

## From the Pastor—August 23, 2020

**Spiritually Starving—No. 10** Here are paragraphs 1339 and 1340 from the Catechism:

*Jesus chose the time of Passover to fulfill what he had announced at Capernaum: giving his disciples his Body and his Blood: "Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the passover meal for us, that we may eat it. . . .' They went . . . and prepared the passover. And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, 'I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' . . . And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And likewise the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant in my blood.' "*

*By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to his father by his death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom.*

The very idea of Our Lord celebrating the new Passover is one that ought to arouse within us thoughts of love and devotion to our Savior. At every Mass, we celebrate our passing over from sin, slavery, and death into a new life with Christ, both now and for eternity. Considered in this way, going to Mass is passionately, yet solemnly, **exciting**. Our senses may be dulled from a thousand cares and worries, but at Mass we are dialed into the most important factor in our lives: our eternal salvation.

These paragraphs, too, emphasize that our Catholic faith comes from Jewish origins. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were Jews. When we hear of friends and family who are Jewish, we ought to be filled with a deep respect for them. We ought to know that they are like older brothers and sisters in the faith. We as Christians believe that Jesus is Lord and God forever. The Jewish people have not yet accepted Jesus in this way. Nonetheless, for however much they are culpable for **not** believing in Jesus as Lord, we still ought to treat them as revered elders to us. And we hope and pray for their conversion by grace into Christ, as our own graced faith and good works, motivated by the Gospel, shines upon them the light and pathway which our faith teaches is the way to eternal life in heaven.

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.

**My Sister** I was blessed two Mondays ago when my sister came to Aurora and Giltner for a visit. She helped me with some paperwork items around the rectory. We also went to Giltner and spoke to the contractor installing the new furnace and air conditioning at St. Joseph's. It was good to be with my sis; we had a really

good visit.

**Fatima Movie, The Chosen** A new movie about Our Lady of Fatima and the three children who saw her is being released this Friday, August 28. As I understand, it will be played in some theaters on a limited basis (because of Covid). It will also be available to stream onto your preferred device. I have seen the trailer for this movie and followed its release; you will enjoy viewing it. \*\*\* I also wanted to make comment about a TV series called "The Chosen". It is another program in a decades-long line of media displaying the life of Jesus. Understand that this is not on regular, traditional TV. It is a crowd-funded, streaming-only broadcast, seen only by internet. Season 1 of The Chosen was released some time earlier this year, or maybe in the last part of 2019. I watched one episode...and then I almost binge-watched the subsequent episodes. While I am careful to endorse a television program depicting the life of Christ, I endorse Season 1 of this program, admitting that some parts of The Chosen were not as faithful to the Gospel as I would have preferred. But I have seen enough to see that there is much goodness in this endeavor. I understand that Season 2 may be available soon. I should mention that a Catholic priest (Father Roger Landry) whose opinions I respect gave The Chosen a good review recently. I just wanted you to know a little of what I know about The Chosen in case you have heard of it or even viewed it.

**Readings** Our diocesan newspaper, the Southern Nebraska Register, recently published the Sunday Mass readings for the entire month of August. I took from that publication the idea to publish each Sunday's readings on the reverse side of my From the Pastor column. The way that I thought this would be helpful is that you could pick up your bulletin on the way into Mass and follow along with the readings, in the absence of our missalette/songbooks being in the pews. See if this is something you are interested in. For those reading this column on-line, the same benefit may be realized by seeing the readings on the internet from our web site.

**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](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Scholarships, student and missionary discounts are available - contact Annette Wemhoff at [JPILRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Scholarships available - contact Annette Wemhoff at [JPILRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com](mailto:JPILRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com) for more information. This event is sponsored by Spirit Catholic Radio 102.7 FM.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**