

E-News: May 3, 2019

Our Mother: The month of May is known as our Blessed Mother's month. What a tremendous grace to have Our Blessed Mother's presence always with us. St. Therese of Lisieux said, "What a joy to remember that she is our mother! Since she loves us and knows our weakness, what have we to fear?" Saint Mother Teresa said, "If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon Our Lady. Just say this simple prayer, 'Mary, mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me."

Happy Mother's Day: While May is devoted to Our Blessed Mother, we also honor our mothers on Sunday, May 12. One of my favorite quotes on mothers comes from an unknown author: "Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever." So true.

Cinco de Mayo: Cinco de Mayo is this coming Sunday. It's a day to commemorate the victory of Mexico over France at the Battle of Puebla. It's a day of celebration within the Hispanic community.

KC: Not the Royals or the Chiefs, but our beloved Knights of Columbus are having their statewide convention this weekend in Manhattan. Everyone is invited to come to the talk by Melissa Ohden at 1:00PM on Friday, May 3 at the Hilton Garden Inn (410 S. 3rd, Manhattan KS). Melissa will be giving her testimony of life as a survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion. I look forward to being with my brother Knights and their families.

Vocations: These past two days I have visited with the 6th graders from our Catholic schools for Vocations Days. One of my favorite parts was when our vocation director, Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, asked the students, "Who was most upset when the prodigal son came home?" One 6th grader responded what I what have said, "The older brother." Fr. Gale said, "Nope, it was the fatted calf." I don't think any of the 6th graders laughed, but I did.

Farmers: Speaking of cattle, May 15 is the Memorial of St. Isidore, the patron saint of farmers. I will celebrate Mass at 1:00PM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Plainville. All farmers and their families are invited. Part of the day is to bless the land and the seeds for planting.

Congrats: I am looking forward to attending many high school graduation Masses/ceremonies coming up. Blessings on all our graduates, and may they be open to the Holy Spirit guiding them in all their endeavors.

Tragic: The Kansas Supreme Court recently ruled that a procedure sometimes known as *live dismemberment abortion*—in fact all abortion--is now a state constitutional right. Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Pro-Life Committee, called this decision an example “of imperial courts usurping the role of duly elected representatives to decide public policy on key social issues.” Another brother bishop once said, “government and other public policies support decisions that bring tremendous harm and despair to the individual. And yet, the Church is always there to pick up the pieces through our healing ministry.” Archbishop Naumann said that our immediate priority is passage of a State Constitutional Amendment making it impossible for future Courts “to contort the Kansas Constitution in an effort to claim it contains a right to abortion.” May we all work together to correct this grave error of the Kansas Supreme Court.

Priest Personnel: Moving priests from one parish to another can be heart-wrenching for not only the people, but for the priests. In next week’s Register you will be able to read the changes. Please pray for all our priests, especially those who are moving.

Away: I will be heading back to Michigan at the end of May. Besides spending time a few days with my family, I am going to Mackinaw Island with my priest classmates. This island sits in Lake Huron, between Michigan’s upper and lower peninsulas. There are no cars allowed, only horse carriages, bicycles and your feet to get around. Very peaceful place.

Appeal: Many thanks to all of you who have generously supported the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. God bless you for your incredible kindness.

Please be assured of my love and prayers. May God bless you and your families.

Bishop Vincke

Some quotes as we celebrate the 50 days of Easter!

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." –
Saint Pope John Paul II

“Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed.” *Pope Benedict XVI*

"In my deepest wound, I saw your glory and it dazzled me."- *St. Augustine*