

Nov. 4-5, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I did get a couple days to be in Denver to see members of my family. I was able to see three of my great nieces. One of them turned nine months old as I was there. This is the daughter of my nephew who died so tragically about 15 months ago. I have been praying for and working with his wife. Small steps in faith are happening for her. She grew up with no faith background. She is now going to Mass with my sister and brother-in-law. They had just moved into a new house and I was able to have a Mass at their new place as a way of blessing it. It is not often that I have time to have a Mass in a home anymore. You may not know it from the actual results, but my goal at every Mass is to put the babies to sleep but keep the adults awake. At that Mass my mission was accomplished. My great niece did not fuss a bit, because I put her right to sleep. Since that was miraculous to her mom, that might help her on her road to the Lord. Every little bit helps.

Another bit of news is that I am now on page 50 of my book. Keep praying. I still have two chapters to go. The trouble is that I am getting into one of the busy seasons and it will probably slow down. Part of why the busy season is starting early is Fr. Don leaves for Ireland on Monday. He will be gone for ten days. Pray that he has a safe trip.

One of the things that got pushed to the sidelines because of the book was a project I wanted to run by you. The hillside behind the church complex has been my weeding project since I got here. I have been keeping up with it but I know it will get to be more of a challenge as the time goes by and I get older. I was thinking of planting trees and bushes on it. I wanted to run it by the Parish Council before I did anything but that didn't happen. Bob Bruning had it planted with vetch years ago, which has served well in keeping erosion down and having it look nice. It would take a while to get trees and bushes established, so it looks like I will be weeding for years. If anyone has interest in a project like this, let me know. The most fun will be watering everything through the first year or two. You can let me or any member of the Parish Council know your thoughts. It is a lot of space. It is about 400 feet long and 100 feet wide and very steep over much of it.

I can certainly leave it as it is but eventually it will be like a famous story I heard years ago. A new pastor asked his parish council about who scooped the sidewalks during the winter? They told him that the previous priest who had just retired used to do it himself. The new pastor said: "I just called him and he said he doesn't want to do it anymore, so who is going to do it."

This weekend there will be someone promoting the SOAR benefit dinner for St. James/Seton School. You can buy raffle tickets or a ticket to the banquet. Next weekend, 11/11-12, the Archbishop is asking us to have our second collection for The Shelter, which safely cares for women and children dealing with domestic violence. Last year they served over 250 women and children seeking shelter. One of my favorite stories from the Shelter happened during a tornado alert in Omaha, when the TV weather person announced that everyone needed to go to a shelter for the storm was about to hit. A little child at the Shelter, asked a worker if they expected a lot of people to be coming in? Think about it, you will figure it out. This funding is needed because Catholic Charities no longer accepts government funding with all the strings the government attaches. So be generous. The good news is that we were blessed this week. The bill for the air-conditioning fix for the church came in and was \$49,000 instead of the \$75,000 it could have been. Happy days.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank