

Feb.28-Mar. 1, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Now that we have the word out on the "Light is On" confession schedule we can change it. There will be no confessions on March 19. Fr. John and I will both be going to the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Hanefeldt. There will be a communion service at 5:30pm that evening.

As I mentioned earlier Fr. John will be giving a presentation next Sunday March 8 in the Parish Hall right after the 11:00am Mass. I will be the moderator but he will give a short presentation on his studies at Creighton University the past few years. Then he will present what he will be doing with that work as he heads back to Togo, West Africa this summer. He is hoping to get support for one of the main projects that he has been setting up and will be using and providing in his home diocese. He is putting together a Theological library that will be used by the seminarians, priests and laity in his country. They come from a long tradition of an oral culture rather than the written word. This has meant that the seminarians and the priests have been trying to learn what they need to know theologically directly from their professors without the aid of reference books or even the writings of the Church Fathers and Spiritual guides that have come forward in the church. This project is going to cost around \$25,000 because it will mean starting from scratch. They do not even have book shelves in the seminary because there have been no books.

There would be the possibility of donating books from over here but the language that they know is French. So Fr. John has gathered some donated books from friends in France but the rest he needs our help. We will have information on how you can make donations to this project between now and when he leaves at the presentation and in the bulletin. The second collection for March 15 is for Catholic Relief Services. But I would like to have the second collections from March 22 and 29 set aside for this project. I will make sure you have warning on this as we get to those weekends.

The parish mission starts this weekend. Fr. Rafferty is well known among the Institute for Priestly Formation people around the country. I hope that your taste of his homily at the Masses this weekend will convince you to spend the next three evenings deepening your spiritual growth this Lent.

Much of what I do for the season of Lent is to offer as much of my time as possible to hear confessions at the parishes and schools in our area. Part of the beauty of this Sacrament goes back to my theme last year of us being princesses and knights in shining armor. This is our destiny in God's mind. He loves having us come to Reconciliation so we can have our princess outfits and armor cleaned up. It is a similar pride that a parent has when their sons and/or daughters have been working hard but get messed up in the process and then come in to get cleaned up for a formal family photo. That photo is their reminder of what their family is at their best. After we have had our cleaning through this wonderful Sacrament we also are at our best and God loves seeing us this way. He knows how tough this combat zone is and He is trying to help us be our best so we can achieve our ultimate dignity with Him. I hope that you will all be taking advantage of this Sacrament this season of Lent.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank