

June 14, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

I hate wasting paper and we had this flyer for “Habitat for Humanity” with one side blank so I thought that I would give you an update on the stained-glass window project. At their last meeting the Parish Council had Kevin Clark make a presentation. He has Clark-Architects Collaborative in Lincoln, which is a firm that does a lot of work with Churches. They recently did the work for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Newman Center in Lincoln. His presentation on the history of church architecture was very helpful in seeing how different generations have been influenced as they built worship space. You can look on the web for Clark-Architects.com to see some pictures. Kevin will be giving a similar presentation at SEAS on Sunday, July 14, between the 8 & 11am Masses. It will be in the Parish Hall and there will be an opportunity for questions.

This is a part of what the Parish Council is trying to do to respond to some of the concerns that were brought up in the town hall meeting. Because one concern was that we have an architect, with experience in church work, look at the proposal.

There has also been another part of the proposal that needs updating. There are two churches that we were looking at as sources for these windows, St. Patrick and St. Rose of Lima. I am sorry to say that we no longer have access to the St. Rose of Lima windows. Because we were moving cautiously with this project their church building has since been sold to a developer who is probably going to make it into a day-care. But the building was sold to him “as is” or in other words he now owns the windows. My worry is that someday they will end up in some bar or on ebay. I will be watching as that develops, but for now those are out of the picture. The windows from St. Patrick’s Church are still available. There are ten of them, Annunciation, Nativity, Resurrection, Ascension, the child Jesus teaching in the temple, St. Paul teaching in Athens, St. Peter receiving the keys to heaven, the Good Shepherd, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jesus with the children, and angel giving communion, and the Baptism of Jesus. There are also ones of St. Anthony and St. Catherine of Alexandria which we might not use. Actually we would only use the ones for which we receive donations.

Another concern that people had was that this money should be going to the poor. This is one thing that I can clarify very quickly. The average cost of each of these windows is \$6,000. Installation would average another \$9,000. In answer to those who are concerned for the poor you need to know where the \$6,000 would go for each of those windows. The parish of St. Patrick’s was supporting All Saints Elementary School, which has one of the highest percentage of students on free and reduced lunches and one of the most diverse ethnic groups of students. In other words there is poverty and many of the students are either African American, recent African immigrant, or Hispanic. The money from those windows would go to help with that school. I don’t know of any more worthy causes or more effective ways to end poverty than schools like this. Contrast this with the proposal that we buy all new stained-glass windows. Where would that money go? It is for that reason that after serving as pastor of Holy Name for seven years, which was in a similar situation; that I get frustrated when I hear all the accusations of how I don’t understand the poor and am not conscious of their needs.

One other thing that the Parish Council suggested that I am following up with, is to have a window covering installed temporarily to help those who are concerned with the look of these windows fitting into our structure artistically. This should be in place in time for the Kevin Clark presentation.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank