

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... August 1, 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.

Fr. Mark Seiker Gone from the Parishes ...

The Virtual Cursillo National Encounter via ZOOM on Friday (07/23) & Saturday (07/24) was a very good opportunity to pray, talk and interact with Cursillistas from across the country, even though it was virtual.

The **Patris Corde Clergy Conference for Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians** (July 25–27), was a very good time to meet other Priests & Deacons from the Omaha Archdiocese, & listen to some good speakers.

Monthly Jesus Caritas Meeting (Monday, August 3)

... For almost 20 years, I have been meeting once a month with 5 other Priests in a **Jesus Caritas Group** (*that means, the love, the heart, the charity of Jesus*) to pray, share our lives, and enjoy each other's company. I will be leaving around 1:00pm, and return Monday evening.

Storage Shed Roof Replaced ... a Parish Council member observed that the shingles on the West roof of the Storage Shed were in great need of repair. Paschke Bros. Construction, Inc replaced the shingles on Wed., July 28 at a cost of \$1,500.00.

RCIA Classes ... Fr. Mark Seiker will be leading an RCIA process (Inquiry class in the Faith) **beginning in Sept, 2021** until a few weeks after Easter (mid May 2022). The day of the week that the classes will be held has not been confirmed. Perhaps on **Mondays or Tuesdays or Thursdays in the Parish Hall from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.** These classes are open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. **For Catholics, it is a good opportunity to learn more about your faith.** If you are interested call the Rectory or see Fr. Mark Seiker. Begin praying and thinking about persons that you want to invite to study our faith with you. Our faith is to be treasured, preserved, and lived, but it is also to be shared ... share your faith with a friend by coming with your friend to these RCIA classes. **It would be great to have a Full Hall!**

Parish Potluck Welcome Meal ... will be Sunday, August 22, 2021. This is for All Parishioners (*from both Parishes*). It is also an opportunity to invite and **welcome New Parishioners to our Parishes!** I encourage you to visit (*after Mass in the Hall or outside*) with people who come to participate in Saturday or Sunday Mass who you do not recognize. Ask God for His grace to gently and lovingly introduce yourself to them, perhaps saying something like: “HI, I am [*insert your first & last name*], I don't remember if we have met before.” You might volunteer information about yourself [*this is my husband / my wife; or these are our children; or I am recently widowed; or I work at ??business??*]. When **WE take the initiative and offer some information about ourselves to others,** they often will respond by sharing information about themselves, and we can get to know each other and find that we have a number of things in common with them.

Contact info for Father Mark Seiker ...

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 receive 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.

Group/Bulk Subscriptions to MAGNIFICAT! ...

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For the month of August 2021, Magnificat has provided some extra copies of the August 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.