

Mar. 22-23, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

The following is from one of our parish seminarians, Joe Sund:

Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann:

After consultation with Archbishop Lucas and the priests entrusted with my formation at Kenrick Seminary, I am delaying ordination to the diaconate and beginning a year of pastoral experience. This decision has been made so that I may continue further growth in pastoral leadership and grow in confidence in these areas before ordination. It is not any doubt of priestly vocation, but great respect for the responsibilities of a priestly vocation that motivates this pastoral year. I will be returning to Omaha at the conclusion of this academic year and receiving a pastoral assignment. I ask for your continued prayers, especially during this year, that I may grow in God's grace to one day not just be ordained, but be ordained a holy priest. I am ever grateful of the great support of this parish community. The fruit of your prayers is evident to me especially during tough times. All of you are a living witness of living faithfully the Lord's appeal; "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

In Christ,
Joseph R. Sund

I heard about this last Monday and even though it means a delay for Joe I am very happy for him. In the olden days when I was going to the seminary our pastoral experience was very limited. The policy of the Archdiocese was to have us spend our summers working regular jobs until we were ordained as deacons. After deacon ordination we would spend six months working in a parish. And for the school year we would try to have some pastoral experience that was supervised by the seminary. That worked out for most of us but I had a friend who realized that after six months of parish life as a deacon that he was not cut out for it at all. Finding this out after being ordained a deacon created all sorts of problems. Now the seminaries and the Archdiocese are working together to find the right experiences for each individual student but there is still that reality that it is not enough for a good decision to be made before deacon ordination. So that is why the Archbishop and Joe have come up with this plan.

I actually did some of that work with some of the seminarians during some of the summers while I was at Holy Name. The seminarians actually started calling it the Holy Name Boot Camp for Seminarians. It was a fairly grueling summer experience for them. It could never match exactly what a priest's life is like but it came closer than most experiences. I will be praying that the Archbishop will find a great situation for Joe to work in for it will not just be for one summer but for a whole year. I am very excited for him.

On a totally different topic I am looking a few people to help me this year as a technology committee. The task will be to upgrade the systems in the parish. Right now we have a patched up band-aided hodgepodge of internet systems and outdated computers with outdated (XP) systems. I am not from the computer generation so I am a generation behind and we need to look at the coming generation. Give me a call if you would be interested in helping with the planning. As we update I would rather hire someone from the parish to do the work than just out source it. Give me a call if you are interested, 402-677-1565.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank