

Mar. 10, 2019

Thoughts from the pastor,

Here is the latest news. The most asked question has to do with my replacement. The answer is that someone has been picked for the assignment but several things are pending before it can be finalized, so no announcement has been made yet. I am hoping there will be news this weekend though.

The question that I had was how the Arch Omaha Unite sign-up went. I am not computer savvy enough to check, but I heard that SEAS has reached its quota. Our benchmark was 180 people. We have supposedly reached over 200. That doesn't mean that the rest of the parish is shut out. This is especially important in terms of young people. The youth programs are 70% full, so if you want your children to have access to the activities on June 8<sup>th</sup>, you have to get signed up with them soon. If those programs for children and teens reach capacity, they can still get in to the main event but won't be with their peers for those special activities. They will be with us old people.

A question that came up a few months ago, as we were closing down the HOPE program here at SEAS, has to do with the funds already in it. SEAS just received a check for over \$34,000 to close out the accounts. Some of that was the proceeds from sales that we hadn't used in the past couple years and the rest was the initial cash deposit that was made when the program was started, in order to get it going. That money will come in real handy in paying the second half of the air-conditioner replacement bill for the Parish Hall. Remember that total bill was \$72,000. That unit is actually being installed at this time. It should be ready to go after all this snow melts. If this winter is actually a sign that hell is freezing over then we won't need it. I'm still hoping that spring is coming. It is still possible for SEAS parishioners to order HOPE and help out the school by going on-line or purchasing them at St. James. There will be more info on this occasionally in the bulletin. We have Renilda Mishek and Jim Ely to thank for getting everything closed out. The HOPE programs was becoming less and less effective for SEAS but St. James is still hoping to keep it going because they had better participation.

With all the snow the last few weekends many of you didn't get a chance to see Fr. Jeff Lorig in action after the twelve year gap since he was last here as an assistant pastor. He said he enjoyed seeing many of the regulars from back then. He did also say that he isn't the one picked for being your new pastor. That eliminates one possibility.

Obviously I did make it back safely from my Asia trip. The only hitch was the flight back from Detroit. That tied the flight from Chicago for delays. That trip from O'Hare took eight hours from the time it was supposed to leave to the time I finally arrived at the rectory. This Detroit trip from the original departure time to my arrival at the rectory was also eight hours. This is why I try to keep walking for exercise. At some point it might become necessary. Otherwise it was enlightening to see life in China, South Korea, and Japan. You will be hearing about it over the next months.

Don't forget, this Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings are the parish mission. This Friday is the first of our SEAS fish-frys. Fridays are also confessions at 5pm, Mass at 5:30pm, and Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Have a great and holy Lent.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank