

Aug. 16-17, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

The new school year is starting. Lots of different schedules to work out and things to restart in family life. Summer was so short and as far as I was concerned it was way too cold. But that is one of those things that we don't get to choose. With the transitions that are happening it is important to think in terms of priorities. For most of you this is not the first time you have had the school year and its activities to rule a major part of your life. So you should be good at knowing where to place prayer. Remember that it is not to be a matter of fitting prayer into your schedule. It is fitting your schedule around your prayer.

One of the quick things that I would like to mention is in terms of safety. I watch the efforts that parents and the school staff go through to make the craziness of getting over 600 students in and out of school each day. There are drive lanes, speed limits, walking paths and many other curtesy and safety things to think about so no one gets hurts. Everyone needs to be aware that it only takes one thoughtless move and someone will pay a price. I mention this because one of the rules that the children learn very quickly is that you don't run in school. The only inside place you run is the gym.

For some reason this seems to be a hard rule to incorporate around the churches. I have noticed that St. James has the same problem that SEAS has with this. Anytime there is a non-school activity in the church or social hall here or at St. James it seems that parents lose their common sense and let their children run in the social hall, the hallways, the bathroom and even the church. Maybe it is because they think that since there aren't any teachers present the rules don't count. Running in any building besides a gym is dangerous. It is actually more dangerous when it isn't a school because there are more generations present. Little children don't tend to watch were they are going. The faster they are going the more dangerous they become to themselves and others. Playgrounds are outside. We all need to help in keeping that standard. How many of you would allow your children to throw a football in your living room? And yet I have parents walk right by as their children are playing football in the hallway next to the social hall. Or they think it is cute when the children are playing tag inside. I don't know which would be worse, having one of them run headlong into a brick wall or through a glass panel. I hope I don't have to find out. Please help in this area.

Another area of safety that has come up occasionally is with people begging in the church parking lot or by the church. We have had this several times over the past few weeks. With the economy the way it is this may be happening more and more. We need to be helpful and generous to those in need, but we also need to be thinking of people's safety. If you spot someone who is in need please have them come and see me or one of the deacons. It is never good to start a policy of having them feel it is good to see if they can collect from as many people as possible. We need to have one person responsible. If you want to be generous give to the St. Vincent de Paul services in our parish. That is what we connect them with when they need help. Again it is important to think in terms of the most vulnerable and what our actions might set up in terms of their safety. In this situation that is our children and our senior citizens. This can be very frightening and intimidating for them. So remember, connect those who need help on the weekend with me or a deacon.

Also remember that next weekend is the picnic, so there is no 5:30pm Sunday Mass. I will be outside waiting for you to come and enjoy the fun with the rest of us.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank