

Sept. 26-27, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

I hope you have had a chance to keep up with some of the things that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has been doing during his trip to the U.S.A. My personal observation was that he started slow and gradually began to hit some of his issues harder and harder. While he was at the White House he was the usual friendly, loving pope that we are used to seeing. I imagine that this was to build up the excitement of his visit, which wasn't too hard to do with his personality. Of course this got all of the liberal media tuned into him because they thought that he really was on their side. All their ideas seemed to be coming true about his being the pope that would change all those nasty rules that the Church teaches.

Then he got to his presentation at Congress and he subtly blasted them. It wasn't aggressive or anything like that but he made it very clear where he and the Church stood. I would love to have been a fly on the wall at some of those press meetings when they realized that he wasn't falling for their ideas of a "new church." But now they had just gotten done praising him and it was hard for them to know what to do. It will be interesting to see how it all spins out.

EWTN also had some of the talks from the World Meeting of Families. I was able to watch a little of Helen Alvare's keynote address. It was awesome. Now I will have to see if she has any books out. She came out to talk to the priests of the Archdiocese about ten years ago. This will also be interesting to watch how this affects things. She was so good at outlining how so many of our experiments with social reconstruction of the family have proven to be disastrous. Now if we can just admit our mistakes instead of going full speed ahead into deeper hurt and harm.

You might have noticed from the monthly calendar that this Sunday I will be leaving for vacation and retreat. I will be going on a Holland America Mediterranean Cruise. One of the perks of being a priest is that this cruise line will pay a priest to provide daily and weekend Masses with a free cruise. Most other cruise lines only have priests on board for Christmas and Easter cruises. It is great for me because I get to meet people from all over the country and the world and see how the Catholic Church is going in their dioceses. I have lots of time for prayer and exercise and as I have mentioned before, I even tend to lose weight because I tend to eat healthier. I watch what the dancers on board eat and mimic them because I know they are really health conscious and have to be on board for six months or more as a part of the crew. I will also be a part of the crew but only be for two weeks.

One of the things that I am hoping will work out is to attend the 1st Mass for Tobias Letak who will be ordained a deacon in Rome on October 1st. I didn't get to Fr. Matt Niggemeyer's deacon ordination last year and will miss this ordination also but will be in Rome on October 2nd so I will hopefully be able to go to his first Mass. It will be at St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, which I have been to and I know it is an amazingly beautiful church. I will be back late on October 14th. Please pray that it is a safe trip. There is a lot going on in that area of the world. Hopefully I can come back with a better understanding of their situation. The ship will be stopping in areas in Spain, France, Italy and Greece.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank