

July 29-30, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

The Mission Priest this weekend is Fr. Zachary Oburu from the Archdiocese of Tororo in Uganda. The second collection will be to assist the work in his Archdiocese. Fr. Don was planning on being gone this weekend but the request he had to go out of town was canceled so I am taking the opportunity to take a couple days off. I will be in Kansas City to visit my brother and his family and my nephew and his family. I will be back Monday so Fr. Don can leave for his annual retreat. He will be gone until Wednesday, 8/9.

I am looking for a volunteer to take over the prayer-line. Our previous leader moved out of town a while back but kept going for a while. But now we need a new person. You would need to get the calls that are coming in through the rectory and then get the news out to the other people we have to do the praying. As some of you know it is all set up but we need a leader. If you are willing and able, contact Dawn at the Parish Office.

You might have noticed that one of our remaining young men on our seminarian list for petitions is no longer being mentioned. Connor Kerschinske has decided not to return to the seminary. I am always glad when young men like Connor have the courage to try out the seminary as a way of discerning their call from the Lord. As he says in the following note, it was and will be a blessing for him.

“It is with great joy that I announce that I am stepping out of seminary formation. Through my three years at St. John Vianney, I grew tremendously in my personal, intimate relationship with Christ, and for most of that time I thought God was calling me to the priesthood, however, earlier this summer, while on an eight day silent retreat with the Institute for Priestly Formation, I came to realize deep seated desires that the Father had placed on my heart to have children and get married. Through prayer, these desires only grew while my desire for priesthood diminished. In one way this calling out of seminary was a very big surprise for me, but in another sense it feels like the fulfilment of my entire life so far, and especially the fulfilment of a previous silent retreat I made a year and a half ago where similar desires came up in prayer.

I want to thank each and every one of you for all of the support and encouragement you have given me over the past three years. I never would have grown nearly as much as I did without the continued prayers I received from the faithful parishioners here at St. Elizabeth Ann's. I couldn't have ever hoped for the unending outpouring of support I received from all of you throughout my time in seminary. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I go through this time of transition, but more importantly, pray for Ryan and all the young people of our parish that they may come to find God's will for them and follow it earnestly. For the immediate future, I am working at an engineering firm here in Omaha, and I hope to go back to school to study engineering in the spring.”

Connor Kerschinske

Ryan Keisling is continuing his studies and we will be praying for Bill Cremers, who is finishing up his summer stay at SEAS. Bill is a very talented young man. He should be ready for deaconate ordination next summer. Ryan has a few years yet. Keep praying for more.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank