

June 4-5, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

This week it is good news and bad news. The good news is that by the time you are reading this SEAS will have had its third priesthood ordination in three years. Two years ago we had Fr. Ben Boyd. Last year we had Fr. Matt Niggemeyer. This year we have Fr. Joe Sund. And of course last week Nick Mishek was ordained a deacon so with God's help he will be our next priest from the parish. And we can't forget Scott Watts who should be ordained a deacon next May. I keep bringing this up because we should never take for granted how amazing this is. I can't imagine that there are even three parishes in the country that have had three priests in three years. And that record may go back over thirty years. I have no way of investigating that claim but I am fairly sure of its accuracy.

That was the good news. The bad news has to do with the nitty-gritty business of the parish. We are behind about \$40,000 on this year's bills. Where that shows up is in trying to pay the school subsidy to St. James/Seton. The good news is there is a little bit in our parish savings so the teachers will get paid. But we really need to try and catch up. The regular Sunday collection is always the best way to handle that, and I would appreciate any help you can give in that way. But the other thing that I want to push is the second collection. Many of our second collections go toward special needs. For instance, in three weeks, June 25-26, the second collection goes toward Peter's Pence. That is the money that the Pope uses to fund special needs around the world. That might be a flood in the Philippines or helping Christians in Iraq.

The next two weeks there is no special need so I will be announcing at all the Masses that the second collection is simply for catching up on our bills. If you can put in an extra \$20 and have a sandwich instead of going out to eat it will help. If you realize that filling your car's fuel tank cost you half of what it did a couple years ago and put the extra in the basket it would be great. We have a very tight budget so it is not being wasted. Hopefully I will have a budget report for the fiscal year available to you in the next six weeks or so.

I always appreciate those of you who really sacrifice in the scriptural way with tithing. That is a matter of giving one tenth of what we earn back to God. That was part of the message of the first reading for last Sunday. Melchizedek, King of Salem, offered bread and wine in his role as priest, at the request of Abram, in thanksgiving for the blessings he and Sara had received. Abram then gave Melchizedek one tenth of what he had to use for his work as priest. As a child I did not understand this concept. As an adult it makes sense. I have a far greater understanding of the blessings in my life and where they come from. I know that what I have does not just come because of how great I am, for I could just have easily have been born in a situation that would not have given me these blessings. So I keep trying to thank God for what He does for me by doing my best to help show His glory and help His other children who are in need.

That was even one of the many thoughts that went through my head as I was faced with the bank robber a few weeks ago. I thought about how the Archbishop would be able to do a few extra things with the money I would be leaving him through my estate. Since God got me through that situation I figure I was meant to keep giving of more than my estate. I need to keep giving of my time, talent and treasure that I have each day. In other words I will keep doing my part. I hope you can do yours.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank