

Aug. 27-28, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

The last few days have been very busy. I think that means that summer is over. For me that means time in the classrooms, extra Masses and confessions and the full contingent of meetings. It is not that the summers are calm anymore. For priests there is always enough to keep busy up to 24 hours a day. But I did slack off the middle weeks of August and didn't schedule as much for myself. Also having Fr. Mario around was helpful because I wasn't doubling up for Masses the last week. But I am sorry to say that I have noticed that I have been crabbiest than usual. Most of the time that means there is grumbling going on in my head. Once in a while it escapes. That is not good. That is a sign for me to go on retreat. Normally I try to do that during the summer. That hasn't worked out so well lately. Last year it worked to use my vacation as the retreat. I was in holy places to it was very uplifting. There were no breaks this summer so I have been in the same boat. But God has blessed me and Fr. Mario will be able to cover for me while I go out to the Benedictine Retreat Center in Schuyler this week. I will be gone from Monday morning until Friday evening.

After I get back Fr. Don will head out to Neligh and Tilden to cover the weekend Masses so another priest could get away. When he gets back Fr. Mario will head out to see his family and friends in India. As mentioned, he will be gone for a month. A month after he gets back I will be able to go on vacation. As I mentioned there is always enough work to keep a priest busy 24 hours a day, but it is good news and good news. The good news is that working for God is never dull. The other good news is that I have been told that the reward is great in heaven.

While I am on retreat I will be working on putting a more complete summary of my thoughts on reaching out to our loved ones who are away from the faith. I hope to have that ready when I get back. I have still not had a chance to meet with my family members but hope to do that soon. God has to open the door or at least a window.

Last weekend I was out in Battle Creek and Schoolcraft, NE helping out my friend, Fr. Mike Malloy, after he had a pacemaker installed. He had bypass surgery this time last year and had complications. Hopefully this new appliance will assist him in his recovery. But it was a blessing to be able to go out there to help him out by having the Masses in those parishes of St. Patrick and St. Francis de Sales. It is calmer out there.

We have been blessed with an abundance of rain this summer. Living in the city it is easy to forget what a blessing this is. The crops look great. That is what the farmers depend on. Most of us just worry about our lawns. There is a big difference in the risk involved. So I am making sure to take time and thank God for His blessings.

I hope to see all of you at the picnic. The weather should be great. For those of you who are new to this, many people bring a shade tent and/or some lounge chairs and set up on the soccer field. With the nice grass, the shade trees, and hopefully a little breeze it makes for a relaxing day.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank