

Sept. 2-3, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I hope you are enjoying this Labor Day Weekend. It is a time to rest from our labors but should also give us time to reflect on what they mean to us. As children 'work' was simply a four letter word. As we get older we identify more and more with the work we are doing. This is not an accident. It is a part of God's plan. Even before Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, they were meant to work. They were to be stewards of it, "to cultivate and care for it." After the fall God made it so their work would be frustrating,

"Cursed is the ground because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

From then on work has been a pain in the \_\_\_\_\_, depending on what your work is. But God made us to work, isn't there something we can do to make this less of a problem? Of course there is. If we work with and for God our work becomes a blessing. I think that is why, despite all the scandals we have faced and even persecution, priesthood is one of the highest rated in job satisfaction. We know what we are doing is very important and we are doing it with God.

But this satisfaction does not discount sacrifice and even hardship. This is what Jeremiah, and basically all the prophets, tell us. No worthwhile job is easy. This goes back to one of my old themes; that we are in training to become a part of God's family in the Kingdom of Heaven. We are meant to be a member of His royal family. It is just that the training is difficult, because we are being prepared for whatever God has in mind for us in the next life. And remember that we are made for work, just like in Eden.

When we look for the life of luxury and want to live only for pleasure, we become miserable. It is like a coach in Howells, NE used to say to the guys who were getting in trouble; "You guys obviously do not have enough to do." We are meant to be active. But the activity is meant to be other centered. We are not meant to be self-centered.

It is at this point in my personal meditation that I reflect of the crucifix. It is the sign of the fulfillment of the work of Jesus. That was His hour of glory. Even though He dreaded it, He looked forward to it. He wanted to do this work for us. It is what He is all about and it continues as He gives of Himself eternally in the Eucharist. We are asked to give of ourselves to be a part of this and to use our own particular skills and talents for the good of the family of God. Like the crucifixion we may have to sweat a bunch in this life but the work in the next life will more likely be like the Eucharist, less sweaty and no more pain or thorns.

I emailed the budget out to everyone but have also included it in with this bulletin. It shows the work that we have been doing in dollar signs.

Last but not least I am doing the interviewing for the Maintenance position but am now also looking for someone to take on the cleaning for the facility. This is about 10-15 hours per week. If interested, call me at 402-677-1565.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank