

Aug. 29-30, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Well we all survived the parish picnic. I did have to laugh at the weather forecast. It hit 89 degrees last Sunday and all the chatter was about how hot that was. Three days later they were talking about the forecast for the football game in Lincoln and how it would be nice because it would only get to 85 degrees. That's four degrees difference. It makes me wonder what would happen if global warming would actually hit.

I want to thank everyone who was working on the picnic, raffle, and baskets and bundles. Deacon John Dagerman and his crew, Rita Dolan and her raffle helpers, and Crystal Anderson and her basket-fillers. There should be a report on how things went in the coming weeks. I just appreciate all the people who are willing to set up, clean up and generally work like crazy. Resting from all of that should make this Labor Day a real joy.

It was also fun watching all the children enjoy themselves at this parish event. The junior high and high school students did a great job of helping out at the booths. The younger children were just having a great time. This is something that people can take for granted. It is critical for young people to feel needed in the activities of an organization otherwise they look other places for meaning in their lives.

This even applies to family life. In my homily last week I mentioned that children should have chores and jobs to do at home for the family. This is not for the purpose of helping them understand that you have the power to make them your slave laborers. Of course that is what they may think at the time. At least that was what I thought my Dad had in mind for us as I was growing up with my brothers and sister. But we did all come to understand that to be needed is a great feeling. This is different than being "WANTED". That is only supposed to happen when we are in big trouble.

My Dad made it very clear that he couldn't do all the work himself and neither could Mom. We had to do our part or we would be in trouble as a family. On the farm that was very evident. There were always things that needed to be done. If they didn't get done there would be a price to pay. Sometimes some of the animals that we were supposed to be taking care of would pay that price. That always woke us up to the consequences of our actions.

God made Adam and then all of us stewards of this world. There is no doubt that He could do it all without our help. But He is a good enough parent to teach us these lessons. So He lets some things go so we learn responsibility. Each of us needs to ask ourselves how well we are learning that lesson. That is why people who complain about their parish, usually end up with a job. I'm pretty sure that if you complain to God He suggests the same thing. It is just that we don't always listen to Him. For example, we might be complaining that our government isn't working. What is your voting record? What do you do to pressure our leaders to act uprightly?

Next Sunday, 9/7, and 7:30pm, Fr. Michael Voithofer will be having another ABLAZE Worship at SEAS. This worship time is to help people come to a deeper encounter with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. The prayer and music is very spirit filled. It will go until about 9 or 9:30pm. There is a beautiful web-site, [www.ablazeworship.org](http://www.ablazeworship.org), to help understand the prayer and to help get connected with the ministry. It also gives the schedule for these prayer-times between now and the end of December. The rest of them this year will be at St. James where Fr. Michael works as the new Associate Pastor.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank