

May 31-June 1, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

As I hope you have already noticed through the bulletin we will be compiling a new parish pictorial directory. The last one was five years ago. In those five years the parish has changed greatly. We have new families, new additions to other families and many who are no longer in the parish. Some are gone because they moved or grew up and are relocated or are deceased. These directories are very helpful booklets. It helps families get to know each other, which really helps in getting things to work in a parish. The most important reason for a directory is to help the parish priests. This is critical when you happen to have a pastor who has a terrible time remembering names. You cannot believe all the times that someone mentions a name to me and thinks that I should know that person. After I look in the directory and see their picture I realize that I do recognize them but never connected their first and or last name to the face. You also can imagine all the times that I looked in the directory to see if I knew a person and found that they had not bothered to get their picture taken for the directory. That is when I have very bad thoughts and have to go to confession.

So here is the deal. If you don't want your pastor to have very bad thoughts about you in particular, then you need to have your picture taken for the directory. You can go online to www.stelizabethann.org and click on the photo button or call the parish office at 402-493-2186. Many people hate to have their picture taken because they don't think it turns out right. If they try to make me smile when taking my picture it ends up looking like I am having a stroke. But I have to humbly admit that that is what I look like, otherwise I have the sin of pride to confess. I suppose I could just go around to all of you who don't sign up and take your picture while you are not paying attention and put those in the directory. I think my phone takes wonderful pictures, but you might not think so. Stay tuned for there are only a few things that really drive me crazy, but one is a directory with only 40% of the parishioner's pictures.

Another reminder for you is far more pleasant. Parishioner Deacon Ben Boyd will be ordained Fr. Ben next Saturday, June 7, at 10am in the Cathedral. It is a big church and there are only two being ordained so there should be plenty of room. His first Mass will be at 2pm on Sunday, June 8, here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. This is an awesome event. I hope there will be standing room only. We just had the funeral for Tyler Alitz, who died at 20 years old and never got to reach many of his dreams, and I am happy to say the church was full. Next weekend one of our young men will be able to fulfill his dream so the church should be even fuller.

Fr. John will be helping to give a retreat until next Friday so he won't be around. Pray that his retreat will go well.

If any of you are interested in some summer reading I have some copies of "Forming Intentional Disciples" by Sherry A. Weddell. This is a book that has been talked about a great deal in the last two years. The author has done a lot of research on how things have changed over the past couple decades in the church in terms of people joining and leaving the Catholic Church. It is an important book to read. Most of our deacons and many of our Parish Council members have already read it. I will have five copies in the back of church. If anyone is done reading the book they can leave their copy there also and we can make it possible for more people to read it. Also don't forget that there are many books in the Family Room that can be borrowed. As I told the SJS school children, don't let your brain turn to mush this summer.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank