

Oct. 4-5, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Some of you may have already noticed but Fr. John is back and has his Visa status all in order. I am glad to have him back. I had never noticed how many Masses the two of us have lined up every week. Depending on extras like weddings and funerals or school Masses at St. James/Seton, there can be between 17 and 24.

Our parishioners who have traveled to Rome know already but for the rest of you we now have a new deacon for the Archdiocese. Deacon Matt Niggemeyer is now another step closer to priesthood. That event will be this June. Keep praying for him and all of our seminarians.

This past week has been interesting for me as I have been praying about the two events I just mentioned. The most direct question that I was praying about was just how important is it to have priests. I had one person tell me about how hard he worked at being a good person. He talked about how he tried all his life to never do anything that he would not want people to do to him. I knew that this is based on Scripture. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, is the way I always remember my Dad and Mom teaching it. It is not quite the level of goodness that Jesus was demanding in the parable of the king at judgment time. He separated those who had taken care of the poor, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited prisoners, etc.; from those who hadn't bothered to do this. They went to hell. This man was claiming that he hadn't hurt anyone but had he helped anyone?

That all went through my mind in about five seconds. Then I thought about some of the other aspects of God's commandments, like the biggest one; "Love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, and your whole body." As if the guy was reading my mind or at least my expression he added that he prayed but he didn't think that it was necessary to have to go to church to do that.

That is when I recalled how important priests were. Jesus did tell us to pray always but he also told us that unless we eat his body and drink his blood we would have no life in us, but if we ate his body and drank his blood we would have life eternal. That is when I mentioned to the man that his actions and decisions would be great if he were the boss, but he is not. I asked him how he thought it would go over in heaven if he tried telling God what to do. We don't get to make the rules. God does, for He knows what we need to be in His kingdom of heaven with Him for all eternity and not turn it into a hell of billions of bosses all telling Him what to do and how things should really be run.

The Church and its priests are the ones that make that Body and Blood, food for eternal life, come to the altar. Even the crazy people who are messing with Satan and having Black Masses know that they can't do that. They know they can't consecrate bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. So the moral of the story is to pray for more vocations and remember who the boss is. I know that God would be angry with me or just laugh if I said to Him; "Be still and know that I am God."

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank