

E-news: April 5, 2019

Register: I received lots of feedback from last Friday's Register detailing the list of clergy with substantiated allegations against a minor. Most people were grateful that the Church is being open about its past sins. Many others expressed sorrow that the name of the priest they so dearly loved was on the list. We continue to pray for healing for all those involved.

Listening Session: About 150 – 175 people showed up at the Listening Session in Hays. I was particularly moved by a man telling us that he was abused by a priest and was having difficulty forgiving the priest. We took some time to pray with him. We talked about healing and what we can do for the people who are victims. Someone mentioned a retreat called, *Grief to Grace: Healing the Wounds of Abuse*, as a very helpful way. If you know of someone who has been sexually abused and would like to attend, please let our office know or click [here](#) for more information.

Reflection: A co-worker passed on the following quote that seems to fit well the times that we are going through in the Church. It's from the book, "He Leadeth Me" by Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ, based on his time imprisoned and doing hard labor by the Communists in the 1940s – 50s. "In times of doubt and disappointment, like today, when things were not going the way I would have planned them or wished them. That's what humility means—learning to accept disappointments and even defeats as God-sent, learning to persevere and carry on with peace of heart and confidence in God, secure in the knowledge that something worthwhile is being accomplished precisely because God's will is at work in our life and we are doing our best to accept and follow it."

Chrism Mass: On Thursday, April 11, we will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 11:30 am at the Cathedral. It is here that the priests renew their promises that they made on the day of ordination. This includes obedience to his bishop, to pray for the Church and the world through the Liturgy of the Hours and to live a life of celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of God. Please pray for us that we may have the strength and humility to live out our promises. Anyone can attend the Chrism Mass. Hope to see you there.

Rite of Election: I really enjoyed the Rite of Election services a few weeks ago. It brought me a lot of joy to meet the people who will be joining the Church at the Easter Vigil. Some of them had some fascinating stories, including one former atheist who never dreamed he would someday join the Catholic Church!

Holy Week/Easter: This sacred time is coming near. Please attend the Triduum in which we celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. I will be writing an Easter column for the Register, but I want to wish you and your families a blessed Easter in advance!

Bishop's Annual Appeal: Many, many thanks to you for all your generosity and support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. God bless you for your kindness!

Unplanned: I am currently with the bishops from Kansas for our quarterly gatherings. We discussed the movie *Unplanned*. One of the bishops mentioned that Wichita and Kansas City are in the top five places nationwide that have watched the movie.

New Territory: I have been blessed to visit much of the diocese already. But this past week I visited Clyde and this coming week I will be in the Goodland area, both first visits. It's great to meet so many of the faithful throughout the diocese.

Blessings on the remainder of your Lenten season and Happy upcoming Easter!

In Christ's love and prayers,

Bishop Jerry

Some spiritual quotes to help us complete our Lenten journey:

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun."

-Saint Josemaría Escrivá

"Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday."

-Ven. Fulton Sheen

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves."

-St. Francis de Sales

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

-Pope Francis