

June 30-July 1, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

As I head off for ten days of vacation I want to get a few quick bits of information to you. The first is the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. That is initiated in the fall but many of you are wise enough to know that he will accept money whenever it comes. With last fall's Appeal we are now at 105% of our goal. That is marvelous. It is just another sign of what I have been saying for five years. You are very generous. Especially since the Archbishop increased the goal for parishes like ours who have been traditionally above our goal. So we topped the higher goal he set for us. I don't think he will do that every year but he did it this past year to help balance out things for parishes who simply could not meet their goal because of their particular circumstances. So he lowered their goal and raised the goal of parishes who seem to be able and willing to help out more. Sometimes they send out a person to thank the parish. In that case someone from the Archdiocese comes to one of the Masses for that thank you. I always thought that mentioning it in this way would get to the people at all the Masses rather than just one. In another three months or so we can start the next year's appeal.

In terms of that generosity there is another issue that we have to be careful of. I sent out an email concerning people who ask for money as you are entering or leaving the church. I mentioned that it is not a good policy to give them money. We have enough of that kind of situation on street corners now. As you notice from that, the more generous people are the more they gather to get as much as they can. In that case there is no way of knowing if there is anything legitimate about the need. Our St. Vincent de Paul group in the parish is here for those situations, so people in these situations should be asked to call the office during the week to ask for help. Otherwise it gets a little scary for people who simply to come to church and pray. This is especially the case for our adoration chapel which is used at all hours of the day.

There are times when people are in more immediate need, for gas or something like that, and will ask for cash. I will never give them cash but will lead them to the gas station to put gas in their tank. Often I find that their tank is almost full and now I have caught them in their lie. As Christians we must show them love and respect, but we must also show our respect for others who are simply trying to take time to pray and seek God's help with the problems in their own lives. If we aren't wise with one group we hurt the other.

Last weekend the sound system went crazy at the 8am Mass. That was a warning shot about how fragile our old system is. The good news is that the transition to the new system is now in motion. Midwest Sound has been getting things ready this past week for that transition. This weekend the second collection is for Peter's Pence. In two weeks the second collection will be for Habitat For Humanity. In three weeks there will be a presentation on the UNO Neuman Center. They aren't asking for money, just letting high school and college students know about the opportunities there. Our summer mission appeal will be the second week in August. The good news is that there are a lot of good things happening to help people out. The better news is that we are still able to handle the needs of the parish with your generosity.

As I mentioned last week, Fr. Jerry Morgan will be helping Fr. Don out while I am gone. He works with Unbound Ministries. You can read the flyer on it. There is no second collection for that, but he hopes you might adopt a person or family. So again this week's second collection will be for Peter's Pence.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank