

Jan. 20, 2019

Thoughts from the pastor,

Here is a test of my technology skills. I am writing this while at Mundelein Seminary and then have to get it to the parish office. It sounds so simple. It certainly would have been impossible years ago. But now it should be easy. It all depends on the computers getting along with me. If it doesn't work you would simply figure I didn't write a letter this week. If I hadn't included this paragraph you also wouldn't know when you saw this letter. So I am giving you a 50/50% chance of knowing how I'm doing with my skills.

This weekend is the Knights of Columbus' One Rose, One Life Campaign so the second collection will go toward helping people with special needs. It is one of the many different things that you are invited to participate in. I can imagine that there are times when you wonder just how many things you are going to be asked to donate to. I want you to know that I never expect you to give to everything that comes up. Each one is an invitation, not a demand. Even as we ask, you have to decide what your response will be. That is what Christian charity is all about. It would be different if it were a tax. With a charity each person should look to what stirs their heart.

Some of you have a far greater opportunity to be generous than others. For some of you that generosity is in terms of money and for others it is in terms of time or talent. When we have the stewardship drive with the forms in the pews each year it is an opportunity to evaluate what you would like to do to make SEAS parish strong. We keep asking you to fill out the forms so we can keep track of things but we don't want you to feel like we are twisting your arm to somehow force you to do any particular thing. But that form is just for parish activities. I am interested in finding out if some of you might be interested in doing things that the parish might not directly be involved in.

I know that many of you are very involved in many community activities and I know that most community activities are usually looking for more people to be involved. I'm wondering if you might want to be a contact person for different things you might be involved in. For example I know there are some of you involved in Habitat for Humanity, Spirit Catholic Radio, Pro-Sanctity, and many more. We can't have collections for every organization, but we can have an opportunity sheet available for people who might want to extend their outreach. So here is your chance. If you are involved in something that is not on our stewardship sheets and would be willing to be a parish contact person for that organization that someone can call in order to get information about volunteering, send your information to me at [frankbaumert@stelizabethann.org](mailto:frankbaumert@stelizabethann.org) and I will pass in on to someone that has volunteered to start keeping track of these contacts.

This is something that I have heard about in a few parishes and congregations but I don't think that is has ever been done at SEAS. So send me the name of the organization, what it does and its contact info, along with whatever contact info you think is appropriate for someone to get a hold of you. I will be mentioning this a couple times in the next few weeks and will let you know how it works. I would hate for anyone to feel as if they have no decent way to serve the Lord.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank