

Sept. 19-20, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

This weekend you will notice a lot of books in the narthex of the church. These have been brought in by many of our parishioners who have had a chance to read these great books and now want you to have a chance to do the same. You can pick up a couple of these books that interest you so you can update or energize your faith. It is a great opportunity. One person asked if we could make this into a kind of fundraiser for the parish. For now I am going to trust in generosity. If you have been inspired by one or more of the books, simply show your gratitude by dropping a couple extra dollars into the collection.

That is actually how generosity of Christians is supposed to work anyway. We should not feel like we are buying our way into heaven. We should be giving to show our gratitude for what God has already given us. This is the idea behind tithing. God gives us everything we have and we show our generosity by giving 10% back to God. In turn He keeps giving us more and more until He gives us eternal life with Him in heaven. Then we spend the rest of eternity with the joy of understanding real gratitude.

You should have already received the Archbishop's mailing to see if you are grateful for the work of the Archdiocese. It is that time of the year when we have the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. This weekend we have Doug Foley from the Archdiocesan Finance Office to be a personal representative of the Archbishop and his staff. He is a sign of the Archbishop's gratitude for how this parish has been generous enough to give over 110% of our annual goal for the last years. I know some of the parishes that really struggle to even come close to meeting their own needs and have little left to contribute to the Archdiocese. SEAS'S generous spirit has helped compensate for some of those situations.

It is also important to realize all that the Archdiocese does to help our parish with our work. St. James/Seton School received a tremendous gift from the "Ignite the Faith" Campaign. We received about \$60,000 to help set up the pre-school for this year. The annual appeal funds help with coordinating programming for our school through the Catholic School's Office and for our P.R.E. through the Religious Education Office. They also support my work in supporting marriage, all the way from marriage prep, through counseling services for couples, to support services for separated, widowed or divorced Catholics.

Our parish is also a benefit to the Archdiocese because of our social hall. Over the past years there have been many different events that the Archdiocese put on that were held here because it is set up so well. So we help the Archdiocese help people from around the area in areas like Catholic Charities, Music in Catholic Schools, and marriage prep, etc. You may not realize just how important our parish is to the greater Archdiocese. I am well aware of its impact, which is getting stronger all the time.

In line with this I do want to remind everyone that we do have bills to pay in the parish. We are certainly not in any crisis but we have been running short between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per week for almost a year now. To make ends meet we would have to have every one of the 1300 families in the parish contribute \$15 per week. That is not likely to happen because many families do not or cannot contribute in this way. That leaves the rest of us trying to compensate. But that is where this generosity comes in. We give 10% of what God gives, some to the parish and some to other places like the Archdiocese.

I had the session last Sunday for the lectors and EMHCs. We did not have any altar servers come. From that session I will update the handout that I had by adding responses to some of the questions that came up. I will let you know when that is finished and will then set up another session, probably some evening.

Seminarian Conor Bopp had his first class on Papal Social Encyclicals. It went well. It is okay to join in on these classes at any time. They do not necessarily follow on each other. He starts at 9:30am on Sundays.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank