

April 18-19, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

The stand-up vote on the stained-glass windows project was completed by the Parish Council last weekend. The results are fairly clear with a vote of 400 for the windows and 103 against. This is basically 4 to 1 in favor. So now it is a matter of getting started. We will start collecting donations specifically to have a window as a memorial and any other donations. This will be a matter of putting in as many as people are willing to pay for. This way we are not making a mess of the parish budget.

I did start working on one of the projects that was brought up with the Ignite the Faith Campaign. We are to get 10% of that money back from the Archbishop as the pledges are fulfilled. We have \$29,000 returned already. So I have been working on organizing the lighting project of replacing the 50 ceiling lights that keep the nave of the church lit. These are currently using expensive incandescent lights that are costing almost \$5,000 per year for replacing the ones that go out. The goal was to replace these with the new LED lights that are more energy efficient and versatile. At first I was worried that this kind of lighting is so new that the cost would be prohibitive and that the technology had not been perfected enough to risk a lot of money. I have been working with an architectural firm that has shown me what the latest technology provides. As we get more information I will explain what is available at the end of some of the weekend Masses. The estimated cost of this project seems to be around \$55,000. That is obviously more than we have from the return on the pledges, but there is some money available to supplement the shortfall with this project. The reason that I decided to work on this project first is that it will end up saving the parish about \$300 per month on our utility bill without the replacement costs we have now. As that gets into gear we should be able to save up for the restroom renovation project and even a possible roof project. These are all things that I am constantly juggling with the help of the Finance Committee to make sure we don't over stretch the budget.

On the good news side we are getting closer to ordination season. Our seminarian Joe Sund has been doing a pastoral year at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Next Sunday, 4/26, at their 10:45am Mass Joe will be doing his official Oath of Fidelity. This is much like what a priest who is going to become a pastor of a parish does before he takes over as pastor. I did that in November 2013 when the Archbishop pasteurized me. Joe is not being made a pastor but when he gets ordained a transitional deacon at 7:00pm on 5/29 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, he will become an official teacher for the church. So this oath is his promise to be faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. You are invited to be there for Mass at St. Vincent de Paul next Sunday. After his ordination Deacon Joe Sund will serve and preach at his first Mass as a deacon at 11:00am May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is another important event you should put on your calendar.

One other idea has come up that I want to offer to you and it won't even cost you anything except maybe a stamp. Someone mentioned that it might be nice to put together a little book of pictures of Father/Msgr./Bishop Hanefeldt. This is something that I have done in other circumstances and it doesn't take me very long. If you have a picture of him at some sacramental event with your family while he was here and you want it in the book for him, just bring it or send it to the office with all the appropriate names available and an address on it, and I will get it done and maybe make it an early Christmas present for him from the parish.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank