

Sept. 24-25, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Next weekend we start the temporary Mass schedule. Barring any other changes from above, from Oct. 2 until June 25 we will have a 9:30am Sunday Mass. There will also be a 7:00am Monday morning Mass. All of the other Masses will stay the same. With Fr. Mario around we will be able to cover these extra duties. As we go through these next nine months I will be asking for feedback concerning the schedule because the plan for Fr. Mario is that he will be ready to head back to a full-time workload next July. That will leave us old guys to handle things. That's Fr. Don and me in case you were wondering. I will be working with the Parish Council to see if we need to change the weekend schedule we have had this past year.

It was interesting having Dave Fucinaro from the Finance Committee give the financial state-of-the-parish address at each of the Masses this past weekend. He attended all four of the Masses. His comments on that experience were interesting. You might check with him concerning his thoughts on how his idea of what priests must go through each weekend have changed a little.

One of the reasons I entered the seminary was because I thought that a priest's work was easy. From my perspective at twelve years old, I thought they had a Mass a day, two on Sunday, confessions on Saturday, gave out report cards twice a year, and got free food on Thanksgiving. I actually thank God that is not the case. I would go nuts if that were the routine. Most people's lives do not have just forty hours of work responsibilities. Every parent has a ton of work they must do before and after the job they hold down. And they are on call 24/7 to keep up with the children. But by the time a person is a grandparent they want and need to slow down a little.

It is fun watching my siblings enjoy their grandchildren and transition into retirement mode. It seldom works out like they had planned and hoped. Some emergencies always come up with the family that makes life more interesting. If it weren't for that they would be spending too much of their time cursing at the presidential election news that is on continually. God blesses us with challenges. There are days when many of us wonder if we are up to the challenge. We have to go with the promise that God will not give us more than we can handle. But even with that in mind we have to realize that God's goal is to get us into heaven. So the challenges we face will never force us to hell. That doesn't mean they won't kill us.

Together we can watch and plan concerning our parish. But we still have to realize that God's plans are not our plans. In the four years that I have been here, there are few things that have gone according to what I would have expected. That is why, like my siblings, I expect the unexpected.

This weekend I am working on a Catholic Engaged Encounter so you will not be seeing much of me. I will have just finished attending the "Made in His Image conference." So hopefully I will be able to help some young people gain some insights and will also pick up some insights myself. One of the exciting parts will be to stand in as the stunt-double for Bishop Conley from Lincoln for a Mass at the conference. That is as close to being a bishop as I want.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank