

June 9-10, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

Next Sunday, 6/17, is the 4th annual I-80 Collar Series. The Lincoln priests think they will have their 4th win against the Omaha priests. The game is at 6pm at Haymarket in Lincoln. You can get tickets at the gate. The following Sunday, 6/24, is the next concert fundraiser for the tenth stained-glass window. It will go from 2-4pm.

In spite of the very frustrating news concerning one of our young priests going through such turmoil, I wanted to let you all know that I can vouch for the fact that serving the Lord as one of His priests is awesome. My personal experience is not unusual because job satisfaction polls have shown for years that priests have one of the highest, if not the highest, feelings of job satisfaction. My reading of what makes job satisfaction a reality is having a job in which you feel you are accomplishing something significant. There must also be a sense that what a person is doing is appreciated. It is also important that there is a chain of command that is functional and logical. Working for hours in a chaotic environment, doing things that don't seem to matter, for people who don't care is not good for job satisfaction. I hope that none of you have to work like that for long.

I have had so many wonderful experiences as a priest. As a young priest, I worked with some of the best pastors and some of the worst. I learned from them all. Sometimes it was learning what not to do, but with each learning experience I felt that God was simply preparing me for the next challenge that I would need to take on. Looking back it is amazing for me to track how God has molded me to be of help to him.

There is a line that people use that says: "If Mom is happy, everyone is happy. If Mom is not happy, no one is happy." Obviously there is more to it than that, but it also works with God. I can't imagine a greater feeling than to have a sense that you have made God happy. That is one of the reasons that I love our Ascension stained-glass window. After having completed his work on earth, Jesus was on his way to send the Holy Spirit to take His place, He looks so happy as He looks up to the Father and knows that He will be praised for the job He did. I look forward to hearing God say: Well done good and faithful servant, come and share your master's joy.

Having worked in sixteen parishes has given me a chance to impact a couple hundred thousand people with about 300 weddings, 600 funerals, and a 1000 baptisms. I can't even begin to count the number of times I have been able to say the amazing words, "I absolve you of your sins..." I estimate that I have said and preached at about 20,000 Masses. That is a lot of homilies to come up with. That can seem like unimportant statistics until you realize that it was these sacraments that brought the knowledge of God and His grace into all those people's lives.

Then there have been the crazy things that I never dreamed that God would have in store for me, like occasionally working with a mayor or even a governor. Working as a hospital chaplain and a police chaplain gave me opportunities to help people in the most critical parts of their lives. I have helped in the process of a new country being formed, South Sudan. I have worked with people from all over the world and had the chance to travel the world to see them and also to see the results of the work of Saints, especially Mary. It is a great feeling to be a part of something so amazing. That is one of the reasons that last weekend was so incredible as I vested a new priest and concelebrated at his First Mass. I am excited to see what God has in mind for the young priests. Thank you for being a part of my priesthood.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank