

July 15-16, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

This weekend Fr. Don will be helping out in the Randolph area. There is no special second collection so that collection money is to help pay off the roof. Seminarian Bill Cremers will be attending the Steubenville conference in Springfield, MO with about forty young people from SEAS and about fifteen from St. James. In case you think I will have the rectory all to myself, I want you to know that there will be a couple seminarians and two other young men moving in for the week to put on the Totus Tuus program this week. It will go on from Monday through Friday. There are more openings so get your children signed up. There are four young women on the presenting team also, but they will not be staying at the rectory.

You may have noticed that there are less trees around the church. Five of our ash trees were taken out this week. Deacon Lyle Simmons and his Walkup Tree Service took them out for free. Be sure and thank him. He is a deacon at St. James. I want to work on digging out as many of the roots as possible so I can get other trees planted as soon as possible. One of the ground down stumps we will leave in place. It is not a memorial. It is just that there is a power cable under it. I want the Lord to be the Light of my life, not the city power grid. So if you see someone out digging, it might be me or Bill doing therapy. He and I took out one stump just south of the parking lot that was an old problematic mulberry. I took out a few more in the row of bushes around the soccer field. I don't have the ax of the apostles, but I reflect on St. Paul's line from 2 Thessolonians 3:10: "If any man will not work, neither let him eat."

As a part of the Totus Tuus program we will have Sister Irene Baquiran, MQHN working with the young people on Thursday. MQHN is Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries. They are an order in the Philippines that work with young women who are hurt by the sex slave trafficking. That will not be her topic for the young children but the high school students will be introduced to some of their work. She will be selling religious items after Masses next weekend to help in building a place that can hold more of these vulnerable souls.

And as a heads-up we will have our annual mission appeal the following weekend, 7/29-30. You should have plenty of opportunities to help those in need. There will be more information on that missionary in next week's bulletin. There is never a vacation from God needing our help in saving broken souls.

Most of us are not in school anymore so summer vacation is not a three month phase of freedom. Despite that most of us are still geared to think of summer differently than we do the rest of the year. It might be because our children are on vacation or simply because the weather allows us to do things that are harder to do in the winter. The other aspect that affects our state of being in this time of year is that things are growing and we may even be gardening or doing more work outside because of that process. Either way it is a change in our routines.

I bring this up because each change of routine can and usually does affect our prayer routine. We are now half way through the summer schedule. It is a time to reevaluate how our prayer routine is going. Did the summer change leave us out of sync with God? It might be time to double check things and maybe even get to confession in order to redirect. There is no vacation from God.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank