

June 4-5, 2016

More thoughts from the pastor,

As you notice on the back of this letter we have an opportunity at SEAS and at St. James to participate in an Alan Ames Healing Service. Alan has been at SEAS before. I'm guessing it was about twelve years ago. Since then he has been in the Omaha area several times. He has been at the Cathedral several times and most recently at Our Lady of Lourdes. In about two weeks he will be here after the 5:30pm Saturday Mass.

If you have been at one of his talks you do not need an explanation. For those of you who haven't I can give you a few hints. He is a powerful speaker with an amazing testimony. He will encourage attendees to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. That is always a good idea but there are two reasons why it is more important to think about at this point. The first is that the service is about healing. The Church has always seen the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as going hand-in-hand. That is different than hand-in-glove in which one fits into the other. These two sacraments deal with healing from a different perspective. Reconciliation heals us spiritually. The Anointing is to heal us physically but they both recognize that they overlap.

A person who is having physical difficulties tends to be open to attacks from the devil, who tries to get us to feel sorry for ourselves and medicate it by some sin. A person who is deeply into sin finds that they will be tempted to give up on themselves which causes problems with their physical health. That may show up in what we call stress related symptoms. This description is obviously simplified but I hope it is clear.

Alan Ames focuses on that connection in his own particular style and tries to help people find healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. In part of the service he will invite people to come up and be prayed over. He has been blessed by the Holy Spirit in that there have been many different kinds of healing that have happened in these services. To help with this there will be several priests available to help me with confessions during the service.

The second reason that Reconciliation this is especially important for us at this time has to do with the ordinations. As I mentioned last year there is a Plenary Indulgence attached to the blessing of a newly ordained priest. Many of you will be attending Deacon Joe Sund's ordination to become Fr. Joe Sund, or you will be at his First Mass. At either one you will receive his blessing. If you add the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Communion, and then prayers for the intention of Pope Francis, you will receive that indulgence. This extra opportunity for Reconciliation is just another time when I can enjoy saying one of my favorite sayings: "Don't you just love it when a plan comes together."

As I lay this all out for you I have a request that goes with it. I will need some help during the Alan Ames Service. There will be a couple tables set up with the books and videos that the flyer says he will be selling. I need some volunteers to work at those tables. I also need a couple strong men to help with the "catching" of people during the service, for occasionally the moment of healing is accompanied by the reality of what is called resting in the Spirit. Catchers help so a new injury is not incurred. Let me know if you can help with either of these.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank