

Feb. 13-14, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Just another quick reminder to sign up to participate in the Archbishop's listening session on Wednesday, 2/24, at St. Roberts. He is working on a five year plan by coming up with three top priorities for the Archdiocese. Your input makes a difference.

You might have noticed in the February calendar of Masses that there is a 5:30pm Mass scheduled for Friday nights before Stations of the Cross. This is not a mistake. I will be doubling up on Masses on another day of the week during Lent. This way you can attend Mass and then stay for Stations of the Cross on these Fridays that remind us so vividly of what Jesus did for us.

In this Year of Mercy the Holy Father, Pope Francis, is really pushing the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Archdiocese of Omaha has been doing that during Lent for several years. It is called the *Light Is On*. What it means is that just about every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese has a priest available in the church for Reconciliation from 5-7pm every Thursday during Lent. SEAS already has confessions at 5pm on weekdays and then Mass. This does not change. We just add an hour from 6-7pm in which Fr. Don or I are available after the 5:30pm Mass. In terms of this I came up with a new motto for the Pope, *Use It or Lose It*. In other words use the Sacrament of Reconciliation or lose your chance at heaven. Somehow I don't expect him to pick that phrase up anytime soon, but you never know.

I hope you have been reading the Rediscovering Jesus book that you got for Christmas. I had mine done in about two days. If not it is a great Lenten meditation read. There is plenty in there to pray about. I also hope that you have opened *formed.org* and are checking out some of those materials. After all, we are already several days into Lent. By the way, you can go to dynamiccatholic.com and sign up for Best Lent Ever. This makes it so you can get an e-mail from Dynamic Catholic with a short video clip every day during Lent.

Last but not least in this oddly short letter I ask that you pray especially hard for the priests during this season of Lent. I just checked my calendar and I have twenty extra times booked to hear confession beyond what Fr. Don and I do in hearing confessions before each Mass. It is a tremendous blessing to know that God's grace is flowing through each priest as they minister in this sacrament. What I am asking is that you pray that the Holy Spirit will be with each of us as we work within this sacrament so that each person feels that mercy that God is extending.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank