

Sept. 2, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

The picnic was fun, but everyone said it was humid. "How humid was it?" It was so humid that it fell out of the sky just about every hour and a half. The good news is that it was effective in cooling off the parking lot. Thanks to all of you who made it successful. I will give a more thorough report on it as I have more complete information.

The sound system is now installed. It worked very well for the Saturday Mass and the 8m Sunday Mass. There were problems at the 11am Mass. The sound tech that installed it was at those Masses so he heard and recognized the problems. So they were fine-tuning it on Monday. That is what the second collection will be about for a while. All of our maintenance budget is basically gone. So the second collection is a reminder that these are things that don't appear on a regular budget sheet. But there has to be a cushion for when the next thing comes up, like air-conditioners that are dying. We actually have a couple of those right now. We just don't have the fix figured out. There is actually one dead one. You have to love old equipment, because it doesn't even have a mother that loved it.

I have included a paper copy of the Archbishop's letter in this week's bulletin. He also has done a podcast that goes much more in depth on the situation. Check it out at [archomaha.fireside.fm/19](http://archomaha.fireside.fm/19). You can also read an excellent letter by Ralph Martin. That is at [Renewalministries.net](http://Renewalministries.net). Be sure to find .net because there are other renewal ministries sites. But then click on the Dear Troubled Catholics headline box. I give you all of this because I don't want anyone to just forget about this issue. We still have major issues to deal with, like abortion. We can't forget that. But if we don't get this abuse stuff straightened out, our voice crying out in the wilderness will not be listened to at all. We are in a wilderness and it seems dark but one of the things that I keep holding on to is what I heard recently. Mary, the Mother of the Church, is cleaning house and she needs our help to do it.

Fr. Don will be hanging out at the Cloisters on the Platte this weekend to help out with one of the retreats. Next weekend will be busy. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders from the parish will be signing a pledge to work these next 18 months to prepare for their Confirmation next year on Thursday, 4/25. There will be a presentation on the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Normally that could wait a week but I will be out of town starting on 9/13, so I feel we need to get started. We will also be inviting you, through a personal testimony, to consider a C.E.C. weekend. It will be exciting. It is what I call a spiritual three ring circus. You will have to explain a three ring circus to the young people.

With the Archbishop's Annual Appeal ready to start I wanted to let you know that the Archbishop really does appreciate your generosity over the years. SEAS has surpassed the goals, set by the Archdiocese, for years. That happened even after the fact that the goals were reset last year. Parishes that just could not seem to make their goal had theirs lowered. Parishes like SEAS who were reaching their goal had theirs raised. Even with that you have realized the importance of helping the Archbishop and his whole staff at Archdiocesan headquarters and branches continue to do the work of serving the church. The good news is that we aren't in Pennsylvania where they are having a hard time trusting their bishops.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank