

Apr. 26-27, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

First and foremost I want to thank everyone that worked so hard to make Lent and Easter such beautiful seasons. The musicians and the church decoration crew did a wonderful job. There are so many details to handle with these jobs and yet it comes out so wonderfully. I want you all to know that I appreciate your patience with me as I juggle my time during that busy season. Many times it means you are waiting for answers on your questions and I am late in getting back to you. It makes it harder for you and yet you do such a great job. I would also like to thank the other faithful ministers at all the liturgical celebrations. The deacons, EMHCs, lectors, ushers and the altar servers all dedicate their time also.

Deacon Chuck Sheik is starting to train 5th graders to be altar servers so contact him or the office A.S.A.P. if you are interested. Fr. John and I have also talked with the deacons about a couple of other changes that will be happening at the weekend Masses. After communion all EMHCs should bring the chalices and ciboriums to the altar from now on and then go back to your pew. The priest will purify them while the deacon takes the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle. The altar servers will bring the water to the altar like usual and help to take the purified sacred vessels back to the credence table by their chairs. On those odd occasions when there is no deacon the only change to this is that the priest also takes the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle.

Last week I mentioned some of the things that are happening in the next few weeks, Confirmation, 1st Communion, Holy Orders, etc. This week I wanted to mention the other Sacrament that I will be busy with for the next six months, Holy Matrimony. We have already had the first wedding of 2014 and there are more than a dozen others that are scheduled. We have couples from many walks of life. Some of them are basically finished with the preparation that the Archdiocese requires. Others are just starting to get into full swing. They do a lot of work but marriage is getting harder and harder to maintain.

Part of the problem is that things most of our young people hear about the philosophy of marriage creates built in difficulties. Priority one in this “modern” way of thinking is that marriage is to bring us happiness and everything else must stem from that objective. The problem is that seeking happiness is the worst way to achieve it, because it is not a goal. It is a result. We feel happiness because something else has happened. So if I eat Cheetos I feel happy. If I turn it around and seek happiness by eating Cheetos I end up gaining weight because I am always hoping to be happy so I would eat and eat and eat. But if I do things that are worthwhile, I will feel happy. Luckily there are a lot of things that are worthwhile or I would be back to Cheetos and weight gain.

Marriage is about love but not the feeling of love. It is the love that Jesus showed us that is sacrificial. He lived and died for us because He loved us. His goal was not to be happy. He wanted to have us be with Him and hoped that would bring us all happiness. His love made Him willing to sacrifice to accomplish this. We must return to the same concept in marriage. Because I love I want to do things for the person who is the focus of my love. There are many times when we do this even if it is hard, just like Jesus on the cross. Those times it does not bring happiness but brings us long term satisfaction and hopefully connects us to God who will bring us and the one we love to heaven. Next week I hope to add to this look at the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank