

## **FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... August 15, 2021**

**Tasks Accomplished** ... I was able to complete the few unfinished tasks in North Platte on Tuesday (8/10) and Wednesday (8/11) this past week. There is still a little computer work (Notes to my successor), that I need to complete, but that does not have a fixed deadline.

**Anyone interested in History??** ... (edited on Friday, 08/13/21) Thank you to those who gathered on Saturday, August 14 with Ron Sack to share your knowledge and memories and also pictures and historical items with Ron and the rest of us gathered there. Even though that was the main meeting scheduled for Hamilton County, if anyone has other information that might be helpful to Ron and Chase as they work on their book, please contact Father Mark Seiker or Ron Sack. I also find it interesting to learn the history of a Parish. Knowing how the faith of our ancestors and predecessors was lived out in practical and historical ways, can be a great encouragement to us to live our Faith today!

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 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.

**RCIA Classes** ... Fr. Mark Seiker will be leading an RCIA process (Inquiry class in the Faith) **beginning Sept. 13, 2021** until a few weeks after Easter (mid May 2022). After visiting with the Parish Council and checking schedules, it has been decided that RCIA Classes will be held on **Mondays (beginning September 13, 2021) 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!**

**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.

**Parish Potluck Welcome Meal** ... will be **NEXT 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.

**Cursillo School of Leaders (SOL) in Aurora** ... on **Saturday, August 21, 2021.** There will be the regular 8:00am Parish Mass as usual. Then at **9:00am**, there will be a **Mass for Cursillistas** from across the Lincoln Diocese who are invited to begin with prayer and then after Mass, to gather as leaders and especially as friends to study the Charism of Cursillo. The SOL will take place in the Parish Hall in Aurora from 9:30am – 1:30pm. Perhaps this would be a good time to explain a little about Cursillo.

A **Cursillo** (pronounced **kur-see-yo**) is an encounter with Christ (the full name is “Cursillo de Christiandad”, meaning “a short course in Christianity”). As a child, you probably accepted your Catholic faith at an age-appropriate level, mainly because your parents expected you to accept their faith. But have you ever truly made that faith your own? Have you grown in your faith over the years, or is your faith pretty much what it was when you were younger? Cursillo offers the opportunity for personal growth in your faith, thus allowing you to better share your faith with others. When Cursillistas in our Diocese are able to host Three Day Weekends (which has not been possible due to COVID-19 restrictions), this experience might help you to allow Jesus to deepen His relationship with you and with others. A Cursillo Weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening.

**Cursillo** teaches that conversion is not limited to one experience. Though conversion does have a starting point, it is ongoing and, thus, occurs during every minute of every day. Cursillo gives you the tools to better understand your Catholic faith and then share it with those in your everyday life. Many of us have experienced a profound conversion on a retreat intending to make changes in our lives, but over time, we fall back into the same ol’ ruts. Cursillo’s follow-up tools help the cursillista to continue daily down the path of conversion and growing closer to Christ ... and we bring others with us, so that they, too, can encounter Christ!