

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... August 8, 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 ...

Finishing a few undone things ... I will be leaving after the morning Mass on Tuesday, August 10, to go to North Platte to finish up a few undone things. I will be return to Aurora on Wednesday evening.

Anyone interested in History?? ... You might have noticed an article in the Southern Nebraska Register a few weeks ago which introduced a project that **The Nebraska Church Guys** (Ron Sack, Chase Becker) have initiated. They are working on gathering information for a book which will provide pictures and information for every Catholic Church and School in the State of Nebraska (all three Dioceses), which will include some early church buildings or parishes that have since closed or been combined with other parishes.

If you are interested in history and especially if you have any pictures or printed historical items for either St. Mary Church or St. Joseph Church, or would be willing to share your knowledge or memories of our parishes, please contact Fr. Mark Seiker. Ron Sack (one of **The Nebraska Church Guys**) will be in Aurora and Giltner on Saturday, August 14. A few persons who might have an interest in this project have already been suggested and/or contacted. However, we don't want to miss anyone. Please contact Fr. Mark Seiker, and I will get you in contact with Ron Sack, who will arrange the schedule for the day and other details.

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 Father 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 also 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**, other people often will respond by sharing information about themselves, and we can get to know each other and we might find that we have a number of things in common with them.

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.

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 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.**