

Jan. 14-15, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Patron Pizza Party turned out wonderful. I estimate that we had just under 250 people. It was a great mix of generations. It was very interesting how at some tables we had a mix of generations and at others there were groups made up of particular age groups. We had an infant's play area. We had a great showing of teens. Every table or floor space had a totally different game going. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and because it was board games, no one got hurt. I call that a tremendous success. After paying for the pizza we even had an extra \$195 toward the roof project. Once again, unless it is mentioned that the second collection is for a special collection, the second collection will be for the roof project.

One of those special collection Sundays will be January 28-29. That is when we will have the One Rose, One Life collection for the pro-life work of the Knights of Columbus. The moneys go to Nebraska pro-life causes. A few years ago it helped buy ultrasound machines for pro-life work. There are over two dozen groups in Nebraska that are helped by this collection. Bethlehem House, Bishops Pastoral Plan For Pro-Life Activities, Mater Filius, Pope Paul VI Institute, and Thomas More Society are a few of them. The Knights will be handing out prayer cards. Checks can be written out to "One Rose, One Life Campaign."

That will also be the weekend we will have the trading library in the back of church, so be sure and bring any spiritual books you have already read. But everyone will hopefully have a chance to pick up a book or two that they haven't read. This also applies to CDs and DVDs. Please bring the ones you want to offer to the office or set them by the cry-room. I will get them sorted out on the 28th.

Just so you know, I have a Facebook page mainly because there are a couple of my relatives who have forgotten how to use emails. Some of you have requested to be my friends on Facebook and may wonder why I don't reply. I think I have posted something on it once in the last nine years. I check it about three times a year. If you are looking for my wisdom on Facebook, you will be very disappointed. If you hope to impart your wisdom to me I would suggest that you email me or it will not get to me. If you are looking for all the cool funny or weird news that people put on Facebook, you can get that without my help. But it is that endless stuff that made me give up on it years ago.

This past week we had the funeral for Jeff Cold at SEAS. He had been a founding member. As with so many funerals that I do, I felt privileged to do the funeral. He was the kind of Catholic that would have driven many of my out-of-state friends from years back absolutely crazy. He was so nice. We don't always realize what we have here in the Midwest. We have an abundance of nice people. They do not put on airs. They will do anything that is needed without complaining. They are supportive and kind. They go to church faithfully and it doesn't even seem to be stressful for them. It is like they just don't understand how hard it is to live the Catholic Faith. I'm not saying that all the nice people in Nebraska are Catholic. But I am saying that the combination of what the Catholic Faith asks of us and Midwest grassroots goodness go together. That is why I am blessed in getting to do so many funerals that truly make me feel good about who we are and what we are. I just hope I can grow to be more and more like them all the time.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank