

From the Pastor—September 27, 2020

Spiritually Starving—No. 14 Here are paragraphs 1346 and 1347 from the Catechism:

“The liturgy of the Eucharist unfolds according to a fundamental structure which has been preserved throughout the centuries down to our own day. It displays two great parts that form a fundamental unity:

- the gathering, the liturgy of the Word, with readings, homily and general intercessions;
- the liturgy of the Eucharist, with the presentation of the bread and wine, the consecratory thanksgiving, and communion.

The liturgy of the Word and liturgy of the Eucharist together form ‘one single act of worship’; the Eucharistic table set for us is the table both of the Word of God and of the Body of the Lord.

Is this not the same movement as the Paschal meal of the risen Jesus with his disciples? Walking with them he explained the Scriptures to them; sitting with them at table ‘he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.’”

Do you recognize in the preceding paragraph the familiar Easter Sunday passage from the road to Emmaus? The pointing of this passage to the Holy Mass as we still know it is remarkable. To think that Jesus still appears to us under the form of bread and wine, and that our hearts ought to be burning during the reading of the Word of God, is so tremendously cool!

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 to Kronborg A couple of Sundays ago, a priest-friend and I took a drive to the church at Kronborg. It was my first time there, and his too. We were blessed to find a parishioner there who spoke to us with pride of this church, where he is a life-long member. He showed us inside and gave us some history. I loved the way the cemetery surrounds the church. My priest-friend said it reminds him of how the Communion of Saints, both those living and dead, surrounds us with their love and support. It was very gratifying to see this historic area church.

Pro-Life Babies are precious! My mother loves babies and always goes out of her way to speak to new moms and catch a glimpse of their newborn.

In my first year of seminary, the argument for the humanity of the child in the womb was strongly made. We were taught that “what will be a child is already one.” Those eight words were a gamechanger for me. It was a philosophical argument that I hadn’t considered. I remember our teacher going the extra step in arguing that the pregnancy is not of some creature but can only be that of a little baby human.

Every child conceived by his or her mother and father is a brand-new creation by God. The child has a unique set of chromosomes and DNA which the world has never seen, nor ever will see again. Even the baby’s tiny fingerprints are absolutely unique!

While the parents of the child may need help, both pre-birth and post-birth, to care for their baby, the child is already desired and loved by God into existence from the first moment of conception.

For 33 years, pro-life Christians across the United States and Canada have publicly, prayerfully, and peacefully stood each Fall in prayer and repentance on behalf of legalized abortion. These Life Chains have spread to more

than 2,000 cities all over North America. See LifeChain.org.

The first Sunday of October is National Life Chain Sunday. Our Hamilton County Life Chain will gather on October 4th, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., at 13th and Q Streets in Aurora. Public parking is available between the swimming pool and tennis courts. Please stand with us for one hour; for “what will be a child is already one”.

September 23, 1991 This day is a prayerful, happy remembrance for me each year, for it’s the day I first attended a class in the seminary. Our school year in Toronto, Ontario, started later than most United States colleges and universities. We were at tiny St. Philip’s Seminary; only 15 of us were in the entire school! This made for a great place of learning and prayer. I look back to 1991 with great joy, for at age 22, I announced that I was attending seminary, then graduated from UN-L with my degree in Agronomy. To be officially accepted as a seminarian, we had to be interviewed by Bishop Flavin. It was only a 5-minute interview in the Chancery, but I remember it well. His Excellency was by then a priest of 50 years. He told me that the priesthood was a great life, and that he would go back and start all over again if he could. Being accepted by Bishop Flavin led to my first portrait being taken for the seminarian brochure. I remember feeling pretty special to pose in a black clergy shirt. I also had to pass a psychological assessment (I must have passed!) and fill out some forms. Waiting all that summer to begin seminary was tough. Emotionally, I was happy and sad at the same time; happy to be following God’s will but sad to leave many friends at the Newman Center with whom I had grown in my faith. Within my family, too, it was emotional, as my parents, brother, and sister all felt different feelings about my going away to become a priest. When I finally matriculated on September 23rd, it was challenging to my academic training. I had spent four years at the University studying much in the disciplines of science and math; now I was delving into a school year of 27 credit hours of philosophy, which is very abstract. However, I loved the studies, and I loved the prayer formation. It was also a great bonding time with my brother seminarians. We lived in community with each other; we learned the importance to either “put up” or “shut up” when it came to rubbing each other the wrong way 😊. Thanks for reading this!

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 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