

From the Pastor—March 21, 2021

St. Joseph Trustee Meeting Ron Consbruck and Linda Hoffman currently serve as parish trustees for St. Joseph's. As such, they make up the corporate board as lay members along with Bishop Conley, Father Justin Fulton, Father Daniel Rayer, and me. The trustees and I met on March 12. We spoke about the shutdown/re-opening of churches, and of St. Joseph in particular. We spoke about our music ministry, what we hope to do at St. Joseph's, and what other area parishes do for their Masses. We spoke about the summer mowing of the parish grounds, and that we need to hire someone. The flags of the United States and the Papal flag were discussed and moved into the sanctuary. We spoke of the St. Joseph Cemetery; the Consbrucks will remain as mowers this season. Some thoughts and reasons for the recent removal of trees at the cemetery were shared. The cemetery board was also discussed, and how, with the death of longtime caretaker Patrick Ormond, we need someone to mark the graves when someone passes away. The cemetery board will be composed of 3-4 people; it is hoped that we can meet soon as a board.

Lenten Veiling Statues and crucifixes can be veiled over with cloth during the final two weeks of Lent. The reason for this practice was described in an article in the Southern Nebraska Register in 2017, summarized here: *"It has long been a tradition to veil crosses throughout these last two weeks of Lent. The veils are a reference to Jesus hiding from those who would have stoned Him in the Gospel of St. John (8:46-59). Some theologians, including St. Augustine, believed that Christ literally became invisible so that he could not be caught. Images of saints, whether in the form of statues or icons, are also covered during Passiontide. The idea is that since the glory of the Lord is hidden, His faithful servants should not appear, either."*

Donate a Laptop St. Mary's recently installed a high-definition camera over top the baptismal font. This camera replaces one that was considered temporary at the time of our re-modeling in 2014. The new camera is programmed to project the Mass onto the wall for those who sit in overflow areas of the parish hall. The new camera may also be a way to bring better production of a video stream of the Mass than with an i-Phone. A better production quality would improve the placement of our Mass onto the local Cobalt TV system. *** To achieve our goals for the new camera, a laptop computer is needed. The laptop would be used to connect to Facebook Live; it would be able to capture the internet wi-fi signal from the hall; and it would have the capability to bring different camera angles (pulpit, altar, etc.) to the production. If you have a laptop that you think would match our needs, and would be willing to donate it, please contact me.

Children's Confessions Over the years of my priesthood, school children in grades K-12 are given the opportunity for confession often. In Catholic schools, this is often once per month and sometimes nearly as frequently for CCD. One could make the argument that the situation makes it compulsory for the children to go to confession. I think it is interesting that I very, very rarely (maybe once) have ever encountered a child who resented

the time of confessions and/or tried to not go to confession. *** We had children's confessions this past week at St. Mary's; the rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Father Jeff Eickhoff, assisted me in hearing confessions. I find the confessions of children to be very precious in God's eyes; it gives me hope when our young men and women see the great gift of repentance and forgiveness from Jesus being experienced in their lives.

KC's Spaghetti Feed Last Sunday, our Knights of Columbus Msgr. Hubert Campo Council 8010 held its annual spaghetti feed. I believe that the attendance and participation by my brother Knights showed the desire of many to begin living with less fear of Covid-19. It seemed that we had a steady number of in-person diners in our parish hall. And, the new innovation of drive-through pick-ups of spaghetti meals seemed to be successful. I enjoyed visiting with many Knights and fellow diners, and I appreciated the special fructose-tolerant dish of spaghetti which was made for me.

Sidewalk Levelling One of our liability concerns around St. Mary's property was recently solved. The heaving and settling of sidewalks over time in the many elements of Nebraska weather had caused some trip hazards. These areas extended from the main doors of the hall, east to the street, and across the sidewalks of the rectory which border 10th and P Streets. The solution to levelling these trip hazards was, for better words, a heavy-duty grinder. I heard it working and was pleased to see the sidewalks being grinded down and levelled out. I think the parish Knights of Columbus collaborated this effort, for which I am thankful.

St. Joseph Perhaps you receive a Year of St. Joseph indulgence. To receive a plenary indulgence, you must first have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin. You must go to confession, receive holy Communion, and offer prayers for the intentions of the pope. If these usual conditions are met, you can receive a plenary indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph, including these several different ways:

- Contemplate on the Lord's Prayer for at least 30 minutes.
- Participate in a spiritual retreat that is at least a day long and includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
- Complete a corporal or spiritual work of mercy.
- Recite the Rosary as a family or as an engaged couple.
- Entrust your day to St. Joseph the worker or seek his assistance in finding a job.
- Recite a prayer in honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19 or May 1, which are his feast days, the 19th of every month, or on Wednesdays, the weekly day dedicated to him.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,
and forever!

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell