

July 22-23, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

Here are a few updates. Last weekend's Steubenville conference and the Totus Tuus week both went very well. We had over 60 children, 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades, during the day for Totus Tuus and about 50 young people, grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, who attended most of the evening sessions. I was able to be a part of the confessions for Totus Tuus. That was a joy since I was not able to go and hear confessions for Steubenville.

As I mentioned, the air-conditioners for the parish hall are repaired. That was a good thing since the young people were in there this past week as the outside heat was at my favorite level. The air-conditioners for the church are still limping along. The coil is being manufactured at this time and won't be in until the end of August, so some of you will notice that the church is warmer than usual and those of you who are like me will not need to bring your sweaters. The crew will do their best to keep it together enough to keep things bearable.

In the meantime the second collections that are not for special collections are to repay the extra costs for the roof and then we will start to pay for the air-conditioning fixes. As I had mentioned before money from the HOPE funds are being used for the roof fund. There will be a total of \$12,000 from that fund used in this way. So the moral of that story is that you would be helping out if you use HOPE certificates when you go out to eat. Then the HOPE money will keep growing and it can help with air-conditioning also.

As I mentioned last week, next weekend we will have our annual Mission Coop Appeal. These are set up by the Propagation of the Faith. Their office in the Archdiocese screens different groups to sort out the best requests. This year we will have Fr. Zachary Oburu. He is representing the Archdiocese of Tororo in Uganda. There is an information sheet in this bulletin to help you understand how your money can help them. So next week's second collection will all be for helping them. If you want to add more and don't have your checkbook available you can still give in the next week or so by clearly marking your donation for Uganda. That is easier to remember than Tororo.

Last weekend I was able to preach at all the Masses. One of the images I used was that weeds are like our sins. I actually stole that idea from Jesus but it is okay because He gave permission for others to use His ideas. I tried to make the point that if you wait a year or more to do any weeding they will overwhelm your garden. People sometimes worry that going to confession every month seems fruitless because they usually are referring to the same sins over and over. What they fail to think about is what their souls would be like if they didn't do that monthly weeding. It was obviously helpful because there seemed to be a lot more confessions this past week. That is always thrilling for a priest. We like to see souls getting closer to heaven as they bear good fruit.

This past week I had an even more exciting project than weeding. I have been taking out the rest of the stump and most of the roots from the ash tree that was next to the rectory. I have had first-hand experience with a healthy root system. As I deal with this project I keep thinking that this is how I want the roots of my faith to be growing. There are roots that run just below the grass that get the most moisture after a light rain or when the sprinkler system is going. There are roots that start out from the trunk and go far deeper. As they fan out they obviously searched for areas that the first layer of roots hadn't covered in order to gather that surface moisture. They serve an added purpose of having made sure that tree never fell down. I pray that I can have a root system that can gather all the spiritual nourishment possible and also be rooted deep enough so I will never fall for any current winds of change.

God bless you,

Fr. Frank