

Mar. 8-9, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

This weekend I will be doing an Engaged Encounter Weekend. It is really going to be a full house with the absolute maximum number of couples that will fit at the retreat center on 60th and N.W.Radial Hwy, so I will be coming back to my own bed to sleep for a few hours on Saturday night. I will hopefully be back in time for the 5:30 Sunday Mass. Don't start without me if I am late.

I will also be coming back for the Bible Study and 10:15am. We will be dealing with the first four psalms, the creation stories and the birth narrative in Matthew. Those are fun readings. The creation stories are so filled with information. I can talk for hours on them alone. But if you want to hear more on them and how they defines us as male and female I have a couple of books for you to read. I just finished them. The one for men is "Wild at Heart" by John Eldredge. The one for women is "Captivating" by Stasi Eldredge. They contain much more than a beautiful look at the stories of creation. They are filled with insights into feminine and masculine spiritually. Considering that I have little reading time, I still finished each within two weeks. I just couldn't get enough. If you are like me then you have a stack of books that you want to get to, or a Kindle that is also calling to you. Since you can read the three Bible chapters in about 20 minutes per day it should still keep you available to read a little more. I would really appreciate your comments on each of these if you are blessed to finish them.

One of my extra notions on having the Bible Study is to get people from our parish together. I would love to see discussion groups and book clubs started, prayer groups renewed, and new friends made as you go through this process. The Holy Spirit is giving you a chance, make the most of it.

Many of you got ashed last Wednesday. It is a reminder of how our bodies are going to be going back to the earth from which it was formed. Adam was formed directly in this way. We were formed in our mother's womb but we are still made from elements of the soil. We nicely call them vitamins and minerals; iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, etc. The other not so subtle message that we should pick up on Ash Wednesday is that being ashed is much better than being torched. That is my unsubtle way of reminding you to be thinking of how many times you should be going to confession during this Lenten Season. God will destroy sin. The question is whether we will still have them on us or whether we are going to be wise enough to come to confession to have them forgiven and removed. I personally want to be far from my sins and therefore far from the Fires of Hell that will destroy them.

We are in an age when many people no longer believe in Hell. That is another reason it is important to read the Word of God on this subject instead of getting our spiritual information from the junk you can find on TV or the internet. Once you have read the whole Bible you will see some of the Supernatural aspects of its content. Then it will be easier to believe in its message rather than the weird messages we get on TV which do not have any supernatural backing. You can find good information on TV and the internet but you had better know the Bible enough to be able to discern the difference between the good formation and the bad.

This week you will be reading days 5-12 on the study guide and you will be able to see my notes on the stelizabethann.com web-site under Bible Study which you find under the Spiritual Growth tab.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank