

June 24-25, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that we are doing well with the second collection. On those weeks when there is no special collection, the collection after communion has been going to pay back what we owe on the roofing project. We have collected over \$20,000 in six months. With help from HOPE moneys we will have almost \$35,000 or 40% of what we need. That is possible because we don't have debt on the parish hall anymore. That is the good news. The bad news is that we have an additional reason for the second collection, air-conditioners. The two units for the church are about done for. Several times in the past month we have had to put in about \$1,000 worth of coolant to keep them working. This is bad for the environment and bad business because they will fail anyway. We are working on getting that taken care of. They are over thirty years old. That cost so far is looking to be about \$50,000. We have also had to replace the compressor on a unit for the parish hall. That was about 18 years old. That was about \$21,000. There are other old ones to worry about but I am hoping that can be held off until next summer.

At the end of the fiscal year, I can give you a summary of what this year has been like financially. We have been blessed since all of this could have happened a couple of years ago when we were still paying off the debt. But things are still a struggle in some ways. I will fill you in when we have a full picture, which will be about the end of July.

This weekend will not be much help for that. The second collection will be to help the Pope with his efforts to work with world disasters. It is called the Peter's Pence collection. Next weekend will not be any help either since it is your chance to help Fr. John Zotoglo's project of repairing a building that his bishop is letting him use for a spirituality center in Togo, West Africa. A couple years ago SEAS helped him with putting together a Theological library for the seminaries in that country. That has been a great success and has also helped Fr. John have use of books that can help with this spirituality center. We have it so nice here. We have retreat centers all around us. Joe Ricketts is even building another one. And we have great seminaries that are forming a new generation of priests. We can thank God by helping others.

I will be gone this week. After participating in the big softball game I will be going to Baltimore with a friend of mine, Fr. Mike Malloy. We will be going to shrines and other monuments. One of the main ones I want to get to are the ones with connections to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. That area was where the Catholic Church in America really got its start. Our Catholic School system got its start in that area. I want to ask her special intercession for our parish and school. I want to make sure she is looking out for us these next years.

I will be getting back late on Monday, July 3rd. I'm not that excited about the fireworks in D.C. I might not even watch them on TV. I will still have my cell phone, so will be in contact. Fr. John will be having the weekday Masses that I will be gone for this next week. On the weekend of the second collection for his work in Togo, he will be having the Masses in Battle Creek and Schoolcraft, NE so Fr. Malloy can get away. Normally Fr. Don would be one that he could call as a replacement when he is gone but Fr. Don will be having all the Masses here at SEAS. But the following weekend Fr. Don will be in Stanton covering for another priest so he can go on vacation.

I hope your summer is not dull.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank