

Dec. 2-3, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy New Church Year! This weekend we start the celebration of the cycle of salvation all over again. Doing this is like going around in a circle, over and over again. It seems repetitive, so why do we do it like this? Think in terms of a drill bit. It just keep going around and around. When applied to a surface it takes a moment for it to break the surface but then it has to keep going in order to go deeper and deeper. I know that with my thick skull it takes a lot of those repetitions before things can sink into my head.

There are Saints like St. Augustine, St. John of the Cross, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Francis De Sales, St. Ignatius of Loyola and others put together ideas on how to live a holy life. They all talk about this reality of God working with us in order to bring us closer to Him in stages. Even people who have a spiritual awakening of some sort have to grow from there in order to allow God to transform them. That is why going to Mass is so important. By skipping we are actually pushing that drill out and He has to start in a different way because it is obvious that we still don't understand the concept of what He is offering.

Each time He has to start over we tend to become more calloused. That means we have a hardened outer layer that is hard for God to get past. It also means that we have a wound under our skin that we don't want to have reopened. We can actually become very protective of our own way of going about things and doing it our way, which eliminates God's way of trying to be a part of us. God is not like many of the predators that are in the news right now. They use their power and authority to get their way with someone. God has that kind of power but will not take advantage of us. His love is genuine, not like the lust that these men have shown.

As I mentioned at the Masses I had last week, I have finished my book. I finished it a couple days before the Feast of Christ the King, which was very appropriate and I am guessing that God had something to do with that coincidence or God-incidence. The book is all about God, Father and Son, as King, and the Kingdom. It was another example of how he doesn't do things the way I want. He does them better. I prayed that He would give me lots of extra time so I could finish the book by January. I had very little time these last seven weeks but He made it so that the time I had was all I needed.

Right before I would start on a chapter that He had given me to work on, he would have different things pop-up in Scripture, magazines, radio shows, etc., that would fill in details of that particular chapter so in the few hours I would have to write, I could finish ten pages. In that way He made it possible to surpass my deadline. So now it is being reviewed by another priest to look for any Theological errors. This is critical because, even though I truly felt that this was all from God, I know that the devil can fool us. I want to make sure that none of his trickery is included in what I have written. So now you can pray with me that God lets me know what the next step would be.

Please remember that Advent is very short this year so don't miss out on getting your soul ready for meeting the King by receiving the beautiful graces of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank