

Mar. 11-12, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I presume that a few of you have been holding your breaths waiting to find out what I was hinting at with the end of my last letter. I hope you are alright. That was a long time to hold your breath. I was outlining some of the many things that have to be repaired or replaced because of the May 11, 2016 hail storm. A part of that is basically repainting almost every bit of the exterior of the facility that is tan. The question came up as to whether we want to continue with tan or alter the color of the facility in any way. For those of you who are just regaining consciousness after fainting from realization that a guy like me would ever even notice a color scheme, should realize that it comes from my working with the other project of redoing the restrooms that are a part of the church. I've heard from a bunch of you that "Those colors are so 1970's." I personally have heart palpitations with the thought of shifting from the tan because of all the work that would go with it but I also realize that with the whole exterior being redone, this is the time to think about it. So I am open to your thoughts on the question. Should we think in terms of going lighter, darker, or even to a new color?

As I mentioned, we are also looking at redoing the church restrooms. This would include the women's and men's restroom in the narthex and the small one at the chapel entrance. If anyone is interested in this task, let me know. The funds for it come from the "Ignite the Faith" campaign that the Archdiocese has put on for the last few years. The contributions are almost complete. If I remember correctly, our parish pledged about \$600,000. 10% of what is actually contributed has been returned to the parish it came from. We have over \$40,000 in savings from that drive. Obviously some were not able to maintain their pledge. There are a lot of good reasons that this can happen. The most legitimate one is death but moving out of the area is also recognized as legitimate. Part of this money is what we will be using for the restroom renovations. If you are in this business, let me know so we can get going on this project. I can give you the parameters. We have one partial bid already.

A few weeks ago we had a wonderful gift to the parish in that the dance floor in the parish hall was spruced up. Michael Howick, of Maverick Hardwood Floors, volunteered his time, talent, and the materials to strip, and resurface the wood. The new finish should help it keep looking good, and easy to clean for another 10 to 15 years. I have known Michael's family for years. His wife, Katelyn, joined the church last Easter.

Another gift, that is a true blessing was started about twenty years ago, came from the Graeve family. Gerald and Kathryn set up an annuity twenty years ago. This was set up in a way that helped the church and helped them also. The way it works is that you set aside a certain amount of money in an annuity. Over the years you receive a monthly or yearly income from that amount. Whatever is left from the original amount goes to a charity. In this case SEAS was the beneficiary. It is especially helpful in keeping your taxes in check, because the entire original amount is tax deductible. So at this time the church received just over \$50,000 as the annuity came to an end. This is very timely because we may have to use some of it to help with the roofing project.

So far we have collected just over \$12,000 toward the roofing costs that aren't covered by insurance. This is all due to your generosity. As I have previously mentioned, until further notice, all second collections not earmarked for special appeals will go to pay for the roof. I hope you like what it looks like. It was a big job but should last for a long time. I hope any pastors that come after me will appreciate this. This week I will let Fr. Belt know how much I appreciate his willingness to give our parish retreat. I hope you can come to benefit from it.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank