

May 21-22, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Just another quick reminder that this is Conor Bopp's last weekend at SEAS. Be sure and sign the poster for him in the narthex. There will also be a little reception after the 5:30pm Sunday Mass this weekend.

Next weekend will be the book sharing opportunity. You can drop books off at the office or set them outside the overflow/cry-room. I will get them sorted out so you can choose a good one for your summer reading.

Also this Friday, 5/27, at 7pm is the ordination of Nicholas Mishek to the diaconate. The Cathedral will have plenty of space for anyone who would like to attend and see this wonderful liturgy. Just a warning the priesthood ordination on Saturday, 6/4, is for six young men and so may be more crowded. Next year's ordination will be far less crowded. Ordinations are an amazing experience. Then the following note comes from Deacon Joe Sund.

It is with great joy that I am able to write to you! After eight years of preparation, Archbishop Lucas will ordain me to the Sacred Priesthood on Sat. June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at St. Cecilia Cathedral with five other men for the Archdiocese of Omaha. On Sun. June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, I will celebrate my first Mass here at St. Elizabeth Ann. There will be a light reception after both events and you are more than welcome to attend either. Archbishop Lucas has informed me that effective July 1<sup>st</sup> I will be the Associate Pastor at St. Vincent de Paul. I am very excited about my upcoming assignment! God bless all of you and thank you for your many prayers over these eight years. Please keep me in prayer as I approach the day of my ordination.

You will notice that we have appointees ready to take on the tasks of Parish Council and the Total Board of Education (T.B.O.E.). Because there were just enough for the open slots we do not need an election. Their bios will help you to get to know a little about each of them so you can recognize them and approach them over the next few years as they serve. I am very grateful for their interest as I am thankful for those who have been serving these last few years. The Council members who will be replaced by these new members are Becky Weitzel, Tony Hall, Paul Santos, and Sam Jizba who was president. Carolyn Mueller will be leaving before her term is up because of family reasons. Tom Schrad will go from vice-president to president. The other members who will continue are David Spargo, Cathy Keisling, Shelly Gray, Meg Peterson, David Lamoreaux and Mike Haley.

One the flip side of this letter is one from our Archbishop and Bishop Richard Malone. It should be self-explanatory but I just want to add a simple observation. The Church continues to be slammed for not standing up for the rights of certain groups. In reality we are trying to look out for many different people who are being ignored. The right for a person to have an abortion denies the right of the baby being killed. The rights of those struggling with transgender issues can totally deny the rights of those who have been abused and hurt by members of the opposite sex. I know I was not the only one who was tremendously self-conscious as a young person. I know many people who have been traumatized and would receive more trauma if they had to shower with a person whose appearance was that of the opposite sex. It seems our government is only looking out for what they perceive as the rights of a few at the cost of the normal rights of many. So I appreciate the work of our bishops in standing up for all people.

## **Bishops respond to administration's guidance letter on Title IX**

### **Statement by Archbishop George Lucas and Bishop Richard Malone**

*Archbishop Lucas is the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education, and Bishop Malone of Buffalo is the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.*

**May 16, 2016**

The Catholic Church consistently affirms the inherent dignity of each and every human person and advocates for the well-being of all people, particularly the most vulnerable. Especially at a young age and in schools, it is important that our children understand the depth of God's love for them and their intrinsic worth and beauty. Children should always be and feel safe and secure and know they are loved.

The guidance issued May 13 by the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education that treats "a student's gender identity as the student's sex" is deeply disturbing. The guidance fails to address a number of important concerns and contradicts a basic understanding of human formation so well expressed by Pope Francis: that "the young need to be helped to accept their own body as it was created" (*Amoris Laetitia* [AL], no. 285).

Children, youth, and parents in these difficult situations deserve compassion, sensitivity, and respect. All of these can be expressed without infringing on legitimate concerns about privacy and security on the part of the other young students and parents. The federal regulatory guidance issued on May 13 does not even attempt to achieve this balance. It unfortunately does not respect the ongoing political discussion at the state and local levels and in Congress, or the broader cultural discussion, about how best to address these sensitive issues. Rather, the guidance short-circuits those discussions entirely.

As Pope Francis has recently indicated, "biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished *but not separated*" (AL, no. 56, emphasis added). We pray that the government make room for more just and compassionate approaches and policies in this sensitive area, in order to serve the good of all students and parents, as well as the common good. We will be studying the guidance further to understand the full extent of its implications.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank