

August 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

When I woke up on Monday morning I felt a tug in my heart to go to Assumption Chapel in Cold Spring and spend time in prayer. As I traveled I began recalling memories of my visits to the chapel over the years. My earliest memories involve the times my parents and my siblings went to the chapel for the celebration of Mass on August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. Bishop Speltz would celebrate a Mass at the chapel each year on the Solemnity.

When my second oldest sister attended St. Benedict's in St. Joseph we would pick her up on Friday evenings and return her to the college on Sunday evenings. On our return trip home to our farm near Kimball, we would head south on the county highway toward Cold Spring. At a certain spot just north of Cold Spring we would look out the left side of our car's windows and see a spot light illuminating the tiny Chapel on the hill. In the darkness of the night, a light shining on that tiny granite Chapel seemed to bring peace into our hearts. Sometimes it would be my father, who was driving the car, saying, "There it is!" Other times it was one of us children who would pick up the tiny illuminated chapel and quickly announce the same words, as if some sort of competition was in play.

When I played softball in the leagues out of St. Nicholas and Pearl Lake, I would often swing over to Cold Spring before our scheduled games and spend some time in prayer discerning what God wanted me to do in life. In that chapel before the statue of Mary, I felt a peace that allowed me to discern my vocation.

I eventually entered the seminary and was ordained a priest and have had the privilege to celebrate and concelebrate Masses at the chapel over these years. I have begun my 34th year as a priest and Mary has interceded to her Son many, many times for me and for those I have held up in prayer. On Monday, at the chapel, I asked Our Blessed Mother to watch over our families, our nation, and world. I left and felt peace within. A light still shines at night on that hill. One cannot see the chapel as it is shrouded by oak trees, but Mary still leads souls to the perfect light, Jesus Christ, Our Lord

The Solemnity of Mary falls on Saturday, August 15th. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation as it falls on a Saturday, but I am having a Mass at Christ the King that day at 8:30am. Please join your fellow parishioners asking Mary to intercede to her Son for the needs of our world.

In Christ,
Father Don Wagner