

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... July 4, 2021

A few words of introduction: I grew up on a farm, a mile north of the little town of Elmwood, which is East of Lincoln. My parents (Vincent and Theresa Seiker) lived on the farm all their lives until they retired and moved to Lincoln in 2000. They are members of St. Peter Parish (45th & Old Cheney) in Lincoln.

I am the 2nd oldest of 5 children. My older brother Steve and his wife Roma have three children and live in Omaha. My sister, Susan and her husband Mike Foley (the Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska) have 6 adult children and live in Lincoln, in St. Peter Parish. My brother, Msgr. Dan, (was the Judicial Vicar [Priest in charge of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal] working on Declarations of Nullity, & later Assistant Spiritual Director at St. Gregory the Great Seminary), and now he is the Chaplain for Wyoming Catholic College in Lander, WY. My youngest brother, Fr. Leo, is the Administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Friend. Both Msgr. Dan and Fr. Leo are Lincoln Diocesan priests.

I was ordained a Priest for the Lincoln Diocese in 1984, and I have served in parishes in Hastings, Nebraska City, Bellwood, McCook, Beatrice, Imperial, North Platte, and now in Aurora and Giltner. I thank you for the warm, friendly welcome that I have already received. May the Lord bless the work that each of us is called to do to build His Kingdom here in Aurora and Giltner. None of us can do everything, but each one can do the part that we are called by God to do. Working together and being obedient to God's will, we can shape a beautiful picture, because we will be letting the Lord work in and through us and it will truly be His picture ... His work!

One of my other duties is that about twenty-seven years ago, I was assigned by Bishop Bruskewitz to be the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese. I am also the Spiritual Advisor for the National Cursillo Movement. Thus, there are some meetings that I will need to attend and some retreat weekends that will take me away from the parishes for a few weekends and other days. I will keep you informed of those dates.

Before I knew that I was coming to St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph Parish, I had already made some plans.

Thanks for your prayers for me, as I traveled to Colorado this past week for the Ordination & Installation of Bishop Jim Golka (*who was the Pastor of St. Patrick Church, North Platte for nine of the years I was in North Platte*) as the Third Bishop of Colorado Springs, CO. It was a very beautiful Mass and it was very good to visit (very briefly) with Bishop Golka and with other Priests, Deacons, and lay persons.

The trip there and back was good and also safe. I had some productive work time in North Platte, but I was NOT able to finish everything that needed to be done and thus, I will be returning to North Platte on Monday morning to work a little more on undone things. I will return to Aurora on Monday evening.

I will be leaving Aurora on Wednesday morning (after Mass at St. Joseph, Giltner) and going to visit my parents in Lincoln. Then on Thu., July 8 – Sat., July 10, I will be at

the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS for a National meeting of Cursillo leaders. Fr. Nicholas Kipper (*a Lincoln Diocesan Priest*) will be here for Confessions & Masses for July 10 - 11. Please welcome him.

If you want to contact me at any time, you may call the Rectory "land line" 402-694-3427. This phone line will probably about 99% of the time be forwarded to my cell phone (*my "flip phone"*). When I am praying the Mass, hearing Confessions, or meeting with persons, my phone is on vibrate and I give my attention to the persons in front of me. I encourage you to leave a message for me on my cell phone. When I return your phone call, I will most often be calling from my cell phone and you will notice that the call will show up on your phone as "private" or "restricted" or "caller id not known", or something like that (*because I have my cell phone number "blocked"*). It used to be that telemarketers used blocked numbers ... now they "steal" someone else's number and call you from that number. (Sometimes people call me when they receive a call from a "private" or "restricted" or "caller id not known" phone number thinking it was me that called them. My response is always: "*If it is important enough for me to call you and you are not able to answer the phone when I call, I will leave a message. If you did not received a message, it was not me ... unless your voice mailbox is FULL and I could NOT leave a message.*") I want people to have a connection with the Lord and His Church and not with me. [*Yes, God has called me to be His instrument, one of His channels or grace, however, I want to direct people to Jesus.*] Over the past 15 years, I have found this a very helpful way to be very available to anyone who calls the Rectory phone ... wherever I happened to be ... in town, at my parents, etc. However, because the phone number you call is a "land line", you can NOT text me! You may also contact me by email frmseiker@gmail.com.

I am remembering a FEW names and more practice of hearing you tell me your names will continue to assist me in getting to know each of you. Please introduce yourselves 'til I am able to call you by your first name.

Group/Bulk Subscriptions to MAGNIFICAT! ... MAGNIFICAT is a monthly publication containing a short morning, evening, & night prayer, & a short daily meditation; as well as the Scripture readings for the Daily & Sunday Masses, essays on the lives of the saints, and spiritual insight into masterpieces of sacred art. Magnificat is a good way to learn more about your faith & deepen your prayer life and your relationship with God. The annual group subscription rate is \$23.00/each. That is a savings of \$24.00 off regular (individual price of \$47.00). If you would like to be a part of the group / bulk subscription, please turn in your payment (checks to St. Mary Church) to Fr. Seiker. The group subscription runs from Aug. 2021–Jul. 2022. Those in our Group may also read Magnificat either online or on iphone or ipod.

For the month of July 2021, Magnificat has generously provided us with MANY extra copies of the July issue. IF you want to "try it out" to see what Magnificat has to offer, please pick up a Free copy on the table outside Classroom D (Navy's Office).

Please give Magnificat a try for a month! If you like it and want to be a regular subscriber at this low cost, we have some copies available. Contact me if you have any questions.