

E-news: 1/11/19

Christmas: I pray that all of you had a wonderful Christmas time celebrating our Lord's birth with your families and friends. I enjoyed my time in Michigan. I celebrated Mass at my mom's assisted living residence on January 1. The residents really miss being able to attend Sunday Mass, so they really appreciated the opportunity to have a priest with them.

Retreat: After the Michigan visit, I went straight to Chicago. About 250 bishops from around the country met at Mundelein Seminary. Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, a Capuchin priest from Italy, was our retreat director. He has been the preacher to the Roman Curia, including the pope, for more than twenty years. His talks were very inspiring, encouraging us during these difficult times to focus on Jesus, to seek Him and the power of the Holy Spirit more than anything else. Also, during the retreat I read *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and be Glad) by Pope Francis. I highly recommend that you read it. It offers practical advice on holiness. One last thing, Mundelein has a beautiful lake in the center of campus. I was able to walk around the lake during my free time and pray for our Diocese.

SEEK: I was really excited to hear how happy many of our college students (from Kansas State, Fort Hays and those attending Benedictine College) are after attending the SEEK Conference put on by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) in Indianapolis this past week. My niece from Indianapolis attended and, ironically, amongst 17,000 people, she sat with the Kansas State group!

Clergy Days: This coming week (January 14 – 17), the clergy from our diocese will be in Wichita for their annual clergy renewal days. It will be good for us to be together to pray and learn.

Day of Prayer: I greatly admire the thousands of youth (including many from our diocese) who are traveling to Washington D.C. for the Right to Life March next weekend. I am unable to attend this year. However, I am attending the State Right to Life March in Topeka on January 22. Please join me in prayer and fasting this day for the end of abortions. This day reminds me of what Saint Mother Teresa once said, "Any country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor."

MLK: On January 19, our country celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We are reminded that Pope Francis mentioned him when he spoke to the United States Congress in 2015. He said that his "dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many, a land of 'dreams.'"

Immigration: The bishops from the Committee on Migrations recently stated, "Secure borders and humane treatment of those fleeing persecution and seeking a better life are not mutually exclusive. The United States can ensure both and must do so without instilling fear or sowing hatred." If you would like, you can read more at <http://usccb.org/news/2019/19-004.cfm>

Schools: From January 28 – February 1, we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week. I want to thank all our teachers and staff who give their lives helping our young people. I also want to thank the parents who provide the opportunity for their children to attend Catholic Schools. I am looking forward to visiting several of our Catholic schools that week.

B-ball: As I mentioned last month, I played in a couple of basketball games: Runnin Revs in Salina and the Alumni Game in Junction City. My stat-line: 0 points and 7 turnovers for both games. I think it's time for me to retire. I'm not that young anymore!

Please be assured of my love and prayers,

+ Jerry Vincke

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord (therefore, the first week in Ordinary Time begins on Monday). As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, we are reminded that, when we were baptized, our Heavenly Father said, "this is my beloved son/daughter with whom I am well pleased." Through our baptism into the life of Jesus, we become children of God!! St. Augustine reminds us: "One generation and another generation; the generation by which we are made the faithful, and are born again by baptism; the generation by which we shall rise again from the dead, and shall live with the Angels forever."