

Reach Cathedral

newsletter

June 2023

CATHEDRAL
OF THE
RISEN CHRIST
SCHOOL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- School Year 2022-23: A Retrospective
- Gratitude, Hope, & Farewell
- Earth Day at Cathedral School
- Charity & Stewardship Appeal
- Eucharistic Encounter
- One Book One Cathedral

Photo: Cathedral School Earth Day, April 2023, Kathryn Mullin

School Year 2022-23:

A Retrospective

Msgr. Thomas Fucinaro
Pastor



A hearty, 'job well done' to the administration, the faculty and the staff of Cathedral of the Risen Christ School! Truly, it has been a work, noble and good in God's sight, and I congratulate Principal Angela Miller and Assistant Principal Jenny Bykerk, all our dedicated teachers and our amazing staff for bringing this year to a happy completion!

With this academic year now in the books, I have overseen my first full year at Cathedral of the Risen Christ School, and it has been one of the greatest joys of my life as pastor of this fine parish!

As I began looking back over this past academic year, it seemed only right that I would engage our newest graduates, the class of 2023, for whom *the strife is o'er, the battle done* (at least for this summer) to hear their impressions. They have now finished their schooling at Cathedral, many of them impressively having been here for the whole of their education over the last nine years (or even 10 or 11 years for the former eaglets!), and now they make their way to high school. Truly a job well done!

Wishing to hear their thoughts, I asked them: what have you enjoyed most about Cathedral? What have you found to be most challenging? What do you consider our greatest strengths? What are the clearest signs of Cathedral's excellence in Catholic education?

I really did not know what to expect as they began to speak, but I soon noticed several broadly agreed upon ideas. Their answers were both exciting and affirmative of the good things taking place in our midst. Plain and simple their answers revealed a contentment with Cathedral, making evident that our school offers a special environment. Some went so far as to say that they very much miss the family environment and close

friendships that they established with the teachers and fellow students at Cathedral.

Clearly, the long record of service of our teachers and administration and their genuine interest in and concern for the lives of the students has been fundamental to our eighth graders. The dedication and professionalism, the steadiness and commitment, and most of all the virtue, goodness and holiness of our teachers and staff leaves no doubt as to why the students would make such comments.

Indeed, in speaking with the graduates, I found a coalescence and several observations of what makes Cathedral so great. Repeatedly, students referenced the family-like environment of the school, making some even lament having to move on from Cathedral, where fellow students and teachers form such a wonderful and interlinked fabric.

Several of the students extolled the virtue and prayerfulness of their fellow students and teachers noting, in particular, their wonderful kindness, politeness and manners. When pressed to describe what they meant, the students responded by saying that their fellow students are authentic and genuinely good people, the kind that are likely to remain as friends for life.

None of the students had any difficulty in identifying a favorite teacher, and several noted our newly retired Mrs. Sandie Caradori, emeritus language arts teacher, as someone particularly dear to them.

With regard to Cathedral's excellence as a school, many of the students pointed to the rigor of Mr. Connor Laney's mathematics class and Mr. Mark Simmons' science class as indications of the outstanding quality of education that they received at Cathedral. Many of them marveled at their fellow students and their accomplishments, and particularly noted the stringent requirements for membership in the National Junior Honor Society (one must maintain a 3.75 GPA). Though the requirements of membership are arduous, the students pointed out that the connection, family environment, and persistence of their teachers were instrumental in helping them to arrive at academic greatness.

We therefore pause for a moment here at the beginning of summer, to congratulate our eighth-grade graduates and all the students and their families. We reach out as well to thank our entire school and parish community without whose commitment and tireless sacrifices this tremendous work could not have been accomplished. Lastly, we reflect upon the goodness and beauty of this past year, and we celebrate a job well done!



Gratitude, Hope, & Farewell



Fr. Caleb Hile
Parochial Vicar

A common refrain from the seminary faculty I recall was, "Make sure you learn, relax, and seek to enjoy your first assignment as a priest!" They certainly knew what they were talking about!

Getting off on the right foot is essential for any vocation, job, or task. But even more important than getting off on the right foot is realizing that not every step you take will be the right one. The joys and trials of this first assignment have taught me immensely.

I am filled with gratitude for all the parishioners who warmly welcomed me and who have continued to welcome me into their family. Moreover, I am grateful to all the parishioners who patiently assisted me during my initial learning curve into priestly fatherhood over these 3 years. Trust me, it is quite the leap going from the quiet and academic atmosphere of the seminary to the hustle and bustle of daily, parish life!

The Cathedral family gives me hope for the future. The desire for a growing community life and a relationship with God is palpable at

the Cathedral. It was a blessing to be initiated into priestly fatherhood in a community with such a spirit. Continue to pray for me as I deepen in my identity as a priestly father over the coming years. After all, fatherhood is a gift that is received from Our Heavenly Father and not something manufactured.

Two sorrows come to mind when I reflect on my impending move. First, being further from my family. The blessing of quickly stopping over at my family's home for a meal or a conversation has been a unique privilege. A privilege that many priests in the world never get to experience. A privilege I might not have again.

Second, I will miss the smiles, laughs, and conversations with the numerous friends I have made at Cathedral. From the joyful goodbyes after Mass to the long conversations over a bonfire and drinks, all of these are gifts that I will affectionately remember.

My parting desire is that the Cathedral family deeply soaks in the words of Saint Paul.

They are words to live by in the years to come:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is anything worthy of praise, *think about these things.* (Philippians 4:4-8)



Earth Day at Cathedral



Kelley Garay
3rd Grade Teacher



Teresa Goebel
3rd Grade Teacher



All Photos: Earth Day celebrations at Cathedral, April 2023, Kathryn Mullin

1. When did Cathedral start its Earth Day celebrations and what inspired it?

Earth Day started in 2014 with Mrs. Garay sitting down with Mr. Ekeler, Cathedral's principal at the time, and having a conversation about creating an opportunity within the school year for students to live our call to be stewards of God's creation. She had also just read the book, "Last Child in the Woods," and saw a need for students to reconnect with the natural world.

2. What goes into planning Earth Day?

Our core group of Earth Day planners is made up of: Kelley Garay (teacher), Teresa Goebel (teacher), Emily Villa (parishioner, parent, and Pioneers Park nature guide), Angie Vandersnick (parishioner, parent, and Landscape Designer at Nebraska Color Gardens), David Guenther (Cathedral Facilities & Grounds Manager), Angela Miller (Cathedral School Principal).

We sit down about 2 months beforehand to go over a budget, walk the campus to map out landscaping maintenance and improvement needs, and discuss which projects to add year to year as we further develop Mercer's Meadow into an outdoor nature classroom with native prairie plants, a school garden, and composting area. We also develop educational opportunities and activities each year focused on developing the student's understanding of Ecology and stewardship of our Earth.

This year we added leadership roles for the National Junior High Society who helped teach and lead a STEM recycling project focused on reusing plastic bags and learning about the women who began the Plastic Bag Initiative in Gambia, Africa.

Nebraska Color Gardens donates the flowers planted around the church and school and many parents send yard tools the day of and donate toward other landscaping materials such as mulch and sand to spruce up the school's campus. Arroyo Roofing also provided a dump

trailer for us to use as students cleared natural debris and leaves.

3. What happens on the day of?

There are A LOT of moving parts that day! Kindergarten through 3rd grade students plant flowers by the church and do Earth Day activities like making bird feeders, doing a trash walk, cleaning up rubber mulch on the playground and learning about the importance of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle in their classrooms.

Students in 4th and 5th grades focus on helping clean up our school butterfly garden and the front of our school as well as learning activities (this year included making recycled paper and a STEM project).

Students in 6th through 8th grades focus on cleaning up the South side of school and working in Mercer's Meadow on various projects. The National Junior Honor Society students help lead stations for younger students and clean up the Eaglets' Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom. Even our youngest Eaglets get involved in helping move mulch and dirt with Mr. Guenther and making bird feeders.

Everyone always enjoys a cold popsicle at the end of the day for all their hard work and a job well done!

4. What do the students tend to love about the day?

Besides enjoying the spring weather and being outside, they love racing to pick up rubber mulch, pushing loads of mulch, and planting flowers.

5. What is your favorite part about the day?

We love watching the school come together with older and younger students working together! It's amazing how the whole campus just transforms in a day. It really feels like spring has arrived and we see the fruits of our labor everywhere!

Charity and Stewardship Appeal

Our annual diocesan Charity and Stewardship Appeal (CSA) is happening now!

This yearly appeal provides each of us with an opportunity to support a wide range of ministries in our diocese. More importantly, however, the greatest beneficiaries of the CSA are the parishes of our diocese, since all monies raised over and above the diocesan goal are returned to each parish.

The goal established for the Cathedral of the Risen Christ this year is \$225,000, which would result in over \$175,000 being returned

directly to Cathedral! Last year, the parishioners of Cathedral pledged just over \$200,000.

Pledge cards are available in the Parish Office through June. Instructions on how to make online pledges and how to complete your pledge card can be found on the diocesan website by scanning the QR code below. No pledge amount is too small – every bit counts!

Together, may we cheerfully render a return to Him for all He has given to us.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

ALL THINGS NEW

Charity & Stewardship Appeal 2023
 "Behold, I make all things new." - Revelation 21:5

Scan to give now!



Ministries in our diocese that benefit from CSA:

- Family Life & Discipleship Office
- Newman Center
- Office of Hispanic Ministry
- Catholic Social Services
- Chaplains (Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Prisons)
- Tribunal
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House
- And more!

ENCOUNTER

EUCHARISTIC "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock."

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH IN THE REAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

Hear keynote speaker, Fr. Malachy Napier, CFR



Lincoln
 Cathedral of the Risen Christ

June 20, 2023

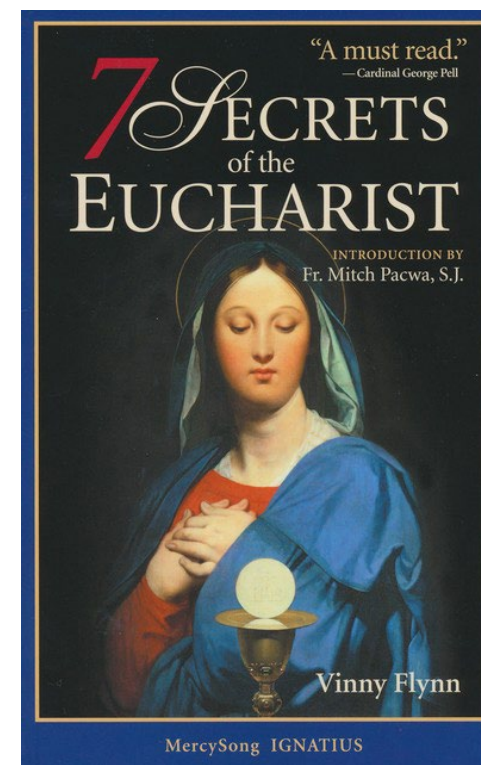
Adoration - Eucharistic Piety - Confession - Dynamic Teaching - Veneration of Relics - Sacred Music - Vatican International Exposition Eucharistic Miracles of the World



spiritcatholicradio.com/encounter

One Book One Cathedral

Are you looking for new ways to grow spiritually this summer?



All parishioners, school families, teachers and staff members are invited to take part in this summer reading opportunity!

Together, we'll be reading *7 Secrets of the Eucharist* by Vinny Flynn. We encourage you to gather

your friends, family, spouse or coworkers for a discussion group!

Stop by the Parish Office or our bookstore in the vestibule to purchase a copy.

As described on the back cover of the book:

Pope John Paul II referred to the Holy Eucharist as "the greatest treasure of the Church," and yet even many devoted Catholics have a limited understanding of this powerful sacrament. This book will change all that! You will walk away with a completely new awareness that the Eucharist is not just about receiving Communion; it's about transforming your daily life.

Deeply based on the Scriptures, the writings of the saints, and the teachings of our two most recent popes, this profound and remarkably readable book will introduce you to some of the "hidden" truths of the Eucharist - truths that have always been embraced by theologians, saints and mystics, but have rarely been passed on to the average person in a meaningful way. (cover copy)

CATHEDRAL OF THE RISEN CHRIST

3500 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68506



June 2023 Dates & Events



Photo: Cathedral School May Crowning, May 2023,
Kathryn Mullin

Sunday, June 11, after the 9am Mass
Corpus Christi Procession
Begins inside the church

Sunday, June 18, after the 9am & 11am Masses
Farewell for Fr. Hile
Outside the Church (Rector's Hall rain location)

Tuesday, June 20
Eucharistic Encounter Event
5-10pm – Exhibits & Relics
Rector's Hall & Benedictine Hall
6:45-9pm – Speakers, Adoration, Eucharistic
Procession, & Confessions
Cathedral Church

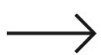
Sunday, June 25, after the 9am & 11am Masses
Welcome for Fr. Allder
Outside the Church (Rector's Hall rain location)

Totus Tuus 2023

STUDENTS GRADES 1-8:
Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14 from 9am-3pm

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
Sunday, July 9 - Thursday, July 13 from 8-10pm

Registration for all grades begins June 3rd.



**Find details in the parish bulletin
or on the parish website.**

