

April 25-26, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Thirty-seven young people made their 1st Communion in our parish this past weekend. On Friday Archbishop Emeritus Curtiss was here for Confirmation. Baptism along with these two sacraments are called the Sacraments of Initiation. Each one brings a person further into the Church, the family of God. Baptism is our adoption into the royal family. We become royalty because it is a kingdom after all. Communion is the Royal banquet where we dine with the King and He actually gives us Himself as the food. It is a very rich food. In Confirmation the special gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to help the family member realize that they must take conscious responsibility for the family.

This is a huge step. It is a rite of passage from one way of looking at life to another. As a child our parents take responsibility for us. As adults we must take responsibility for our own actions. It does not all happen magically or spontaneously. It is a different way of looking at things that we must grow into. There are many young people who take on a lot of responsibility. There are a lot of adults who constantly duck their responsibilities. Jesus gives us an example of two sons who are asked to act responsibly. One says he will and then doesn't do the work. The other says he won't but then decides to work in the vineyard. The judgement goes much better for the second one. It would be even better if we said yes to the Lord and followed through without balking like so many of us had trouble with as children. By the way, if anyone is looking for ways to help with the family of God let me know. There is always plenty of work in the parish and in many different areas that the family tries to work with, like stopping Planned Parenthood from killing potential members of the family.

Sunday afternoon I am hoping to head down south. I haven't had a day off in a while so I am going to visit my brother and his family, and my nephew and his wife. They are in the Kansas City area. From there I will make a quick stop at Conception Seminary. There is no one from the parish at that seminary but there are some from the Archdiocese of Omaha. I won't be able to get to Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis but I am happy to announce that Fr. Ben Boyd is making that trip during the same days, so our other guys will be covered. I had been to St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, MN last fall.

It is so that I can take a day off, and Fr. Cleary can also, that we will probably be dropping the 7:00am weekday Mass. I still don't know when exactly that will happen but I will keep you informed through this letter. In case you haven't noticed this is my main avenue of communication to you as parishioners. All of the letters from previous weeks are on the parish web-site. I emphasize this because there are obviously some who seem to be surprised by the stained-glass window result. Because they have not been following the letters and they think of it as a surprise even though I have been writing about it for over a year and a half and the Parish Council minutes have been mentioning it for that long also. They also didn't notice the pictures that have been on the web-site with information for months after the power-point presentation that I did after the Masses months ago. I do understand the fear of computers because I live with it. But that just means that these letters become that much more important.

Also please remember that the Sunday morning Mass times will switch to 8am and 11am as of June 6-7. This is partially because Fr. John will actually be gone most weekends starting the last weekend in May.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank