

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER ... July 11, 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.

Finished up in North Platte ...

This past week, on both Monday and Tuesday, I went back to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Rectory, to finish sorting through some of the files and paper work that I had not finished. It was good productive work time and I was able to finish everything that needed to be done. There are still a few things that I need to finish on the computer, but I will not need to physically be in North Platte to complete those things.

Fr. Mark Seiker Gone from the Parishes ...

I left Aurora this past Wednesday morning (after Mass at St. Joseph, Giltner) and went to visit my parents in Lincoln. Then on **Thu., July 8 – Sat., July 10**, I was at the **Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS for a National meeting of Cursillo leaders.** Fr. Nicholas Kipper (*a Lincoln Diocesan Priest*) will be here for Confessions & Masses for July 10 - 11. Please welcome him.

This week on Tuesday afternoon, I will be driving to a small lake near Fremont to spend some time with my family. I will return on Thursday afternoon in time for the Parish Council meeting Thursday evening.

Installation of Father Mark Seiker as Pastor ...

The last week of June, I talked with Fr. Jim Divis (*the Dean of our Deanery*) about my "installation as Pastor" (*which includes some paper work that I need to sign*). After visiting (*via email with members of the Parish Council*) it has been decided that Fr. Divis will install me as Pastor of St. Mary Church, Aurora and St. Joseph Church, Giltner **during the Sunday, July 18, 2021 8:15am Mass** at **St. Mary Church in Aurora**. This will include about 3-5 minutes of prayers, instructions, explanations, signing documents, etc that would take place during the normal Sunday Mass.

There are also some plans for a POSSIBLE Parish Potluck Meal ... perhaps on Sunday, July 18 in the late afternoon or maybe on another Sunday. We will keep you informed via email and/or text.

Contact info for Father Mark Seiker ...

If you want to contact me at any time, you may call the Rectory "land line" 402-694-3427. This phone line will probably about 99% of the time be forwarded to my cell phone (*my "flip phone"*). When I am praying the Mass, hearing Confessions, or meeting with persons, my phone is on vibrate and I give my attention to the persons in front of me. I encourage you to leave a message for me on my cell phone. When I return your phone call, I will most often be calling from my cell phone and you will notice that the call will show up on your phone as "private" or "restricted" or "caller id not known", or something like that (*because I have my cell phone number "blocked"*). It used to be that telemarketers used blocked numbers ... now they "steal" someone else's number and call you from that number. (Sometimes people call me when they receive a call from a "private" or "restricted" or "caller id not known" phone number thinking it was me that called them. My response is always: *"If it is important enough for me to call you and you are not able to answer the phone when I call, I will leave a message. If you did not received a message, it was not me ... unless your voice mailbox is FULL and I could NOT leave a message."*) I want people to have a connection with the Lord and His Church and not with me. [Yes, God has called me to be His instrument, one of His channels or grace, however, I want to direct people to Jesus.] Over the past 15 years, I have found this a very helpful way to be very available to anyone who calls the Rectory phone ... wherever I happened to be ... in town, at my parents, etc. However, because the phone number you call is a "land line", you can NOT text me! You may also contact me by email fmseiker@gmail.com.

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