

Oct. 21, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

I usually write these letters on Thursdays so that they are as close to the weekend as possible and still give the crew time to get these bulletin inserts printed, stuffed, and ready to go. Sometimes that sets my head spinning because I am thinking in terms of the weekend in the middle of the week. Then I finish the week and then have Déjà vu all over again when the weekend actually is in progress. The next few days will be interesting like that. Tomorrow I will be attending the White Mass with doctors and other medical professionals at Christ the King with the Archbishop as the presider. Last week I attended the Blue Mass which is for first responders, police, fireman, etc. That Mass was at St. Stephen the Martyr and most of the elementary students attended at least part of the celebration. After that Mass the Archbishop blessed some of the emergency vehicles. The kids loved having the chance to attend, partly because it got them out of a class or two.

The White Mass has a different atmosphere. It is in the evening so there are no school children around. It has been more of an opportunity to have a speaker, at the dinner that follows the Mass, look at some of the aspects of how our Catholic Faith impacts the medical profession. This year the speaker will be Dr. Thomas Hilgers who founded the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction. From what I have heard the institute will add the word Saint to the beginning of their name. That is because Pope Paul VI was just canonized last Sunday.

Dr. Hilgers was inspired by St. Pope Paul VI to found the institute to develop the teachings of the Catholic Church that came as a result of the pope's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. The work that they have done in the past 50 years has been amazing. Any couple with fertility issues should be contacting them. The good news is that this institute, that is known worldwide, is right here in Omaha. I get kind of crazy when I hear from couples, whom I have worked with over the decades, that are facing these issues and despite all that I tried to get across to them they still went to other doctors and have so many problems. I end up thinking about horses and water.

I think of this same thing as the Archdiocese works to set up the Unite event that I mentioned last week and is also mentioned on another flyer in this bulletin. I wonder how many people will just ignore this event and the power that it can have. The Archbishop is hoping for 10,000 people from the Archdiocese. I can imagine twice that amount if people just take the chance and listen to his call to come together for this event on 6/8/2019. It is being advertised now because it should be first on the list of summer plans so that something else doesn't get scheduled and then individuals and families can't come because they schedule other activities.

This weekend the second collection is for World Mission Sunday. That will be a time to help the Pope Francis with continued efforts to bring the Good News of Jesus to more and more people in the world. It is not just a matter of donating to the cause. It should also be a matter of praying for its success. Last week we helped the efforts of the Catholics in the Holy Land with olive wood gifts for sale. Next week we have an opportunity to help the people in the Philippines as Sister Irene sells religious articles to help her religious order of Consecrated Women work to rescue women and children from prostitution and human trafficking. These efforts are all a part of the same plan, to bring Christ into the lives of the most vulnerable. If that isn't enough the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* would like us to take up a collection for disaster relief for 2018, like two hurricanes. We will do that one on the first weekend of November. These are all things that we can do as believers.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank