

## From the Pastor—June 6, 2021

**The Psychology of Moving** I am not saying I necessarily subscribe to the following thought. But it has been said that when a priest is appointed to a different parish, a third of his parish is happy he is leaving, a third is sad he is leaving, and a third don't care one way or the other. Whatever the case, I intend to love you to the last day I will serve as your pastor. \*\*\* One thing that comforts me is that I say a daily prayer for all past parishioners or school students whom I have served. You will be prayed for in this way. I have prayed for you these past four years in every "For the People of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's" Masses that I have offered, as well as lifting you up in my daily Liturgy of the Hours prayers and other personal prayers. By the authority of the Church, with the Holy Spirit working through the Bishop, my primary prayers will soon be directed to my new flock of parishioners. \*\*\* Studies have been done, and articles have been written, on what it is like for a priest as spiritual father to move from parish to parish. It can create for the priest a mixture of emotions toward the spiritual sons and daughters he is leaving behind. But, that same priest rejoices that his priest-successor will on the day appointed become the new father to these people. You won't at any time be fatherless. From the parishioners' point of view, the transfer of a priest may not make them feel one way or the other. Their eyes are focused on Jesus, who is the true center of parish life, and they are thankful that a new spiritual father is being deputed by the Church to come and continue the care of their souls. For me, in a personal way, I take great comfort from my assignments in seeing the gifts and talents in the priest who succeeds me. The areas where my gifts and talents did not measure as high as I might wish, his efforts may respond in a dynamic way to bear much spiritual fruit. \*\*\* I am thinking of one of St. Paul's letters, or maybe it is in the Acts of the Apostles. The scene describes Paul leaving a people that he had served and preached and evangelized to about the Risen Lord Jesus. The people knew they would never see Paul again; it was quite emotional. But the Holy Spirit was sending Paul elsewhere, and the people he left behind did not lose their faith in Christ. It works this way to this day.

**The Administrative Part of Moving** Priests must change over bank accounts when moving from parish to parish. Gaining knowledge of where keys are stored is necessary. In the realm of technology, many passwords and login data must be passed on to the priest's successor. Most importantly, we must know in our new parish where the chalices are stored, where are the bread and wines, and where the oils for anointing are at, and where are the vestments to wear. \*\*\* I remember that in my first week or two here, I was asked to do a graveside service at the cemetery. Somewhat nervous, I accidentally locked myself out of the rectory. Then, I had to borrow a parishioner's car to go to the cemetery. Finally, I had to ask, "How do I get to the cemetery?" Seems funny now, doesn't it?! I mention this to show an example of what moving priests experience. Thankfully, I feel that our current staff for St. Mary's and St. Joseph's parishes have much experience and much knowledge to guide my successor, Father Seiker. And many of you who volunteer for the parishes will also be able to help him with many questions on administrative matters.

**The Physical Part of Moving** A vast majority of my personal belongings are already at my new place. Father Seiker himself moved some of his things in a U-Haul trailer to the St. Mary's and St. Joseph's rectory garage, and then we

took the same trailer with a load of my stuff to Wymore. Last week, a parishioner here loaded their pickup truck with more of my stuff and took it to Wymore (without my even needing to go along—thank you!). My hope is that the things left for me to take will fit into my Grand Cherokee. \*\*\* Many priests have an attachment to books. We are told in the seminary that we must purchase certain books for our coursework. As we mature into the priesthood, other books are needed for our ministry. Then, a certain topic or author starts to capture our attention, and we purchase those books. Sometimes it is almost as if we binge on book buying—at least I can speak for myself that this is true. I have tried to purge some of my personal collection of books, many of which I haven't had need of for many years. Other books are unread, and I hope to find time to read them. \*\*\* My personal effects, to use a fancy word, include my Christmas decorations, my framed pictures, my statues, my home stereo system, my Jeep, my reading chair, my church bird feeder, etc. As of this writing, all of my boxes delivered so far to Wymore are not in the house there yet. Read the next note to understand why.

**What I Know...or Don't Know** Forever, the Barneston parish has been a mission to Wymore. Odell became a mission to Wymore in my remembrance, in the mid-1980's. Prior to that, Odell had a resident pastor. Since about 2018 or 2019, the Bishop had decided to appoint the pastor of Beatrice as pastor of Wymore, Odell, and Barneston—this is the first time ever that this has been done. Part of the reasoning for this was that Beatrice would be assigned an associate priest, to give two priests the pastoral care of four parishes. With my appointment, Wymore has a resident pastor again. Interestingly, the Wymore rectory has been rented to a tenant these past several years. I have had to wait until they moved out so that I could move in. \*\*\* According to Google Maps, these three parishes are about 12-14 miles away from each other. \*\*\* All together, the three parishes have about 100 households. I know from growing up there that the Catholic membership is a minority to other congregations. \*\*\* At this time, the weekend Mass schedule is Saturday evening Mass at Barneston (5:00 p.m.), and then Sunday morning at Odell (8:00 a.m.) and Wymore (10:30 a.m.).

**Priests' Retreat** For my priest retreat this past week, I was with 50 other Lincoln priests. Our retreat master was Emeritus Bishop William Dendinger, of Grand Island. Bishop D, as many call him, did a great job.

**Shoutout to Father Don** Many thanks to Father Don Buhrman of St. Leo's in Grand Island for filling in for me during the services of Mr. Jerry Bartley.

**Corpus Christi** Please see the reverse of this page for an explanation of processions with the Eucharist.

**My Newspaper Article** My article in the local newspaper will end with the ending of my time with you all. Please note: this article has been supported with my personal funds and not from the parishes' accounts.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**