



December 1, 2014

Dear Residents:

On November 16th CNN's *This is Life with Lisa Ling* program aired a segment entitled *Called to the Collar*. The program focused on the high number of vocations to the priesthood from the Fowler area in a time when such vocations are down significantly. Since the Westphalia area has produced the same number of priests (22) as Fowler, some may wonder why our area was not included more. I believe the answer is simply that Fowler has had more vocations recently, including the ordination of twin brothers Gary and Todd Koenigsknecht this year. Although a good part of the program focused on the Koenigsknecht twins, there also was a great segment with our own former Pastor, Fr. Mathias. As always, Fr. Mathias was his normal well-spoken self and did a wonderful job.

I thought the program was very well done and presented the subject matter and our area in a non-bias positive light. There were some beautiful shots of the St. Mary and Most Holy Trinity churches. There were several scenes where you could see the beautiful farms and country side of our area. It made me realize once again what a great place we get to call home. If you didn't get a chance to catch the program when it first aired, I would encourage you to try to catch a rerun or check it out on YouTube.

Actually, back in June I received a call from Christina Capecchi who is a writer for the New York Times. She was doing an article on the same subject and wanted to interview me. I did the interview and the story entitled, *In Two Michigan Villages, a Higher Calling is Often Heard*, appeared in the June 14th edition of the New York Times. Her story featured the vocations from both Westphalia and Fowler and also highlighted the vocations of young women in our area to the convent (37 from Westphalia and 43 from Fowler). I felt this piece was also very well done. You can Google search "New York Times – Westphalia" to find it.

Sgt. Kyle Knight has resigned from the Clinton County Sheriff's office to become the Chief of Police for the city of St. Johns. Kyle attended our council meetings and kept us aware of all law enforcement issues. He has been a great asset and we will miss his service to the Village. We wish Kyle the best of luck in his new position.

Thank you to all who voted for me in the November election. Although I ran unopposed, I still very much appreciate the support I receive from the community.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As always, please remember those in need this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia