

June 25-26, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

It was wishful thinking on my part that I would be able to give you a fiscal yearend statement and a budget for next year by this weekend. I will get it to you ASAP but I will wait until the year is over and the last of the collections are accounted for. I really do appreciate that many of you tried to put a little extra into the collection these past two weeks. This weekend's second collection will go towards Peter's Pence, or to help Pope Francis with his charitable works. But do know that anytime there isn't a special need assigned for the second collection, it goes toward keeping the parish budget in line. Hopefully over the next year we can find a way to keep things on track. I do realize how many of you are feeling the pinch of an economy that isn't keeping up with expenses.

I also know that you are being pulled by many different groups and organizations to help with their worthy needs. There are so many good causes. Speaking of worthy causes, next weekend, July 2-3, will be when we have our annual Mission Appeal. Each year we are assigned a particular mission by the Propagation of the Faith Office for the Archdiocese of Omaha. Last year we supported the Sisters in Nigeria. This year we will be asked to help out the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales who work in many foreign missions. So Fr. Guillaume Kambounon, OSFS will be speaking at all the Masses. South Africa, Namibia, Benin, Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, India, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Ukraine, Phillippines, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are some of the places they work.

For example, in 2003, Father William Gore established a new foundation in the western part of Ukraine, an area where the communists inflicted their greatest persecution upon the Christian people of that country. Four years earlier, DeSales Oblates from Brazil began evangelization programs in the slums of Manta, Ecuador. Fr. Tom Hagan is nationally known for his apostolate among the poorest people of Haiti. For the last fifty years, Fathers Harry Schlight and Robert Hindley have labored in the Namib Desert among the poor of South Africa, especially during their years of suffering under the racist apartheid regime.

This is just one of the examples of how the Catholic Church is constantly working with the poor around the world, just like our own St. Vincent de Paul Organization works with the poor in our parish neighborhood. This will be our last specially assigned second collection until October so all of the second collections during these next months will go toward the parish budget.

As I have been praying for so many of you and your families as you have told me about different needs you have, I now ask for your prayers for my nephew in Colorado who died last Saturday night. He was married with no children and the cause of his death will not be completely understood until the autopsy report, which might take a couple months. It is not like CSI. But since he was only 35 years old it was a very tragic loss.

In more good news, the Omaha priests gave the Lincoln priests a run for their money for two whole innings. If it weren't for the next three innings we would have beat them. But I am hoping you took my advice and didn't bet on us. My other prayers were answered and as pitcher I didn't bean Bishop Conley when he was batting. Since he was the pitcher when I was batting, I am glad he didn't bean me. It was a great game.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank