

Sept. 9, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

Okay, this is the fun weekend. We have the parish 7th graders signing a pledge to focus on their training to prepare for Confirmation, which for them will be sometime in the spring of 2020. We also have a personal testimony about Christians Encounter Christ (C.E.C.) as a part of our announcements. And I will also be presenting the Archbishop's Annual Appeal kick-off video. I am doing that a week early because I will be gone for the next three weekends.

The money collected for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps with the budget for the Archdiocesan offices. This includes the Archbishop's salary and the salary of all the others that work in Catholic Charities, the Center for Family Life Formation, Communications Office, Data Support (I.T.), Office of Divine Worship, and more. Just a few of the things under the Family Formation would be: marriage preparation, respect life activities, ministry for divorced and widowed, the Black Catholic Apostolate, Courage/EnCourage Apostolate, and many more. The Marriage Tribunal is also subsidized so those who are seeking an annulment aren't held back because of lack of funds. There is also the Finance Office, facilities management, pastoral planning, and the Stewardship and Development Office staff that work with this appeal and other funding projects. My two favorite offices are the Vocations Office so there will be priests when I get old, and the Information Technology staff because of my lack of love for computers. One that is a focus at this point is the Victim Outreach and Prevention Office. Our goal for the year is over \$90,000. Be generous.

The first weekend that I am back at SEAS, Oct. 6-7, Fr. Don and I will be having the Anointing of the Sick at all the weekend Masses. As usual this is for anyone who is seriously ill, about to undergo serious surgery, or is at least 65 years old like me. We get it because we are on the downhill slide and need to be prepared.

Also coming up is a winter clothing drive. It is called Coats for Kids. This will be done through the Omaha Housing Authority Foundation. They are collecting coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and sweaters. This is particularly for children but if you would like bring coats for adults, they will not be thrown out but will be given to another place in which they will be helpful. I just don't know where that is at this point. But for your convenience we will take care of coats for all ages. There will be a big box handy near the cry-room. I would give them my sweaters but I will probably be using them for another 25 years.

As the Church goes through all of the struggles, I want to thank all of you for your support. One of the aspects of my ministry that is the most difficult and the most fulfilling has been working with victims of abuse. Healing is so hard for in those circumstances. I am not qualified to do the counseling but the spiritual support as they struggle with the touch of evil is so important. I consider it a blessing to be there for them as much as possible. But there are those times that I go to take a break. I will be leaving Thursday morning to be a chaplain on a cruise ship. Some call it ministry to the boat people. One of the stops of the ship will allow me to go to the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. Immediately after that cruise I will head to Mundelein Seminary for my retreat as a part of my class on being certified as a Spiritual Director. I will be checking my e-mails when possible during the cruise. But by Oct.1st I will be back in the U.S.A. and can have better communication. I will be back late on Oct. 5th.

One other very important bit of information is that we are in need of a part-time cleaning person for the SEAS facilities. The Durr family has been handling this paid position but going on to other things. Let me know soon if you are interested.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank