

From the Pastor—September 20, 2020

Spiritually Starving—No. 13 Here is paragraph 1345 from the Catechism:

“As early as the second century we have the witness of St. Justin Martyr for the basic lines of the order of the Eucharistic celebration. They have stayed the same until our own day for all the great liturgical families. St. Justin wrote to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) around the year 155, explaining what Christians did:

‘On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place.

The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time permits.

When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things.

Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves . . . and for all others, wherever they may be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation.

When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss.

Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren.

He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: eucharistian) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts.

When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all present give voice to an acclamation by saying: ~Amen.~

When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the ~eucharisted~ bread, wine and water and take them to those who are absent.’

Isn't it eerily awesome how the description of the Mass from 155 A.D. is still what we do in 2020?! We still hear from the Apostles, we still offer bread and wine, we still give praise and glory to God.

If we only realized, collectively as Catholics, what we have been given in the Holy Mass, we would strive at all times to invite people to church with us. We would allow the fruits of the Mass to internalize within us to lead to happier and holier homes and families.

Think for a few minutes about how the Mass has always been the same, and always will be the same, and let the mysteries we celebrate change you. It's never too late to build your love for the Holy Mass!

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.

Visit with Dad When I was home in Beatrice area a week ago, I was able to visit my Dad at the nursing home. He is doing well! It was the first time since July 24 that he had seen in person any of our family. I was given a half hour to visit with him. I gave him the funeral pamphlet from his sister Doris' funeral Mass. A good outcome of his dementia is that the death of his beloved sister did not cripple him in grief. He sort of took it in stride. Even under the dementia, I see my strong Dad, my loving Dad. These things are true; this is how God sees him. Our family certainly owes him the dignity of treating him as if there were no fog of dementia hanging over

him. I gave him a blessing of absolution to forgive his sins before I left him, as I could do this from a socially distant distance.

Catholic Instruction Class (RCIA) I enjoyed creating this week's bulletin insert asking questions about the Catholic faith. Call it a quiz, if you wish. By having you answer the 20 questions, I hope to whet your appetite to learn more about the answers. No matter your score, the Catholic Instruction Class for St. Mary's and St. Joseph's is open to you and your friends. It will present an opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith. Through class meetings, through internet-based classes, or through private instructions, I am hopeful to find a way to serve you during this school year of 2020-2021. My primary source will be our diocesan web site, at: <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/parish-rcia>. Remember, you are the best resource for inviting people to the class; the very fact you are reading this note to the end shows you are at least somewhat interested 😊.

Diode I have formed a good working relationship for all things audio with a business called Diode, which originates out of Diller. It is cool to me, as Diller is very close to where I grew up. The customer service rep for our area is a young man named Jeremiah. I arranged for him to come last week for some questions...and he had some good answers. We found a way, which I hope is permanent, for the screen in the parish hall to be horizontally straight for the overflow congregants to see the Mass. The main power switch on the audio unit in the back sacristy will be replaced when Jeremiah orders a new one from Furman Co. The HDMI cord into the wall underneath the north projector will have new cord run into the wall; the current cord is crimped beyond repair and so nothing plugged into the wall jack works. I think I speak for some in the parish when I say that a handheld mike to use in the hall would be a great investment; Jeremiah will give us a quote on this. Finally, he suggested an inexpensive camcorder which I could use to televise our Masses onto Facebook and provide HD images through to the projectors in the hall for overflow. I am happy for these ideas for upgrades, for which I will confer with you before I invest our resources.

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. My idea is that you would speak for upcoming Sundays by calling, texting, or e-mailing me for the Sunday that works for you. Here are the dates/times to choose from:

September 20	6:30 p.m.
September 27	5:00 p.m.
October 11	5:00 p.m.
October 18	5:00 p.m.
October 25	5:00 p.m.

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell