

Sept. 17-18, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

I have a few business items to mention to you this weekend. The first two are things that the Archbishop's office is warning us about. The first is:

"Alleged Catholic visionary Charlie Johnston is scheduled to speak October 1 at Elkhorn High School. Mr. Johnston claims to have received visions and messages from the Blessed Mother, the Archangel Gabriel and other saints since he was a child. He is known to make public predictions about events before they happen including warnings of civil war worldwide, cancellation of the U.S. presidential election in November 2016 and a claim that President Barack Obama will not finish his second term. Last year, he also wrote a two-part series on his blog detailing survival instruction on how to respond if the U.S. government were to begin rounding up conservative Christians and other citizens into detention camps. According to Johnston, God has appointed him to guide Americans through this turmoil to a rescue that will come in late 2017, when the Immaculate Heart of Mary visibly saves the world. Mr. Johnson's alleged visions and messages have not been approved, sanctioned, or endorsed by the Church. The Catholic faithful in Omaha and the surrounding area should approach his appearance with an appropriate level of caution and should continue to seek their hope and security in Jesus Christ, the sacraments and the Scriptures."

This announcement is important because some of our young people can be easily misled and even have to deal with unrealistic fears because of these predictions.

The second one is for those of you who get the Omaha World Herald. Last week there was a full-page ad in it promoting abortion by a group called Catholics for Choice. If you check them out on Wikipedia you will find out there is no real membership group at all, just a couple of big money people with corporate ties and other dissenters that obviously have a vested interest in promoting abortion or hurting the Catholic Church. Catholic teaching is very clear in its opposition to abortion.

The third thing is from the Archbishop but not a warning, just an opportunity. With the recent floods in Louisiana you are being given the opportunity to help out the people in that area. The collection will be held this week in many parishes. We will have it as our second collection next week because of all the other money talks we will have this week.

The fourth one is also from the Archbishop and is not new. You have seen notifications concerning the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. You should have received something in the mail recently. You have noticed things in the bulletin. You will have a video this weekend at Mass. The total appeal is for \$3,500,000. The parish goal for SEAS this year is \$81,207. This is higher than previous years. It had always been calculated on a formula involving regular Sunday giving. This year it is calculated on how each parish has done in previous years. SEAS has always been at about 110% of our goal so this year's goal is set at that point. The funds help Archdiocesan programs and keep the Archdiocesan tax on each parish a little lower.

A fifth one is to help those who are in need of post-abortion healing. The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat uses immersion in Scripture and the healing Sacraments, as well as a group dynamic for leading the women/men/couples to God's forgiveness and grace. This in turn helps them to forgive themselves. For contrary to mainstream media many men and women suffer greatly after abortion. They might even go to confession to know of God's forgiveness but still can't forgive themselves. The retreat will be Nov. 4-6, 2016, held near Omaha, \$200 per person. Email helpingrachel@yahoo.com or call Heather at 402-253-9936 or check out www.rachelsvineyard.org for more information."

Last but not least, is from me and the Finance Committee. This weekend we have a presentation by the Finance Committee on our parish's financial situation. Having the Archbishop's presentation and our parish talk was my idea. I figured Fr. Cleary is gone this weekend so as a retired priest he would not have to worry about this. He is constantly reminding me that he is glad he isn't a pastor anymore.

God bless you,

Fr. Frank