

July 2-3, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

It is a little scary that we are already into July. One month of summer is gone. There are a lot of opportunities to live out your faith this month. One of the flyers in this bulletin is about the movie "Apparition Hill." As you can see it is only showing three times. It is about seven people who each experienced something powerful at Medjugorje. I hope you can go to one of the showings. Because of the fact that the visions are still continuing the Church continues to caution people about presuming that it is verified by Rome. The Church can't make a decision on something that is ongoing any more than it can declare a person is a Saint until after they die and all the information is in. But the reality so far is that many, many miracles, many conversions, and many vocations have come from the experiences in Medjugorje.

In that same time period there is also a presentation by Matthew Kelly. His visit to Omaha is on Saturday, July 23 from 6pm-10:30pm at the Ralston Arena. He is a very dynamic speaker. Many of you have read a book or two by him like Rediscovering Catholicism or Rediscovering Jesus. He has some very good materials available. I have listened to some of his CDs and read those two books and they are very good. Ticket price is \$39. This includes music by Eiot Morris. You can pick up a flyer in the church narthex or for more information or to purchase tickets, see www.DynamicCatholic.com/Omaha or call 858-980-7900.

As I mentioned before we have Fr. Guillaume Kambounon of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales preaching this weekend. This is our annual mission appeal. The second collection will be toward their work.

Next weekend there will be an appeal for "Habitat for Humanity". SEAS has helped put up a house for a family every year for quite a while. So the second collection next weekend will be for their efforts. Also next weekend I will be attending the Steubenville Conference with many of the youth from our parish and young people from around the Midwest. I have been to one of these before and it is a great experience for them. My being there is mostly to hear confessions and to help chaperone.

I was expecting to be gone this pre-4th of July weekend but the family event that I was going to was canceled. It is hard to have a family celebration so quickly after a family funeral. As I mentioned last weekend I had my nephew's funeral last Tuesday in Colorado. Having a funeral for any 35 year old is difficult but it is obviously harder with a family member. But for a tragedy I, as a priest, have the one truly meaningful message that can make sense of it. I have the word of God to guide people to understand death and resurrection. Who else has anything better to offer?

There is one other flyer that is in this bulletin. The parish website now has the option to give online. The flyer gives you the website and the instructions. It is simple enough for guys like me to do and that is saying a lot. There will be more information on this in future bulletins but you can even set up your Sunday donations to be automatically withdrawn. That part I have not tried yet but then I have been busy and this was just made available.

Last but not least, we celebrate Independence Day on Monday. It is a time to look at what we owe our country, not what our country owes us. This follows from how we look at our parish. It should not be what does my parish owe me, but what do I owe my parish. God blessed us first and we respond. Our country has blessed us in many ways. How do we respond? It should be trying to be a good citizen.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank