

Apr. 21-22, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

As I mentioned last week I will be leaving right after the Bible Study this Sunday to go 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. I will be driving. I am actually looking forward to that drive. The roads should be better than they were in January when I went last, but even that is not guaranteed. Driving long distances helps me clear my mind. I get in a few rosaries and listen to some spiritual CDs. Mostly I go through everything in my life and then I think about nothing for a while. Some people go fishing to do that. I will settle for this drive.

Next Saturday morning, 4/28, will be the presentation by Katie Sciba. I strongly encourage married couples to attend, there will be childcare available to make it easier for many of you. The talk will begin at 9:30am or shortly after the Saturday morning Mass and Perpetual Help Devotions with Fr. Don. It will all be over by around 11:00am. Bring your friends.

Once again I want to remind you that you have a harder time keeping your life at a good spiritual pace than I do as a priest. Priests have mandated things to do. We have to say our prayers from our Divine Office or Breviary every day. That is anywhere from a half an hour to an hour of prayer daily. Then the Archdiocese sets up two days of education for us per year. We pretty much have Mass every day and really have to reflect on the readings, which really is a great exercise. Then we have to go on retreat every year for four days or more. I have always tried to boost that by going to extra stuff throughout the year. These classes at Mundelein are an example. I have finished the equivalent of twenty-six years of Catholic School. The nine weeks of this Spiritual Direction class is about one third of one semester.

This is why I keep giving you opportunities for your life. The Sunday morning Bible study is one. The many conferences that we advertise in the bulletin are opportunities. There are other Bible Studies and classes here and at the neighboring parishes all the time. As a priest I get pushed but not forced to keep on track. I am sorry to say there are some priests who don't feel the push and avoid most of the opportunities to their own detriment. I can't force any of you but I hope you feel pushed. As children we are pushed by our parents and we benefit by achieving things we never would have believed we could do. All through our lives our Father in Heaven is trying to help us be something awesome. It can only happen when we are not being stubborn children.

I have had people claim that they went to a spiritual activity and it was silly and they don't ever want to go again. I've played many different sports. If I had given up because I lost one game I would be a very overweight couch-potato. The question a person has to ask themselves after a loss of any kind is, "What did I learn from this?" I happened to learn a great deal from pastors and teachers who were terrible at what they did. Much of it was what not to do, but I learned. So keep learning and keep growing in your relationship with God. Since you don't have the mandatory things a priest has, you will have to motivate yourself.

Please mark your calendars. SEAS will be having Anointing of the Sick at all Masses on May 19-20.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank