

Oct. 18-19, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Last weekend in my homily I talked about the story of Cinderella. It is a fairy tale, but it is also much more than that. Like most of our traditional fairy tales it is much more than just a cute story. It is based on our deepest dreams, desires, hopes and fears. As Christians we believe that the reason we share these dreams and fears is that they come from God and are built into us.

Except for occasions when we are overwhelmed we don't want to be alone. We crave intimacy, the chance to share our lives with someone who loves us. This is what the prince and Cinderella were both hoping for even though they were in totally different situations. He had everything and she had nothing. This story helps us understand that even God craves this intimacy. Even though He has everything, He craves to share it with us. He is looking for that perfect love. He doesn't throw a royal ball. He throws a royal banquet and invites us to this wedding feast of His Son. Amazingly, like the fairy tale, we are invited with the idea that we could become the bride of Christ.

He sends out invitations through His prophets and even sent His Son. He actually even sent what the story calls the fairy god-mother. It is actually the Holy Spirit, whose job is to help us be our best so we can present ourselves to the groom, the prince, who is actually the King of Kings. When we come to the banquet He shows His love for us, but we are always being called back to our simple dirty lives and have to leave the banquet hall. But Jesus keeps coming back to us with a reminder of what we can be when we are at our best (a glass slipper). But we should instinctively know that we will truly be at our best when we are with Him because He brings out the best in us. This is what the Gospel message is all about. Someday we will be able to join Him in the Kingdom of God and live with Him forever and ever, or as the story ends, we will live happily ever after.

Part of what is happening in our society is that different modes of media are working to warp those basic concepts we have of ourselves. It makes for interesting stories but we can always tell when the story really doesn't fit for it doesn't catch on. The fairy tales have been around for centuries and they will always fit our dreams. There have been remakes of these stories that are wonderful. Two of my favorites are Shrek and Shrek 2. They are a combination of Rumpelstiltskin and Beauty and the Beast with other fairy tales hinted at that make it fun. Other stories that don't fit in with who we really are, tend to be very short-lived and have very small audiences. We know how contrived they feel without even thinking about them.

This week I have also had the results of the parish picnic and raffle. You will notice one difference from previous years. There was no raffle, only the lottery. You will notice from the comparison from previous years that we were down in profit. At least in my mind this is not a crisis. What I like about the picnic is that it is a chance for people to get together. Even the preparation for it, especially the "Baskets & Bundles" crew, can be fun. That is very important for this parish. We are looking for a new coordinator of the event. Deacon John Dagerman has been doing it for many years. I am officially looking for a new coordinator. It is not an overwhelming task, mainly because there are good people willing to do so many parts of it. Let me know if you are interested.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank