

July 9-10, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Just a reminder this weekend there will be an appeal for "Habitat for Humanity". So the second collection next weekend will be for their efforts. And as I mentioned last weekend I will be gone this weekend to be a chaperone for the Steubenville Youth Conference. So if you do happen to see me it is because I missed the bus. Our summer seminarian, Patrick Moser, will also be helping with that. Since the departure time was very early on a Friday morning I depended on him to make sure I got up on time. By the time you read this I will be hearing confessions for the young people.

Having Patrick around this summer has been a blessing. Many of you have seen him out working with me. He has a lot more stamina than I do so he is out longer than I am. Conor Bopp was around for a summer like that and then a whole school year, as his pastoral year. Before that, space in the rectory was used by visiting priests from other countries. These visitors make for interesting conversations in the rectory. When we had Fr. Fred from Uganda or Fr. Philip John from Pakistan, for a couple summers, the conversations were about the church around the world. Having Fr. Guillaume from Benin here last weekend for the mission appeal reminded me of that.

The Church does amazing work around the world. More and more it seems like the Catholic Church is the one wall of defense against the chaos that is happening in the world. The previous popes talked about the culture of death. With surgical and chemical abortions, euthanasia, genocide and other atrocities; the world is a scary place. But there is another subset of this chaos. It is the culture of sex. The Church tries so hard to help people understand what a great gift our sexuality is to us. The world keeps encouraging it to be far less than a beautiful gift but rather a toy to be played with. The problem with this is that sex is no longer seen as something special but rather like a very popular app that is used for pleasure whenever and wherever one feels like they need a mood lift.

These priests from foreign countries talk about the devastation this is causing. The thousands of families that are being destroyed by prostitution, sex-slave traffic, incest and more; is just the beginning of the devastation. Over here we have pornography and the "hook-up" culture. I just heard on "The World Over Live" with Raymond Arroyo that teenagers that have visited a Planned Parenthood Clinic get tweets from PPH every week. The theme of these tweets is to hook-up and enjoy. I'm sure that helps keep them in business with many abortions.

The other exciting and terrifying news that was on that program was that teens can now set up a chemical abortion with their smart phone. They make a contact with a PPH nurse who then arranges to send them the abortion pill RU 486. They can send it to any address, a friend's house, the boyfriend's address, etc. That way the parents don't have to be in the loop. If you don't believe me just do an internet search for "RU 486 online." So whether it is in a foreign country or in this country, we have a sex culture that is destroying us and the Church is the one institution that stands firm against it. So from this you can guess that the seminarians and I do not talk about sports statistics.

Next weekend we start "Totus Tuus" or totally yours. As an added bonus from 7/16 through 7/24 there will be a banner display on Eucharistic Miracles that everyone can view. They had been up at KVSS during June but we get them for a week. The children will be able to study them during the week but you will have two weekends to look at as many as you have time for. They are a powerful reminder that Jesus meant it when he said the words: "This is my body."

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank