

March 7-8, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

First a couple of quick bits of information. Next weekend I will be the Spiritual Director for the Women's C.E.C. Weekend. So I will be gone from Friday evening until Sunday night. I will be back for the Bible Study but that this all.

Also please remember that Fr. John and I will be giving information after the 11am Mass this weekend in the Parish Hall on his studies and how it has prepared him for the work he will be doing in his Diocese of Togo. This will be a change to hear about what he hopes to accomplish and how you can help. His project will be a blessing for the priests in Togo for decades to come. If you want a way to make a difference with a contribution, this is a great opportunity.

I have news for all of you who are frustrated that you can't be at the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Hanefeldt. His Ordination and Installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Island will be telecast live on the Nebraska Television Network (NTV) and affiliate stations on Thursday, March 19. The service will begin at 2p.m.

Remember that this Thursday, 3/12, I will be gathering the people who are interested in being on a committee to look at the details of the stained-glass window project. We will meet at 7pm in the Parish Hall. The town hall meeting on this issue and the new priest issue is Sunday, March 22, after the 11am Mass in the church.

Fr. James Rafferty did a wonderful job for our parish mission. That all happened due to the hard work of Deacon Duane Karmazin, Chris Berens for contacting Fr. James, and the rest of the Liturgy Committee. Putting on these kind of spiritually uplifting things is such a blessing for our parish.

Last but not least there has been a lot of things in the news this past week concerning the so-called same sex marriage. I will leave it up to you to keep yourself informed concerning the steps that have been happening to open the door to this in Nebraska. This is a very difficult issue. The Catholic Church is very clear on its teaching that there is no sin in having a same-sex attraction. But it is also very clear that acting this out is in the same category as sex before marriage, adultery, etc.

One of the reasons this is so difficult is because we see ourselves as good people but we have also been enculturated to make decisions with our feelings instead of looking for the truth. Just think of how reporting happens for any big news story. The first question is always "How do you feel about this?" That becomes the focus rather than what actually is happening and what are the actual consequences of it. It is getting to the point in which we will convince ourselves that whatever makes us feel bad should be stopped. Guilt makes us feel bad. It is supposed to make us feel bad. That is what God has put into our consciences so that we will realize that we need to stop certain behaviors.

In this issue most people decide on it according to their feelings. Those with same-sex attraction feel that it is only fair that they should be able to act out their feelings of love in the way they desire. Those who are homophobic feel that they have the right to be cruel to someone they see as different. The truth is in looking at the situation without letting our feelings control us. The Catholic Church has literally had centuries to do just that. Our current "swayed by your feelings" culture hasn't.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank