

Apr. 14-15, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

This weekend the 2nd graders will be making their 1st Communion. I have told them that when they receive Communion Jesus will be inside them. He might try to give them a hug from the inside out. I received that kind of hug for the first time last year. Have any of you had an experience like that? If so, let me know. Whether you have or not, be sure and let these children know just how special it will be, throughout their lives, that they can have Jesus so close to them.

This Friday, 4/20, Archbishop Lucas will be here to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our 8th grade students. It might seem like you should give them the same kind of reinforcement as the 1st Communicants. I don't suggest that. I suggest you let them know that you will be expecting a lot from them in the years to come. That you hope they will participate in youth activities so that they can be there to support each other during the rest of their school years. That you will expect them to be volunteering for things like being a Lector, an EMHC, or an usher. Maybe they will help with PRE or Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Encourage them to be a strong representative of their faith to their peers. They should be challenged and not just patted on the back as if they have finished something, for they haven't finished anything. They have been given the grace to begin things.

For the sake of both of those groups I would like to discourage people who are leaving Mass early. It is odd. Everyone knows that Mass doesn't start until the priest walks down the aisle. They can't seem to figure out that it doesn't end until he walks back down that same aisle. We have more and more people leaving Mass early every week now. It started with a few who didn't think that their bad example would make a difference. I have heard that it is really bad at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick's in Elkhorn. Their parking situations are maxed out and people are afraid they might get boxed in and will miss something that they seem to have to rush to. That is not the problem here at SEAS. I don't think that it is just visitors from those two parishes who don't realize the difference in our parish. Either way it is a risky business to side yourself with the first person to leave Mass early, Judas Iscariot. I am cynically happy to say that after almost forty years of hearing confessions that I have finally heard one person confess that they left Mass early. Considering that Jesus said it would be better to have a millstone tied to your neck and you being thrown into the sea than give bad example to one of His little ones, I would think it would be confessed more, or done less.

Back to good news, next Sunday will mark the halfway point for the Reading the Bible in a Year class. We have an average of seventy people in that class every Sunday. Please pray for those who are a part of this. Pray that the second half will be as inspirational to each person as the first half has been.

Next Sunday I will be leaving right after the Bible Study to drive to Mundelein Seminary for another week of the class I am taking for training to be better at being a Spiritual Director. I will be gone until Saturday evening, 4/28. On that Saturday morning there will be a presentation by Katie Sciba. She is an amazing speaker. I strongly encourage married couples to attend, there will be childcare available to make it easier for many of you. So hold onto the flyer so you remember to be here from 9:30-11:00am on Saturday, 4/28. Bring your friends.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank