

Nov. 25, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Since He is God's Son this is only significant to Him because of His love for us. But for us it is tremendously significant. It is hard for us to imagine the grandeur of the universe. It is impossible to truly figure out what it means to be beyond space and time. For space and time were created with the universe. There was no linear time, only eternal time. There was no space, only God. That the Son of God would lower Himself to be conceived within the womb of a virgin and then grow to the one who died for us but rose in glory is just a limited view of what He is as the King of the Universe. As Christians we choose to have Him as our Lord. Others reject Him. He will reign forever either way. The question is whether we will be with Him or not.

The following letter can provide you with a way of helping in our current clergy crisis. It is about what is called the **Maria Regina Cleri Apostolate**.

Dear Family In CHRIST,

As you all know, this is a serious time of trial for the Catholic Church. More than ever before we need to be praying for our priests, but especially for our pastors. With the permission of Archbishop George Lucas, we would like to invite anyone who really takes praying for their priests seriously to join with us, the Maria Regina Cleri Apostolate in doing just that. The apostolate was started by one of our beloved Archdiocesan of Omaha priests, Monsignor Peter Dune. Your responsibility would be to take 30 to 60 minutes on one day of the week to pray just for your pastor and other priests that might be assigned to your parish. Our goal is to make sure that they are covered and wrapped in prayer every day for as many hours as we can possibly fill.

It's time for us as God's people and this parish family to step it up with our prayers. To make whatever difference we can make through our prayers for God and His Priests. When Jesus was in the garden in agony, he asked his apostles to spend one hour with him. You're not only helping your pastor, but you are also consoling the heart of Jesus in praying for them. You may think one hour is too much for you. If so, you can certainly split it up throughout your day. We will be using the book composed by Monsignor Peter Dunn and Vicki Herout, *Praying For Our Priests*. But there are lots of other ways to pray, the rosary, chaplets, heart felt prayers to Jesus in front of the Blessed Sacrament for priests, holy hours, remembering them in all of your prayer groups, the Stations of the Cross and many more. Please prayerfully consider this. Whatever our priests need, will most assuredly be taken care of through, with, and in prayer. If you are seriously interested in committing to this, please either email or call Shelly Gray, or the office to let us know. Shelly's home phone is 402-493-3006 and her e-mail is: seaprayers@yahoo.com. There are copies of the books available for you to receive when you call. Thank you! And God Bless You All!

Next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent. We are still looking for people to be the ones to light the Advent candle for the week at each weekend Mass. The sign-ups are in the narthex. The

following week has a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The holyday is on a Saturday but is still a Mass of Obligation day. There will be a Friday evening Mass at 5:30 and an 8:30am Mass on Saturday. You can count the 5:30pm Mass on Saturday for your holyday Mass or for your weekend Mass, but not for both. After that Saturday evening Mass there will be Exposition of the Eucharist from 7pm to midnight. This is in conjunction with the National Night of Prayer for Life. The first hour will be quiet prayer time. The 8, 9, 10, & 11 hours will have specific prayers that you can participate in. The prayers are to ask Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, who is the patron of our country to help us to put an end to abortion. I hope each of you will be willing to put in an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament that evening between 7:00pm and midnight in the chapel.

As with every crisis in our life we are faced with the reality that our faith in Jesus Christ is a choice. We can continue to work in His Church, which is His Body; or we can turn away from Him. Some really believe that they turn away from His Church and still believe in Him. What they don't think of, is whether they can believe in the head without the body. That is why we sing about how we are the Body of Christ. When the body is wounded it is hard on everyone, but that is not a time to disconnect from it. Rather it is a time to work to heal and strengthen the body. It is no different with the Body of Christ. We have been wounded. We have felt that wound in our parish.

I continue to be proud of how we have handled that. We have not poured salt into the wound with anger. I know of very few who have torn themselves away from the parish. Even those are at least connecting with another parish. So many of you have done things to help Fr. Don with his healing process as he begins his life of penance and prayer, which he has been asked to do. So many of you have been so supportive of me as your pastor and understanding as I work with the Mass schedule to make it reasonable for one priest to handle. Many of you have looked at ways you can participate more fully in parish life to make SEAS stronger and better. I hope the main way will be to simply be here at our Masses and reach out in warmth to the others who are here at Mass. Be friends to each other. We are meant to be brothers and sisters. That is the healthiest way we can relate to each other. Sometimes that means stepping out of our comfort zone. You don't have to become a greeter, but you can reach out to someone. There might be someone who has children the same age as yours. It might be someone who is in church by themselves. Say 'hi' to them and let them know that you are happy to see and/or meet them.

There are a lot of ways of strengthening our parish. The stewardship sheets in the pews have the list of the groups in our parish. The Knights of Columbus are our main men's group. It would be great if they doubled in size and could do twice as many things for our parish and for the community. They are always looking for volunteers. The Daughters of Seton are our women's group. They are also looking for women who are willing to take on tasks that need to be done in our parish. How will you respond? Will you be a part of the healing and strengthening of the Body of Christ or will you be a part of the wound that just never seems to heal?

Last but not least, T.J. Simpson, son of Tom & Jan, now known as Brother Jerome, will be making his 1st Profession as a Benedictine monk on 12/8 down at St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kansas. Congratulations! That is a parishioner who is giving his all to the Lord.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank