tuesdays as my day off. I am at peace with the change. It seems like quite often there will be some important parish event that almost demands my time on a Monday. It will be a change, yet a good thing.

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell