

Dear Parishioners,

On Wednesday, May 23, I moved over to the house that was built by Fr. Harold Nilges. It truly is a beautiful home and I am so honored and happy to be there. I am also grateful to Fr. Harold, Sister Marianne and the Nilges family for their generosity in donating the house to our parish. That kind of generosity is so rarely seen in the world these days. I am humbled and inspired by it.

I am also grateful to the Emmens family. Their home is still being rebuilt after the fire and they have chosen to move into an apartment until they are able to move back. Moving out of the Nilges home certainly was a great inconvenience for them. At the same time, their move is a real act of kindness toward me, and for that I am thankful.

We're going to keep the phone number that has always been listed for that residence, 815-784-4837. This number has been printed on the front of the bulletin. I hope this information will be helpful to you when there are times when you would like to reach me after the office has closed. Of course, you can still leave voicemail messages at extension 11 if you would like.

By the looks of the sign-up board for the Genoa Days food booth, I get the feeling we're in for a very successful year. Most of the time and food slots have been filled in and that's great. We do, however, need workers to help set up and tear down. Thanks to everyone who is willing to give so much of their time and talent to this project.

There is a field of winter wheat growing behind the rectory. The other day I was looking out my bedroom window and I saw a black bird had landed on top of a stalk of wheat in the middle of that field. For several minutes I just watched that black bird sitting on top of a single stalk of winter wheat that did not break or bend under the weight of that bird. It almost felt like I was seeing the laws of physics being defied – and it was okay. I guess that maybe life is not as fragile as we might think. This is especially true of life in the Church.

There is a mysterious strength about being Catholic that we so often mistrust or deny. To be sure, the Church is a human institution that is, in many ways, flawed and imperfect. Yet, when we are able to trust in her strength we often discover that we can find comfort in her, and our faith is bolstered, supported, and embraced in her. Perhaps this is why Jesus chose bread, made from whole wheat, to be his living and loving presence in the world; bread to nourish our souls, bread to be our comfort, bread to be what we share with others who are hungry and who need a place to rest.

In joyful hope,  
Fr. Tim Seigel.